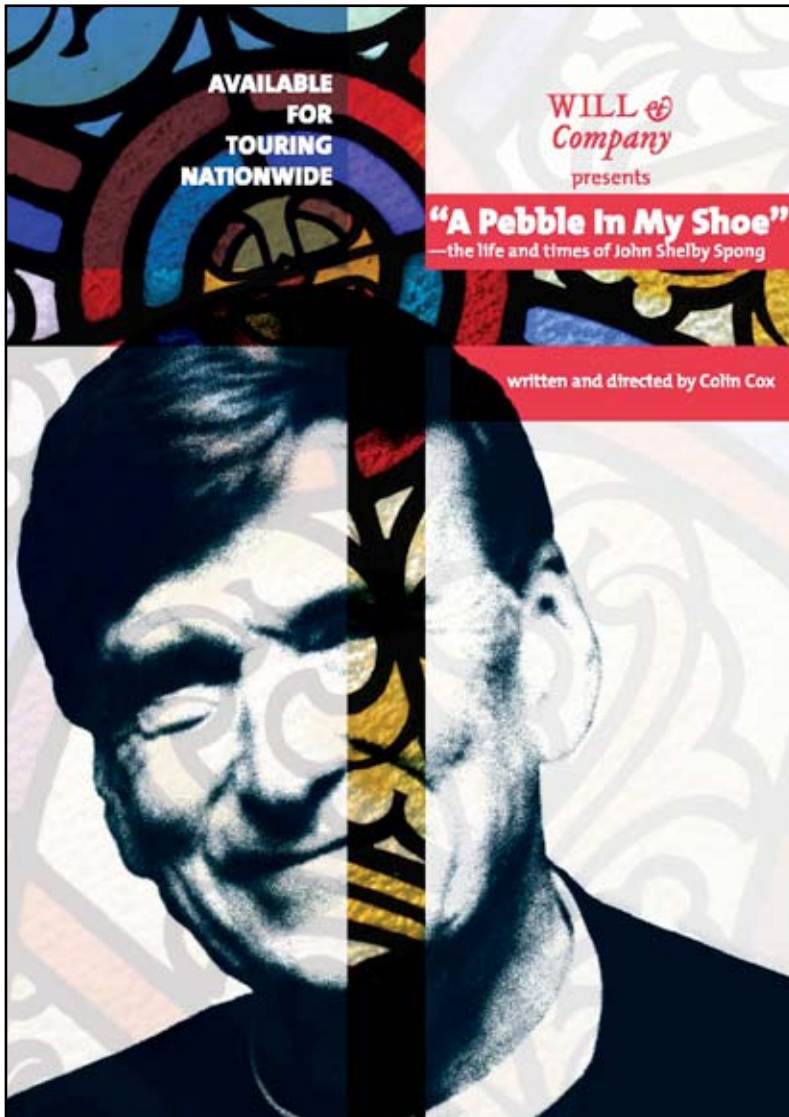


*The story of one man's fight for human rights and dignity within the Christian faith*

## A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong



"How you feel about religion or politics or anything else is immaterial. This is great theater and you will be a better person for seeing it."

LA Voice

"Writer/director Colin Cox does a brilliant job of making the life of former Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong into exciting theatre. Of course, it was all along."

Curtain Up

Premiered at the Los Angeles Theatre Center as part of EdgeFest 2005,

*A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE*  
IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR  
NATIONWIDE TOURING

FOR BOOKING INFORMATION CONTACT:

Will & Company National Tours • 5504 Tyrone Avenue • Sherman Oaks CA • 91401  
323-461-0093 phone • 818-510-3371 fax • [marketing@willandcompany.com](mailto:marketing@willandcompany.com)  
[www.willandcompany.com/pebble](http://www.willandcompany.com/pebble)



## **A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong**

John Shelby Spong was the Bishop of Newark who ordained the first openly gay minister in the Episcopal church and is one of the leading spokespersons in the world for an open, scholarly, and progressive Christianity.

Dubbed as the “Authoritative Voice for Believers in Exile”, Bishop Spong is the best selling author of “Why Christianity Must Change or Die” and “The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible’s Texts of Hate to Reveal the God of Love”. He has spent most of his life as a proponent for human rights, especially for the gay community, women and minorities.

“A Pebble In My Shoe”, written and directed by noted playwright, Colin Cox, will introduce you to an amazing man of the cloth who believes in the true spirit of humanity. With insight into his private life and personal struggles, the show chronicles Bishop Spong’s dedication to making religion and God accessible to all people. “A Pebble In My Shoe” is a full length play with one actor playing Bishop Spong along with two actors playing the myriad of characters who have been instrumental in his story.

This production is perfect to present in cathedrals, churches, professional theatre venues, colleges, government, corporate and community events. It also serves as an ideal complement for communities in which Bishop Spong has been presented as a speaker.

“A Pebble In My Shoe: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong”

Running Time: 2 hours with intermission

Appropriate for: 13 years and older

Travels with: 3 performers, 1 Stage Manager

Cast: Currently touring with Stephan Wolfert, Dawn Stern & Mike Peebler with Stage Manager Lorely Trinidad\*

Post show discussion available upon request

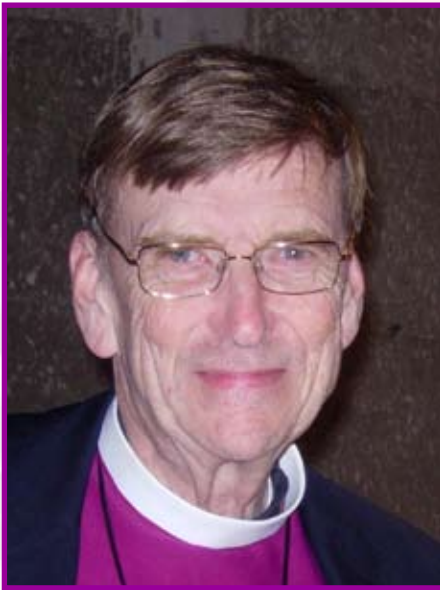
Cost: call for quote

\*cast & crew subject to change without notification.

Will & Company • 5504 Tyrone Avenue • Sherman Oaks CA • 91401  
323-461-0093 phone • 818-510-3371 fax • [marketing@willandcompany.com](mailto:marketing@willandcompany.com)  
[www.willandcompany.com/pebble](http://www.willandcompany.com/pebble)

# A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong

## Bishop John Shelby Spong



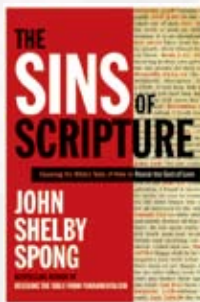
John Shelby Spong, whose books have sold more than a million copies, was the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark for 24 years before his retirement in 2001. His admirers acclaim his legacy as a teaching bishop who makes contemporary theology accessible to the ordinary lay person— he’s considered a champion of an inclusive faith by many both inside and outside the Christian church. In his latest book, *The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible’s Texts of Hate to Discover the God of Love* (Harper San Francisco, April 2005), the visionary thinker seeks to introduce people to a proper way to engage the holy book of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

A committed Christian who has spent a lifetime studying the Bible and whose life has been deeply shaped by it, Bishop Spong says he was not interested in Bible-bashing. “I come to this interpretive task not as an enemy of Christianity,” he says. “I am not even a disillusioned former Christian, as some of my scholar

friends identify themselves. I am a believer who knows and loves the Bible deeply. But I also recognize that parts of it have been used to undergird prejudices and to mask violence.”

A visiting lecturer at Harvard and at universities and churches worldwide, Bishop Spong delivers more than 200 public lectures each year to standing-room only crowds. His bestselling books include *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, *A New Christianity for a New World*, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, and *Here I Stand*.

Bishop Spong and his wife, Christine Mary Spong, have five children and six grandchildren. They live in New Jersey. Visit Bishop Spong’s website <http://www.johnshelbyspong.com>



*The Sins of Scripture:  
Exposing the Bible’s Texts of  
Hate to Reveal the God of Love*

HarperSanFrancisco  
Hardcover \$24.95  
ISBN 0-06-076205-5  
Paperback \$15.9  
ISBN 0-06-077840-7



*Here I Stand:  
My Struggle for a Christianity  
of Integrity, Love, and Equality*

HarperSanFrancisco  
Paperback \$15.95  
ISBN 0-06-067539-X

## The Production Team

Colin Cox (Playwright/Director/Production Manager)  
Mike Peebler (Multiple Roles)  
Dawn Stern (Multiple Roles)  
Stephan Wolfert (Bishop Spong)  
Sam Robinson (Producer)  
Fran de Leon (Producer)

Will & Company • 5504 Tyrone Avenue • Sherman Oaks CA • 91401  
323-461-0093 phone • 818-510-3371 fax • [marketing@willandcompany.com](mailto:marketing@willandcompany.com)  
[www.willandcompany.com/pebble](http://www.willandcompany.com/pebble)

# A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong

## Reviews & Audience Feedback

Because A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE deals with controversial and sensitive issues, the producers have chosen to share both positive and negative feedback in an effort to represent all points of view.

“You had us laughing and crying. Wonderful job of making a very serious topic light enough to be enjoyable and easily understood, without making light of it. Bravo!!! Bravo!!! Bravo!!!”

...Richard Johnson

“Cox infuses the play with vitality, suspense and impeccable timing and stagecraft. Vania Ouzonova has created full costumes that do more than hint at the many characters played by Stern and Peebler, despite the incredibly quick changes required by the show’s pace. Writer/director Colin Cox does a brilliant job of making the life of former Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong into exciting theatre. Of course, it was all along.”

...Curtain Up

"I would suggest that there be a performance of the play followed by a hetero, homo, bi and transgendered sexual orgy. ECUSA could supply condoms through ER & D, if needed."

...In Christ Jesus, Ed Renner

“Colin Cox’s fast paced script runs through almost a century of American history, with an intensity that grabs you by the throat - and never lets go; What could be a horribly didactic, preachy story becomes an often funny, often moving and always intensely fascinating story.”

...LA Voice

"A fine balance between being true to the Bishop's experience, message and convictions, yet maintains a light, loving spirit."

...Unity Church of the Hills, Austin TX



“Spong is a big time heretic. Don’t waste money on him!”

...Identity Withheld

“Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong is a destructive force inside the Episcopal Church. To elevate this man and his ideas on homosexuality, on the pretense of love, equality, and a “progressive” Christianity, is to deny the word of GOD and the very nature of our being...I feel sorry for playwright Colin Cox, who feels that “progressive” Christianity is positive achievement...I’m sure that Bishop Spong believes in GOD... But he has missed the mark with this homosexual message. Satan also believes in GOD and is a subtle deceiver.

I hope you make a lot of money.”

...Larry Andrews

# A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong

## Reviews (cont. p2)

"I was very impressed and moved, particularly by the structure of your material and the clarity of the acting without excess or labour . Audience response was so positive and involved. Spoke to several people afterwards and you genuinely affected them."

...Edward Wilson, Artistic Director California Youth Theatre"

"It was a deeply moving experience to see "Pebble" and to feel the pain of Jack's long loneliness and struggle. It was hard to see my church in such a harsh light. Even though I went through it all, I was not at the center of the storm as Jack was. Thank you for such a fine piece of writing about a pivotal figure in our church's life."

...Clarke Oler, All Saints' Church



"I really enjoyed the play yesterday and I must tell you more of how interesting it was to be in an audience that obviously lived through a lot of the history versus me, who was reacting to the new information in a whole different way. They have to figure out how to get you to teach history classes, you do it in a much more interesting and captivating way."

....Kristina Wong, Performance Artist

"My small reading group has enjoyed reading many of Bishop Spong's books over the past 18 months or so. We were able to see the play last night and we loved it. Do you plan to market a DVD or VHS of the play? If so, put us on the waiting list. Thank you for your time & talent."

...Kathy Foxen

"Some scenes brought out of the audience gales of laughter. There were also moments that for me were so emotional as to bring forth both literal tears and a shaking body that I could not control. Reliving my first wife's descent into mental illness and later her death made me deeply aware that those wounds have not yet healed. I was forced to relive the hostility that I had absorbed from the Ku Klux Klan, including its threat to rape my 6, 3 and 1 year old daughters, if I did not stop my "race mixing foolishness." The angry response I received from homophobic fellow bishops when I moved against that prejudice was brought anew to my consciousness."

...Bishop John Shelby Spong

" Congratulations again on the successful premiere of Pebble. Great script and beautifully acted and directed."

...Keith Henning, North Hollywood Church of Religious Science

# **A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE: The Life & Times of John Shelby Spong**

## **LOGISTICS**

A crew of 4 people (3 actors, 1 Stage Manager) travel by air or car from Los Angeles, California to your site. They will arrive with costumes, sound, a lighting plot and props. We ask that the venue provide basic set pieces (see below). The Production Manager will take care of all your technical needs and can deal directly with your venue's Technical Director.

## **FEES**

Generally, we ask for travel and hotel expenses in addition to the Performance Fee. We will arrange our air and ground travel, and we ask for the hotel to be booked by the presenter. To receive a quote, please contact us online or call 213-239-8777.

## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

"A Pebble In My Shoe" is a dramatic presentation ideally performed in a theatre. However, with the expertise and flexibility of our crew, it can be performed virtually anywhere. Below is a guideline of technical needs, which our Production Manager can easily reconfigure to your specific venue capabilities. A complete package is available for download from our website.

- Space requirement: 30 ft wide, 20 ft deep
- One small couch
- CD Player with house system
- One WOODEN table with chair
- Two WOODEN coat stands
- Sound Board Operator
- Light Board Operator
- Set-up time of 2-4 hours or more prior to curtain
- Two quick change Screens
- Two costume racks
- Bottled water, soda & coffee at set-up and performance

## **PROMOTION**

Presenters are supplied with promotional material to aid in publicizing the event. Photos, sample press releases and program information are readily available for download on our website. Interviews with the cast, producers or Bishop Spong can also be arranged.

## **BOOKING**

Contact our office at 323-461-0093 or via email at [marketing@willandcompany.com](mailto:marketing@willandcompany.com) to discuss possible dates and receive a price quote. Once you have solidified your plans, you will receive a contract from our office to confirm your date.