



When a 1st Century saviour finds himself in 21st Century London...
He's not just taking the piss.

thegospelofjosh.co.uk

THE GOSPEL OF JOSH

One-hour comedy/drama created by Samuel Garza Bernstein

He's off the cross and lost in London.

Last thing he knew, he was dying rather painfully in a mad scheme of his dad's to save humanity. Everything he encounters in the 21st Century is terrifying, but he's nothing if not adaptive. By the end of the pilot episode he can speak English, he's an object of affection for both sexes, and he has a false identity: Joshua Cohen from Leicester.

He has a task to be revealed, and to find his way, Josh needs to learn what it is to be human in our time. His adventures are varied, surprising, dangerous, funny, and sexually charged. He connects with people in deep and unusual ways. And along the way, if there are times when he lies, cheats, steals, and even kills, well, he'll have his reasons...

At the start, he awakens—naked and blood-streaked in a dirty backstreet in London. Everything he encounters shocks or frightens him—the people, the cacophony of the city, language, motors. His name is Yeshua, Hebrew for Jesus.

As he tries to orientate himself, he is horrified by all the crucifixes hanging on buildings and dangling from necklaces. What kind of people glorify an instrument of torture and death? Once it dawns on him that the bloke on the cross is meant to be *him*? Well, that's just mental.

Plus, there's a huge surprise waiting for him (and for us)—he has a sister! Luci is the older sibling he never knew he had and has never met. She waits for him in London. But why? Does she want to help or hinder? Is she in God's good graces or is she the Devil?

The show strives to be audacious and unflinching—in the mode of *Catastrophe*, *Flowers*, and *Fleabag* (which is exploring God and hope in its second series), and *Josh* also unabashedly explores spirituality, giving it a secondary *Call the Midwife* vibe. It's low on snark, has a touch of the supernatural, and looks at divisive issues through new eyes. The Bible makes no mention of how Jesus might respond to a teen chick-with-a-dick sex worker, for instance. Reasonable people may disagree about his level of acceptance. Or just how far his personal involvement goes.

Mila, a sexy former heroin addict, helps Yeshua gain his new identity as Josh, and she becomes his girlfriend. When circumstances force him to reveal his identity in the middle of the first series, she imagines he's either psychotic or a lying sociopath. It's enough to make a girl go back on the smack. In the first series finale she gets incontrovertible proof of his identity when he sleepwalks on the Thames. Her second series dilemma: Does she really want to be God's daughter-in-law one day?

Story arcs progress over each series, but the episodes are self-contained and generally include three storylines, Relationships: Josh and the people he comes to love; Work: a job path that he purposefully changes up constantly so he can experience new things; and Family/God Stuff: His connection to his own faith changes as people change him. Romantic love provides the first series arc, sibling rivalry is the second series arc, and, in the third series, father issues rise to the surface.

Josh is surprised by how much he loves this century and its irreverent eccentricities. And when you come right down to it, does the world even WANT to be saved?

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Available: pilot script, first series episode outlines, second/third series plans, and character descriptions.