

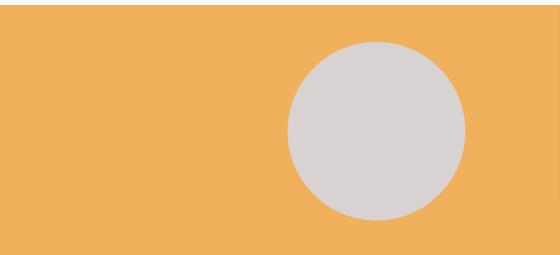


# Making the most of *The Mark Drama*

**UNCOVER**

SEE FOR YOURSELF





# What is *The Mark Drama*?

*The Mark Drama* is 15 people from your CU (8 men, 7 women) performing every incident in the whole of Mark's Gospel as theatre-in-the-round.

There are many students who won't yet come to a talk about Jesus, but they'll come to a drama. CUs around the world are seeing students wanting to know more about Jesus after being at a performance of *The Mark Drama*. So this is a brilliant accompaniment to Uncover Mark – if students see the drama they may well want to read the book!

*The Mark Drama* happens with no narrator, no costumes, no microphones, no props and no script. The actors are all from your CU; the only person who comes in from outside is your director.

The schedule is as follows:

*Rehearsals:* Friday evening, Saturday 9am till 9pm, Sunday afternoon

*Performances:* Monday evening and Tuesday evening

(Please note that the performances can't be later in the week, as they need to be as close as possible to the long Saturday rehearsal.)

For photos and more information go to [themarkdrama.com](http://themarkdrama.com).

# What is *The Mark Drama* process for CUs?

## First steps

1. After talking to your CU Staff Worker, register your interest by contacting [andrew@themarkdrama.com](mailto:andrew@themarkdrama.com).
  - When you do this, we will need two things from you:
    - Name and contact details of the person in your CU who we should communicate with (they are called 'the producer');
    - Your preferred dates for the rehearsal-performance weekend (this might be a week or two before your events week, or a couple of weeks after; or it may not be anywhere near your events week). Please note that you need to register your interest around twelve weeks before your hoped-for rehearsal-performance weekend.
2. We will then see if we can provide a director for you for those dates. If we have a director for you, you can move to step 3.
3. Your director and producer will agree a date for an Information Session. This needs to happen around eight weeks before your rehearsal-performance weekend. The purpose of this session is so that CU members can find out what taking part in *The Mark Drama* involves. They can then decide if they want to join in or not.
4. Once 8 men and 7 women have signed up to join the team, then the six weeks of preparations can begin. The director will already have talked to the producer about whether one of the men is suitable to play Jesus. Please note: If your CU is too small to be able to get a team of 8 men and 7 women, you might be able to team up with another nearby CU to put on a production – ask your Staff Worker about this.

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## During the six weeks

5. The team now have six weeks to learn the order of the events in Mark's Gospel. This isn't difficult; they have no script to learn. They use the book *The Mark Experiment* to help them to do this (your director will tell you how to get hold of 15 copies at a reduced price.)

6. During these six weeks, the Jesus actor is learning Jesus' words from Mark's Gospel. It takes discipline, but it is absolutely doable and the Jesus actor can be sure of the Holy Spirit's help. There are also notes to help him and he and the director keep in touch.

7. Also during these six weeks the producer is making sure the organisational stuff is happening: rooms are booked for the rehearsals and the performances, publicity is being prepared, etc. The producer keeps in touch with the director throughout the process.



## The rehearsals

8. The precise timings of the rehearsals are as follows:
  - Friday, 7.30pm – 10pm
  - Saturday, 9am – 9pm
  - Sunday, 2pm – 4.30pm (dress rehearsal)
9. The rehearsal space doesn't have to be the same as the performance space (though obviously that would be an advantage). But it must be a large room/hall with a flat floor and movable chairs.
10. The producer will need to make sure that the space is booked from at least 30 minutes before the start of the rehearsal, until at least 30 minutes after the end of the rehearsal. This is to enable you to use the full time allotted for rehearsing, not setting up and packing down the room.

## The performances

11. The performances are Monday evening and Tuesday evening, normally starting at 7.30pm. Your director will be there, and will be the prompter (if required).
12. Normally both performances will be in the same space. If you have reasons for wanting two different spaces (e.g. if your CU is teaming up with another local CU to put on The Mark Drama), talk to your director about this in plenty of time.
13. This is the order of events at a performance:
  1. A CU member welcomes everyone (your director will give you notes with suggestions as to what you might say).
  2. The director does a one-minute introduction (which is Mark 1:1-8).
  3. The Mark Drama performance happens.
  4. The director does a one-minute conclusion.
  5. The CU member thanks people for coming, mentions Uncover Mark and invites people to stick around for refreshments.

# FAQs

## **Q1. What if we don't have enough people who are experienced actors?**

You almost certainly won't have, and that's not a problem. Most *Mark Drama* teams consist of people who are not particularly into acting. Having little or no drama experience is not a barrier to joining the acting team. The power of *The Mark Drama* isn't in the team, it's in the words and the story. What we're looking for is 15 people (8 men, 7 women) who love Jesus and who are willing to trust the Holy Spirit as they step out of their comfort zone to tell the Jesus story to their university.

## **Q2. What is this going to cost us?**

If your director has a distance to travel, please pay their travel expenses. If they need a bed, please find accommodation for them with a family from a local church. The other costs you need to factor in are publicity, refreshments, Uncover Mark Gospels and 15 copies of *The Mark Experiment* (see point 5 above). You may also have to pay for the use of the rehearsal and performance space(s).

## **Q3. Is it a good idea to sell tickets for *The Mark Drama* performances?**

Normally we don't recommend this. If you sell tickets, some CU students will be unsure of whether to buy any because they're not sure if their friends will end up coming. Of course, if you are being charged for the use of rehearsal/performance space(s), you may need to charge for admission. But, if possible, make *The Mark Drama* a free event.

## **Q4. What kind of publicity do you recommend using?**

We recommend you create your own. But there are some ideas at [www.themarkdrama.com](http://www.themarkdrama.com).

## **Q5. What if we have a question you haven't answered?**

If you're still at Forum, come to *The Mark Drama* stand in the Hub. Otherwise talk to your Staff Worker or email [andrew@themarkdrama.com](mailto:andrew@themarkdrama.com).



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