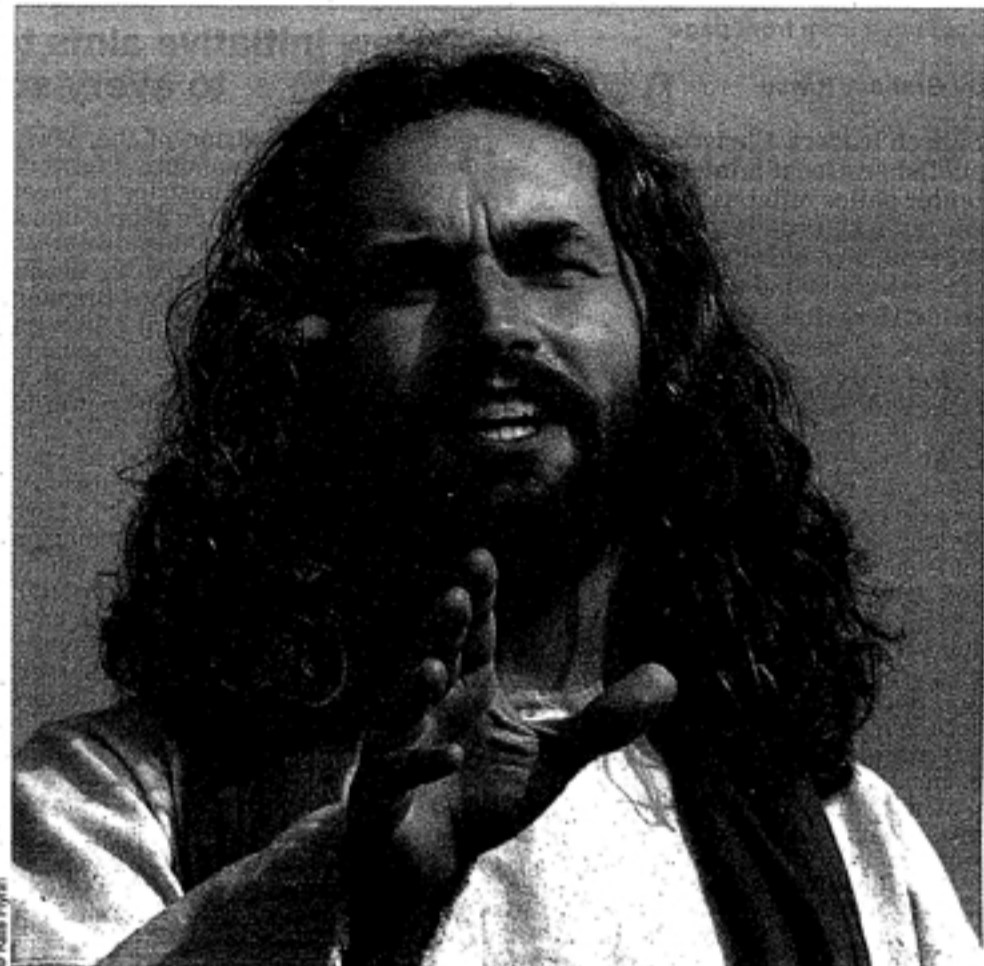


# BRIGHTON'S PASSION PLAY



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**Christmas may not be upon us yet, but amateur actors from Brighton's churches are busy rehearsing next year's Easter passion play**

creative hub of Brighton."

Co-ordinating the event is Tyler Evenson, Canadian pastor of the Church on the Rock, who said, "Putting the two events together has huge potential as we use music and the performing arts to share the Gospel. Now we need others to come on board and flesh out the vision."

Fundraising is the responsibility of London-based businessman Alex Stewart-Clark, who raised last year's funds and will be giving a day a week to the project. He explained, "Last year's production cost £89,000, mainly helped by giving from three churches. What more can one do with 100 churches? If 100 churches pledge £500 each we'll have a good start."

[www.passionofchrist.co.uk](http://www.passionofchrist.co.uk)



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"We want to share the goodness of what God's done for us," explained Pastor Andy Au of Citygate Church who is providing spiritual oversight for the event. Andy is ensuring that those who are moved by the event will have somewhere to turn to have their questions about Christianity answered.

And last year's event was profoundly moving for cast and audience alike, according to cast members. Jacalyn Ognon had never acted before and was terrified before going on 'stage', but said her family would not have missed it for anything. "The audience were hugging us and wanted us to pray for them," she recalled.

You don't have to be an experienced thespian to take part, nor indeed does English need to be your mother tongue. Assistant director Emily Swaine told visitors to the play's launch at Church House, Hove, "Last year 90% of the cast had never acted before and 80% did not have English as a first language, because the Egyptian church played a lot of roles. Passion plays are notoriously difficult to present in dramatic form, but when it's done well it can have a huge impact on people's lives - and it makes the Gospel palatable to the

For the first time, the Easter music festival, Soul by the Sea, will combine with the Passion of Christ play to transform the seafront by the historic West Pier with performances from leading local artists and entertainers. There will be a variety of other activities including children's entertainers and sporting events, climaxing with a new rendition of the Passion of Christ play on Easter Sunday, 8 April 2012.



The Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Councillor Anne Meadows, with assistant director Emily Swaine



Captain Gordon Banks, the Diocesan Evangelist, hosted the launch of next year's passion play



Alex Stewart-Clark, businessman and fundraiser for 'Passion of Christ'



Jacalyn Ognon was 'utterly filled by the Holy Spirit' when she acted in last year's passion play



United in the Passion - (left to right) Jon Bebb, treasurer, with pastors Tyler Evenson and Andy Au



SOUL BY THE SEA