



THE GREAT COMMISSION
THEATRE

IMPACT REPORT

SAINTS *for Today*

An Evening
of Staged
Readings

AUGUST 15, 2026
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



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THE VISION

HOLINESS. HUMAN EXPERIENCE. STORY.

Saints for Today was created to explore how theatre can invite us to encounter holiness through the complexity of ordinary human life. Seven original works brought together playwrights, actors, directors, production artists, faith leaders, and audiences around one guiding question:

How do the lives of the saints help us live our holiness today?

Presented by The Great Commission Theatre in collaboration with the Oblate School of Theology Office of Renewal & Outreach.



AT A GLANCE

ONE EVENING. A GROWING COMMUNITY.



7 *Selected Works*

Exploring holiness through human experiences.



4 *Directors*

Guiding the vision and shaping each unique story.



19 *Actors*

Bringing powerful stories to life on stage.



6 *Production Members*

Working behind the scenes to make it all possible.



3 *Talkback Leaders*

Offering theological, pastoral, and artistic reflection.



254 *Seats Reserved*

A community coming together for an unforgettable evening of theatre.



NEARLY 100
Script submissions

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

7 STORIES. MANY WAYS TO ENCOUNTER HOLINESS.

Selected from nearly 100 submissions, the works approached holiness through very different human experiences—inviting audiences to encounter questions of faith, suffering, mercy, dignity, relationships, hope, and grace.



AN AUDIENCE GATHERED

PEOPLE BROUGHT PEOPLE.



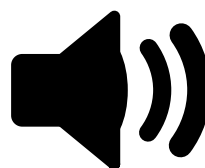
72%

Estimated Attendance Rate



- 184 estimated attendees
- 135 individual orders
- 74% of reserved seats came from multi-ticket orders
- 2 tickets median reservation

Personal relationships and word of mouth were the strongest identifiable source of audience discovery. Artists, friends, families, supporters, faith communities, and community networks helped extend the invitation.



HOW THEY HEARD

- Personal connection
- Word of mouth
- Email/newsletter
- Social/online community
- OST

AUDIENCE IMPACT

THEATRE OPENED A DOOR TO REFLECTION.

Audiences most often remembered stories because they recognized something of their own lives within them—family, loss, pregnancy, homelessness, suffering, compassion, faith, and encounters with others.

22 audience survey respondents

"The experience opened a new way through the arts how to contemplate faith and holiness."

Nan Balfour

"Inspiring; reflective; grateful that we have saints around us today and challenged to 'live my best God-given self.'"

Tricia Jones

"The staged readings illuminated how living as a faithful disciple of Christ happens in the everyday world of family, friends, colleagues, faith community, and even strangers."

Gail Dereszewski

"Very hopeful for its future."

Deborah Hanus

"Enjoyable and thought provoking."

Marguerite Muzquiz

→ 4.64 / 5

Overall experience

→ 4.73 / 5

Theatre as a meaningful way to explore faith & spirituality

→ 91%

Rated the performances highly for inviting reflection on holiness

→ 82%

Said the experience broadened or deepened their understanding of living a holy life

THE STORY CONTINUES

AUDIENCES WANT MORE.



95%

Interested in attending another
GCT production

86%

Interested in
another Saints
for Today

73%

Interested in full-
length theatrical
productions



*The inaugural event
generated interest
not only in
Saints for Today,
but in the future
of The Great
Commission
Theatre.*



IMPACT ON ARTISTS

A PLACE TO CREATE WITH PURPOSE.

→ 4.8 / 5

Average company experience

→ 91%

Would absolutely participate in another GCT project

→ 100%

Open to working with GCT again

The production didn't simply bring artists together. It strengthened a growing Artist Community.

Company members described the experience as welcoming, collaborative, respectful, positive, and meaningful. Artists valued the opportunity to build relationships, explore meaningful material, and use their gifts in service of something larger than themselves.

Based on 11 company survey responses: 10 actors and 1 director.

FAITH + THEATRE IN CONVERSATION

THE STORY DIDN'T END WITH THE FINAL LINE.

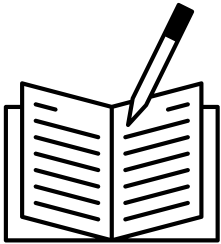


Following the performances, audiences were invited into conversation about holiness, faith, and the human experiences reflected onstage.

Audience feedback affirmed the value of connecting theatre and spiritual reflection while offering insight into how future post-show conversations can be more focused and intentional.

WHAT WE LEARNED

THIS PRODUCTION GAVE US A ROADMAP.



STORY FIRST

Continue selecting theatrically strong material rooted in authentic human experience.



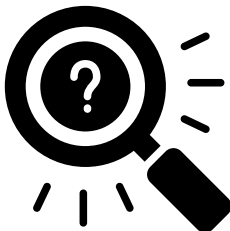
STRENGTHEN THE EXPERIENCE

Build stronger technical, audio, backstage, and performance-day systems.



GIVE THE WORK MORE TIME

Allow more rehearsal time with directors and a dedicated technical rehearsal to fully prepare each piece for the stage.



COMMUNICATE WHO WE ARE

Be more intentional in communicating GCT's Christian mission and the nature of each production so audiences understand what they are being invited to experience.

Our inaugural Saints for Today affirmed the vision and gave us valuable insight for strengthening future productions.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Saints for Today expanded GCT's continuing work with our first production dedicated specifically to exploring holiness through the human experience.

The response to this inaugural offering gives us a strong foundation for what comes next.

SAINTS FOR TODAY

Build on the inaugural production, applying what we learned while continuing to explore compelling stories of holiness and the human experience.

FULL-LENGTH PRODUCTIONS

Continue developing GCT's broader season of mission-driven theatre, including full-length works that reflect our Christian worldview and commitment to excellent storytelling.

ARTIST COMMUNITY

Strengthen relationships with actors, directors, playwrights, designers, technicians, production support, and other theatre artists who want to share their gifts through meaningful work.

PARTNERSHIP

Grow the community that makes this work possible—audiences, volunteers, collaborators, advocates, and partners willing to invest in bringing future productions to the stage.

MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Saints for Today was made possible through the partnership of The Great Commission Theatre and Oblate School of Theology, with both organizations contributing resources to bring the production to the stage. Together, this partnership made it possible to offer the production **free** to the community.



The inaugural Saints for Today affirmed the potential of this initiative and the community's desire for more meaningful, mission-driven theatre.



THE GREAT COMMISSION THEATRE

Engaging the imagination. Proclaiming the Truth.

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..."

Inspired by Matthew 28:19–20



CONTACT US

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