

# FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

COMMUNICATING THE MISSION OF FELLOWSHIP FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Gifts from Fellowship Circle members provide FPA the means to produce compelling theatre from a Christian worldview that engages a diverse audience.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Touching Lives

FPA tells an old story in new ways . . . and creates opportunities.

PAGE 2

### A Vital Circle

FPA's Fellowship Circle of supporters plays a key role.

PAGE 3

### From the Desk of Max McLean

Our long journey together.

PAGE 4

## NATIONAL TOURS

### CS LEWIS THE *Screwtape* LETTERS

**Irvine CA** Barclay Theatre, Jul 16-19  
**Houston TX** Wortham Center, Aug 13-16  
**Jacksonville FL** Florida Theatre, Sep 29  
**North Charleston SC** PAC, Oct 1  
**Raleigh NC** Fletcher Opera House, Oct 2-4  
**New Orleans LA** Saenger Theatre, Oct 7  
**San Antonio TX** Majestic Theatre, Oct 10  
**Austin TX** Long Center, Oct 11  
**Richmond KY** KY ECU Center, Oct 14  
**Nashville TN** TPAC, Oct 15-16  
**Cincinnati OH** Jarson Kaplan Theatre, Oct 17-18  
**Providence RI** Memorial Auditorium, Oct 28  
**Schenectady NY** Proctors Mainstage, Oct 29  
**Dallas TX** Eisemann Center Richardson, Nov 6-7  
**New York NY** Pearl Theatre, Jan 5-24\*

Visit [ScrewtapeOnStage.com](http://ScrewtapeOnStage.com) for up-to-date tour info. Above dates as of June 5.

### CS LEWIS THE *GREAT DIVORCE*

**New York NY** Pearl Theatre, Nov 15 - Jan 3\*

Visit [CSLewisOnStage.com](http://CSLewisOnStage.com) for up-to-date tour info. Above dates as of June 5.

\*Subject to change.

## FPA in New York City 4 Months, 4 Shows



Every year, millions of people attend a show in New York's theatre district. Musicals, plays, new works, classics—representing every conceivable point of view.

This year, four shows from Fellowship for Performing Arts will be among them—bringing theatre from a Christian worldview to one of the most diverse, demanding and influential audiences in the world.

For the first time, FPA will produce a theatrical season—November 2015 to February 2016—with all shows at The Pearl Theatre on West 42nd Street. Playing alongside some of the world's most influential theatre, will be *The Great Divorce*, *The Screwtape Letters*, a lab production of *Martin Luther on Trial* and *The Most Reluctant Convert*—*C.S. Lewis' Journey From Atheism to Christianity*.

"We will begin our season with

C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* for six weeks," said FPA Founder and Artistic Director Max McLean. "Then *The Screwtape Letters* will return in January, followed by a developmental production of *Martin Luther on Trial*. And we will debut a new work—*The Most Reluctant Convert*—in which I'll play C.S. Lewis."

Every theatre company in New York expresses a worldview. Almost none expresses a Christian worldview. FPA's season will offer a clear Christian voice among the many other voices being heard in New York's entertainment marketplace.

"Because of the support from our Fellowship Circle we are prepared for it," McLean said. "This wouldn't have been possible even a year ago. This is an extension of our maturity as a ministry and the generosity of friends who

*Continued on back*

# A New Way To Tell the Oldest Story

## *FPA's Theatre From a Christian Worldview Touches Lives*

It's the oldest story. It goes all the way back to "in the beginning." But today, add the word "Christian" or "Christianity" to many conversations and defenses quickly go up.

"From the earliest days of Fellowship for Performing Arts, I believed something special happens when Scripture is presented artistically," said FPA Founder and Artistic Director Max McLean. "Whether directly from the Bible as with *Mark's Gospel* or explored imaginatively as in *The Scrolltape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*."

Audiences at FPA productions across the country affirm this.

When Fellowship's production of *The Great Divorce* visited a large Midwestern city, two longtime Fellowship Circle members thought carefully about who to invite. "Max, we have been privileged to observe the play's effect on our friends and participate in the questions that flowed during dinner afterward," they said.

- A young man they brought—soon to be married—began to talk openly for the first time about the role faith might play as he becomes part of new family.
- Any talk of heaven or hell previously had been nonsense to one friend. But the show helped him begin to wrestle with the fact that our choices have eternal consequences.
- A married couple revealed financial and marital challenges and wondered if faith could help them overcome their difficulties.

Each of these expressions of vulnerability to the gospel came as a result of friends inviting friends to see a play that could engage their moral imagination.

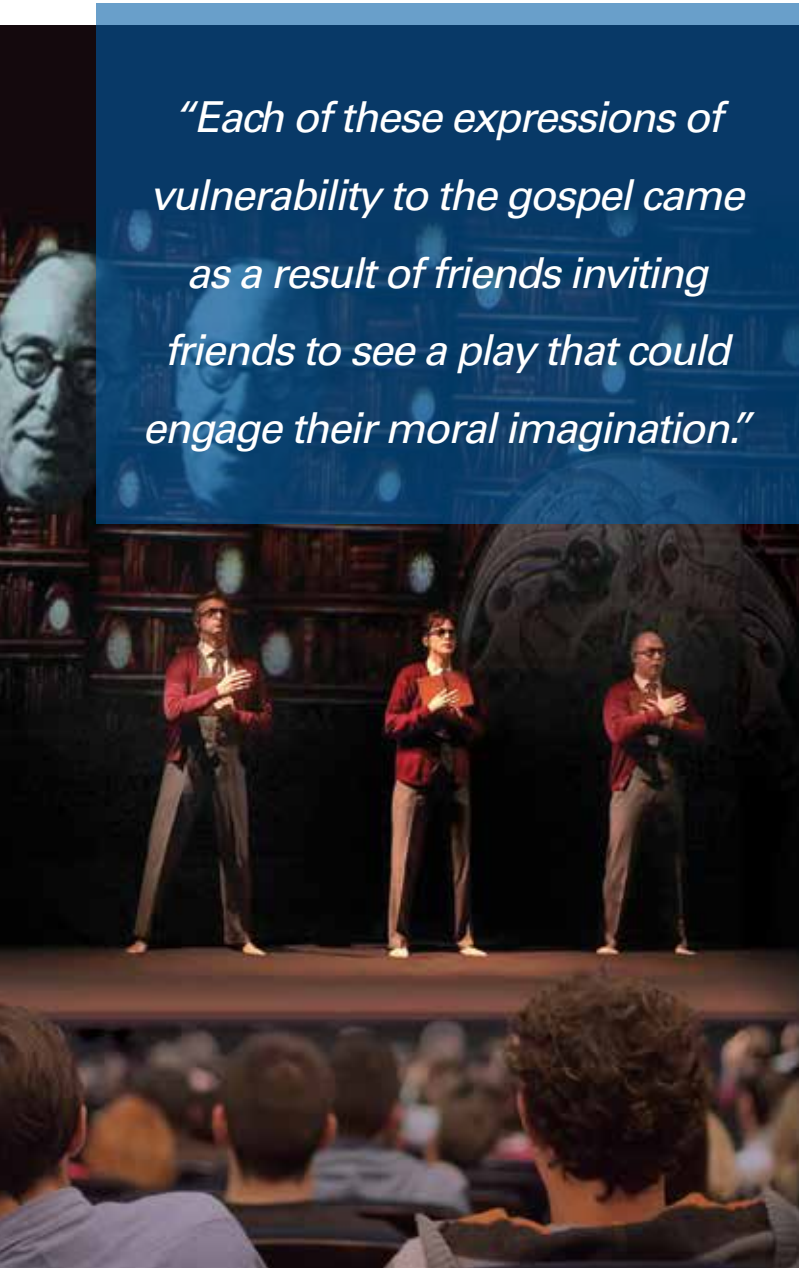
Similarly, a therapist saw Max perform *Mark's Gospel* and found fresh encouragement in her work. "After spending the evening steeped in *Mark's Gospel*, my next full day of counseling was carried out with a heart newly refreshed in the confidence that Jesus was all for what I was doing—cooperating with Him to see people healed inside and out," the therapist said.

"There are no limits to what the living word can accomplish, especially when it is handled with such love and life as you give to it."

Our Fellowship Circle of supporters makes it possible for FPA to mount productions like these—across the country and soon in New York City—telling the oldest story of God's love in a fresh way...and touching lives. Thank you for your vital part in that effort. ■

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THAT EFFORT.**



# FPA FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Fellowship for Performing Arts presents theatre from a Christian worldview that engages a diverse audience. Our ability to mount such productions in leading theatrical venues across the country and in New York City rises from the generous support of our Fellowship Circle members. From all of us at FPA—Thank you for your partnership. To join our Fellowship Circle, visit [CSLewisOnStage.com/donate](http://CSLewisOnStage.com/donate) or call us at 212.582.2920 and ask for Christine Metzger, Managing Director.

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The names on this list were last updated on June 2, 2015. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please call us with any questions or corrections. FPA values the donations of our many other supporters and friends and extends our deepest gratitude to all. To inquire about becoming a Fellowship Circle member or to receive our newsletter, please contact Christine Metzger, Managing Director.





When I started Fellowship for Performing Arts in 1992, there were few serious Christians engaged in art, especially in the theatre. If they were, they kept it to themselves.

Small wonder. The cultural elite who produced most of the art in this country marginalized Christian creative expression as sentimental, irrelevant and inferior. The Christian community seemed to hold a similarly low view. Christians who attempted to be serious artists found their community didn't understand or support their efforts.

With FPA, my vision was to find a way to break through. After seeking the Lord's guidance, three initiatives emerged: First, carefully select works that could engage the moral imagination. This led naturally to the Bible and to the writings of C.S. Lewis.

Second, attempt to execute those works at the highest levels our budgets allowed so they could play in the nation's great theatrical venues. This meant setting the quality bar very high.

Third, build relationships with those who shared my vision and ask them to join me in this cause.

Our Fellowship Circle is the result of this third initiative. Without you the first two steps would not have been possible. As the Fellowship Circle gathered around me for prayer and support, I was able to think strategically about implementing Fellowship's mission of presenting theatre from a Christian worldview to engage a diverse audience.

FPA's first project was an oral interpretation of the Bible to help people listen to the entire Bible as a story. Our narration of *The Listener's Bible* is now heard by millions worldwide. That opened doors for a daily national radio program key to bringing audiences

to our first theatre productions.

I was pleasantly surprised by the reception of our early work. By being selective and making artistic excellence our goal, FPA's productions began

to be taken seriously. *The New York Times* described our production of *Genesis* as "Bible stories told with laughter and affection ... exploring the theatrical possibilities of storytelling without being so obvious as to remind us that these are the most powerful stories in the world." The *Chicago Sun-Times* called it "a relaxed and splendid performance," citing the sacrifice of Isaac as particularly powerful. And *Gay Chicago Magazine* gave it one of its highest ratings, 4½ stars. Thus showing FPA's ability to engage and entertain a diverse audience.

With your support, year by year our productions have become more complex. We have grown in confidence that Fellowship for Performing Arts can provide a Christian voice to the cultural arts conversation. Now, we are poised for FPA's first full theatrical season of four extraordinary plays in New York City (*see cover story*). It's a journey we have taken together, and I couldn't be more excited about this next step. ■

## A LONG JOURNEY ... TOGETHER

## FPA in New York City

*Continued from front*

see the importance of our cause."

FPA's New York season has sparked exciting developments for the organization's existing works—*The Great Divorce* will be significantly reworked, making it a new experience; prepping for New York, McLean again dons the red-and-gold brocade jacket of His Abysmal Sublimity Screwtape in productions in Irvine, Calif., and

Houston; and *The Most Reluctant Convert*—a new play—dramatizes C.S. Lewis' spiritual journey.

"Whether our shows play in venues across the country or in the world capital of theatre, one thing remains unchanged," McLean said, "we cannot mount these productions without the partnership of our Fellowship Circle of supporters. Our New York season will have a budget of \$1.2 million. I hope you'll join us—not only to come see these exciting works—but by means of your support. You play a vital role in making them possible." ■

Please make your tax-deductible gift to FPA using the enclosed card. With any gift of \$1,000 or more, your name will be included in our playbill as a member of FPA's Fellowship Circle. (See insert for level details.)

Fellowship Circle is a publication of Fellowship for Performing Arts • Max McLean, Founder & Artistic Director  
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