



Southampton  
**Passion**

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**(C) e-quip community arts, 2010**

# the Southampton Passion

## ACT 1: Scene 1

*Soundscape – creating atmosphere of busy Jerusalem*

*Screens – display text that gives background to Jesus, prophecies etc and setting the context of what is about to unfold... 'based on real life events'*

*Empty stage – crowd start to enter milling around, low lights fade up as newspaper seller enters with cart stating headline 'Record crowds flock to City'*

**Seller:** Evening News, Evening News. Record crowds flock to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. Evening News.

*He stops and prepares a drink from a flask, whilst still calling 'Evening News'. As he does this two Priests enter and approach him.*

**Seller:** Evening to you sirs, good crowd in for your festival this year.

**Alpheus:** My dear friend it is not our festival, it belongs to the Lord God Almighty.

**Machir:** A celebration of remembrance, in honour of Jehovah and his great faithfulness to us, his chosen people.

**Alpheus:** A festival of great importance for us that is why we are on hand to ensure that it does not get sabotaged by any unruly visitors to the city.

**Seller:** Are you talking about that Jesus character?

**Alpheus:** What do you know of him?

**Machir:** Tell us... you must meet all sorts of people out here on the streets. What have you heard?

**Seller:** You've got nothing to worry about with him, all he does is talk about God and heaven and some kingdom somewhere. He's a lover, not a fighter... he meets people talks with them – tries to help them out where he can. Apparently he's got a bit of a special touch – I've heard he actually makes people better – you know from sickness and stuff. No medicine involved or anything like that... (said thoughtfully) they just get better.

**Machir:** Do you know if he's here in Jerusalem now for the festival?

**Seller:** Not yet – well I haven't seen or heard of him arriving yet... and I'd think you'd probably know when he arrives.

**Alpheus:** What do you mean?

**Seller:** Well there are quite a few people looking forward to catching a glimpse of this miracle man. There's also quite a crowd following him up to Jerusalem so I heard.

*Machir hands the seller some money and he takes a paper. Seller moves down stage and continues to drink. Priests move opposite side and speak.*

**Alpheus:** I told you this was not going to be a straightforward Passover Festival. The Priests, and Elders – even High Priest Caiaphas has concerns over the presence of this Jesus of Nazareth here at Passover.

**Machir:** All we have to do is show these people the truth... expose him as a crazy desert preacher, nothing more. We'll speak with him - debate with him and people will see that he has no authority in his teaching and they will quickly lose interest in him and continue to celebrate the Passover festival.

**Alpheus:** But what about the testimonies of those who have been healed? The lame that now walk, the blind that now see... the people believe in their hearts what they see with their eyes.

*Music starts to play and the Seller shouts across from other side of stage...*

**Seller:** (gesturing to the back of the crowd) Here you go sirs... I told you, you'd know it when he arrived.

*Jesus and disciples come through the crowd from the back of the audience as the procession takes place the Choir and Characters sing 'Hosanna: Entry Song' – with various parts taking place on stage and in the crowd. Dancers are walking in with Jesus and a group will be based on the stage – as Jesus approaches a crowd begins to gather on the stage to witness his arrival and they join with the singing. Finally Jesus and disciples end up face to face with the Priests on the stage. After a moment of silence...*

**Alpheus:** Welcome to Jerusalem, all of you. I pray that God will be with you during this Passover.

**Jesus:** Thank you - and I pray that your eyes will be opened to see God with you this Passover.

**Machir:** Tell us Jesus, by what authority do you come here to teach in this holy City?

**Jesus:** First, you tell me by what authority did John come and baptise all those people in the River Jordan?

*Priests look at each other and whisper, looking confused. Then turn back*

**Machir:** We do not know the answer to your question.

**Jesus:** Then I won't tell you with what authority I come.... yet.

**Alpheus:** (*Jumping in*) Jesus, I presume we will see you tomorrow paying your taxes to Caesar whilst you are here in Jerusalem, or do you believe that it is not right to pay taxes to our Roman emperor (*ensuring the crowd can hear the debate*)?

**Jesus:** Do you have a coin I can see?

*Machir hands Jesus a coin*

**Jesus:** *(to crowd member)* Tell me, who do you see on this coin?

**Crowd member:** It is the Emperor himself, Caesar.

**Jesus:** Well then... let us give to Caesar what is Caesar's but let us remember to give to God what is God's.

*The Priests are stumped with this answer.*

**Machir:** May God be with you

*The Priests exit*

**Jesus:** Come my friends, we have had a long trip and we need to get some rest now.

*Disciples move off and the crowd start to disperse... Jesus is left alone briefly, looks around as if to give a sense of his awareness of what lies ahead... then he moves off*

**Lights fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 1 Scene 2**

*Caiaphas is standing alone before he is joined by Annas and they begin to plot against Jesus.*

**Caiaphas:** He actually came – I wasn't sure whether he would, but... he came here to Jerusalem. Surely he knows that only trouble lies ahead for him here and yet he rides in making a great spectacle attracting all that attention. And the people – well they line the streets to welcome him and sing his praises announcing that he... he is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Where does that leave us?

**Annas:** So what can be done? We don't want to start a riot during the Passover.

**Caiaphas:** I don't know yet. He needs to be silenced. We can't have him teaching people about a new way to experience God, telling people that we are hypocrites... leading the people away from the One True God.

**Annas:** We must act with caution – he has a large following, especially twelve close followers, we have to consider them as well.

**Caiaphas:** We silence Jesus, they will scatter – I am sure of it.

**Annas:** How can you be sure? They have followed him this far.

**Caiaphas:** I am not concerned about the twelve at this time. Jesus is the one who does all the talking, who stirs the people with his blasphemous teaching

*Machir enters running with urgency*

**Machir:** God be with you. I think you should come to the temple

**Annas:** What's the rush man?

**Machir:** It's Jesus... he is in the temple shouting and throwing tables disrupting the traders and causing a mess. He is driving people out away from their stalls

*They all start to move off...*

**Caiaphas:** What is he shouting? What's his reason for this outburst?

**Machir:** He is outraged that the temple is full of people buying and selling – he is quoting the prophet Isaiah saying that the Temple should be a house of prayer but that these people are turning it into a house of thieves.

*The leaders all look at each other for a moment...*

**Caiaphas:** There, my friends. All the proof that you need that this man Jesus, must be stopped, and stopped quickly. Come, let's go and sort this out.

*They all start to exit... Judas runs on not looking where he is going and collides with them.*

**Judas:** Sorry, sorry sirs. *(He goes to continue on)*

**Caiaphas:** Wait, friend. Come here. Are you visiting for Passover?

**Judas:** (Anxiously) No... well yes, I think that's why we're here.

**Caiaphas:** We?

**Annas:** Tell me friend, you are one of the men that travelled here with Jesus of Nazareth, aren't you? What is your name?

**Judas:** I am Judas, and yes I came here following our rabbi, Jesus.

**Annas:** And where is he now, are you still following him?

**Judas:** *(Hesitantly)* I thought I would follow him, no matter what the cost, but since arriving here in the Holy City, I... I don't know what he's thinking and how it's all going to turn out, and I'm not sure anymore about this, about him.

**Annas:** Maybe, we could go somewhere for a chat.

**Caiaphas:** Yes, it may help you think things through a bit and clear your mind. Who knows, maybe we can help each other out in this situation.

**Judas:** What do you mean, help each other?

**Caiaphas:** Well, we want to get know more about this great teacher, Jesus. We've heard lots about him and we'd like to find out what his plans are while here in Jerusalem.

**Judas:** I don't know... it would cost you.

**Annas:** Obviously, we'd make it worth your while – any information you may be able to give us would be rewarded.

**Judas:** What kind of reward are you talking about?

**Annas:** Let's say 30 pieces of silver, how does that sound?

**Judas:** Wow, sounds good. For information?

**Caiaphas:** Information to start with, yes. Come, let's go and have that chat.

*They all exit.*

**Lights fade**

## the Southampton Passion

### Act 1 Scene 3

*The table is set for the 'last supper' as the lights come up Matthew and John are adding the finishing touches...*

**Matthew:** Well, I think that's everything ready.

**John:** They should be here soon.

**Matthew:** I'm looking forward to tonight but I just get the feeling there is going to be more to tonight that we don't know about... that we don't understand.

*(Others begin to enter as Matthew finishes his line)*

**John:** Well, we'll soon see – they're here.

*(In twos or threes characters start to enter - they begin to greet each other with hugs and handshakes. As they enter they remove cloaks and sandals and mill around the room greeting different people and speaking to each other ... without too much volume. Jesus is among them. After a while Jesus goes to the table and assumes his central position - They begin to move to the table – John and Thaddeus stay aside)*

**John:** Hey, how was Bethany?

**Thaddeus:** It was a good time.

**John:** What's that smell... are you wearing perfume?

**Thaddeus:** No ... well, I got a bit on me ... you wait until you smell Jesus.

**John:** What?

**Thaddeus:** Oh, some woman poured this pretty pricey perfume over Jesus' head while we were tucking into lunch today. It must have cost quite a bit, it smelt really good. He said it was a good thing that she had done because she had prepared him for his burial.

**John:** Burial? You have to be dead before you can...

*(Both exchange curious, almost fearful looks)*

**Jesus:** *(from the table)* Come on you two, some of us are hungry.

*(John and Thaddeus join the others who have gathered around the table).*

**Jesus:** Let's give thanks for the meal... My Father in heaven we thank you for this night ... we thank you for this food that has been prepared for us ... thank you Lord for the freedom that you gave to our ancestors and for the freedom that you promise to each of us. May Your name be honoured tonight and always ... amen.

**All:** Amen

*(General talk as the food is served around ... "pass the bread", "wine please" kind of thing)*

**Andrew:** *(Eating)* Mmmm... this is good! Just what I needed after a long walk.

**Thaddeus:** Tell me about it... you would think we'd be used to all this walking everywhere by now, but my feet still ache at the end of every day. *(Puts his feet up on the table, dirty)*

**Simon:** Look at the state of your feet.

*(Jesus shows he has an idea... gets up from his place, removes his robe, takes a towel and goes and fills a bowl with water.)*

**Jimmy:** *(Reacting)* And they smell. *(Pushing them off the table)*

**Thaddaeus:** Hey, don't pick on me... I can't help it if I get sweaty feet. Anyway, they'll be alright after a good wash...

*(Jesus moves to wash Thaddaeus' feet)*

**Thaddaeus:** *(stares in stunned silence)* Oh, I didn't mean that you had to do it Lord.

**Jesus:** I want to do this, and not because they smell.

*(Disciples look on, amazed and perplexed by Jesus' actions)*

**Peter:** Lord... what are you doing?

**Jesus:** *(still washing)* You won't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.

*(Jesus moves towards Peter)*

**Peter:** Are you going to wash my feet?

*(Jesus gestures to say yes)*

**Peter:** Never, you will never wash my feet Lord.

**Jesus:** *(knelt before Peter)* Peter, If I don't wash your feet, then you won't belong to me.

**Peter:** *(Accepting this he replies almost jokingly)* In that case then Lord, wash all of me, head to toe, please.

**Jesus:** You are already clean, all of you *(moving towards Judas)*. Nearly all of you.

**Phillip:** Lord, I don't get it... the feet, the washing?

**Jesus:** *(Continuing to wash feet as he speaks)* You call me teacher... you call me Lord, and these things are right and good. And now because I, your teacher and your Lord, have come and washed your tired and smelly feet... then you should wash each other's



feet. You see, no slave is greater than his master, no messenger greater than the one who sent him... I'm just giving you an example of how you should serve. And as you go and do these things... God will bless you.

*(Jesus continues washing feet)*

**Jesus:** Like the woman in Bethany today, she served in a great way and I want you to make sure that when you begin to go and spread the news of all that I have taught you, that you remember the actions of this lady. Whenever you speak of me, mention her, for she has done a good thing.

**Jimmy:** There's going to be so much to speak about. You know, the stories we'll have ... the experiences, the people we've met and the places we've been ... *(to Jesus)* and all because of you. *(Raising his glass)* To Jesus ... you changed our lives!

**All:** To Jesus

*(They raise their glasses)*

**Jesus:** I have done nothing in my own strength or in the way that I have thought best ... I only do what I see my Father doing, I have come to do his will, and now you must continue to do the same. You can all do more than I have ever done ... Just ask and it will be given...

**Andrew:** Seek and you will find...

**James:** Knock and the door will be opened

*(Jesus congratulates him with a hair ruffle, or nudge type action)*

**Phillip:** That's got to be my favourite memory I think.... I mean the whole time in Galilee was great, but that teaching session on the Mount of Olives was just awesome.

**Simon:** All those people just sat there hanging on every word that you said ... one guy was telling me your teaching was so unlike anything he had ever heard before ... you spoke with such authority.

**Jesus:** Any authority I have comes from my Father ... the same authority that you now have, to go and do as I have done

**Thomas:** I doubt that.

**Andrew:** Well you would wouldn't you Thomas, you'll get a reputation if you're not careful.

*(General laughter)*

**Thomas:** Seriously though, you are the Son of God ... we are just your followers, how are we meant to achieve anything like you have achieved in these past few years?

**Jesus:** Faith, Thomas ... how big is your faith? I've said before you only need faith the size of a mustard seed and you could take that Mount of Olives and move it. If you believe and put your faith in me - you can do greater things than I have done.

**Thaddeus:** That would be pretty amazing ... I mean like restoring peoples sight...

**Jimmy:** Healing the lame and seeing them dance around and walk away... making the blind see... and raising the dead!

**Bart:** Yeah and you're not fussy about who you help either... not like those Pharisees. They wouldn't be seen anywhere near the real needy people out there on the streets

**Judas:** Yeah you can't be too fussy – after all you healed Peter's mother-in-law... remember that Peter?

**Peter:** *(with a sigh and raised eyes)* Please don't remind me... I'm having a good time!

**Simon:** Now, raising the dead ... now that was my personal favourite. It had just never been done before, and I don't think anyone really believed you could do it ... and yet out he walked ... alive. We saw it with our own eyes.

**Thomas:** You know, I still can't quite get my head around that Lazarus thing ... I mean *(spluttering)* ... what ... wh ... how?

**Jesus:** Thomas, you're not meant to understand how everything happens, or why for that matter. You believe for it ... you trust that it can happen and then you get to know the one who makes it happen. That's all I ask of you.

**Thomas:** yeah, but...

**Jesus:** Don't make it complicated ... believe – trust – ask and it will be given.

*(Thoughtful silence for a few moments)*

**Jesus:** Who's for more wine?

**Matthew:** Well that's where it all began now, isn't it? I mean what a way to start your miracles ... turning your average everyday water into the finest wine that we'd ever tasted.

**Simon:** It's good to know that you're interested in the day-to-day, ordinary things in life ... like making sure there's enough to drink.

**James:** And enough to eat of course - my personal favourite ... the world's largest picnic!

**Jimmy:** How many was it in the end? In one sitting?

**Matthew:** Well, there were five thousand fed on that first occasion and that was with a starting pot of five loaves of bread and two fish ... then there was the other occasion when you started out with seven loaves of bread and three small fish and ended up feeding four thousand. And that's not accounting for the women and children that were

also present, which I would forecast could put the final figure of people fed well into the twenty thousand mark.

**Judas:** Oooh, very precise!

**Matthew:** Well, it's what I used to do isn't it ... an eye for detail and keeping accounts.

**Jesus:** But no more, remember Matthew, don't keep account of peoples wrongs against you ... the new way is to forgive them as many times as it takes. Don't keep grudges; don't harbour bitterness, but show love and compassion to all who you come into contact with.

**Andrew:** But how do you do it ... I mean you have demonstrated that perfectly to us, but at times I just don't like people very much. How am I meant to show love and compassion ... it's just not natural?

**Jesus:** It's supernatural Andrew ... you will receive help from the Holy Spirit, a divine help that will empower you and enable you to see people through Gods eyes and to love people with Gods heart ... but the help will only come when I am no longer with you, for it is then you will need it most.

**Jimmy:** Are you really going away, Lord?

**Jesus:** The time is near. Remember what I have already told you, the son of man will be handed over ... mocked ... and killed.

*(All jump in with cries of "no" and "don't say things like that" etc...)*

**Jesus:** BUT ... on the third day he will be raised up to live again. It will be victorious.

**Peter:** But when Lord ... when must this happen?

**Jesus:** Only my Father knows the times of these things. We must trust him and ask him for the strength to face each situation that he brings our way. But...

*(Pauses, as if uncertain)*

**Jesus:** No, it doesn't matter.

**Andrew:** What Lord ... what were you going to say, please tell us.

**Jesus:** *(obviously saddened)* When the time comes, it will be one of you here with me now that will hand me over to those that seek to arrest me and end my ministry.

*(All mumble "surely not I" etc...)*

**Peter:** But we... we love you, we could never turn our backs on you after everything you've done for us and given us.

**Jesus:** Peter... Peter, come here. *(Move aside slightly)*. I see your heart... I know your passion and your zeal for the message I bring, but before the rooster crows at sunrise tomorrow you will have turned your back on me and denied any knowledge of me.

*(Peter tries to interrupt)*. Not once... but three times when asked... you will say you do not know me in order to protect yourself.

**Peter:** Never... I would die for you, but I would never deny you... I couldn't... *(Thoughtful, looking at Jesus)*, could I?

*(Jesus places his hand on Peters shoulder and nods gently)*

**Jesus:** *(to everyone)* Let's finish our meal together and then maybe we can go for a walk.

**Judas:** Where? I mean, where would you like to go tonight Lord?

**Jesus:** Maybe we can go to the Mount of Olives and then maybe to Gethsemane, the Olive Grove there, you know the place, Judas? But first - There is something that I want to do with you all before I go... the time is drawing near and I want to mark this night. I wanted to be here and share this Passover feast with you... my disciples, my brothers. Because despite how you feel about it this is the last time I will eat this meal with you.

*(Holds bread up and prays – disciples look at him and exchange glances with each other)*

**SONG:** 'This is my body', sung by Jesus as he passes the bread around the table

**Peter:** *(getting angry)* Why does this have to happen? Things are going so well... people are following you and believing in you? Why go and bring a stop to all of this?

**Jesus:** It is my Fathers plan for his people. *(Said with the realisation of what he is about to go through)* I will be hated and rejected ... crushed for your sin... beaten so that you can be whole and whipped so that you can be healed. All of you, God's people have been led astray like sheep – followed your own paths and now... now the sins of all people will be laid on me. Like a lamb led silently to its slaughter I will be led. A sacrifice... so that you can be freed from the burden of sin.

*(Reassuring himself)* It is my Father's plan, his good and perfect plan for his people and many will come to know Him because of the blood I shed.

**Andrew:** Lord ... how will all of this happen?

**Jesus:** I told you earlier that one of you here, one who has eaten this bread and tasted this wine, one of you will betray me. The deal has already been done... he has with him tonight the reward for his work. Let's get ready to go.

*(All disciples' slowly start clearing away the things from the table and moving in the background. Judas moves hesitantly towards Jesus)*

**Judas:** Rabbi... am I the one you're talking about?

**Jesus:** *(places his hand on Judas' face)* Judas... go quickly - you know you have things you must do.

*(Judas moves slowly back towards the door – he looks at the other disciples who look on confused. Judas tries to speak, but can't seem to get the words out. He exits)*

**Jesus:** Right – friends... let's go for that walk to Gethsemane. There we can pray and wait.

*(The disciples nod - begin to gather their jackets and file out as Jesus stands at the door. Jesus is left alone in the room for a while he looks around at the table)*

**Lights Fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 1 Scene 4**

*Caiaphas, Annas and other leaders enter discussing heatedly.*

**Caiaphas:** He actually said he would destroy the temple?

**Alpheus:** Those are the words he has been heard to say... that he would destroy the temple and then... well, rebuild it in three days.

**Annas:** Rebuild it in three days... that's ridiculous! Why are we even discussing this empty threat – there is no way that can be done. Not by one man and a handful of followers.

**Machir:** His number of followers is growing daily

**Caiaphas:** Exactly... that is why we have to move fast and end this situation before it gets out of hand and we have a riot here in the city. The man has clearly come to stir the people and he's making them think about God in a new way which will only lead to trouble for us. He must be arrested – tonight.

**Alpheus:** On what charge?

**Caiaphas:** Blasphemy!

**Annas:** Blasphemy? I agree he needs to be stopped but how has he blasphemed?

**Caiaphas:** Think about it... a temple rebuilt in three days will be a temple not built by human hands, but by God's hands. And the story he was telling people just yesterday, about the tenants of the vineyard who killed the owner's son when he came to collect the rent. Do you see? He is saying that we are the tenants and that he... he is the son – he's saying that he is the son of God – and that is blasphemy.

**Annas:** Then he must be arrested, as you say tonight.

**Alpheus:** But how do we find him in the middle of the Passover crowds?

(Enter Judas)

**Caiaphas:** Right on time... this is how we find him.

**Judas:** Look, I'm not sure about this – what are you planning to do if I tell you where he is tonight.

**Annas:** If? Judas, we had a deal – you were well paid for the information.

**Judas:** But, what are you going to do?

**Caiaphas:** That is none of your business at this stage. You agreed to help us and now is the time that we need your help. So where is Jesus?

*Pause...*

**Caiaphas:** If I have to ask again you'll...

**Judas:** He is gone for a walk after supper

**Caiaphas:** (pressing him) Where?

**Judas:** The Olive Grove, at Gethsemane.

**Caiaphas:** How will we know for sure that you lead us to Jesus and no-one else?

**Judas:** I can't go and face him and the others.

**Caiaphas:** You are going whether you like it or not. Now how will we know?

**Judas:** I will greet him... with a kiss – then you'll know.

**Caiaphas:** (To Machir) Go, round up some men and wait outside – our little friend here can lead the way. When you're sure ... arrest Jesus.

*Machir exits*

**Annas:** (To Judas) There that wasn't so hard was it? You've earned your money well. Now go and do what you have to do.

*Judas exits*

**Caiaphas:** Let's gather together the Council of Priests - there will have to be a trial if we're to get a conviction. Only then can we go and see our great Roman Governor to issue the sentence.

*They exit.*

**Lights Fade**

## the Southampton Passion

### Act 2 Scene 1

*Jesus, Peter, James and John enter – Jesus slightly ahead obviously deep in thought and distressed.*

**Peter:** I've never seen him like this

**James:** I'm scared

**John:** He asked us to stay with him, that's what we have to do.

**Jesus:** *(to others)* My friends, I feel crushed and I... I need to go and pray alone, for strength. But please don't leave me... stay here and keep a watch out for me, please?

**Peter:** Of course we will, we're here for you Lord.

*(Jesus goes on alone to pray)*

**Music starts for "Darkness of the Night" song which is sung between Caiaphas at the temple and Jesus, here in the garden.**

*As the song ends Noise off stage of crowd approaching... Jesus goes to the disciples...*

**Jesus:** You sleep? I ask for your help – to keep a watch out for me – and you sleep?

**John:** Lord...

**Jesus:** Never mind... the time has come. Here comes my betrayer... be strong and have faith.

*Crowd enter as he is finishing this line and stand slightly away. Judas gets pushed forward – he reluctantly moves towards Jesus...*

**Jesus:** *(Softly)* Judas... go ahead and do what you have come to do.

**Judas:** Yes, Rabbi. *(kisses Jesus on the cheek)*

**Jesus:** You betray the Son of Man, with a kiss?

**Machir:** Are you Jesus of Nazareth?

**Jesus:** I am.

*Machir signals and Guards move to arrest Jesus... Disciples respond and Peter takes a dagger and slices the ear of a guard – he falls to the ground.*

**Jesus:** Enough! Stop this... Peter is this the way I have taught you these past few years? No. Those who live by the sword will surely die by the sword. Put them away – all of you.

*Jesus bends to heal the injured guard as he delivers this speech...*



**Jesus:** Why do you come anyway with swords and clubs and at night when no-one can see? Do you really see me as being that dangerous? I have been in temple teaching every day in broad daylight... why couldn't you arrest me there?

**Machir:** Just take him... you are to be taken to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas where you will be questioned by the Council of Priests from the temple.

**James:** About what?

**Machir:** Do you want to come along as well? All of you?

*Peter, James and John exit fearfully*

**Machir:** Go... we'll deal with them later.

*They all exit – the guards are rough on Jesus.*

**Lights Fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 2 Scene 2**

*Caiaphas, Annas and a crowd of temple priests are waiting for the arrival of Jesus.*

*Annas and witness to one side...*

**Annas:** So are you ready? You know what you have to say and when to say it.

**Witness:** Yes, I'm ready.

**Annas:** Good, this shouldn't take too long.

*The guards, Machir and Jesus enter...*

**Machir:** Members of the council, High Priest... I present the prisoner, Jesus of Nazareth.

*Guards throw Jesus forward to the ground...*

**Machir:** Stand, before the High Priest

*Jesus stands...*

**Caiaphas:** Well, it's good to see you again, Jesus. Do you know why you are here?

*Jesus stays silent...*

**Caiaphas:** Do you know why you are here?

*Jesus nods...*

**Caiaphas:** Good! Tell us, Jesus of Nazareth – what is it you have come here to Jerusalem to achieve?

*Jesus remains Silent...*

**Caiaphas:** What have you come to teach the people about God?

**Jesus:** Everyone knows what I teach about God – I have been teaching it publically in the streets... it is no secret. Why don't you ask the people who have heard me - they will tell you.

**Annas:** What a good idea. Fellow council members, good people of Jerusalem does anyone want to share what they have learnt from Jesus these past few days?

*Annas gestures to witness and witness steps forward...*

**Witness:** I've learnt that he's a blasphemer!

*Crowd mumble/shout in agreement...*

**Witness:** I heard him say that he came to Jerusalem to destroy our temple

*Crowd respond again...*

**Witness:** And that he was gonna magically build it again in just three days.

**Annas:** A temple built in three days, would not be built by human hands, so are you claiming to have some sort of authority from God?

*Jesus remains silent...*

**Caiaphas:** Your story... the one about the tenants of the vineyard. The owner sends his son and the tenants kill the son. Is that vineyard Jerusalem?

*Jesus remains silent...*

**Machir:** Answer the High Priest!

*Guard hits Jesus...*

**Caiaphas:** Leave him. If Jerusalem is the vineyard then we are the tenants, yes? And God is the owner. Now that would make you the son. Tell me Jesus of Nazareth... are you claiming to be the Son of God?

*Silence...*

**Caiaphas:** (*Shouting*) Are you the Son of God?

**Jesus:** I AM...

*Murmurs from crowd...*

**Jesus:** (above the murmurs) And in time you will see the Son of Man in all his power, seated at the right hand of God.

**Caiaphas:** Blasphemy... we have all heard it. This man is a blasphemer – he has been filling the people's minds with his talk of God and of love and peace. He has been leading them away from the traditions of our religion and as such he must now face the punishment for his actions. Our ancient law dictates that any who is found to be a blasphemer - must be put to death.

*Crowd fall silent... Jesus remains calm and unfazed...*

**Caiaphas:** Your blood will be shed so that all of this will come to an end

**Jesus:** No, my blood will be shed so that many will have a new beginning.

**Caiaphas:** (*to the Council and crowd*) Under Roman rule we have no authority to execute this man ourselves - that privilege falls to our Roman Governor, Pilate. (*to Jesus*) You'll go before him now and may your God be with you. Guards bring him... we will have this finished before sunrise, come.

*As they all exit Judas emerges from the crowd, head covered and calls Caiaphas and Annas over. They go to him and remain on stage...*

**Judas:** Caiaphas. You were planning this all along, weren't you? That's why you wouldn't tell me earlier.

**Caiaphas:** He is a dangerous man – unpredictable. You said yourself you didn't know what he was thinking anymore.

**Judas:** But he's not dangerous, you can't kill him – he hasn't committed any crime, he's innocent. He talks of love and heals people – he gives them hope.

**Annas:** He claims to be the Son of God

**Judas:** Maybe he is...

**Caiaphas:** (*angrily*) Look you agreed to help and you have indeed helped us well.

**Annas:** We gave you your money, what's the big deal?

**Judas:** Your money, your filthy money (*He throws the money down on the ground*). I had no idea what you were planning... that it would come to this... I've betrayed an innocent man.

**Caiaphas:** Well, I'm sure you'll live to get over. Now go, don't hang around – we have work to do.

*Judas runs off.*

**Caiaphas:** We must move quickly, before too many other people try and get involved.

*They both exit*

**Lights Fade**

## the Southampton Passion

### Act 2 Scene 3

*Procullo enters hurriedly – panicked... Pilate arrives behind her – sleepily...*

**Pilate:** What is going on? What time is it?

**Procullo:** I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to wake you... *(getting agitated)* I'm sorry

**Pilate:** It's okay, it's okay, calm down. What is it, what's wrong? Are you okay?

**Procullo:** I don't know – it was a dream, I think... it seemed so real though – he seemed so real, like he was here with us.

**Pilate:** Who? Who is this man that has caused you such concern?

**Procullo:** It's not him that causes the concern... Pilate it's you. You can't have anything to do with him, please promise me you won't – he's an innocent man.

**Pilate:** Okay... stop for a second this is crazy. How can I not have anything to do with him, if I don't know who he is?

**Procullo:** The one they'll bring before you today – they want his blood, they want you to give them his blood, but you mustn't. He is innocent and does not deserve to die. *(They embrace)* Please be careful in your business today – be aware.

*Alex enters from behind...*

**Alex:** Excuse me sir... sorry my lady, I didn't know you were here.

**Pilate:** What is it Alex?

**Alex:** Sir, Caiaphas and a number of the priests from the temple are outside wanting to speak with you

**Pilate:** What do they want at this time in the morning?

**Alex:** Governor, they say they have a prisoner with them and that it is vitally important that they have this man sentenced before it is any later in the day and too many people are about.

*Procullo responds showing interest and anxiety...*

**Pilate:** Really? *(exchange a look with Procullo)* Who is the prisoner?

**Alex:** I don't know sir, they're just outside on your steps... they say they are not able to come in as it would defile them and make them unclean for Passover.

**Pilate:** Passover... ridiculous Passover – you can tire of people quite quickly you know.

**Procullo:** Pilate, remember this man I have told you about. Be careful... please?

*Alex leads Pilate out and the crowd with Jesus enter...*

**Pilate:** So, what is really so important that I have to be dragged out here at this time?

**Caiaphas:** Governor, I apologise for this but it is a matter of great urgency...

**Pilate:** So I've been told. *(Looking at Jesus)* This is the matter of great urgency?

**Caiaphas:** Governor, this man has been leading people astray – telling them not to pay taxes to the Roman officials and claiming that he is to be their new king, a messiah. He has also been found guilty of blasphemy

**Pilate:** Blasphemy? By who?

**Caiaphas:** Our Council of Priests at the Temple

**Pilate:** Then deal with him under your own system of law and stop bothering me with matters of religion.

**Caiaphas:** But only the Romans have the authority to execute prisoners and so that is why we are here. According to our laws, blasphemy is punishable by death. We are here to ask you to sentence this man and order his crucifixion.

**Pilate:** Crucifixion? For these crimes?

*Caiaphas nods and looks slightly sheepish... Pilate goes to Jesus and looks at him up and down... walks back to Caiaphas...*

**Pilate:** *(To soldiers)* Bring the Prisoner – I will question him further.

*They go to one side...*

**Pilate:** Do you speak? These men seem to suggest you've been doing a lot of speaking – getting yourself into all kinds of trouble. So what do you have to say for yourself?

*Jesus remains Silent...*

**Pilate:** You do realise that your life is now in these hands – I have the power to spare you or to order your execution.

*Jesus remains silent...*

**Pilate:** Your silence is not helping matters and to be honest I'm getting quite bored by it so tell me once and for all, are you the new king of the Jews?

**Jesus:** Do you ask me this because you want to know, or because of what others have said about me?

**Pilate:** Hooray, he speaks! Look at me... I am not a Jew so I don't really care if you think you are their king. The thing is you've been bought here by your own people and they are the ones that want to see you hanging from a cross. So what have you done to ruffle their feathers?

**Jesus:** I came into this world to show people the truth

**Pilate:** What is truth, Jesus?

**Jesus:** I AM.

*Pilate silently ponders this response...*

**Pilate:** (smiles) Come on, let's take you back to the Priests, they'll be waiting.

*They return to the main crowd*

**Pilate:** This man, Jesus from... where is he from?

**Annas:** Nazareth, Governor.

**Pilate:** This man, Jesus of Nazareth is not guilty of any crime that I can see, so I will not sentence him to death. However, seeing as you are so insistent on him being punished I will have him whipped to satisfy you. *(To Soldier)* Take him and whip him, then bring him back here to show this lot.

*Soldiers exit with Jesus...*

**Caiaphas:** Governor, we are not satisfied with him merely being whipped. He has committed the greatest crime of our religion and as such he deserves the greatest punishment.

**Pilate:** Then take him and punish him yourself.

**Caiaphas:** But you should want his execution also... he has said he is the Son of God, which means he is claiming to be more powerful than you. He has said he is a king, this makes him a rebel against Caesar and if you release him then you are no friend to Caesar. Governor, think how this could look in Rome – your very reputation is at stake here.

**Pilate:** (thoughtful and worried) You have a custom, at Passover that I am obliged to release a prisoner to you, correct?

**Caiaphas:** That is correct

**Pilate:** So I'll let the people decide and whoever they call for I will honour their wishes. We have a murderer in custody at the moment... and now, it would seem, we have this Jesus. They can choose between the two.

**Caiaphas:** Thank you, Governor.

*Caiaphas obviously starts to tell people to call for Barabbas to be released. Pilate tells a soldier to bring Barabbas out... Jesus is also returned to the crowd – bloodied and exhausted from his punishment...*

**Pilate:** People of Jerusalem... it is customary at your Passover Festival that I release to you one of your people who we are holding prisoner. Now is the time to fulfil that custom. And so today I present before you Jesus of Nazareth *(Jesus is bought forward)*, who has been

found guilty of blasphemy – and I present to you Barabbas (*he is brought forward*), a man who has been found guilty of murder. People of Jerusalem who would have me release to you today?

*Crowds begin to shout “Barabbas – free Barabbas”*

**Pilate:** Silence! You would choose to free a known murderer over a man who I have already declared as innocent in my own sight?

*Crowd call out “Free Barabbas” again...*

**Pilate:** (Agitated) Silence. This man, Jesus of Nazareth – what should I do with him?

*Crowd begin to call out “crucify him”...*

**Pilate:** (*aside to Jesus*) This is your last chance, I have the power to release you or to crucify you.

**Jesus:** You would have no power over me if it hadn't been given to you by God. So do what you have to do.

**Pilate:** May your God be with you. (*To crowd*) It seems your choice is made. As a gift to the people of Jerusalem... (*he pauses and looks at Jesus*), I release Barabbas.

*Crowd cheer – Pilate signals to soldiers to free Barabbas and he exits into the crowd... Pilate whispers to another soldier who returns with a bowl of water...*

**Pilate:** Now witness this, all of you. Today I publically wash my hands of this man's blood. His execution is your desire, not mine. His death is not my responsibility. (*Pilate looks at Jesus one last time, who looks back as if to forgive him. Pilate turns to the Soldier*) Take him away. There is a crucifixion planned for this morning, Yes?

**Domitian:** Yes Governor, two revolutionaries arrested just yesterday.

**Pilate:** Add him to the list – let's get this over with.

*The crowds disperse and Jesus is taken away... Pilate is left watching – thoughtful. He glances up to see Procullo, standing across the stage, she shakes her head and runs off crying.*

**Lights Fade**



## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 2 Scene 4**

*The Disciples are gathered in a Room murmuring together as Peter enters crying...*

**Mary Magdalene:** Peter, where have you been?

**Peter:** He was right... I've already done it.

**James:** Done what?

**Peter:** I denied knowing him... I've denied him three times since he was taken – three different people recognised me as one of his followers and I couldn't even say that I knew him - let alone that I loved him. And the rooster... the rooster crowed at the third time, just as he said – and as it crowed he was dragged past by the Roman soldiers and he just looked at me - and I could still feel his love. *(He breaks down)*

**Matthew:** Where are they taking him?

**Peter:** I don't know. I couldn't watch I had to get out of there.

*John and Mary enter...*

**John:** They're going to kill him

*Mary weeps – Magdalene and James comfort her*

**John:** Pilate has just ordered that he be crucified today... right now.

**Peter:** Where - how did it happen?

**John:** He will be taken to Golgotha - up on the hill just outside the city.

**Mary:** My son, how can this be happening, this wasn't how it was supposed to end, surely?

**Thomas:** What about everything he taught us, was it real, was he really who he said?

**Music starts up for 'We Believe'...**

**James:** Of course it was... it is. Come on we have to keep believing and trusting.

**Disciples start singing 'We Believe'**

At the end of the song they all exit.

**Lights Fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 3 Scene 1**

*The two revolutionaries, carrying their cross-beams are led by the Roman soldiers down through the crowd and begin the procession down to the place of crucifixion. Jesus is led out by two soldiers one in front one behind. As he enters the music begins...*

#### **The Song – “All for You”**

*Members of the crowd follow through the procession and then move onto the stage at the place of crucifixion – looking upwards towards the crosses.*

*Caiaphas, Annas, Machir, Alpheus, Witness and News Seller are down stage at the back of the crowd ready for the following scene.*

*Mary, James and Mary Magdalene are on stage at the crucifixion scene as Jesus and the crowd goes by...*

**Mary:** No – no – no please, not my son. Somebody stop this. (she falls to her knees crying)

**James:** There is nothing we can do now. If we get too close they may arrest us as well.

**Mary:** But this is so wrong – so very wrong.

**Mary Mag:** Why doesn't God do something? Surely he can stop all of this.

**James:** I don't know, but we just have to pray for a miracle or something now.

*He lifts Mary up to her feet and reaches to take Mary Magdalene's hand...*

**James:** Come on, let's keep believing.

*They exit into the crowd*

#### **Lights Fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 3 Scene 2**

*At the place of crucifixion the two thieves are being 'nailed' to their crosses as the others arrive and begin to make preparations.*

**Domitian:** Prisoner one...

**Vitruvius:** Syrus of Galilee – charged with being a revolutionary against the state of Rome and sentenced by the Great Governor Pontius Pilate for execution by crucifixion.

*The soldiers place him on his cross... Syrus screams in pain*

**Domitian:** Prisoner two...

**Aurelius:** Gustus of Bethlehem – charged with being a revolutionary against the state of Rome and sentenced by the Great Governor of Jerusalem Pontius Pilate for execution by crucifixion.

*The soldiers place him on his cross... Gustus screams in pain*

**Domitian:** And finally – the main attraction – prisoner three...

**Marcus:** Jesus of Nazareth – charged with blasphemy and for claiming to be the King of the Jews

*The soldiers place Jesus on his cross... Jesus shows the pain but makes little sound*

**Domitian:** Oh, we've got a brave one here – not a sound, hey?

**Jesus:** Father, forgive these men... they don't understand what they are doing.

**Domitian:** (To Jesus) What did you say?

**Vitruvius:** Leave him, he's just praying – a 'Holy Joe', isn't he?

**Domitian:** He said something about forgiveness, though.

**Marcus:** He asked God to forgive us.

**Domitian:** What? We haven't done anything wrong... we're just following orders.

**Vitruvius:** Just leave him – come on our work here is done. (To Marcus) We're off for a break – we'll be back when it's all over.

*Domitian and Vitruvius exit.*

*Alpheus, Machir, Caiaphas, Annas, Witness and Newspaper Seller are at the back of the crowd on the lower stage area looking at the crosses... as each one delivers their line they turn and face the audience and then turn back to the cross...*

**Alpheus:** Well he saved others, but he doesn't look like he can save himself, not now.

**Witness:** (mockingly) Destroy the temple, he said... rebuild it in three days – I don't think so, mate... not from up there.

**Caiaphas:** He said he was the Son of God – surely God wouldn't let this happen to one of his own. Would he?

**Machir:** So this is the new king of Israel is it? Strange sort of way to start your reign as a new king, don't you think?

**News Seller:** Hopes of the new Messiah dashed... I can see the headline now.

**Annas:** He's always trusted God before, so let God rescue him now... if he wants to that is.

*Back up at the crosses, Gustus joins in and taunts Jesus...*

**Gustus:** So you're the Messiah are you? The one we've all been waiting for to free us from these damn Romans. Great! Come on then, Messiah... prove it to us – save yourself, hey and while you're at it save us as well.

**Syrus:** Gustus, man... stop it. Aren't you afraid of God, you can't say stuff like to a man of God. We deserve this – we've committed crimes against the state, but this man – he's done nothing wrong, nothing.

*Syrus looks at Jesus...*

**Syrus:** Jesus... please remember me when all this is over and you go to be in your kingdom... please?

**Jesus:** I promise you, Syrus. Today you will be with me in paradise.

*Jesus winces in pain and then cries out...*

**Jesus:** God... my God, why have you forsaken me? Why?

*Soldiers come to his cross and look up... Aurelius grabs a sponge on a stick and offers it up to Jesus*

**Marcus:** No wait... let's see if God answers... let's see if God saves him.

*Jesus groans in pain...*

**Jesus:** Father – it is time to give you my spirit. My work here is done... it is finished.

*Music reaches a crescendo then fades as the earthquake starts. The soldiers become active running for cover – Marcus stops and looks at Jesus...*

**Marcus:** Oh God... he really was your son. Oh God, what have we done?

*He exits sharply*

*The thunder/earthquake becomes louder and flashes of lightning accompany it. The curtain at the back of the temple set rips in two.*

*The thunder/earthquake eases and then finally fades away*

### **Lights Fade**

## the Southampton Passion

### Act 3 Scene 3

*Pilate is standing looking out across the city – his servant enters with Joseph of Arimathea*

**Alex:** Governor – a Priest named Joseph, from Arimathea is here to speak with you

**Pilate:** Thank you Alex. *(Alex exits)* So what do you want now, I've already given you what you asked for haven't I?

**Joseph:** I was not part of what the others did – I was not invited to their 'trial' and when I heard the news I pleaded with them to change their plans, but it was no use. And now he is dead.

**Pilate:** Why were you so concerned about the Nazarene?

**Joseph:** Did you ever hear him teach?

**Pilate:** No

**Joseph:** He spoke with such authority and yet such love and gentleness. He was not afraid to challenge people's beliefs and yet he never sought to offend anyone with his actions. He was more than just a Nazarene.

**Pilate:** Well, that may or may not be true – but it doesn't matter now does it, because he's dead – it is finished.

**Joseph:** I am here to ask for his body

**Pilate:** What?

**Joseph:** I am here to ask you, our honoured governor, if I can have your permission to take the body of Jesus and give him a proper burial? It's the least I can do for him.

**Pilate:** What will the others say when they find out...

**Joseph:** I don't care. I need to do this... please?

**Pilate:** *(thoughtful pause)* Okay, fine by me. It's one less for us to have to deal with.

**Joseph:** Thank you, Governor.

**Pilate:** Do you really think he was, you know... all that he said he was?

**Joseph:** I believe only time will tell. If he was the Son of God, then I am sure this isn't the end of it all... perhaps it is just the beginning.

*Joseph exits... Pilate is left pondering these things.*

**Pilate:** *(Shouts)* Alex... *(Alex enters)* Write up a letter giving my permission for Joseph of Arimathea to take the body of Jesus of Nazareth from the cross and place him in a tomb of his choosing.

**Alex:** Yes, Governor. Will there be anything else?

**Pilate:** *(thoughtfully)* Yes... order two of my best soldiers to be present at the burial and then to stay there guarding that tomb – ensuring it is secure at all times.

**Alex:** Pardon my asking sir, but why guard a dead body?

**Pilate:** A lot of what Jesus said made sense and came true, Alex... a lot. He said he would die, and we saw to that. He also said he would rise from the dead in three days... I think it's just better to be safe than sorry... I want to be ready.

**Alex:** As you wish sir.

*Alex exits – Pilate is left, as he was found.*

**Lights Fade**

## the Southampton Passion

### Act 3 Scene 4

*Back at Golgotha – Domitian and Vitruvius stand by the cross with Jesus still there. Joseph approaches...*

**Domitian:** Whoa, there. Sorry this is a restricted area

**Vitruvius:** Family only, well family and Romans of course.

*(They laugh)*

*Joseph hands the letter to Domitian*

**Domitian:** What's this then? (opens and reads) Oh right, (to Vitruvius) He's come for the body

**Vitruvius:** What do you want that for then?

**Joseph:** He deserves a burial.

**Vitruvius:** I suppose... his mother was here earlier but she didn't seem in any state to deal with him. Well, there you go – he's all yours. (gestures)

**Joseph:** How do I get him down?

**Domitian:** Oh yeah, I guess you don't do this a lot do you. Hang on, I'll cut him down and you and Tru get ready to catch.

**Joseph:** Do you think you could be a bit more respectful, do you know who this is?

*Domitian starts to release Jesus' body...*

**Domitian:** Not sure really... one of the other guards on duty had a funny five minutes and thought he was the Son of God.

**Vitruvius:** Mind you, come to think of it that storm was a bit weird earlier wasn't it? Dark skies, thunder and lightning in the middle of the day. I've never seen it before. (mockingly) Maybe it was daddy showing his disapproval at what we'd just done.

*(they laugh)*

**Domitian:** Whatever, it'll be one to talk about for a while that's for sure... wasn't your average crucifixion. Okay here he comes...

*Jesus is lowered from the cross by the soldiers and Joseph*

**Vitruvius:** There you go... all yours.



**Domitian:** *(reading the letter again)* Hang on... Tru, here. *(they look at the letter together)* Um, *(suspiciously)* we... we'll give you a hand if you like... can't have you struggle on your own.

**Joseph:** Thank you, I appreciate it.

**Vitruvius:** So where exactly is this tomb of yours then?

*They all exit carrying Jesus...*

**Lights Fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 3 Scene 5**

*Collection of short scenes to pass the time before the resurrection... Pilate. Priests and... The disciples in a room. Some sat quietly, some pacing anxiously.*

**Thomas:** So what now?

**Peter:** We wait

**Simon:** For what?

**Peter:** I don't know... I don't know, but we can't just go out there as if nothing has happened.

**Matthew:** What if they're looking for us, now?

**Simon:** What?

**Matthew:** The Romans... what if now that they've got rid of Jesus, they're going to come looking for us.

**Simon:** Surely not. (To Peter) They wouldn't want us... would they?

**Peter:** I don't know – but it is probably best if we lay low for a while, just in case.

**Thaddeus:** We're going to die

*(General groans and mumbles and chatting)*

**Peter:** Hey... come on. We're not going to die... not like that anyway. Look, we have followed Jesus all this way, we have sat at his feet and learned so much from him – surely that must mean something, that wasn't all for nothing.

**Bart:** He did say he would come back, after three days.

**Peter:** He did say that, but... I guess we just have to wait and see. Let's just lie low and see how the next few days pan out. Agreed?

*All nod and mumble/say yes*

*Cut to Caiaphas stood alone. Annas enters...*

**Annas:** What is it, Caiaphas?

**Caiaphas:** Did we do the right thing?

**Annas:** Yes, I believe we did what we had to – we had no choice.

**Caiaphas:** Joseph of Arimathea doesn't agree.

**Annas:** What do you mean?

**Caiaphas:** He believes that Jesus was sent from God and that we have murdered an innocent man... not only an innocent man but one who was sent from the very God we claim to honour and serve.

**Annas:** Surely we would have known somehow, some way if this Jesus had been sent from God. After all we are the holy ones in this city.

**Caiaphas:** I suddenly don't feel so holy, Annas. What is it that Joseph saw in him that we didn't?

**Annas:** However you are feeling it will pass. Jesus is no longer a problem to worry about. He is dead, we are still here to lead the people closer to God and life goes on. Come on.

*They exit off together...*

*Cut to Pilate pacing up and down... Domitian enters...*

**Domitian:** You called for me, Governor?

**Pilate:** The tomb... any... anything to report from there?

**Domitian:** *(slightly confused)* No sir – it's all pretty quiet down there.

**Pilate:** Good, good. That's good to hear.

**Domitian:** Governor? I hope this isn't out of place to ask, sir – but in all my years of service in the army this is the first time I have been asked to guard the tomb of a dead man. Is there something I should know?

**Pilate:** Maybe... that's the problem – nobody really knows. And I always think it is better to be safe, rather than sorry.

**Domitian:** You've lost me, sir. How long do you want us to guard the tomb?

**Pilate:** The dead man – Jesus... he said that... well he wasn't planning on staying dead for too long. He claimed he would rise again – after three days. So the guards will stay there for three days and then that will be the end of all this.

**Domitian:** Understood, Governor.

*Domitian exits... Pilate is left alone*

**Pilate:** At least I hope that will be the end of all this.

*He exits*

**Lights Fade**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 4 Scene 1**

*At the tomb – Mary Magdalene, Salome, Esther and Martha enter singing “I loved Him”*

*These lines to be spoken over the music after the main song has finished...*

**Salome:** Come on, let's go *(taking Mary by the arm)*

*Angels enter from the tomb unseen by the women...*

**Gabriel:** Where are you going?

*Women stop, surprised by the voice*

**Michael:** You came here looking for someone?

**Martha:** Yes, but...

**Gabriel:** Why are looking in a tomb for someone who is alive?

**Michael:** He isn't here you know...

**Gabriel:** He has risen from the dead.

**Esther:** What?

**Michael:** Do you not remember what he told you...

**Gabriel:** When you were all together in Galilee?

**Michael:** That the Son of Man must be betrayed and handed over to sinful people...

**Gabriel:** Who would crucify him.

**Mary Mag:** Yes...

**Gabriel:** But then

**Michael:** On the third day...

**Gabriel:** He would rise again.

**Michael:** Today is the third day!

**Gabriel:** And as promised... he's not here.

**Salome:** But where...

**Michael:** You must go now and tell the others what you have found here.

*The women turn to leave and move off as they do the Angels exit back inside the tomb. Mary Magdalene suddenly turns and comes back to the tomb... finding it empty again she falls to her knees and cries*

**Jesus enters behind her humming a tune and then sings the 'chorus' from "I loved Him"...**

*Mary becomes aware of Jesus - slowly turns and looks up, wiping her tears and with a sense of joy she asks...*

**Mary Mag:** Rabbi?

**Jesus:** Yes, Mary, yes.

*Mary jumps to her feet and embraces Jesus...*

**Jesus:** I always said my death wasn't the end. Listen – don't hold on to me now... you have work to do. You must go straight from here and tell the others that I am risen and that I will soon go to be with my Father, in heaven.

**Mary Mag:** But, what about...

**Jesus:** Just go... tell them.

*Mary smiles, bows slightly and goes to exit*

**Jesus:** Mary, remember – I am always with you.

*She exits - Jesus watches her go and then exits.*

**Lights Fade.**

## **the Southampton Passion**

### **Act 4 Scene 2**

*Pilate is standing looking out across the City... his servant enters.*

**Alex:** Governor.

**Pilate:** I hope you're bringing me good news this morning, Alex.

**Alex:** Well sir, the tomb... is empty.

**Pilate:** (laughing to himself) Empty, you say – as in no dead body wrapped in cloth.

**Alex:** No sir.

**Pilate:** Tell me, Alex, (Beginning to get agitated), how can the tomb be empty when a great big stone was rolled across the front of it and two of my own armed Roman soldiers were stood at the entrance to the tomb – tell me that.

**Alex:** I don't know, sir. The guards... they remember a shaking of the ground, bright light and then they woke up and – it was empty.

*Caiaphas, Annas and Pharisees enter, flustered...*

**Pilate:** Great, my day just gets worse! What do you want?

**Caiaphas:** Have you heard?

**Pilate:** If you're talking about the missing body, then yes I've just been informed.

**Caiaphas:** We can't have people thinking that this man has actually risen from the dead. There will be much greater trouble if the people find out the truth.

**Pilate:** The truth, you say? Jesus stood before me three days ago and said he was the truth. (to Annas) He said all along that he would die is that right?

**Annas:** Yes Governor, but...

**Pilate:** And he also, did he not, say that he would rise again three days later?

**Annas:** I believe he did, but what...

**Pilate:** You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (to Caiaphas) That was something else that Jesus said wasn't it, Caiaphas?

**Caiaphas:** (Nods silently)

**Pilate:** Well then... *(he holds up his hands as if to say he doesn't know what to do)*

**Caiaphas:** (*Plotting*) It will look bad in Rome, with Caesar if word gets out that our Roman Governor is unable to complete the work he is asked to do and keep the peace here in Jerusalem.

**Pilate:** (*having to bite his tongue and restrain his response*) What do you propose we do, oh wise Priest?

**Caiaphas:** I have already spoken to the guards who were at the tomb – I have assured them that they will be well looked after and rewarded if they agree to tell our version of the events.

**Pilate:** And what is our version?

**Annas:** That the disciples, his close followers, came in the night as the guards slept and stole Jesus' body so that they could then go and proclaim that he was risen from the dead.

**Pilate:** And you think people will believe that?

**Caiaphas:** The word is already being spread on the streets, it will be accepted as the truth, I am sure.

**Pilate:** But what about the actual truth, Caiaphas... what will we do about Jesus and his followers?

**Caiaphas:** I don't think anything will come of it... we have nothing to worry about with Jesus.

**Pilate:** I hope you're right. Agreed.

**Caiaphas:** Agreed

*The Priests and Pharisees exit. Pilate is left standing there – unsure.*

**Lights Fade**

## the Southampton Passion

### Act 4 Scene 3

*The Upper Room – the disciples are in heated discussion with Mary and the other women about her report of Jesus.*

**Peter:** But... what did he say? Did it actually look like him – you're sure it was him, this isn't some Roman soldiers joke?

**Mary Mag:** Peter, it was him – he looked slightly different.

**Bart:** Well you would if you'd been dead for three days

**Mary Mag:** No, not in a bad way – he was renewed... refreshed – he looked more alive than I'd ever seen him before. And there were angels there with him.

**John:** What did he say?

**Mary Mag:** That he is risen and that he will go to be with his Father in heaven – he will go to be with God

**James:** But what about us?

**Matthew:** We followed him all this time

**Thaddeus:** We don't get a goodbye

*All start to grumble and complain towards Mary and the women... Jesus appears in the midst of them.*

**Jesus:** (above the noise) Peace my brothers... peace be with you all.

*Silence falls in the room...*

**Peter:** Is this real? Are you...

**Jesus:** Real? Touch me and see. You of little faith – I told you how it would happen... I said I was coming back. But what Mary has told you is true... I am not staying here with you, not like this. Come, follow me...

*They all move out of Upper Room stage to middle stage*

**Jesus:** I'm going to be with my Father. But don't worry – we will send you a helper – the Holy Spirit that I have told you about, that I promised to you, He will empower you to go and continue the work I have started.

**Peter:** But how will we do that, we are just a small group? How can we carry on?

**Jesus:** All authority that was given to me – I now give it to you. You are to go and be my witnesses throughout this land, spread my message of forgiveness – of new life and of hope... and be sure of this I will always be with you - right until the end of time.



**Music has begun during this speech – Jesus begins to sing Go!**

*As the song progresses the disciples join in and characters move into positions so that Jesus is surrounded by disciples. At this point he exits the stage (concealed) and the disciples are left to sing the final chorus. As they are finishing the song they move off into the crowd in various directions.*

*Song ends*

**Lights Fade**

**The End.**