

# Siberian City Protests Showing of Musical Jesus Christ Superstar

October 18, 2016



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Activists in the Siberian city of Omsk are to protest against the city's performance of popular rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar."

The 1970 musical, originally written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, depicts Jesus' final week, death, and resurrection.

The performance is due to take place at the Musical Theater of Omsk on Nov. 1, directed by the St. Petersburg Rock Opera theater.

Members of the regional Orthodox activist group "Family, Love, and Fatherland" are

declared that the musical's modern style made a  
“mockery of sacred  
concepts.”

The organization said that they had already received  
2,500 signatures  
on a petition  
demanding the play's cancellation.

“This free interpretation of sacred texts  
is incompatible with Christian ideals,  
sparking protest in the heart of any believer,” the group said in a statement on their  
website.

The show, which was first performed in Russia in 1989, has been condemned by some  
religious groups since it first appeared on Broadway. Some Christians consider the  
musical's portrayal of Judas, Jesus' betrayer, to be too sympathetic, while others believe that  
the character of Christ is not portrayed in a divine manner.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/10/18/siberian-city-protests-showing-of-musical-jesus-christ-superstar-a55776>