



DAMIEN

A One-Man Play by Aldyth Morris

***Starring Wayne Messmer as
Father Damien***

We are now accepting requests for a limited number of selected dates in 2017 & 2018 to bring the critically acclaimed production of the one-man play ***Damien, by Aldyth Morris, starring Wayne Messmer*** to

churches, schools, theaters and organizations throughout the Chicagoland area. Damien has a running time of one hour and thirty minutes. Many groups choose to offer this opportunity as a fundraiser, while others have chosen to present the play as a gift to their community rather than as a fundraising event. In such cases, private donations and/or business sponsorships would be secured by the group to underwrite the production fee.

TO BOOK DAMIEN:

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Life of St. Damien of Molokai portrayed on local stage

By Alicja Pozywio STAFF WRITER

Father Damien de Veuster was always a personal hero for Wayne Messmer. Messmer, known to Chicago Wolves and Cubs fans as Mr. National Anthem, portrays his hero in the one-man play *Damien* by Aldyth Morris. The play tells the story of Father Damien, whom Pope Benedict XVI canonized on October 11, 2009, who devoted his life and ministry to more than 8,000 lepers on the island of Molokai (1873-1889). Messmer says that the world needs to hear the message of Saint Damien's life and mission now more than ever.

Through his heroic and saintly efforts, Saint Damien, the Belgian-born missionary priest who served patients with Hansen's disease on Molokai in Hawaii transformed the settlement from a place of despair to a place of dignity. He died of leprosy on Good Friday April 15, 1889. Pope John Paul II beatified the priest on June 4, 1995, in Brussels, Belgium. He is the patron saint of HIV and AIDS sufferers, as well as lepers. "Damien was one against the government, one against hysteria, and one against the most feared disease in the history of mankind," said Chicago Deacon Don Grossnickle, also a devotee of Father Damien's mission. Messmer believes the suffering in today's world makes Damien's message current. "We still ignore people who truly need our help," said Messmer whose first performance of *Damien* took place in 1997. Messmer performed *Damien* during the first Archdiocese of Chicago Festival of Faith held in November 2003 at Navy Pier. "Since my initial performance, I have really deepened my feeling for this man and his story eventually leading to his canonization," said Messmer. Wayne and his wife, Kathleen, (who serves as the technical director of the play) traveled to Molokai. "It was a reflective pilgrimage walking where Father Damien worked, lived and died. The story is now even more personal than ever," said Messmer. Grossnickle, who has seen the play more than a dozen times, says that Messmer inspires him each time. "He plays *Damien* with energy and enthusiasm. Every time I watch it, I see and hear different dimensions of the play." WPM PRODUCTIONS, Inc. is now welcoming interest from parishes to bring *Damien* to their communities, many of whom are planning to use this powerful presentation and inspirational story to share its principal theme of reconciliation and self-sacrifice. The play is not recommended for very young children, due to its subject matter.

Production Arrangements

The all-inclusive cost to bring ***Wayne Messmer as Father Damien*** to present his critically acclaimed performance is **\$2,500**. A deposit of \$1,500 is due at the time a signed contract is returned. The remaining amount (\$1,000) is due on or before the day of the performance.

WPM Productions, Inc. Will Provide:

1. The Actor (well-known Chicagoan Wayne Messmer as Father Damien)
2. A technical director/stage manager to run sound and lights.
3. Costume and all required hand props.
4. All music, sound effects and voice/over audio to be used in the performance.
5. A publicity photo of Wayne Messmer for marketing, advertising and promotional use.
6. A Customized PDF File Theatrical Program to be printed and distributed by the Venue.
7. A Customized PDF File Flyer/Poster to be used for publicity and promotion.
8. A Customized PDF File Press release with local contact information.
9. Payment of performance rights fees and royalties.
10. An option to arrange for a post-performance "Meet and Greet" with Wayne Messmer

Venue/Contracting Party Will Provide:

1. Performance venue. The most effective location is the worship space, to include the altar, when a church location is being utilized.
2. Furniture set pieces: (a desk, chair, larger armchair, table or altar)
3. A pre-tested, fully operational sound system for use in the performance.
4. A single, designated representative to serve as the on-site contact for technical and any other logistical and performance matters.
5. A private and secure dressing room area, to include a washroom with sink and a mirror for use by the Actor.
6. Full, unobstructed access to the performance area 90 minutes prior and 60 minutes after the performance time for set-up and breakdown of set

Tickets

Suggested ticket prices for **Damien** are in the \$20 to \$25 range, however, it will up to the discretion of the group to decide on the price, based on what the audience or parishioners and the residents of the area can afford. The objective is to fill all of the seats, not just a few. *The venue and its designated representatives are solely responsible for the sale and distribution of tickets, the collection of monies and the operation of the box office.*

Marketing

Marketing is the key element to a successful event. It is critical to let everyone know about the show well in advance of the performance date. Suggested lead-time to begin the marketing campaign is 8 weeks out.

The most available means to communicate with your potential audience is by maximizing the publicity by using your church and school bulletins, placing flyers throughout the neighborhood, prominently placing posters in local shop windows, and announcements, listings and stories in local, area publications. Tickets should be conveniently and clearly available for purchase after every church service, by phone order and in-person at a designated location, as well as at the door on the performance date.

Tips for a Successful Fundraising Event

The success of the *Damien* play as fundraising event will come as a result of surrounding the evening of the performance with other activities that will generate revenue for the group. A cash bar, catered meal, potluck dinner, a gourmet coffee bar and a dessert table have all proven to be effective.

Since the optimal performance area is the worship space, most parishes will choose to stage the food and beverage service in the parish hall or in an adjoining space. A 7:30pm Saturday evening performance (after the 5:00pm Mass or Worship Service) is an excellent model that has proven to work very well. (Performance dates are not restricted to Saturdays. Weeknights and Sunday afternoon have also proven successful. The selected date must be agreed upon at the time of entering into a formal performance agreement).

The option to hold a door prize raffle, a live or silent auction as part of the event is also available for the host group. The most successful fundraising events will always keep a clear focus on their objective... to raise funds. It is a proven fact that the more community involvement, the better the results.

Local restaurants can donate dinner certificates. Area businesses can offer a free service, (Car Wash, Dry Cleaning, Spa treatment, etc.) or other items. A list of contributing sponsors and names of individual supporters may easily be printed by the venue and inserted as a free-standing insert in each Theatrical Program.

All of the above details are clearly spelled out in the final performance contract.

Damien

Produced and Presented by:
WPM Productions, Inc.

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A portion of all performance fees will go directly to Children's Hospital of CT / UCONN to fund Dr. David Weinstein's research on GSD (Glycogen Storage Disease). The Messmer's granddaughter is challenged by GSD.

Wayne Messmer is a Professional Member of: (NSA) National Speaker Association, (SAG/AFTRA), Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.