

SKELERON ARMY

A MUSICAL • MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LEN BALLANTINE • BOOK BY JOHN COPELAND
ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED BY NEIL W. LEDUKE



ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED BY THE SALVATION ARMY EAST ARTS MINISTRIES BUREAU



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Editorial Director:
Kathryn Higgins

Designer & Contributing Editor:
Resa Berry



The Arts Ministries Bureau
The Salvation Army
Eastern Territorial Headquarters
440 West Nyack Road
West Nyack, NY 10994

arts.saconnects.org

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ORIGINAL OFF BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY THE ARTS MINISTRIES BUREAU OF
THE SALVATION ARMY EASTEN TERRITORY

STARRING.....KATHRYN & KYLE HIGGINS
ORIGINAL CONCEPT.....NEIL LEDUKE
COMPOSER.....LEN BALLANTINE
WRITER.....JOHN COPELAND
DIRECTOR.....BRAD CAIN
PRODUCER.....CAROL JAUDES
COSTUME DESIGN.....MAJOR HOLLIE RUTHBERG
SET CONSTRUCTION.....MAJOR FRED CLARKE
STAGE MANAGER.....CHUCK GOODIN
PIANIST.....LEN BALLANTINE
ORIGINAL ARTWORK.....MAJOR JASON KNAGGS
ORIGINAL AUDIO DESIGN.....FELIPE CONCHA

CURRENT TEAM

ALTERNATE PIANIST.....RHONDA VENABLES
STAGE HAND.....ELIZABETH HIGGINS
ARTWORK & PLAYBILL.....RESA BERRY

SPECIAL THANKS

HEATHER BALLANTINE
LT. COLONEL JAMES LABOSSIERE
LT. COLONEL KATHLEEN STEELE
COMMISSIONER WILLIAM BAMFORD
COMMISSIONER LORRAINE BAMFORD
DOUG BERRY
BOB VENABLES



PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED DURING THE SHOW
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING YOUR DEVICES UNTIL CURTAIN CALL

SKELETON ARMY IS AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED BOOKINGS!

CONTACT KATHRYN HIGGINS AT:
USEARTSMINISTRIESDIRECTOR@USE.SALVATIONARMY.ORG

BIOS



LEN BALLANTINE, MUSIC & LYRICS

Len is a graduate of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music where he studied composition, piano and choral direction. His career has enabled him to travel widely as a musician and officer of The Salvation Army, during which he gained an international reputation as a choral and brass specialist, as well as a gifted communicator. Len's works have been performed and recorded by some of the world's finest ensembles, including the King's Singers (UK), the Elmer Iseler Singers (Canada), the Yorkshire Building Society (UK-brass band), and The Salvation Army's International Staff Band and Songsters. Len has worked professionally in music theatre and enjoys a diverse affection for music of all genres.



JOHN COPELAND, BOOK

John has been involved with the Territorial Arts Ministries Bureau of The Salvation Army as an occasional actor, sketch writer, and director since 2000. John is currently Camp Director for The Salvation Army's Camp Tecumseh in New Jersey. He is a decent husband, annoyingly like-able father, and reluctant catowner. John is grateful to be involved in this project and hopes that all who see Skeleton Army are encouraged by the redeeming power of God's grace.



BRAD CAIN, DIRECTOR

Brad Cain currently serves as the Divisional Creative Arts Director for the Salvation Army's Eastern PA and Delaware Divisional. Directing credits: Joseph, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Steel Magnolias, Godspell, Honk! Charlie Brown, Nunsense, The Pillowman. Acting credits include: The Drowsy Chaperone, The Man Who Came to Dinner, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Shadowlands, Big River, Comedy of Errors, Ragtime, Fifth of July, Sweeney Todd, Twelfth Night, and Guys and Dolls. Training: University of Akron (B.A. Theatre Arts/Directing), Regent University (MFA Acting/Directing). Thanks to family, friends and God. Special thanks to the entire Skeleton Army team for letting me be a part of this experience! Psalm 139: 7-14.



KATHRYN HIGGINS, MARTHA/SCARLET/CAPTAIN

Kathryn's notable credits include Anne of Green Gable (Charlottetown Festival), The Boys In The Photograph (Mirvish), and Camp Rock (Disney). Outside her love of musical theatre performance, Kathryn is a choreographer, aerialist, and improv artist. She founded the Salvation Army's first Dance Company, Army On Its Toes (now called MOVE), and currently oversees the development of the Arts within the Salvation Army's USA Eastern Territory as the Arts Ministries Director in New York. Married to co-star Kyle since 2010, Kathryn's true love is performing onstage alongside him *always*.



KYLE HIGGINS, CHARLES JEFFRIES

Kyle Higgins was born in Canada and attended Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance program. Some of his most notable credits include: Jesus (Pilate, TAM), Aladdin (Aladdin, Riza Productions), The Highwayman (The Highwayman, Artsake Theatre), Prince Charming (Cinderella, Riza Productions), Caldwell B Cladwell (Urinetown! TheatreSheridan), The Cantor (Hey Marilyn, Capricorn 9). Kyle performs regularly with Re-Play - A Playback Theater Company, and narrates and produces audiobooks under the name Kyle James Higgins



NEIL W. LEDUKE, ORIGINAL CONTENT

Neil is a graduate with a Masters in the art of Professional Communications from Royal Roads University, Victoria, British Columbia and Religious Education from Tyndale University in Toronto, Ontario. Neil is a public relations veteran, starting his career in 1998 in media relations, marketing, communications and eventually events management for The Salvation Army. With over 25 years of experience in marketing, Neil has a flare of creative imagination and artistic energy. In 2009 his passions for musicals and Salvation Army history birthed the grand concept for 'Skeleton Army'. Besides loving musicals and creative arts, in his spare time, Neil can be found surrounded by the beauty of God's creation, winter/summer camping, canoeing and fishing on Lake Vernon in the Muskoka's. He is happily married to his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth and is the proud father of two children, Sarah and Micah.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you had to tell your story, your testimony, using only the contents of one box, what would be in that box?

BY BRAD CAIN

As the son of Salvation Army officers, moving was a major part of growing up. Every couple of year, my parents, my brother, and I would pack up all of our belongings and get ready for the next big adventure. As I got older, the number of boxes for my stuff expanded. My mother would always encourage me to throw away the things I didn't need - to downsize. And I would. A bit. But there was always more than she thought necessary. That's because certain items, certain mementos, that I had meant nothing to her. But they meant everything to me. When we embarked on this project, I had never heard of Charles Jeffries. He's not a well-known figure, even within The Salvation Army. I had a basic working knowledge of what the Skeleton Army was, but I hadn't heard about them since I was in Honor Junior Soldier classes. The more I learned of Charles Jeffries, his adversarial beginnings, his transformation, and his work for God around the world, the more strongly I felt that this was a story that needed to be told. With epic songs played by a 30-piece orchestra, all culminating with a Les Miserables style number and at the front, our Salvation Army Jean Valjean stand in, Charles Jeffries, leading the way...

Two actors. Minimal set. Only piano. The question then became how to tell his side of the story in such a more intimate way without losing the scale and size that the story needs. The answer came quickly. By bringing you, the audience, right into the action. At different moments throughout the show, you may find yourself as a patron of the local pub, as a passerby on the streets of London witnessing an open air, as a member of the Skeleton Army; or as a congregant at the watch night service. John Copeland and Len Ballantine have crafted a beautifully compelling narrative that accomplishes something rather unique - they were able to make the epic intimate and the intimate epic. Contained within his one small box, Charles Jeffries has preserved the entire story of his life. Items that represent moments - good moments, bad moments - that made him the man he was. The brush strokes that made up the painting of his life. These things may have meant nothing to anyone else. But they meant everything to him.

I have been so blessed to collaborate with John, Len, Nail, Carol, and especially Kathryn and Kyle on this story and I am grateful to them all for trusting me on this journey. Thank you so much for joining with

us and being an integral part of our storytelling. I hope that as you journey along with Charles Jeffries, you take the time to think of your own life, your own moments, and how they have led you to where you are, and where God has called you to be. - Brad Cain

”

**THE LORD TOOK HOLD OF ME,
AND I WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE
SPIRIT OF THE LORD TO A VALLEY
FILLED WITH BONES. HE LED ME
ALL AROUND AMONG THE
BONEST THAT COVERED THE
VALLEY FLOOR. THEY WERE
SCATTERED EVERYWHERE
ACROSS THE GROUND AND WERE
COMPLETELY DRIED OUT. THEN
HE ASKED ME, 'SON OF MAN, CAN
THESE BONES BECOME LIVING
PEOPLE AGAIN?'**

”

EZEKIEL 37: 1-3 NLT



Photography: Ryan Love

CHORUS

BECAUSE OF THESE MOMENTS AND THANKS TO GOD'S GRACE
MY LIFE HAS HAD MEANING AND PURPOSE AND PLACE
BECAUSE OF THE HOURS I'VE SPENT ON MY KNEES
HE WILL LEAD WHERE HE NEEDS ME TO BE

OF ALL THE IMPORTANT THINGS
THIS KIND OF JOURNEY BRINGS
NO ONE CAN EVER FORETELL
JUST WHAT THE LORD WILL DO
WHEN WE SURRENDER TO
HIS PROVIDENTIAL WILL



SKELETON ARMY CAST RECORDING

CAST

Kathryn Higgins
Kyle Higgins

PIANIST

Len Ballantine

AUDIO ENGINEER

Doug Berry

MASTERING

Abbey Road Studios

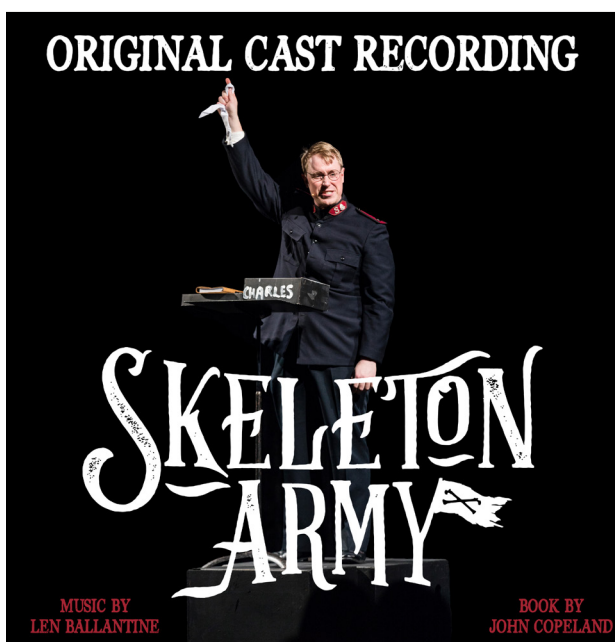


Skeleton Army recorded a cast album of the full musical in January of 2023. Recorded at The Salvation Army Eastern Territorial Headquarters in West Nyack, NY and mastered at Abbey Road Studios, all proceeds of this album provide financial assistance to Arts Ministries programming. Featuring the original cast and Len Ballantine on the piano, this album will be available for download this summer.

Expected Release Date: June 2023



Photography: Ryan Love



Find it everywhere you
download music

Scan the QR code
for more info



Our Mission

**MOTIVATED BY THE GOSPEL, THE ARTS
MINISTRIES BUREAU UTILIZES THE ARTS
TO CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL, PERSONAL, AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
PROGRAMMING, THE PRODUCTION
OF RESOURCES, AND
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**



Photography: Joe Pritchard

SUPPORT THE ARTS



This musical is just one of many ministry-focused performances available through The Salvation Army Eastern Territory's Arts Ministries Bureau. Every year, the Bureau impacts thousands of program participants and audience members through MOVE, CAST, TAM Conservatory, RePlay, Skeleton Army, and Jesus Theater. On the following pages you will find more information about our mission and ministry teams. Scan the QR code on each page to access their webpage to learn more.



Consider donating to the Arts Ministries Bureau and change lives! With your support, we can keep these events and special ministries thriving! Scan the QR code to submit your contribution today.



Donations are welcome at any time and in any amount based on the following:

- Impromptu (one-time)
- Yearly (initial donation, but pledge annual giving)

TAMC

MOVE
DANCE COMPANY

REPLAY
A PLAYBACK THEATRE COMPANY

cast

SKELETON
ARMY

CURRENT PARTNERS & DONORS

- **LS AUDIO PRODUCTIONS**
- **EAGLE PRODUCTIONS**

Contact useartsministriesdirector@use.salvationarmy.org to find out how you can partner with Arts Ministries and include your company in our list of trusted donors and partners!

TAM CONSERVATORY

TAM Conservatory is a week-long discipleship-focused arts intensive every August for ages 14-25

Every year, accepted TAMC delegates are presented with a new and challenging theme based on scripture. Throughout the week they discover how that theme can be applied to their artistic discipline at TAM Conservatory, their Corps, their school, and their home life. It's the sole mission of the Arts Ministries Bureau to give each student a safe space to grow in their craft and as followers of Christ through arts-focused training, small group, reflection time, and devotions. This culminates into a grand live Finale at the end of the week where delegates showcase everything they've learned!

TAM Conservatory now offers 7 Major Tracks: *Arts Leadership, Dance, Drama, Live Audio Production, Video Production, Visual Arts, and Worship.*

Interested in attending TAMC? Scan the QR code for more information, and to access application and audition information



TAM



Photography: Resa Berry

MC

MOVE

DANCE COMPANY

*MOVE Dance Company is a group of trained dancers from
The Salvation Army Eastern Territory who love Jesus*

Move exists to model and encourage the use of dance in worship, evangelism, and ministry.

A dance company comprised of trained volunteer dancers, MOVE contributes to various Salvation Army events by performing choreographed pieces and workshops. Featuring dancers from all over the Eastern Territory, this team performs in styles ranging from lyrical worship to up-tempo hip-hop. Recently, they have supported Divisional Youth Councils, Young Adult Retreats, Corps Harvest Festivals as well as annual territorial events such as the Old Orchard Beach Pier Festival and Commissioning.

The dancers in MOVE are passionate about ministry-through-movement but also assume other roles when on-location. They lead breakout sessions, small groups, offer prayer ministry, and assist with clean-up. MOVE engages in every aspect of a program, but mostly enjoys being an active presence in worship knowing personally how dance has the power to change the atmosphere of a space. MOVE can accommodate invitations of 3-13 dancers, and do not charge for their services but only request housing and meals to be covered by the host.

Scan the QR code for more information about MOVE.

Inquiries or requests for MOVE?
Contact Erin Morgan at:
erin.morgan@use.salvationarmy.org



For in Him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28



Photography: Justina Stickland



REPLAY

A PLAYBACK THEATRE COMPANY

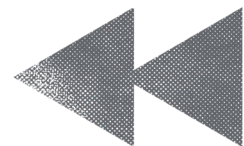
*Creating space for healing and transformation
through the honoring of true stories and their tellers*

Playback theater is a form of applied theatre which creates a ritual space where any story - however ordinary, extraordinary, funny, or cherished - might be told and transformed into moving art.

Comprised of volunteer actors, musicians, and dancers, RePlay takes stories from the audience and on the spot plays them back as literal interpretations, metaphor, or allegory using music and movement. Their audience will often go from laughter to reflective tears in seconds as a teller's heart is revealed.

What sets Replay apart from other playback companies is their connection to their faith. They have prayed over many who have shared stories, and watched their journey played back for them; and found healing. One message often rings throughout: God was there through it all.

Founded and funded by The Salvation Army Eastern Territory, RePlay continues to accept frequent bookings at Corps, Kroc Centers, Divisional and Territorial events.





Photography: Lu Lu Rivera

OPEN REHEARSALS

Interested in seeing what Replay is all about?

Scan the QR code for a schedule of their Open Rehearsals, or to learn more about the ministry team and applied theater. All skill levels are welcome, and no experience is required.

Contact Kathryn Higgins at:
useartsministriesdirector@use.salvationarmy.org



Scan the QR code for more information
about Replay

”

REPLAY IS AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL MINISTRY TOOL IN THIS TERRITORY. IT IS A DOUBLE EDGED ART. WITHIN THE SPAN OF ONE PERFORMANCE, THE AUDIENCE CAN LAUGH AND RELATE TO SILLY, EVERY DAY EXPERIENCES BUT ALSO BE PRESENTED WITH THE RAW TRUTH THAT WE ALL LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD. I HAVE SEEN COMPLETE STRANGERS CRY, HUG AND PRAY TOGETHER AFTER WATCHING EACH OTHER'S STORIES PLAY OUT ON THE STAGE THROUGH IMPROV. THIS GROUP OF ACTORS HAVE CHOSEN TO GIVE THEIR TALENTS BACK OVER TO GOD THROUGH REPLAY AND I BELIEVE HE IS USING THEIR SHOWS TO BRING POWERFUL RESTORATION, ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

– CAPTAIN MARGARET QUATELA

”

Hands On cast

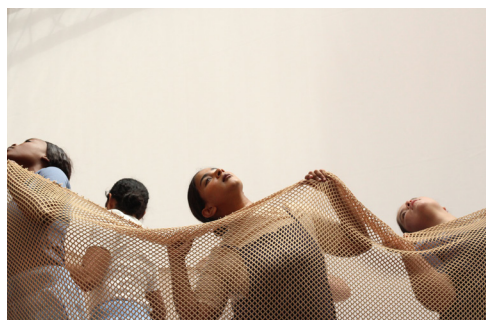
The Creative Arts Service Team is a branch of Hands On Missions whose focus is to use theater to tell the world about the love of God

The Creative Arts Service Team exists to spread the good news of God's love through the arts.

In partnership with HandsOn Missions, CAST is an evangelistic, arts-focused, service-minded summer mission team. Quoted as being a life-changing experience by so many young people, CAST travels the world engaging with new people and cultures, all while exploring their artistry as it relates to their faith.

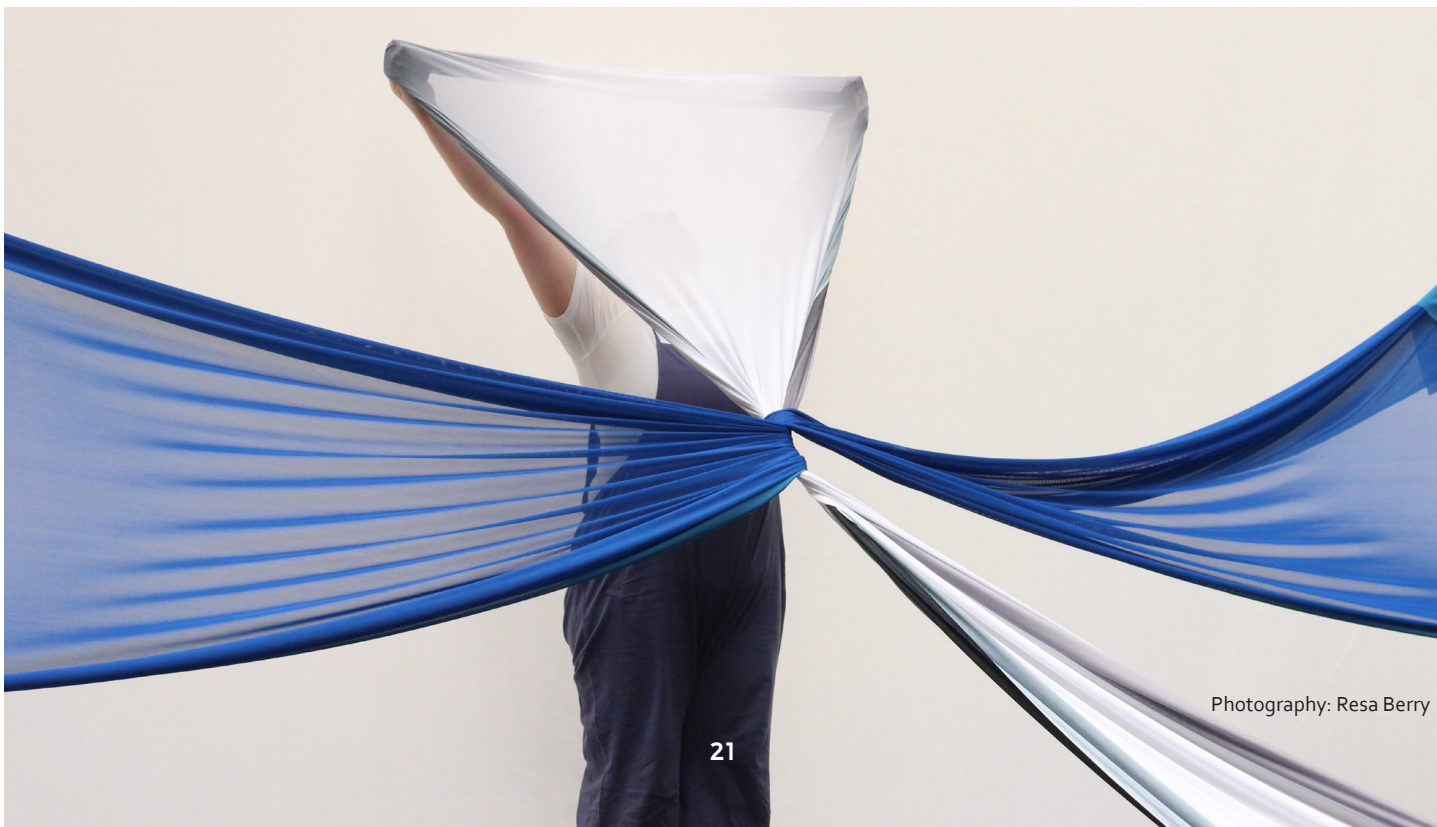
Every winter, a new team auditions to be a part of this 20+ year tradition. A summer job for ages 18+, CAST tours a featured production piece (ranging from musicals to original movement works) and receive a full scholarship to attend TAM Conservatory.

CAST members begin their journey every June in New York with rehearsals and an orientation. Then, they begin their 6-week summer performance, service projects, and teaching tour to a new exciting location before ending in August in Old Orchard Beach Maine. Everything that's needed for the summer will be carried with them: sets, costumes, props, sound equipment, etc.



Scan the QR code for more
information about CAST





Photography: Resa Berry

BECOME A PART OF THE STORY



If you're not interested in donating to the development of the Arts, but would like to donate to The Salvation Army as a whole, scan the QR code for more information.





USA Eastern Territory
Commissioners William A. & G. Lorraine Bamford
Territorial Leaders