

# THE TICKET

NIGHTSOUNDS	6
ASK MARTHA	17
SUNDAY DRIVE	18
WHAT'S ON	47
ASK ELLIE	55

## BREAK A LEG?



Helen Simard returns to Kingston this week to teach high school students how to dance. She'll show them the downrock, the toprock, the freeze and the suicide. ■ SEE PAGE 12

### ■ MUSIC

For 16 years, The Mahones have got the party started. Soon, Finny McConnell and his boys will release a CD, *Take No Prisoners*.

■ SEE PAGE 10

### ■ TRAVEL

Ottawa is in our backyard – just a short two-hour drive – so why haven't we visited the Canadian War Museum?

■ SEE PAGE 58

### ■ GUSTO



### Put pork on your fork

Don't be a turkey.

This Easter, make a ham. A butcher says it's a dish that everyone can make.

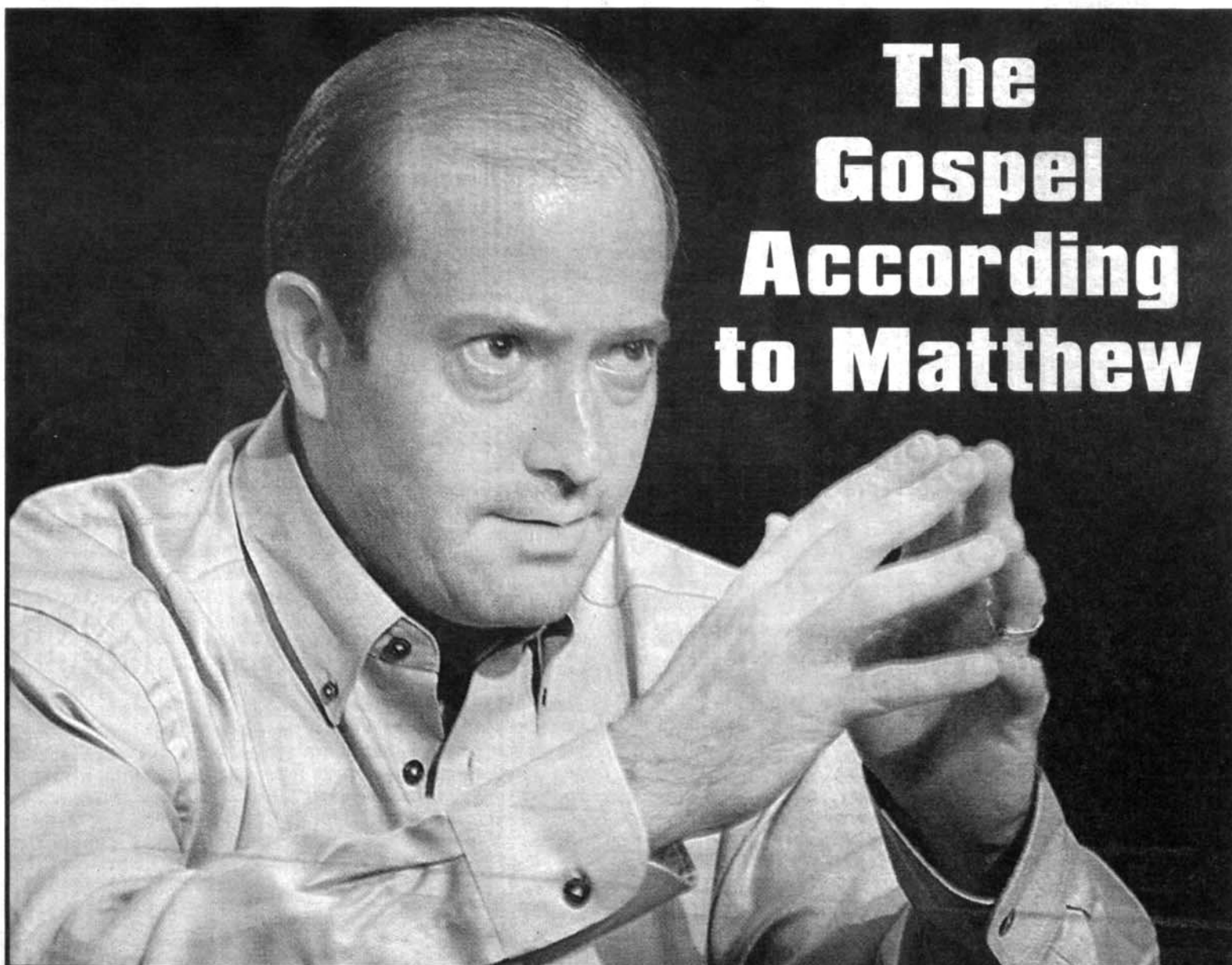
■ SEE PAGE 16

### ■ RELIGION

#### Beauty and the Beholder

For Gerald Walton Paul, nature helps us get closer to the hidden eternal.

■ SEE PAGE 56



## The Gospel According to Matthew

Perfect timing for Easter: Actor Matthew Gibson tells the life of Jesus in *The Gospel According to Saint Mark*, a one-man play that our theatre reviewer says is a must-see, moving production, especially for this time of year. ■ SEE REVIEW ON PAGE 14

# The passion of Gibson



By Greg Burliuk

## Saint Mark is a great play — especially for Easter

They call the life of Jesus The Greatest Story Ever Told and yet, most of us have become familiar with his journey by reading one of the four gospels.

Once in a while, it would do us well to be told the story and who better than actor Matthew Gibson, who is now presenting *The Gospel According to Saint Mark* in a one-man show at the Wellington Street Theatre.

In Gibson's capable hands, *The Greatest Story Ever Told* becomes a gentle, inspiring and, at times, awe-inspiring experience.

He is not the first to dramatize this particular gospel. British actor Alec McCowen received a Tony nomination in 1979 for his version and other actors have also tackled the tale.

Mark's gospel in particular lends itself to this kind of treatment. It is the shortest of the gospels but in some ways the most dramatic because it deals with details of Jesus's ministry that the other evangelists don't. It also has a strong emphasis on miracles.

The translators of the *New American Bible* and other scholars believe that it was actually the first gospel written by John Mark, a disciple of Saint Peter and who is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles and in several of Paul's letters.

Gibson assumes the persona of Mark, as well as many other major and minor characters in the narrative.

A veteran actor who appears on local stages several times a year, Gibson seldom muffs a line.

Last year, he starred in another one-man show, *Billy Bishop Goes to War*. The dramatic challenges in *Saint Mark* are much greater. For starters, he's not working with a script but a literary work and, like

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK

Director - Jennifer Radford Gibson  
Stage Manager - Annie Briggs  
Set Design - Mark Hunt  
Media Design - Michael Murphy

A Theatre Kingston production now playing until April 16 at the Wellington Street Theatre, 126 Wellington St., with performances tonight, tomorrow and April 11 to 16 at 8 p.m. plus a matinee April 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$12 for students. Phone 530-2050 for details.

#### CAST

Saint Mark - Matthew Gibson

Rating: ★★★½ out of five

McCowen, he seems to have used the King James version with its thees and thous and sometimes antiquated sentence structures — but more on that later.

The actor succeeds admirably — in an unconventional way.

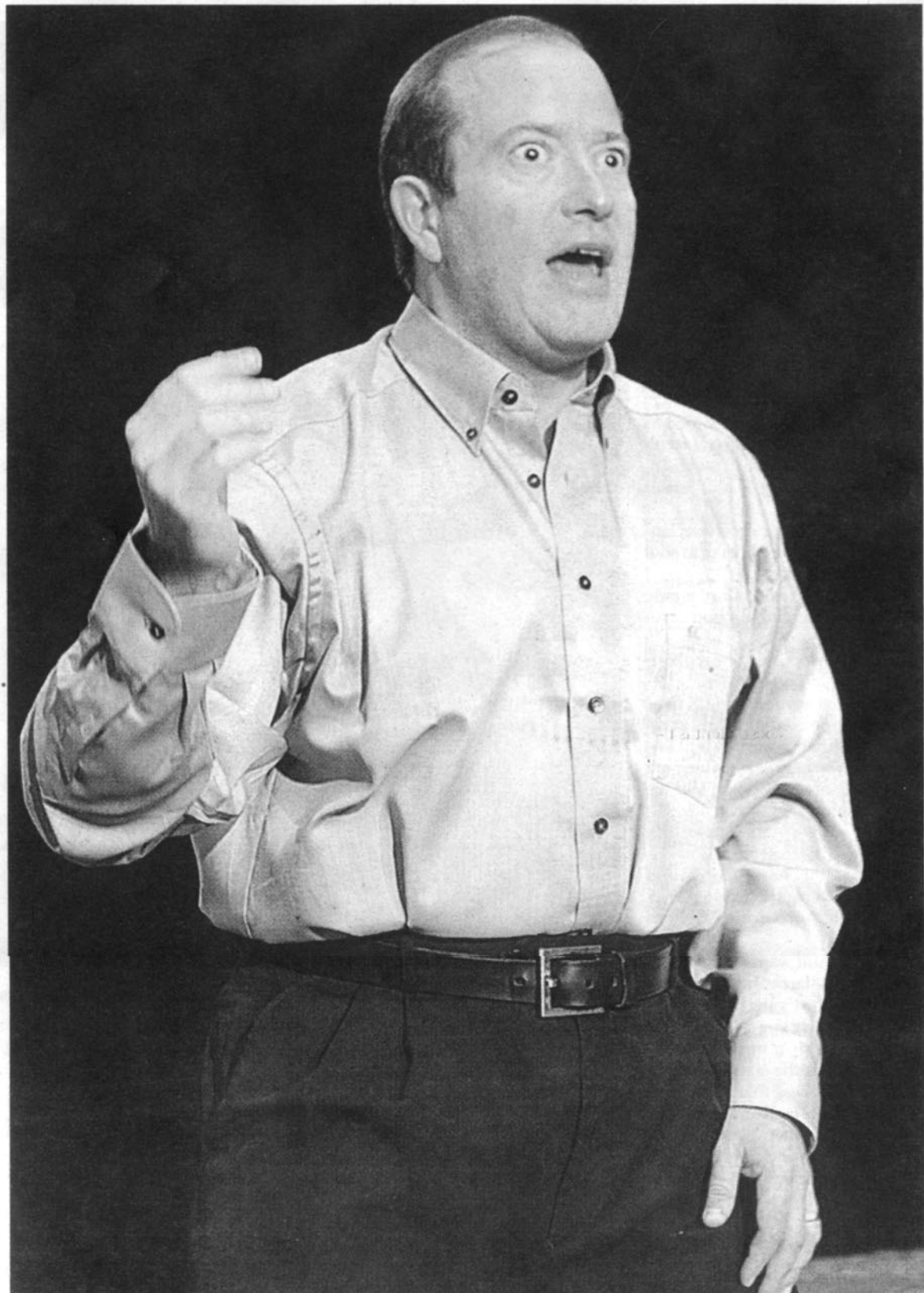
Obviously the most important character he plays is Jesus. Gibson portrays him with a twinkle in his eye when jousting with the Pharisees, with compassion while healing the sick, and with patience while teaching his disciples.

He may not be a charismatic or loud Jesus but Gibson is compelling in a less glittery way than Jesus is usually portrayed.

I particularly enjoyed the way he presented the many miracles in this gospel. His Jesus usually performs them quietly without much fanfare, but it was Gibson's portrayal of the person receiving the miracle that was so touching.

Director Jennifer Radford Gibson — the actor's wife — has Gibson making full use of the stage which is bare except for a lectern used at the start of each scene, plus a table and bench. The actor is seldom still, pacing back and forth, occasionally sitting on the stage's apron or re-setting the table and bench, even preaching from atop the table. There is no feeling at all that this is a recitation but instead rather a dramatic conversation with the audience.

I did have a problem with the language of the play. The King James version seems to veer back and forth between using 'ye', 'thou', and 'you, not to mention some archaic



The Whig-Standard

Actor Matthew Gibson isn't new to one-man performances. Last year, he went solo in *Billy Bishop Goes to War*.

language. Take, for example, Mark 10: 7-8 which in King James reads, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

Compare that to the more modern New American Bible: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh."

You can argue the literary merits

of each, but on stage, the second version would communicate better with an audience. Still, with Easter just a little more than a week away, I can't think of a better way to get ready for it than by attending this moving performance.