

'Godspell' comes to Willowbrook

By DOUGLAS PATRICK

The cast of the off-Broadway hit musical "Godspell" delighted an audience of about 500 residents at Willowbrook State School yesterday, as they performed songs and parables from the play.

The musical, based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, is a happy one filled with the Christian spirit of love and goodness. The actors encourage the members of the audience to receive their message of joy.

When the program began, a happy commotion ensued. The residents began waving, clapping along to the music, and moving excitedly in their seats. Throughout the program, everyone continued to participate.

The program lasted about an hour and featured hit songs such as "Day By Day" and "Bless the Lord." In the final

number, the actors danced down the central aisle, singing and shaking outstretched hands. They received loud and vigorous applause after finishing.

One red-haired, middle-aged resident said after the program, "It was very exciting and I loved the music."
"I liked it very much, and I hope they come back," remarked another older woman, happily.

"They sure were a happy bunch of people. I loved it," declared a dark-haired young man. And for those who were unable to verbally express themselves, their faces showed their gratitude.

The appearance of "Godspell" was arranged with the assistance of Hospital Audiences, a non-profit organization which brings shows to the institutionalized and disadvantaged.



Residents of the school talk with Paul Kreppel and Enid Edekman, members of the "Godspell" cast, when they came into the audience after the show. Some 500 persons attended the performance.



Don Scardino and Elizabeth Lathran of the "Godspell" cast greet the residents after dancing down the aisle during their final number.



Residents of Willowbrook State School watch as the cast of "Godspell" performs one of the show's musical numbers at the school.

S.I. Advance Photos by Robert Parsons