

A VOTE FOR JESUS

A SATIRE ON CAMPAIGNING,
CORRUPTION & POLITICAL CRUCIFIXION

“Clever...with moments of on-the-nose satire.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

One of the best political satires in decades...
it's *Life of Brian* meets *Catch-22*!

A VOTE FOR JESUS is a classic political satire ripped straight from today's headlines. Even casual news followers will recognize the headline-making characters who get their due in this story. Jesus Christ, poor carpenter from Bethlehem, PA, who takes on ruthless, six-term Senator Herod Antipas in a race sure to try his patience. Jesus encounters a system steeped in corruption, dirty money, dirty tricks, deception, and political loyalty no mortal man can overcome. As one plan after another blows up in his face, Jesus remains determined to clean up America's political system. But he'll need a miracle if he wants to win this election.

A VOTE FOR JESUS

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Author: John Briggs

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CONTACT

johnbriggsbooks@gmail.com

johnbriggsbooks.net

518-344-8197

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

A VOTE FOR JESUS will see a coordinated social media campaign through author and publisher accounts which will fully encourage readers to shop at independent book stores. This campaign will include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogging and more, reaching out to the author's already established fan base. Paid advertisements on several sites will follow. The author, who is a veteran entertainer and reporter, has arranged traditional and new media interviews, while enjoying backing from various media influencers. A VOTE FOR JESUS has a natural hook in today's heightened political world and will greatly appeal to regular viewers of late-night comedy.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As a comedian, John Briggs has been described as being “As smart as Bill Maher—only nicer.” He has written topical jokes for TV, radio, and the Internet but is best known for creating the stage show *Left-Wing Laughs* and its signature bits *Yeehaa* or *Jihad* and *Showdown: Apocalypse*. John also spent twenty years as a journalist, including three years in national syndication, where his work took him as far as the White House Correspondents Dinner. Those divergent career paths, along with his degree in political science from Temple University and later creative writing studies at NYU, proved to be the perfect breeding ground for the politics, satire, and campaign follies found in A VOTE FOR JESUS.



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New Book Helps Voters Understand 2020 Election with Humor

A Vote for Jesus: A Satire on Campaigning, Corruption & Political Crucifixion explains the ludicrous way our campaign system works through the fiction writer's most savage weapon: satire.

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. — March 31, 2020 - PRLog — In *A Vote for Jesus*, a poor, unknown carpenter from Bethlehem, PA, takes on ruthless six-term Senator Herod Antipas. Determined to run a clean campaign of hope and promise, Jesus runs into a buzzsaw of dirty tricks, dirty money, shady characters, media spin, incessant polling, and repeated calls to change his image. If Jesus wants to win this election, he'll need a miracle.

"Using satire," says author John Briggs, "allowed me to yank stories right out of the headlines and mock them and show how politics is a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't proposition. Because even someone as deeply admired as Jesus—someone generally seen as honest and kind who has somehow been twisted into this quintessentially American thing—if he were running today, he'd get attacked from all sides."

A Vote for Jesus relies on a variety of campaign missteps in recent years to showcase electoral shortcomings and corruption. It also parodies many of the people involved, from well-known candidates to pundits and reporters. The book comedically delves into the role of big money, social issues, economic wedges, and all the ways candidates promote themselves with insults over substance.

"People who read the book," adds Mr. Briggs, "will definitely recognize these people and the issues. It's part of the fun of writing satire—poking fun at those who need poking. But like all satire, the story has a serious point. Our elections have become corrupt and divisive and frequently subvert the will of the people at the polls and in policy. I just entertain you as I point that out."

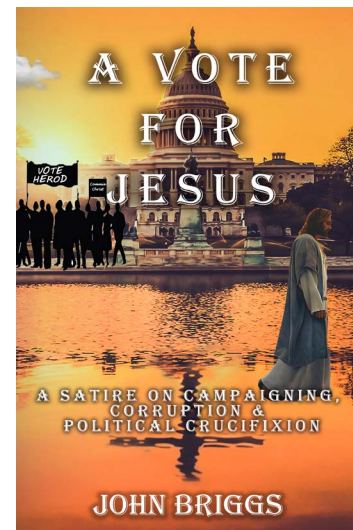
Uban Creek Books describes *A Vote for Jesus* as *Life of Brian* meets *Catch-22* and expects it to appeal to anyone who enjoys late-night comedy programs like *The Late Show*, *The Daily Show*, or *Real Time*. As Mr. Briggs says, "Running for office now is a lot like stand-up comedy, if the comedians were performing inside the Coliseum."

Journalists looking to interview John Briggs are encouraged to contact Uban Creek's media department at media@ubancreekbooks.com.

A Vote for Jesus is currently available in paperback and ebooks for pre-order through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, and bookstores nationwide. Large print editions and audiobooks are currently in development.

A Vote for Jesus will officially be released on April 14, 2020.

Contact
Uban Creek Books
media@ubancreekbooks.com



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH AUTHOR JOHN BRIGGS

John Briggs, author of *A VOTE FOR JESUS: A SATIRE ON CAMPAIGNING, CORRUPTION & POLITICAL CRUCIFIXION*, takes a moment to answer some questions.

What inspired you to write this story? It was just time, really. I've had this idea for fifteen years. Even wrote the first 100 pages back then, but the hypocrisy, lies, and doublespeak in politics has just soared, and about half of that belongs to one man, so I finally said, "That's it. I need to make fun of our system and its symptoms."

What part of your background made you the perfect writer for this book? All of it, from sitting on the couch watching *Meet the Press* with my father as a kid in the single digits to my degree in political science, and my time as a journalist and comedian. Even the brief time I spent doing lobbying work or my one time attending the White House Correspondents Dinner. I've brought a skeptical eye to all of it, and that's the best tool a satirist can use. Don't believe a word they say, even if they have it notarized by their mother.

Why Jesus? Because he's become quintessentially American. Politicians who in no way adhere to his teachings still pay him lip service. It's as if Kierkegaard designed a politician. I figured why not take someone both parties claim to embrace, and one thinks they own, and show how ridiculous their positions are. Take someone who represents purity and honesty and subject him to a corruption even he can't overcome.

What do you hope to accomplish with this book? I don't think satirists should hope to accomplish anything grand. That's the sort of hubris that lands you in politics. But I hope readers laugh along at how ridiculous our elections have become. The divisiveness in the political landscape, and it isn't just Washington, means that no matter what a candidate does, it's a mistake. We need to look for facts and remember things for longer than a day.

Why go back into political comedy after all these years? Because it never left me. I've been writing jokes and taking notes this whole time. But given the current clown in the White House and the hypocrisy in the electorate, it was time to put it in print. I just couldn't hold back any longer.

Who are your favorite satirists? My all-time favorite writer is George Orwell, but if you're talking pure satirist, it's Jonathan Swift. He left no stone unturned, and some of it still applies today. The two writers I most admire, though, are Oscar Wilde and Mark Twain. They wrote savage satires, children's stories, essays...they shifted gears with ease. I admire that sort of freedom because the market today really tries to pigeonhole writers.

What is your favorite scene in the book? Probably when the right accuses Jesus of being an atheist because that would absolutely happen in today's political climate. The funniest scene, though, comes when Jesus studies the ads for the businesses that made all their money through the seven deadly sins. That's satire with a bite because it's certainly true in this world.

Who was your favorite character to write? Saul Tarsus and Jean Baptiste because they're completely unhinged. As commentators, they can say anything, even completely contradictory things, and it's all true to their characters.

Would Jesus be a Republican or a Democrat? Neither. He'd be leading the Anti-Authoritarian Party. He'd attack them both. Which means he'd be a fringe candidate we could completely ignore.

To interview John:
Email: johnbriggsbooks@gmail.com Call/text: 518-344-8197

JOHN BRIGGS IN THE MEDIA

John Briggs is a media pro with more than 150 media appearances in publications big and small, from *The New York Times*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *The Christian Science Monitor* to local radio stations, newspapers, podcasts, blogs, and TV programs. He remains available to give funny but in-depth and quotable interviews on short notice. As a veteran comic and newshound, he promises to keep things entertaining and enlightening, light-hearted but never lightweight.

PRAISE FOR JOHN & HIS WORK

“As smart as Bill Maher—only nicer.” — Susan L. Wolpin

“Funny and accurate.” — The Brockport Stylus

“Don’t take this the wrong way, but I hope your act doesn’t go mainstream.” —Peter Rief, producer for *The Mike Gallagher Show*

“He’d make a great Atticus Finch.” —comedian Dee Watson

“Clever...with moments of on-the-nose satire.” —Kirkus Reviews

“Hilarious storytelling coupled with hilarious scenes.” —Booklist

“A fresh, funny take on nonconformity.” —Chicago Tribune

PLENTY OF TOPICS TO DISCUSS

1. **Why America Isn’t the Democracy We Think It Is.** The United States isn’t a democracy or a republic—it’s a constituentocracy with its own set of rules. Learn how voters can get back to democracy.
2. **How Campaigns Manipulate Us.** From slick ads to media spin, discover the many tricks candidates use to get our votes. Break the spell by being smarter than them.
3. **Why We Get Dishonest Politicians.** The dirty secret behind dishonest politicians isn’t the system, it’s us. Find out why we’re getting the politicians we want and deserve, and how we can do better.
4. **Why Satire Is the Best Way to Understand This Election.** Help your audience understand how satire gets to the heart of the issues by sorting through and mocking all the lies.

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JOHN BRIGGS

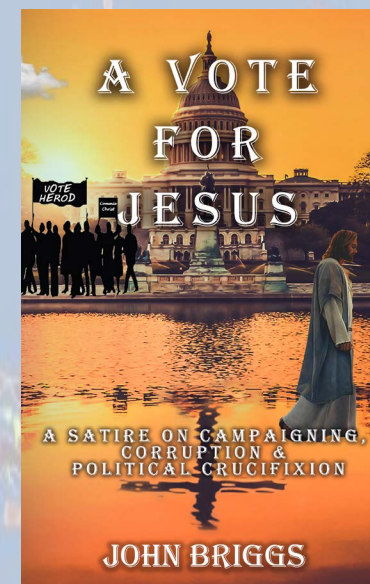


John Briggs is a veteran writer with a varied background. After earning a bachelor’s degree in political science from Temple University, John embarked on a career as a journalist, humor writer, and children’s author. During his twenty-year career as a reporter, he worked several beats, from hard news to sports and entertainment. His greatest success came as an internationally syndicated TV critic writing for newspapers and websites throughout the United States and Canada. In 2001, his career reached its pinnacle when he attended the White House Correspondents Dinner. As a humor writer, John wrote topical jokes for TV, radio, and the Internet, though he is best-known for creating the stage show *Left-Wing Laughs* and

its signature bits *Yeehaa or Jihad!* and *Showdown: Apocalypse*. This show earned him his favorite review: “He’s as smart as Bill Maher—only nicer.” Following a course in creative writing at New York University, John’s career took a different path, as he became a children’s author. Initially writing biographies of civil rights heroes Mary Dyer and Pete Seeger, he found success with the first children’s book about film legend Judy Garland. In 2016, John published the picture book *Leaping Lemmings!* That story, about a lemming who thinks for himself, led to a book signing at the Javits Center, landed on several year-end and holiday ‘Best of’ lists, and is currently available in five languages. Since then, he has published three joke books for young laughers. Today, John has returned to political satire (where he is one of the few—if not the only—satirist with a degree in political science) to pen the hilarious *A Vote for Jesus*, which *Kirkus Reviews* calls “clever” and “on-the-nose satire.” Find out more about John at johnbriggsbooks.net.

A VOTE FOR JESUS

It’s Life of Brian meets Catch-22!



A *Vote for Jesus* is a classic political satire meant for late-night comedy fans everywhere. It lampoons our ludicrous and corrupt electoral system. Born by the author’s disgust at the way lies and deceit are de rigueur and false statements are immediately forgotten in a media tidal wave of misinformation, this story has been years in the making. Jesus Christ, a poor, unknown carpenter from Bethlehem, PA and raised in nearby Nazareth, takes on ruthless, six-term Senator Herod Antipas. Determined to run a clean campaign, Jesus encounters a buzzsaw of dirty tricks, dirty money, shady characters, media spin, incessant polling, and repeated calls to change his image. If Jesus wants to win this election, he’ll need a miracle.

Although “one party thinks they own Jesus” and the other “thinks they live by his ideals,” John Briggs maintains that if Jesus were alive today, he wouldn’t be conservative or liberal. He’d be anti-authority. “I’m sure he’d find something to attack in both parties and their leaders.” In *A Vote for Jesus*, he does.

To Arrange an Interview, Contact John at

Email: johnbriggsbooks@gmail.com Call/Text: 518-344-8197