



Q U E S T I O N S
F O R
R E F L E C T I O N

1. Which stories/characters/lines in the play particularly spoke to you, and how?
2. "The church often uses love as a commodity. If we are against somebody's ideas, or if we disagree with their values, political ideas, sexual behaviour or lifestyle, we just don't 'pay' them. We refuse to 'condone' their ideas or behaviour by offering any love. We don't interact with people who don't validate our own ideas. This mindset is hardly a breath of fresh air to a world that uses the exact same kinds of techniques. The opposite is biblical love, which loves even enemies, loves unconditionally, and loves liberally. Loving selectively is worldly; giving it freely is miraculous." Do you agree? How can we 'love the sinner' in a clear tangible way without condoning their sin?
3. If you were to be absolutely honest about it, how would you and your church respond if any of 'the untouchables' (and others like them) came to your church? How are you and your church reaching out in love to such people?
4. In what ways has a consumer mentality crept into our church life? What are the dangers? What can we do about it?
5. What traces of Pharisee philosophy and behaviour are there in your own life and in your church? What do you think Jesus would have to say in response?
6. "We need to leave the comfort of our air-conditioned rooms and padded seats and make some house calls." In what practical ways can your church apply this?
7. "Sometimes we have become so focused on our faith being a **'personal'** relationship with Christ that we have forgotten that there is as much a **'communal'** aspect to our relationship with Christ (we are part of a community of believers) and a **'missional'** aspect too (we need to purposefully reach out beyond our church doors to meet needs around us)." What do you think? In what ways is individualism present in our churches? Evaluate your church's worship songs in the light of this statement.

For our touring itinerary, as well as more information on Footstool Players, visit us online at

www.footstoolplayers.com

We would love to hear your feedback about **RUNAWAY BRIDE**. You can email us at feedback@footstoolplayers.com



Runaway Bride

A challenge to the Bride of Christ to return to her true calling



Apathy.
Complacency.
Compromise.
Consumerism.
Legalism.
Idolatry.

The bride has amnesia.

She has forgotten who she is and runs after other lovers.

But the Lover of her soul continues to pursue her with relentless love and extravagant grace.

with Ee Soon Wei • Colin Kirton • Dorothy Lee • Adrene Wong

Directed by Colin Kirton • Jonathan Tan

Conceptualised by Colin Kirton

Stage management by Lee Hwok Chuen

Lighting by Arvind Gunaseharan

Sound by Desmond Teoh / Steven Lim / Ng Liang Ming

Publicity design by Lee Choi Wan

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R u n a w a y B r i d e

A challenge to the Bride of Christ to return to her true calling

God gives us many word-pictures in the Bible to describe his people — the Church — and our identity and mission. We are 'salt and light', 'the Body of Christ', a 'family', and so on. But one of the most beautiful pictures is that we are the 'Bride of Christ'. Love is at the centre of that picture — God's love for us, and the love for him that we should have in response, a love evidenced also in our love for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and for a world that desperately needs to know and experience the love of God through us. (1 John 4:20-21)

God doesn't lavish his love and grace on us just so that we can feel good, to have a nice warm fuzzy feeling — but to *transform* us. "We love because he first loved us", the Bible says (1 John 4:19), and "Christ's love compels us . . ." to no longer live for ourselves (2 Corinthians 5:14) but to get our hands dirty in sharing with a needy world this generous love that we have found and experienced.

This play was born out of a growing conviction within my heart of late that the Church has become guilty of running away from her God-given calling and mission. In its place, we have 'played church', feigning commitment. We have flirted with the devil through compromise. We have become engrossed in church politics, power plays and personal agendas. We have become self-righteous, legalistic and judgmental. We have become institutionalised, insular and territorial. We are often selfishly more concerned about what the Church has to offer us than what we have to offer God, his people and the world. We have closed our eyes to — and even shunned — those who are in need or who we are uncomfortable with — precious souls for whom Jesus also died. Our salt has been kept in its saltshaker; our light under a bowl.

My prayer is that this play will cause us to stop and take stock of ourselves and repentantly return once more to our original God-given mandate as his people. In spite of our failings and our sins, the extravagant grace and relentless love of our Divine Lover continue to pursue us. "I am going to woo her — I will bring her out to the desert and I will speak to her heart." (Hosea 2:14; CJB) His promise to us is that "If my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14; CJB)

To our non-Christian audience members, thank you too for coming. We hope that through this play, although you may not understand everything it deals with, you will catch a glimpse of God's unfathomable love for each of us — you included — and learn how you too may respond to that love.

Colin Kirton

Artistic Director, Footstool Players



T H E W E D D I N G

Written by The Jeremiah People

Directed by Jonathan Tan; Performed by Colin Kirton, Dorothy Lee & Ee Soon Wei

Song: **Don't Say 'I Love You' Too Soon** (written and performed by Wes King)

It has to be freezing to snow / It has to be burning to glow / It has to be willing and ready to know
It has to be able to grow / Don't say 'I love you' too soon / Late nights holding hands and staring at the moon
On romantic nights, your feelings can lie / So don't say 'I love you' too soon

M c C H U R C H

Written by Jeff Smith & Wayne Sigler

Directed by Colin Kirton & Jonathan Tan; Performed by Dorothy Lee, Adrene Wong, Ee Soon Wei & Colin Kirton

P H A R I S E E B O O T C A M P

Author unknown

Directed by Jonathan Tan; Performed by Colin Kirton & Ee Soon Wei

Song: **Pharisee** (written by Mike Weaver; performed by Big Daddy Weave)

Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil / On the outside / Full of pride, full of lies — so well they hide / On the inside
They'll never be all that they seem / They live the life of a Pharisee

[NOTE: Pharisees were Jewish religious leaders during the time of Jesus who prided themselves in observing all sorts of laws and made up additional laws just to appear more holy by attempting to keep them. Jesus regularly criticised the Pharisees' hypocrisy and legalism, and because of that, they were always trying to find ways to get rid of him.]

T H E U N T O U C H A B L E S

Written by Steve Trott, Colin Kirton & David Lampel

Directed by Colin Kirton & Jonathan Tan; Performed by Adrene Wong, Ee Soon Wei, Dorothy Lee & Colin Kirton

Song: **No More Good Guys** (written by Gerry Owens; performed by Skindive)

You left me standing here, alone and colder / I hope that someday soon the pain inside will stop

M E R C Y G E N E R A L

Written by Charles M Reese; Based on Mark 2:17

Directed by Colin Kirton; Performed by Adrene Wong & Dorothy Lee

Song: **If We Are The Body** (written by Mark Hall; performed by Casting Crowns)

If we are the Body / Why aren't his arms reaching? / Why aren't his hands healing? / Why aren't his words teaching?
And if we are the Body / Why aren't his feet going? / Why is his love not showing them there is a way?
There is a way / Jesus is the Way

S A L T A N D L I G H T

Written by Charles M Reese & Colin Kirton; Based on Matthew 5:13-16

Directed by Jonathan Tan; Performed by Ee Soon Wei, Adrene Wong, Dorothy Lee & Colin Kirton

Song: **Salt and Light** (written by Chris Rodriguez & Nic Gonzales; performed by Salvador)

You are the salt of all the earth / You are his feet, his eyes, his hands
You are the light of all the world / High on a hill, so let us stand
Shining bright — Salt and light

L O V E S T O R Y

Written by Charles M Reese; Based on Hosea 1-3

Directed by Colin Kirton; Performed by Ee Soon Wei & Adrene Wong

Song: **Your Love Is Extravagant** (written by Darrell Evans; performed by Casting Crowns)

Your love is extravagant / Spread wide in the arms of Christ is the love that covers sin
Capture my heart again / Your love is extravagant