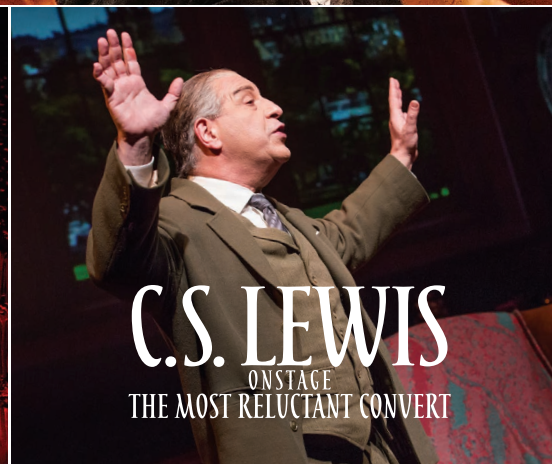
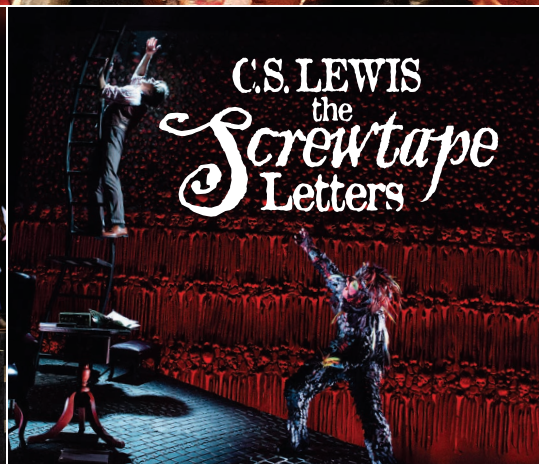
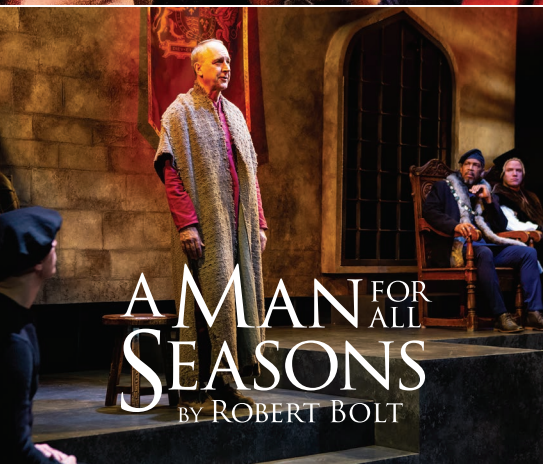


Fellowship Circle

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.



HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

3 Productions!
3 Cities! 1 Night!



**University Tour Continues—
Texas, Miami and More**

4th New York Season Wraps
Newsweek Names
Screwtape a 'Best of 2018'

Two National Tours!
The Most Reluctant Convert
The Screwtape Letters

From the Desk of Max McLean

A Historic Day

3 PRODUCTIONS! 3 CITIES! 1 NIGHT!

The first day of February marked a momentous event in the life of Fellowship for Performing Arts: three separate productions, in three separate cities, on stage in one night.

"While *A Man for All Seasons* continued its extended run in New York City, tours of *The Screwtape Letters* in Washington, D.C., and *C.S. Lewis Onstage: The Most Reluctant Convert* in Austin played to sold-out houses," said Max McLean, FPA's Founder and Artistic Director.

"With performances of each production continuing through that weekend, nearly 7,000 people experienced theatre from a Christian worldview in four days."

An added bonus: *The Most Reluctant Convert* took to the stage on The University of Texas campus drawing students, faculty, staff and community members.

It was just five years ago that FPA first put two shows on the road simultaneously though at the time we only had the bandwidth to mount them

alternately. Now, FPA has completed its fourth multi-show season in New York City, has several productions it can tour including both *Screwtape* and *Convert* that are on tour through 2019.

Our increased capacity has allowed us to reach more people, employ more artists and is helping to brand FPA as a serious, committed voice in the arts even though we produce from a perspective that is largely unwelcomed. Consider these recent comments about FPA.

"Matters of faith and conscience are a specialty with this company." *The New Yorker*

"A genuine curiosity: unabashed Christian theatre tackling weighty moral issues."
Time Out New York

"Fellowship for Performing Arts ... is a countercultural force." *National Review*



Nearly **7,000 PEOPLE** experienced theatre from a Christian worldview in **FOUR DAYS**.



for FPA!

“Distinguished by top-level acting, directing and design and a unique knack for eliciting spiritual self-reflection sheerly though ingeniously engaging entertainment, with nary a preachment in sight.” *DC Metro Theatre Arts*

“FPA offers something that has been sorely missing from the New York theater scene for far too long; high-quality, challenging theater from a Christian perspective.” *TheaterMania*

Our mission is to put forth a vision of Christianity through artistic expression that is imaginative, multi-layered and convicting to provide a counterpoint to the prevailing worldview.

Our Fellowship Circle makes it all possible, and we thank you for that.



AN NYC SEASON TO REMEMBER



Fellowship for Performing Arts closed its fourth theatrical season in March with *A Man for All Seasons*, which was extended for a week.

“We were gratified to see audiences embrace Sir Thomas More’s story of one man having to choose between his allegiance to God and his duty to his king and what happens when fierce political will collides with deep moral conviction.

“In *More*, we watch a figure who experiences the worst possible thing happening to the best possible person. A good man working for what is true and just is barraged by injustice, pain and evil. Yet he meets it with grace, patience and courage. Watching that sparks a cathartic experience among the audience that stays with you long after the performance ends,” said Max McLean, FPA’s Founder and Artistic Director.

Critics agreed. *Newsweek* called it **“Engrossing,”** and said, **“It could not be more timely.”** *The New Yorker* said it was, **“Riveting! A stirring piece of theatre, sleekly directed by Christa Scott-Reed.”**

“Audience members every single night spoke of how ‘timely’ and ‘relevant’ the play felt to them,” said Christa, who also serves as FPA’s literary manager.

A Man for All Seasons followed the return of *The Screwtape Letters* to New York. Audiences and critics alike welcomed back C.S. Lewis’ senior tempter, and the production continues on national tour through 2019 (see back cover or FPAtheatre.com for cities and dates). *Newsweek* included FPA’s production of *Screwtape* in its list of the Best of New York Theatre of 2018.

The season kicked off with a first for FPA—a series of theatrical readings called *Imagine This!* The well-attended works included *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Paradise Lost* and *We Will Not Be Silent* with audience feedback to help us make decisions about whether or not to move forward into full productions for any of these plays.

Thanks to our Fellowship Circle of supporters for allowing FPA to bring productions like these to the New York theatre scene.

More Lewis Please!

Newsweek Names ‘The Screwtape Letters’ to Its ‘Best of 2018’

Whether in the form of *Screwtape*—a devilishly clever character C.S. Lewis created—or with Max McLean portraying the Oxford don himself, it’s clear that audiences across the country and in New York can’t get enough of Lewis.

As *Screwtape* returned to the stage following a hiatus, first in New York and now on tour, *Newsweek* magazine called it “a tempting look at temptation” and named it to its Best of 2018 list.

In addition, Fellowship for Performing Arts is touring *C.S. Lewis Onstage: The Most Reluctant Convert* nationally as well.

“It’s been three years since *Screwtape* toured. Wherever we’ve gone with our other productions,

people are always eager for it to come back,” said FPA Founder and Artistic Director Max McLean. “And *The Most Reluctant Convert* enjoyed such positive reception in its 2018 tour, we took it right back out after our New York season over the holidays.”

Screwtape has already played in Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, Dallas and Houston. On the horizon are productions in Tulsa, Kansas City, Phoenix, San Diego, Atlanta, Midland/Odessa, Grand Rapids and Charlotte, with more planned.

Convert productions have been at The University of Texas at Austin and University of Miami, and in Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Louisville and Charlotte. Upcoming shows are at Vanderbilt University and in Birming-





as the loss of his mother, the strained relationship with his father and of course the sheer horror and madness of being in the trenches during World War I. We have all struggled in our life's journeys. People relate to him.

"Second, he had an unparalleled combination of intellect, insight and creativity. He read everything from the Greeks to the moderns and could remember everything he read. He also had the unusual ability to articulate his profound learning into alarmingly lucid prose and speech. That is why he is considered one of the greatest writers in the English language.

"Finally, Lewis is the person you'd invite to dinner with friends of any or no faith perspective. Spending an evening at the theatre with C. S. Lewis is a proposition that you can offer to a friend

or family member with confidence.

The support of our Fellowship Circle of patrons makes it possible for FPA to satisfy the continuing desire across the country for Lewis' special way of communicating Christian truth. Thank you for your partnership. (*Visit FPAtheatre.com for the latest tour information.*)

ham, Chattanooga, San Antonio, Sacramento, Colorado Springs, Santa Monica, Portland, Oregon, and Bay Harbor, Michigan.

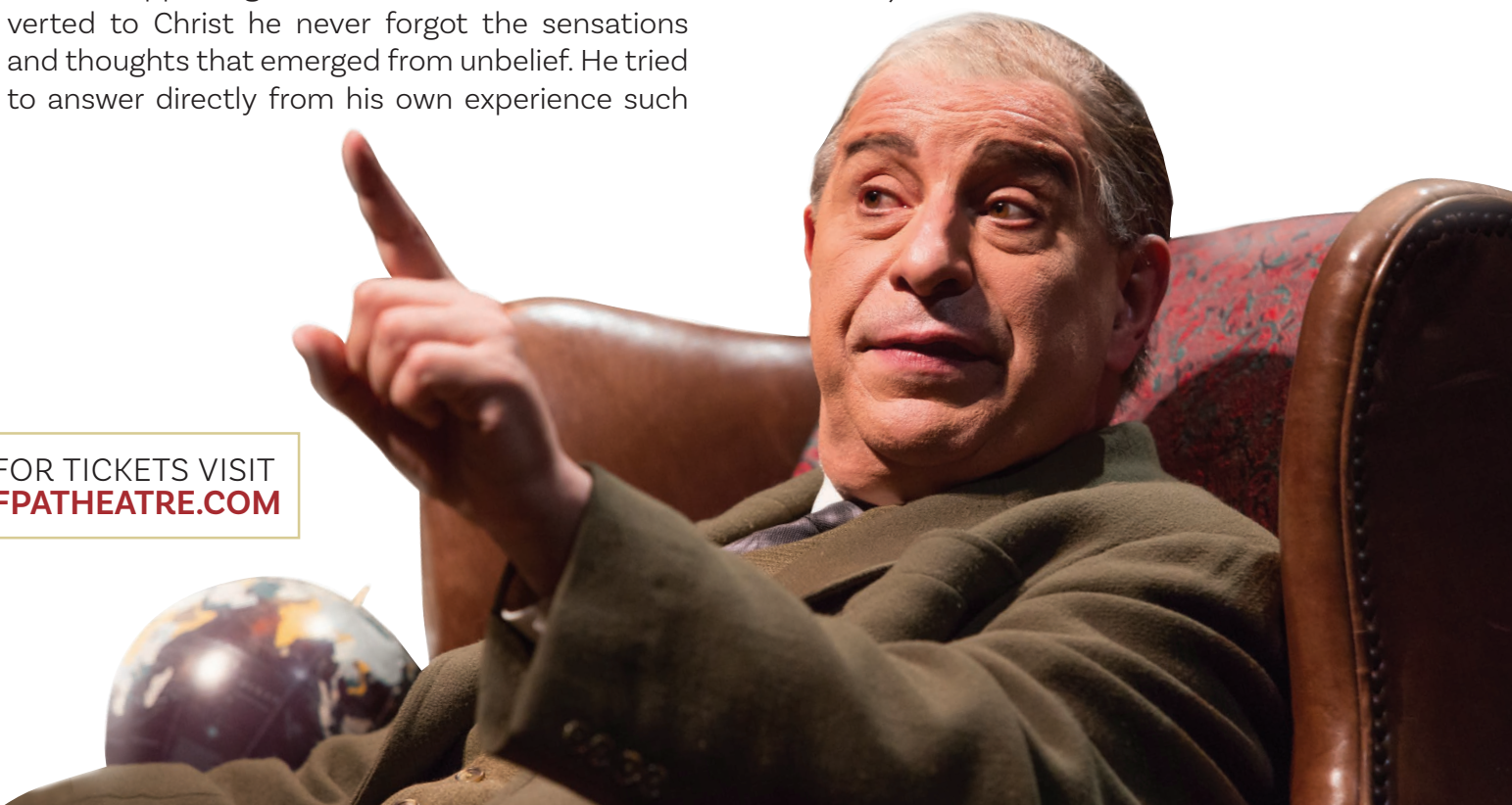
What explains the enduring popularity of this Irish university professor from England who passed away 56 years ago? An example of that is in Pittsburgh, where FPA had never mounted a production. Still, *Screwtape* was almost sold out weeks before the performance.

"I think there are three reasons Lewis continues to be so appealing," Max said. "First, after he converted to Christ he never forgot the sensations and thoughts that emerged from unbelief. He tried to answer directly from his own experience such

"Lewis is the person you'd invite to dinner with friends of any or no faith perspective.

Spending an evening at the theatre with C. S. Lewis is a proposition that you can offer to a friend or family member with confidence."

FOR TICKETS VISIT
FPATHEATRE.COM



2019 UNIVERSITY TOUR OFF AND RUNNING

**University of Texas and University
of Miami with Vanderbilt Up Next**



Fellowship for Performing Arts' Campus Initiative started its spring semester, connecting students with C.S. Lewis' compelling journey to faith in *C.S. Lewis Onstage: The Most Reluctant Convert*.

"We began with five sold-out shows at The University of Texas at Austin plus a late-night student-only performance," said FPA Founder and Artistic Director Max McLean, who stars as Lewis.

A few days after Austin, *Convert* was on stage again for a student-only performance at The University of Miami.

"Next stop is a student-only event at Vanderbilt in April," Max said. "And more universities such as Columbia, Stanford, Duke and University of Michigan are in various stages of planning for the 2019-20 academic year."

**"WE BEGAN
WITH FIVE
SOLD-OUT
SHOWS..."**



The Campus Initiative is proving to be an important outreach to students and others. And FPA is learning from each production to meet the challenges of producing in campus venues and make the most of the opportunities those performances present.

Taking C.S. Lewis to university campuses across the country would not be possible without the support of our Fellowship Circle. Thank you for opening this new avenue for theatre from a Christian worldview to engage diverse audiences.

LEGISLATORS & LEWIS

When Fellowship for Performing Arts mounted a production of *C.S. Lewis Onstage: The Most Reluctant Convert* at the University of Texas at Austin, an innovative plan by a longtime friend of FPA drew 130 members of the state legislature and their staffs to the performances.

"With five performances open to the community and one for students only, it was a bonus to tell Lewis' story to the next generation of leaders as well as the current generation of lawmakers," said FPA Founder and Artistic Director Max McLean.

Trey Blocker, a well respected ethics attorney has been a supporter of FPA since our 2013 visit to Austin. More than two years ago, he asked if we might schedule *The Most Reluctant Convert* during the Texas legislative session, which only happens every other year. "My goal was to make

tickets to *The Most Reluctant Convert* available free to interested legislators and staff members," he said. "And to build a foundation of support for FPA's mission in Austin."

Trey found support from Glenn Hegar, the Comptroller of the State of Texas.

"When Trey shared with me his goal of exposing elected officials and staff to the life and work of C.S. Lewis, I was happy to help," the Comptroller said.

Hegar proceeded to write a letter to each legislator and staff encouraging them to attend the show. He also wrote a second letter to key foundations and private corporations to fund the ticket giveaway and support *C. S. Lewis On Stage* at the University of Texas.

The effort succeeded in attracting the elected officials, helping offset the cost and allowing FPA another avenue of engaging diverse audiences with theatre from a Christian worldview.



**FPA drew 130 members
of the state legislature
and their staffs to the
performances**



On Stage and Off

I'm often asked whether this actor or that designer associated with a Fellowship for Performing Arts production is a professed Christian.

My response is, "It's not a question we ask."

Of course, our work more easily resonates with theatre professionals who share our worldview, but very few have the experience and talent required. Instead, we work through Actor's Equity as well as reputable agents and casting directors to maintain our commitment to produce Christian worldview theatre at the highest level of excellence our budgets allow.

What has been gratifying is to see the positive relationships we've developed among those who work closely with us.

Christa Scott-Reed is FPA's Literary Manager, who seeks out work consistent with our mission. She directed both *Shadowlands* and *A Man for All Seasons* to acclaim in our third and fourth New York seasons. And she is a well-regarded veteran actor in her own right.

"It's been my pleasure and joy to not only be part of offering Christian audiences satisfying shows, but also to open skeptical minds and hearts to the idea that a Christian company can give them something that's moving, intelligent, thoughtful—and produced at a high level, collaborating with artists who are admired industrywide," Christa said.

"I've enjoyed talking to artists of different faiths or no faith who sincerely praise the company for producing theatre that's 'about' something."

A few examples of professionals impacted by their association with FPA include our Tony nominated sound designer, who said that working with FPA has been the most meaningful work

he was done in the past few years. Our executive producer expressed his faith commitment as a result of working on *The Most Reluctant Convert*. One of the lead actors in *Martin Luther on Trial* was so moved by studying the work of Martin Luther that he plans on attending seminary.

Laura Bergquist is a Broadway musical director who recruits talent for musical and dramatic events we stage at various FPA functions.

"The performers may or may not even understand what theatre from a Christian worldview is," Laura said. "But they do understand FPA is a company that treats them with respect, values their time and executes with excellence behind the scenes, all without trying to proselytize them."

Numerous times, Laura has seen artists working with FPA, who, by the end of their gig with us, "get it." "I know of actors who have begun or resumed exploring faith after working with FPA and being exposed to the productions," she said.

Art and theatre offer more wiggle room to do that. We can say things about Christianity that are more readily received within an engaging theatrical experience.

"FPA desires to appeal to the heart's longing for something greater than ourselves," Max said. "'God has set eternity in our hearts.' When this type of theatre is executed in a way that is imaginative, multi-layered, humorous, disarming and doesn't shy away from the tough questions, there is a catharsis that penetrates through bias and stigmas and leaves room for the Holy Spirit to do His work on stage and off."

"I've enjoyed talking to artists of different faiths or no faith who sincerely praise the company for producing theatre that's 'about' something."

– Christa Scott-Reed



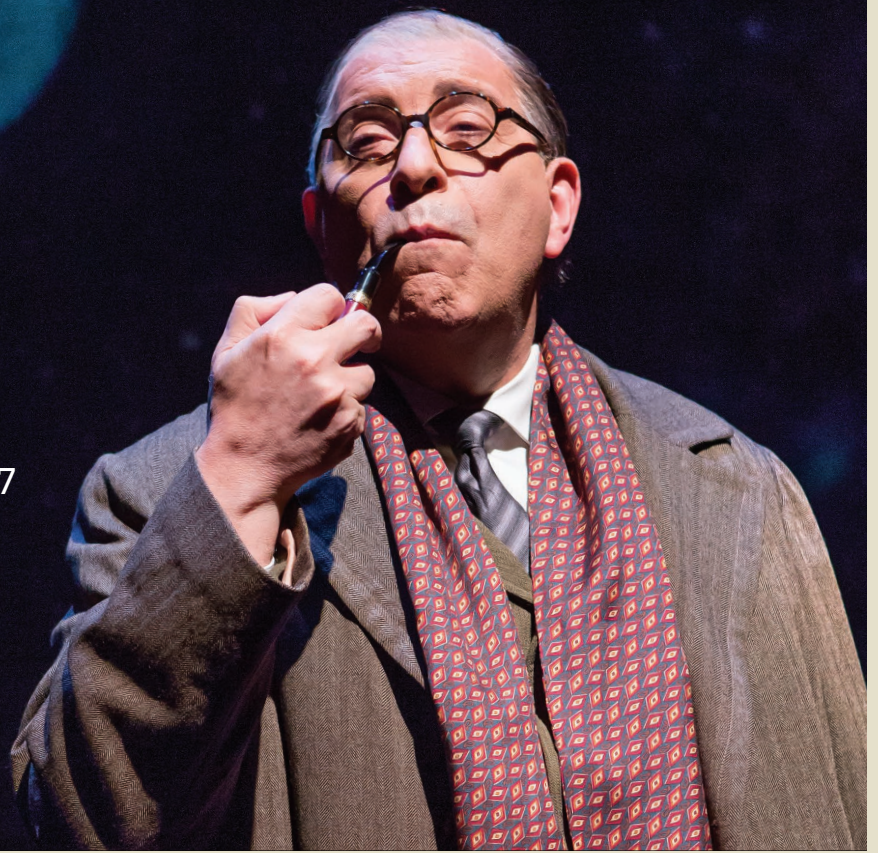
Daniel Gerroll, Christa Scott-Reed and Robin Abramson in tech rehearsal for *Shadowlands*.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Check FPAtheatre.com for times and venues.

C.S. LEWIS ON STAGE THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT

LOUISVILLE - MAR 10
CHARLOTTE - MAR 20-24
BIRMINGHAM - APR 14
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY - APR 17
CHATTANOOGA - APR 27
SAN ANTONIO - MAY 3
SACRAMENTO - JUN 14-15
SAN FRANCISCO - JUN 22-23
COLORADO SPRINGS - JUN 29
LA/SANTA MONICA - JUL 11-21
PORTLAND - AUG 2-3
BAY HARBOR, MI - AUG 10



C.S. LEWIS the Screwtape Letters

HOUSTON - MAR 5-17
TULSA - MAR 28-31
KANSAS CITY - APR 12-13
PHOENIX - MAY 9-11
SAN DIEGO - MAY 19
MIDLAND/ODESSA - JUN 1
ATLANTA - JUN 8-9
GRAND RAPIDS - JUN 15
PHILADELPHIA - JUN 22
RICHMOND - JUN 29
CHARLOTTE - JULY 13-14




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

Paul Cozby, Editor • Ben Geist, Design • 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 1409, New York, New York 10036 • Phone: 212.582.2920

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