

Draft as of 11/17/2005

DAVID AND GOLIATH
an ancient play of Israel

I Samuel 15–18

as directed by

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This text is the King James Version with a few words or phrases borrowed mostly from twentieth century translations. See footnotes for places that are at variance with King James Version.

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This project owes its greatest debt to Dr. Tom Boogaart's continuing vision and expert Biblical exposition. In addition to his advance scholarship, he walked alongside the project with ready insights day by day. Supplementing Dr. Boogaart's scholarship was Dr. James Mead of the religion department at Northwestern.

The original production team, cast, and crew at Northwestern worked hard to make this ancient script at home on the contemporary stage. For the text you hold, I am especially grateful for the dedicated, creative and practical contributions of Sarah Grace Harpster (stage manager), Amanda Maloney (choreographer), Lindsey Peterson (dramaturg), Elizabeth Zurn (assistant to the director), Lois Estell (composer), Megan Hodgkin (editorial assistant and costume designer), Kelly Van Marel (department secretary), Tracy Pronk (properties master), Cassie Mings (lighting designer), and John David Paul (scenic designer). I'm also grateful for Megan's discovery of the concept for the Goliath puppet and John Paul's development of the concept before handing it to Emily Spany and Biz Grimm for completion.

As you may have heard me say with other projects of mine, the production would have faltered significantly were it not for Karen Bohm Barker's professional guidance as well as her personal friendship.

Preface

I met Dr. Tom Boogaart at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan. Tom teaches Old Testament, and he is passionate about those old sacred writings. After a couple of decades of study, Tom has come to the conviction that most of the first half Bible narratives are historically and literarily dramas. If this is true, there is a mammoth collection of overlooked plays written before the Greeks. They are the first plays of Israelite culture.

Having joined Tom's conviction, I asked the next obvious question, "How were these plays performed?" It's possible that the original performers were single individuals rather than companies of actors. If they were in keeping with what we know of other pre-literate cultures, they probably sang their performances, accompanying themselves on a lyre or using a staff percussively.

As interesting as the historical question is, it leads naturally to the question, "How can we perform these today?" Actors, workshop participants, and several other directors have joined me in developing meaningful conventions for contemporary production of the ancient plays. Our values have been to adhere to the original written text while preparing dramatic forms that can be produced in many theatrical contexts. The process has been exciting and the product has been profound, mysterious, and strangely moving. We feel as if the old stories are suddenly new. Nothing has been lost. Much has been gained.

The text selected for the script you are reading is the King James Version. It is perhaps the most poetic of the available English versions. It also has the advantage of reminding the hearer immediately that this is an ancient play.

When we started this process, I believed that we were about to begin a journey that would change our lives and perhaps change the way both the Bible and the arts are understood in synagogues, churches and culture at large. I believe this now more than ever. I invite you into the adventure. Try it yourself – move one of these plays from the page to the stage. You'll see.

Jeff Barker, Orange City, Iowa

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)*

<u>Musicians:</u>	The original production used three costumed drummers onstage, one percussionist in the house, plus two flautists above and behind the audience.
<u>Storyteller One:</u>	male narrator
<u>Storyteller Two:</u>	female narrator
<u>The Lord/Evil Spirit from the Lord:</u>	female narrator who speaks the words of the Lord and then who, with a slight adjustment in costume, portrays the evil spirit that besets Saul
<u>Samuel:</u>	prophet of Israel
<u>Saul:</u>	first king of Israel
<u>Agag:</u>	king of the Amalekites
<u>Abner:</u>	Saul's "Captain of the host"; also here as an elder in Bethlehem
<u>Jesse:</u>	David's father
<u>Eliab:</u>	David's elder brother; tall and regal looking
<u>Abinadab:</u>	David's second eldest brother
<u>Shummah:</u>	David's next brother
<u>David:</u>	God's appointed heir to Saul's throne
<u>Jonathan:</u>	Saul's son
<u>Adriel:</u>	Soldier (in this production, is in love with Merab)
<u>Merab:</u>	Saul's eldest daughter (in this production, is in love with Adriel)
<u>Michal:</u>	Saul's daughter; loves David
<u>Goliath:</u>	Philistine giant; played by a single actor/puppeteer
<u>Goliath's armor bearer</u>	

* This version of the story requires 18 actors and 5 musicians. Original production's acting company used 6 women and 12 men. Merab and Michal are women characters, Samuel and Abner were women playing men, and STORYTELLER TWO and The LORD/EVIL SPIRIT FROM THE LORD were women playing non-gendered roles.

David and Goliath

SETTING: Tent-like swaths of fabric hang from the ceiling at the back of a large flat rectangular dancing/playing space. The audience is on three sides, and drummers will sit at the fourth, upstage side. On the floor of the space is painted a map of ancient Israel.

AT RISE: FLUTES play in the theatre. DRUMS are heard at a distance, growing as the three drummers take their seats at the upstage side of the circle. Sudden stop. Silence. A new beat, and all actors enter in celebration, dancing. They wear tribal makeup, players about to enact a well-known tale.

(The opening dance is four or five minutes long. It has several sections. The first part is energy and sound and movement, with a spontaneous feel evolving into unison, ritual movement drawn from communal, tribal celebrations. Suddenly there are two sides squaring off for battle. Two warriors represent the two sides, sparring gymnastically with competitive flips that grow as one soldier flips the other into one huge aerial back flip. The sides move toward each other, stomping, clapping, shouting as the lights deepen to blood red. Suddenly the lights, sound and movement return to the joyous and spontaneous feel of the opening. Once again it evolves into a communal, ritual formality. And then all slows into a freeze as the dancers sink to the floor. There is one actor moving. It is SAUL. Then the Lord touches him and he sinks. The Lord touches DAVID who rises and walks and drums grow and all rise to dance. Then they slow to freeze again. This time DAVID and MICHAL see each other across the room. DAVID goes to her, taking her hand. She screams, for behind DAVID, a monster has arisen. It is the ARMOR BEARER carried on GOLIATH'S shoulders. DAVID gestures to sling a stone, and all freeze. Drums! Dancing off. And the play is ready to be re-told in detail.

When dance ends, ALL exit. DRUMMERS begin a new rhythm, and SAMUEL enters with a staff, followed by STORYTELLER ONE. SAUL rushes onto stage and freezes when he sees SAMUEL. SAUL kneels at SAMUEL's feet.)

STORYTELLER ONE

(Identifying each character with a touch of the hand.)

Samuel also said unto Saul.

(SAMUEL raises SAUL from his feet, gives him the staff, and kneels at SAUL's feet.)

SAMUEL

The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts.

LORD and SAMUEL and OFFSTAGE VOICES

I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek,

(SAUL drops the staff and falls to the ground in horror. SAMUEL stands.)

LORD and SAMUEL and OFFSTAGE VOICES (continued)
and utterly destroy all that they have,

LORD and SAMUEL
and spare them not;

OFFSTAGE VOICES
(echo)
And spare them not.

LORD and SAMUEL and OFFSTAGE VOICES
but slay

(OFFSTAGE VOICES hold and trail off on the word “slay.”)

LORD and SAMUEL
both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and donkey¹.

(SAMUEL and LORD reach toward SAUL in a gesture of help, he lunges forward and seizes SAMUEL’s hand. Freeze. STORYTELLER TWO enters as SAUL, ABNER, ADRIEL, and JONATHAN form a small circle and freeze in a council meeting. When they have frozen, STORYTELLER TWO begins speaking, as SAMUEL and LORD move just down right, SAMUEL kneeling in prayer and freeze.)

STORYTELLER TWO
And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

(ALL release from tableau. ABNER, ADRIEL and JONATHAN, join ELIAB, ABINADAB, and SHUMMAH in a line facing upstage. They create a tableau as a line of warriors at attention. SAUL crosses downstage.)

STORTELLER TWO (continued)
And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. And Saul said unto the Kenites.

¹ KJV *ass*

SAUL

(addressing the audience)

Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye showed² kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt.

STORYTELLER TWP

So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

(SAUL turns and he, along with ABNER, ADRIEL, JONATHAN, ELIAB, ABINADAB, and SHUMMAH freeze in action of war while facing upstage.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

(SAUL and others mime a battle. AGAG is drug onstage and thrown onto his knees. JONATHAN mimes a knife to execute him, but SAUL stops his hand mid air and all freeze. LIGHTS change.)

STORTELLER TWO (continued)

And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fat calves³, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and weak⁴, that they destroyed utterly.

(Exit tableau. SAUL and ABNER remain onstage and move upstage to freeze in the action of creating an altar. SAMUEL, who has been kneeling near the edge of the stage in worship, now crosses to center and continues worshipping. LORD enters.)

STORYTELLER ONE

Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying.

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

I am sorry that I have made⁵ Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.

(SAMUEL beats the ground with his fists. As he raises his hands for the third time, LORD catches his hands before he can hit the ground again. They freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

² KJV *shewed*

³ KJV *fatlings*

⁴ KJV *refuse*

⁵ KJV *It repenteth me that I have set up*

(LORD exits. SERVANT ONE and SERVANT TWO run in, SAMUEL crosses to them, stops them, and they freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying.

(Out of breath from running and overlapping one another.)

SERVANT ONE

Saul came to Carmel,

SERVANT TWO

And, behold.

SERVANT ONE

He set him up a place.

SERVANT TWO

And is gone about.

SERVANT ONE

And passed on.

SERVANT TWO

And gone down to Gilgal.

(DRUMS build. SERVANT ONE and SERVANT TWO exit hastily. SAUL enters. He is dancing, until he notices SAMUEL, and then he bows, but SAMUEL again gets him up and bows to him.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him.

SAUL

Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

(SAMUEL holds up his hands to the DRUMMERS and music stops, revealing sheep and oxen noises created by the OFFSTAGE VOICES.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel said.

SAMUEL

What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

STORYTELLER ONE

And Saul said.

SAUL

They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

STORYTELLER ONE

Then Samuel said unto Saul.

SAMUEL

(placing his hand over SAUL's mouth to stop his speech)
Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night.

(SAUL gestures to his servants who enter with two stools and place them opposite each other.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And he said unto him.

SAUL

Say on.

(SAUL sits.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel said.

SAMUEL

When you were⁶ little in your⁷ own sight, were you⁸ not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed you⁹ king over Israel? And the LORD sent you¹⁰ on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then did you¹¹ not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst take of all the riches¹², and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul said unto Samuel.

(SAUL throws the pillow from his stool and then the stool meant for SAMUEL.)

⁶ KJV *thou wast*

⁷ KJV *thine*

⁸ KJV *wast thou*

⁹ KJV *thee*

¹⁰ KJV *thee*

¹¹ KJV *didst thou*

¹² KJV *fly upon the soil*

SAUL

Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

STORYTELLER TWO

And Samuel said.

SAMUEL

Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen is better than eating fattened cows¹³. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

(SAMUEL grabs the staff in SAUL's hand. SAUL pulls back and they continue a tug of war.)

SAMUEL (continued)

Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he has¹⁴ also rejected you¹⁵ from being king.

(SAMUEL lets go of the staff, and SAUL falls to the ground. Beat. He realizes his need for a different tactic.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul said unto Samuel.

SAUL

I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

STORYTELLER TWO

And Samuel said unto Saul.

SAMUEL

I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD...

(SAMUEL slowly tips SAUL's stool over with the staff.)

SAMUEL (continued)

...hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

(SAMUEL turns away from SAUL. Freeze.)

¹³ KJV *hearken than the fat of rams*

¹⁴ KJV *hath*

¹⁵ KJV *thee*

STORYTELLER ONE

And as Samuel turned about to go away...

(SAUL reaches out and grabs the hem of SAMUEL's robe. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

...he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle...

(SAMUEL turns, and uses the staff to violently sweep the robe out of SAUL's hand.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

...and it tore¹⁶. And Samuel said unto him.

SAMUEL

The LORD hath torn¹⁷ the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

STORYTELLER ONE

Then he said.

SAUL

(standing, with a measure of dignity at last)

I have sinned: yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

(SAMUEL consents, and the two move upstage to worship. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD. Then said Samuel.

SAMUEL

(to ABNER)

Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.

(AGAG is escorted in, against his will, by JONATHAN and ABNER. SAMUEL turns his back to AGAG and moves downstage.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said.

AGAG

Surely the bitterness of death is past.

¹⁶ KJV *rent*

¹⁷ KJV *rent*

(STORYTELLER TWO holds up a sheathed sword to SAMUEL.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel said.

SAMUEL

As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women.

(SAMUEL slides the sword from the sheath, and swings it slowly toward AGAG, who falls to ground, hand extended in defense. SAUL recoils in horror. All freeze.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And Samuel cut Agag down¹⁸ before the LORD in Gilgal.

(AGAG exits. STORYTELLER ONE takes the sword from SAMUEL and hands it to LORD who returns it to the sheath, and gives it to STORYTELLER TWO.)

STORYTELLER ONE

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD turned back from making¹⁹ Saul king over Israel.

STORYTELLER ONE

And the LORD said unto Samuel.

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

How long wilt thou mourn for Saul,

LORD

seeing I have rejected him

OFFSTAGE VOICES

I have rejected him

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse of Bethlehem. For I have provided me among his sons

LORD

a king.

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel said,

¹⁸ KJV *hewed Agag in pieces*

¹⁹ KJV *repented that he had made*

SAMUEL

How can I go? If Saul hear it, he will kill me.

STORYTELLER ONE

And the LORD said,

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

Take a young cow²⁰ with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show²¹ thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

(SAMUEL places the horn of oil and a knife in his belt, and crosses to Stage Left. STORYTELLER ONE places a loop of the rope in the hands of STORYTELLER TWO and kneels with the other end of the rope in his hand as if it's a rope tied to a post. This creates a cow. ABNER and ADRIEL sneak in upstage and kneel. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said,

ABNER

Comest thou peaceably?

STORYTELLER ONE

And he said,

SAMUEL

Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.

(SAMUEL kills the cow. ABNER and ADRIEL exit. JESSE enters and sanctifies himself with SAMUEL's assistance.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

(JESSE gestures to call ELIAB, ABINADAB, and SHUMMAH onstage. JESSE puts them in a line, passes the knife to ELIAB, who presents himself before SAMUEL. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said.

²⁰ KJV *an heifer*

²¹ KJV *shew*

SAMUEL

Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

(ELIAB kneels and SAMUEL extends his hands, preparing a gesture of blessing.)

STORYTELLER TWO

But the LORD said unto Samuel.

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

Look not on his appearance, or how tall he is tall²²; because I have refused him:

LORD

for the LORD seeth not as humans see;

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

for humans look at the eyes.²³ But the LORD looketh on the heart.

(SAMUEL dismisses ELIAB. ELIAB passes the knife to ABINADAB, who presents himself before SAMUEL. SAMUEL makes a gesture of blessing. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said.

(ABINADAB is clearly a goofy lad, presenting himself to the prophet with great flair. LORD makes a gesture of distaste.)

SAMUEL

Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

(SAMUEL dismisses ABINADAB. ABINADAB passes the knife to SHAMMAH, who presents himself apathetically before SAMUEL. SAMUEL makes a gesture of blessing. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER TWO

Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said.

(LORD makes a gesture of distaste.)

SAMUEL

Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

STORYTELLER ONE

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel.

²² KJV *countenance, or on the height of his stature*

²³ KJV *as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance*

(STORYTELLER TWO leads four audience members to SAMUEL. They are instructed to kneel before SAMUEL. SAMUEL walks behind them, making a gesture of blessing over each person, and LORD rejects each one. After the fourth is rejected, the audience members are led back to their seats. SAMUEL gestures for JESSE to come and speak with him.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And Samuel said unto Jesse.

SAMUEL

The LORD hath not chosen these.

(JESSE, who is hard of hearing, says, “Eh?”)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Samuel said unto Jesse.

SAMUEL

Are all thy children here?²⁴

STORYTELLER ONE

And he said.

JESSE

There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.

STORYTELLER TWO

And Samuel said unto Jesse.

SAMUEL

Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

(JESSE sends an audience member to find DAVID. As they return, STORYTELLER TWO begins speaking with a sense of knowing comic affection for DAVID’s beauty.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to.

(DAVID is led in by an audience member who returns to their own seat while he crosses to CS. SAMUEL kneels at DAVID’s feet.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And the LORD said.

²⁴ KJV *here all thy children*

THE LORD

Get up.

LORD and OFFSTAGE VOICES

Anoint him,

THE LORD

for this is he.

(SAMUEL stands. DAVID kneels. SAMUEL removes horn of oil from his garment and anoints DAVID. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

(DAVID, JESSE, ELIAB, ABINADAB, and SHUMMAH exit together.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

(SAMUEL exits. SAUL enters and is followed by EVIL SPIRIT. When SAUL hears a percussion element that represents EVIL SPIRIT he is struck with painful terror, causing him to shriek out. SAUL falls to the floor and is tormented by EVIL SPIRIT when ABNER, ADRIEL, and JONATHAN enter.)

STORYTELLER TWO

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him.

ABNER

Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

JONATHAN

(the king's son)

Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul said unto his servants.

SAUL

Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

STORYTELLER ONE

Then answered one of the servants, and said.

ADRIEL

Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

(SAUL waves ADRIEL and JONATHAN away, and freezes with ABNER. ADRIEL and JONATHAN run to meet JESSE. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said.

JONATHAN

Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

(JESSE nods in agreement, waves DAVID onto stage, exits. DAVID crosses to JONATHAN and ADRIEL. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a goat.²⁵

(JESSE enters with a small live goat, passes it to DAVID, and sends him. JONATHAN and ADRIEL present DAVID to SAUL.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him.

(DAVID passes the goat to SAUL.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And he loved him greatly; and he became his armor bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying.

SAUL

Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight.

(SAUL exits with goat. Stage clears. SAUL reenters, tormented by EVIL SPIRIT. ADRIEL enters, calls for help. JONATHAN leads DAVID in. DAVID plays his harp. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

(Stage clears. STORYTELLERS remain.)

²⁵ KJV *kid*

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

STORYTELLER ONE

And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side...

STORYTELLER TWO

...and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side...

STORYTELLER ONE and 2

...and there was a valley between them.

(STORYTELLERS lead the audience, one half as Israelites and the other as Philistines, in a battle chant. Chant ends.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

STORYTELLER TWO

And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

STORYTELLER ONE

And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam...

STORYTELLER TWO

...and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron.

(ARMOR BEARER enters. GOLIATH soon follows.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them.

GOLIATH

Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

STORYTELLER ONE

And the Philistine said.

GOLIATH

I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

STORYTELLER TWO

When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

(GOLIATH growls once more, exits. JESSE and DAVID enter.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And Jesse said unto David his son.

JESSE

Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp of thy brethren; and carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

(JESSE and DAVID exit.)

STORYTELLER ONE

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him.

(DAVID enters and kneels in front of the stage, the trench).

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army...

(DAVID leaps onto stage and crosses to his brothers.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

...and came and saluted his brethren. And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion...

(ELIAB, ABINADAB, and SHUMMAH exit. GOLIATH and ARMOR BEARER enter.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

...the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words.

(GOLIATH speaks in foreign language. Exits.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And David heard them.

(JONATHAN and ADRIEL sneak onto stage, protecting DAVID.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. And the men of Israel said.

JONATHAN

Have ye seen this man that is come up? Surely to defy Israel is he come up. And it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches.

ADRIEL

And will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

(GOLIATH shouts offstage. ADRIEL and JONATHAN flee.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying.

DAVID

What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

(ABNER sneaks on to stage.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And the people answered him after this manner, saying.

ABNER

So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

(ABNER exits quickly. ELIAB enters.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said.

ELIAB

Why camest thou down hither? And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

STORYTELLER TWO

And David said.

DAVID

What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

(DAVID kneels and consults quietly with the nearest audience member.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

(SAUL enters with his confidants and DAVID'S brother. They form a war council at Center. DAVID kneels in the middle, facing SAUL.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued.)

And David said to Saul.

DAVID

Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

STORYTELLER ONE

And Saul said to David.

SAUL

Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

STORYTELLER ONE

And David said unto Saul.

DAVID

Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

STORYTELLER ONE

David said moreover.

DAVID

The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.

STORYTELLER ONE

And Saul said unto David.

(SAUL whispers instructions to ABNER and waves him off.)

SAUL

Go, and the LORD be with thee.

(ABNER returns with SAUL's armor, throws it at DAVID's feet. DAVID tries to put it on, falls. Others laugh and exit. DAVID is left alone.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul armed David with his armor²⁶, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul.

DAVID

I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them.

(DAVID crosses to edge of stage, the brook, and mimes choosing stones.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had²⁷; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

(STORYTELLER ONE kneels at CS. GOLIATH searches for DAVID, who keeps himself just out of GOLIATH's line of sight. They circle STORYTELLER ONE.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

²⁶ KJV *armour*

²⁷ KJV adds *even in a scrip*

And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

(GOLIATH stops, looking away from DAVID. DAVID whistles to get his attention. GOLIATH turns.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David.

GOLIATH

Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with a stick²⁸?

STORYTELLER TWO

And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

(GOLIATH proclaims a curse in a foreign language.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And the Philistine said to David.

GOLIATH

Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

STORYTELLER TWO

Then said David to the Philistine.

DAVID

Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

(DAVID and GOLIATH are on opposite sides of the stage. DAVID moves forward, he skirts around GOLIATH, who swerves back, looking for the lad.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it,

²⁸ KJV *staves*

(DAVID mimes the sling, and as DRUMS build, he slings the stone and freezes with arm still midair. GOLIATH reacts, freezes.)

STORYTELLER TWO

and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead.

(GOLIATH falls onto his knees, and the puppet body falls forward into a servant posture. He is unconscious or dead. The ARMOR BEARER throws down GOLIATH's sword and flees.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And he fell upon his face to the earth.

(DAVID crosses to GOLIATH.)

STORYTELLER ONE

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

(STORYTELLER ONE takes GOLIATH's sword in its sheath, places it where DAVID can pull out the sword.)

STORYTELLER TWO

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof,

(DAVID raises the sword, cuts off GOLIATH's head, and removes the head from the puppet.)

STORYTELLER ONE

and slew him, and cut off his head with it²⁹.

(Israelite soldiers enter and mime a slow motion battle through the following. Others help the actor out of the GOLIATH puppet body and they take it offstage.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until they were come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron.

(Stage is clear, only STORYTELLERS remain.)

²⁹ KJV *therewith*

STORYTELLER TWO

And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.

(STORYTELLER TWO drops a handful of sand on stage. STORYTELLER ONE swipes his hand through it, scattering it. SAUL enters, followed by EVIL SPIRIT. ABNER and ADRIEL stand near by.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent. And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host.

SAUL

Abner, whose son is this youth?

STORYTELLER ONE

And Abner said.

ABNER

As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

STORYTELLER ONE

And the king said.

SAUL

Enquire thou whose son the young one³⁰ is.

(DAVID enters with GOLIATH's head on his staff. ADRIEL escorts him to SAUL.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him.

SAUL

Whose son art thou, thou young man?

STORYTELLER TWO

And David answered.

(SAUL is overcome by EVIL SPIRIT. DAVID calms SAUL. JONATHAN watches from a distance.)

³⁰ KJV *stripling*

DAVID

I am the son of thy servant Jesse of Bethlehem³¹.

STORYTELLER TWO

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

(SAUL is led offstage by ABNER and ADRIEL. JONATHAN crosses to DAVID, gives DAVID his robe. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely.

(JONATHAN and DAVID exit.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

(MERAB and MICHAL, with tambourines in hand, lead a crowd onto stage.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tambourines³², with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and said.

(MERAB leads first chant, and MICHAL the second. The ensemble dances and chants with them many times through these phrases.)

FIRST GROUP OF WOMEN

Saul hath slain his thousands.

SECOND GROUP OF WOMEN

And David his ten thousands.

(DRUMMERS signal an end. MERAB, MICHAL, and others exit. SAUL enters, and EVIL SPIRIT torments him.)

STORYTELLER ONE

³¹ KJV *the Bethlehemite*

³² KJV *tabrets*

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said.

SAUL

They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

(EVIL SPIRIT climbs onto SAUL and they make their bodies into one amorphous creature. DAVID enters. After seeking him, SAUL/EVIL SPIRIT reaches for a mimed spear from the wall.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said.

EVIL SPIRIT and SAUL and OFFSTAGE VOICES

I will smite David even to the wall with it.

(They throw a second spear and DAVID avoids being hit.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And David avoided out of his presence twice.

(DAVID exits. EVIL SPIRIT climbs off SAUL and SAUL collapses.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

(SAUL and EVIL SPIRIT dance. The ensemble enters and each group is located on a different corner of the platform, with MICHAL in her own corner and DAVID at Center.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them. And Saul said to David.

SAUL

Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles.

(MERAB protests at her father's feet and SAUL waves her off to be comforted by ADRIEL. DAVID runs to MICHAL.)

STORYTELLER ONE

For Saul said.

SAUL and EVIL SPIRIT and OFFSTAGE VOICES

Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

(DAVID kneels before SAUL.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And David said unto Saul.

DAVID

Who am I? And what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

STORYTELLER ONE

But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

(DAVID returns to MICHAL.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. And Saul said.

EVIL SPIRIT and SAUL

I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him,

OFFSTAGE VOICES

(echo)

Snare to him.

EVIL SPIRIT and SAUL

and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.

OFFSTAGE VOICES

(echo)

Against him.

STORYTELLER ONE

Wherefore Saul said to David.

SAUL

Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.

(SAUL gestures to both daughters. MICHAL is hurt, exits. While DAVID worries about her, SAUL gathers ABNER and ADRIEL and all others exit.)

STORYTELLER ONE

And Saul commanded his servants, saying.

SAUL

Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

(ADRIEL and ABNER go to DAVID.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said

DAVID

Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

(ABNER and ADRIEL return to SAUL. DAVID exits.)

STORYTELLER TWO

And the servants of Saul told him, saying.

ADRIEL

On this manner spake David.

STORYTELLER ONE

And Saul said.

SAUL

Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but go and kill a hundred Philistines and bring me proof of vengeance³³ the king's enemies.

(ABNER and ADRIEL exit. EVIL SPIRIT and SAUL remain.)

STORYTELLER ONE

But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.

³³ KJV *an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of*; the changes in this section are primarily derived from "The Message" version.

(MERAB and MICHAL enter US, watching. ADRIEL enters DS and gives SAUL the bag of proof.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew two hundred Philistine men; and he brought the evidence in a sack.³⁴

(SAUL throws the bag back to ADRIEL who shares his prize with MERAB. DAVID enters, kneels before SAUL. SAUL brings MICHAL to him, and the rest of the ensemble encircles these three.)

STORYTELLER ONE (continued)

And they gave them with a full story³⁵ to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

STORYTELLER TWO

And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

(SAUL blesses the union of DAVID and MICHAL. All stand and cheer. DAVID is hoisted on to their shoulders and all begin to leave in celebration.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

(Actor who played GOLIATH, ARMOR BEARER, and AGAG enter with weapons and freeze, looking into the distance.)

STORYTELLER TWO (continued)

Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul;

(SAUL crawls out from the middle of the crowd and reaches for EVIL SPIRIT. Freeze.)

STORYTELLER (continued)

so that his name was on everyone's tongue.³⁶

(DRUMMERS begin the rhythm from the opening dance and all dance in celebration as at the beginning for a brief period, until DRUMMERS signal the end. Freeze with arms up and heads back. Blackout.)

END OF PLAY

(CURTAIN CALL song might be "Only a boy Named David." Signal the audience to join.)

³⁴ KJV *of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins*

³⁵ KJV *in full tale*

³⁶ KJV *much set by*

DESIGNER'S NOTES

- Nicky Dutt (make up and hair)

I was expecting make-up for "David and Goliath" to be very basic, so when director, Jeff Barker, told me that we were going to go tribal and "theatrical" with the show, I was thrilled. We knew that we were putting make-up on actors playing characters, not just characters. Based on this, the foundational concept for my design was that the actors were wearing *make-up masks*. Jeff also gave clues to his vision with phrases like "heightened theatricality", "match the intensity of the war story and love story of these people".

After a lot of experimenting with base colours for the "masks", finger-smear paint and running to Jeff with pictures of the experiments on a digital camera, I came up with the design where the features on the make-up masks were actually the facial lines of the actors themselves -- theatrically heightened, of course.

The Hebrews would have soft, curvilinear lines in cool colours and the "baddies" (Philistines & Agag, king of the Amalakites) would have their facial lines drawn straight and smeared with red. Royalty would be indicated by "diadems" drawn on their foreheads and embellished with jewels, and divinity with the colour gold. Taking the designs from the theoretical realm to the practical was a little more complicated and time-intensive but completely worth it.



- Megan Hodgin (costumes)

An ancient story from an ancient culture to be shared with children...

This is where my design process began. Throughout the process, two major themes became my priority: texture and wrapping.

Jeff Barker and Dr. Tom Boogaart have been exploring the Bible with the intent to take these stories "from the page to the stage." As we joined them in this project, our goal was to make these stories tangible. So I took that and ran with it. I wanted varied textures and an abundance of them. My hope was to create something that the children would want to reach out and touch. A similar idea to the scratch and sniff story books. I wanted clothing that would interact with the cast members and attract the attention of the children. So you'll find corduroy, muslin, satin, flannel, beads and many more textures on stage tonight.

Besides texture, the silhouettes became an entity all of their own. There are a multitude of alliances between the characters in this story, and I found it very important to create those visually in order to help the audience remember them. Colors and textures were helpful, but I decided that a bold choice of silhouette was necessary. So look for sleeve lengths, hem lengths and sashes that are reminiscent of each other and help to define families (i.e., Jesse and his sons versus Saul and Jonathan). The silhouettes also helped to create dignity via extra length and layers. The consistent theme throughout each piece is a no-sew look. It was important for these characters to clearly be from another time and another place in the past, and sewing machines certainly weren't available among the ancient tribes of Israel. In order to achieve a tribal silhouette, we employed the art of wrapping as seen in Indian, Japanese, and African cultures, which created pleats, billowing, and layered lines.

David and Goliath is an ancient story from an ancient culture about ancient people, but the stage helps make it tangible for audiences today, even children. So, ask an actor if you can touch their costume and see what "ancient" feels like.



- Emily Spany (puppet of Goliath)

In the beginning there was just a John Paul drawing. If you know anything about a John Paul drawing, you know that they can be quite complex and yet at the same time not descriptive at all. In our first meeting JP pretty much said, "This is what we want. Go make it." The first few days of brainstorming were tough, but once my crew and I

decided to just go to work and see if anything would come to us there was no stopping. The most difficult part of the process was figuring out how to mount the shoulder unit so that it looked in-sync with Matt's body. We also had to find ways to make the arms, head, armor, etc. strong, and yet light enough for Matt to work with.

The concept was for the Goliath puppet to look 'realistic', yet skeletal, giving the puppet an unusual, yet frightening look. Jeff and John Paul wanted the audience to be able to see Matt operate the puppet through gaps in the armor. We spent a lot of time working to construct the head in a durable fashion. Jeff was intent on Goliath falling on his face as the Bible says (the image of one's enemies bowing down), so the face had to be light yet durable. This was accomplished – yet for further reassurance that the object into which we injected our very souls would be safe – Jeff blocked the fall of Goliath in a manner that the face does not touch the ground.

The final product is a beast, no doubt about it, the height of which reaches over ten feet. I had a great crew – Tessa came up with the idea for the leg armor, and Biz was really my right hand and sanity. It was a stressful process, but hearing the kids' reactions when Goliath makes his entrance is enough to make it all worthwhile.



- Cassie Mings (lights)

My approach to this project was influenced by several things. I wanted to keep in mind that this was a children's show, so I wanted to use a lot of color, make it something fun and vibrant to look at. I also needed to keep in mind things like "black outs" that frighten the children and send them into fits of screaming.

Keeping those things in mind I also took into consideration the other elements of the show. I had to be very careful in my designing and implementing of the design due to the thrust style of staging that the director and set designer chose for this play. It caused obstacles such as finding places to hang lights that would light the stage as needed without blinding the kids sitting on the platforms right next to the stage. This was one of a couple walls that we ran into with this design and as I sought guidance and input from other designers it became apparent that this was an age old problem that no one really had an answer for. After much deliberation, we worked around it and made things work quite nicely and learned something in the process.

I was given a great canvas (literally and figuratively) to work with as the set dressing was designed and added. It provided a pale base that really worked well with the lights and allowed for a lot of variation. I was allowed to play with some highly theatrical images as well as some colorful but more comfortable looks. In essence, that was the gift I was given with this show, I was given the opportunity to play.

Over all it was a big learning process but I greatly enjoyed the ride. I had a fantastic crew and assistant designer to relieve some of the burden and accomplish what needed to happen in a timely fashion. This was unlike anything I had done before and I was blessed to have the freedom to experiment and try many different things. I can honestly say that I am satisfied and thrilled with the results and hope you will be able to enjoy it too.



- Lois Estell (composer)

Based on the tribal feel we were going with, I looked into tribal music from all over the world. I listened to many CD's and read about the different instruments that would have been played in those situations, but I decided not to use much of the information I found. Jeff brought up the idea of live sound and I loved it. It brought along many challenges, but the overall effect was wonderful.

The drummers were to be onstage throughout the entire show and whatever other instruments I wanted to put together would be offstage somewhere. I tried out the idea of having a stringed instrument to represent the harp so we even brought in a guitar but it wasn't what I wanted and didn't sound right. I had many discussions with Jeff and Dr. McGarvey to see what kind of sound we would want, but the fact that we don't really know what kind of sound David's harp would be made that difficult. So I decided to use other instruments and not a stringed instrument to give the listener's an opportunity to imagine their own idea of what David's harp would sound like.

In one of the many discussions Jeff and I had he told me he did not want a brass instrument. So that limited what I could use, but it also freed me to know I didn't have to worry about using any brass instruments at all. Since the strings and now the brass were cut, the next logical place to look was the woodwinds. Based off of what I heard in the recordings I listened to, the flute was very prominent and had a tribal feel to it. I chose the flute to be used for all of the character's themes throughout the show; Samuel, Saul, David, Agag, Goliath, Jonathan, and Michal. The harmony with Samuel, David and towards the beginning Saul, was the Lord's theme.

What was decided quickly was that there would need to be another percussionist backstage. Things like marching, low rumbles, a brook, the evil spirits sound, and extra drumming all to make the script come alive. The sound of the evil spirit was rather difficult, I had wanted an evil spirit theme, but couldn't figure out what would be making that sound. Then I had an idea -- the saw. My sister had played around with the saw many years ago and as I was researching instruments I ran into it. It was perfect, an actual saw player could create a melody on the saw, but I decided it was the sound quality and texture that I wanted more than the actual notes. The first night we had the saw in rehearsal I knew it would be my favorite part, and it was.

Samuel, Saul, David, Agag, Goliath, Jonathan, and Michal all have their own themes. The themes are played when that particular character is part of a scene. Samuel and Saul's themes go back and forth while David and Saul play in harmony with each other because of their relationship, but then separate as the play progresses. The sustained harmony for Samuel, Saul and David are the representation of the Lord being with that particular character at that time. Saul loses the harmony for a while and then loses his theme altogether when the evil spirit takes over.