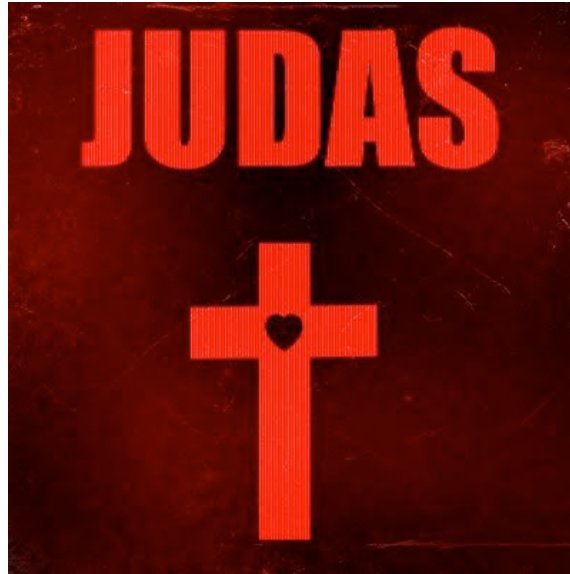


Sedos Audition Notice

# The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

by Stephen Adly Guirgis



27<sup>th</sup> September – 1st October 2011

Bridewell Theatre

&

13th October

The Royal Courts of Justice

Director: Zoe Thomas-Webb

Workshop: Sunday 12th June at 2pm  
Auditions: Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June  
Recalls: Sunday 3rd July

To book an audition slot, please e-mail: [zoe.thomaswebb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zoe.thomaswebb@yahoo.co.uk)

Judas Iscariot feels alone. Vilified by all Christians for the last 2000 years for his betrayal of Jesus Christ to the Romans for 30 pieces of silver. For that act and his subsequent suicide he has allegedly been condemned to the ninth

circle of hell. It is a story with which we are all familiar. Perhaps the time has come for a reprieve? Many others had their sins washed away by Jesus, many other were given the opportunity to start again. And are there not other figures that should share the blame? Where better to try the case of Judas Iscariot vs God and the kingdom of Heaven and earth than in a courtroom poised between heaven and hell: as the attorney for Judas' defence states: "This is Purgatory...I got all day."

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot is not a play about one man's guilt and another's forgiveness; rather that through such a contemporary dramatic exploration of an ancient debate about celebrated figures, we as an audience are able to re-examine our own betrayals, our own personal lapses of belief, and who we need to look to for forgiveness.

Reviewing the London Headlong production in 2008, Michael Billington of the Guardian said; "It is a glorious intoxicating brew that, in its fantasy and daring, reminds me of Tony Kushner's equally high flying Angels in America." The Telegraph commented "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot makes most contemporary plays seems safe, timid and dull, and reminds us of what is missing not only from 99 per cent of our dramas but from 99 per cent of our lives - a sense of spirituality and of mystery."

**Dates:**

Workshop: Sunday 12th June at 2pm  
Auditions: Saturday 25th June at 10am, 11am & 12noon  
Sunday 26th June at 11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm  
Recalls: Sunday 3rd July at 11am.

**Workshops:**

The workshops will be an opportunity to learn more about the play, the roles and the audition process. After this brief talk, we will play some drama exercises to help us warm up and then read some scenes in group to get a feel for the text. No preparation is required and it isn't mandatory for auditionees to attend the workshop.

**Auditions / Recalls:**

Individual auditions will be held on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of July at following time slots; 10am, 11am and 12noon on Saturday 25th and 11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm on Sunday 26th. When you apply for an audition, you will be allocated a slot. We will try and accommodate first preferences as much as possible. Recalls will take place as required on Sunday 3rd July. If you are unable to attend the auditions, please let us know. If possible, we will arrange additional auditions for anyone who can't attend the formal auditions after the workshops.

### **Audition Extracts**

Please prepare one of the following for your first audition, don't feel like you have to learn it, just feel comfortable enough with it to be able to take on direction. A copy of the monologues will be sent to you when you apply for your audition slot.

- Saint Monica (pg 10-12)
- Henrietta Iscariot (pg 3)
- Gloria (pg 4)
- Cunningham (pg 78-79)
- Pontius Pilate (pg 79-80)
- Satan (pg 84)
- Saint Thomas (pg 69-70)
- Jesus (pg 91)

To arrange an audition slot, please e-mail:

[zoe.thomaswebb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zoe.thomaswebb@yahoo.co.uk)

Please specify your preferred audition date/time slot.

### **Notification**

We will aim to inform you as quickly as possible after the auditions whether you have been shortlisted/cast. Whilst we would prefer to phone everyone individually we may notify you by e-mail. If you are unsuccessful, we will do our best to provide feedback when time permits if you would like it.

### **Rehearsals:**

Rehearsals will commence w/c Tuesday 12th July. I plan to hold a read-through and meet and greet on Sunday 10th July. Rehearsals will generally be on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings and all-day Saturdays. There will be three rehearsals in-between the Bridewell run and the Royal Courts of Justice show, two evenings and an all day rehearsal, these are to be confirmed. There will also be a day set aside for the filming of the trailer, only the Apostles, Jesus and Judas will be needed for this and the date is still to be confirmed.

### **Venue:**

Workshops, Auditions, Recalls and Rehearsals will take place at:

Ocean House  
10 Little Trinity Lane  
London, EC4V 2AR  
Nearest tubes: Mansion House and St Paul's

### **Cast:**

Henrietta Iscariot - Mother of Judas Iscariot  
Gloria - An angel and a jury member.

Judge Littlefield - Presides over the courtroom in Hope  
Saint Peter - One of the Twelve Apostles  
Fabiana Aziza Cunningham - Attorney for the defence.  
Yusef El-Fayoumy - Attorney for the prosecution.  
Butch Honeywell - Chairman of the jury  
Loretta - A jury member  
Saint Monica - A saint  
Simon the Zealot - One of the Twelve Apostles and a witness  
Bailiff - An officer of the court.  
Mother Teresa - An Albanian nun and a witness  
Saint Matthew - One of the Twelve Apostles  
Mary Magdalene - A disciple of Jesus  
Saint Thomas - One of the Twelve Apostles  
Matthias of Galilee - An 8 year old boy  
Pontius Pilate - The 5th prefect of Judea and a witness  
Caiphas the Elder - A Jewish Rabbi and a witness  
Judas Iscariot - One of the Twelve Apostles and the defendant.  
Satan - The Prince of Darkness and a witness  
Jesus of Nazareth - The Son of God

For a more detailed breakdown please read the character breakdown.

### **Accents**

Note: The character breakdown contains suggestions of accents for various characters, please don't think that if you can't do the said accent that rules you out of the process, I'm very open to anyones interpretation and if you think a Scottish Pontius Pilate would work, then we want to hear it.

Stephen Adly Guirgis originally wrote the play for the New York based company LAByrinth, and one can feel that the spirit of New York is at the heart of the play. Some roles will remain New Yorkers while others are more open to interpretation. Although I want to create a more multicultural show, I want to keep the strong gritty feel this play has. Adly Guirgis' characters speak to us in a language of the street. This is true of all the characters to varying degrees, both human and divine. The gap between the saintly and iconic status of many of the characters, and earthly, and at points offensive way in which they speak contributes greatly to the humour of the play. It confounds our expectations. It also allows us to identify more easily with the biblical debate and see it as contemporary, therefore finding a greater relevance to our own lives.

### **Synopsis:**

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot is a riotous courtroom drama, set in a corner of Purgatory called Hope. The trial is between God and the Kingdom of Heaven and Earth vs Judas Iscariot. Fabiana Aziza Cunningham, the agnostic

defence lawyer, obtains a writ from the God she isn't sure she believes in, to force a retrial for Judas. Egyptian lawyer Yusef El-Fayoumy, up from Hell for the job, represents the prosecution. Various people are called to testify, from experts such as Mother Teresa, and direct witnesses including Simon the Zealot and Pontius Pilate, to Satan himself. Meanwhile Judas sits catatonic in a room in the ninth circle of Hell, uncommunicative since his death, attended only - we later discover - by Jesus Christ.

The play considers the conflict between divine mercy and human free will. If God is truly all forgiving, why was Judas condemned to Hell for his betrayal of Christ and subsequent suicide?

**Sedos: Audition, participation and membership fees**

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic quality possible. Please note that performers are not paid - not even expenses. To perform in The Last Days of Judas Iscariot you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £30. There is a £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members. If you are cast in the show, your audition fee will be deducted from your participation fee.

To book an audition slot, obtain a copy of the script or for further information, please contact:

[zoe.thomaswebb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zoe.thomaswebb@yahoo.co.uk) or [rebecca.m.smith@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.m.smith@gmail.com)

**I look forward to seeing you at the auditions!**

*Zoe and the Last Days team*