

DRAMATIC ENCOUNTERS

A TELEVISION SERIES



Dramatic Encounters



hello.

Dramatic Encounters is a series of films and resources exploring stories of Jesus from the Bible in a groundbreaking, creative way.

At the heart of this new project is an exploration of the process of **learning, discovery, creativity** and **execution**. We want to bring to life the experience of **various people's encounters with Jesus** as written by John in his Gospel in the Bible.

John describes how, when characters meet with Jesus, their eyes are opened to new way of seeing. In the same way, we use the process of intellectual conversation, theatrical rehearsal, artistic craft, and filmmaking to open the eyes of the viewer to a new way of seeing familiar texts.

THE APPROACH

Each episode of the show breaks down into four primary elements:

• THE ROUNDTABLE

A theological and cultural conversation about a particular story of an encounter with Jesus is filmed, exploring its form, meaning and themes, and the various ways it can be interpreted.

• THE REHEARSAL

In the light of the roundtable conversation, the actors are filmed in rehearsal as they examine the drama of the text, exploring different options of how it might be played; and alongside this, their real-life responses are documented.

• BEHIND THE SCENES

The creative process of the filmmakers and other artists as they shape the text for film, forms an integral part of the episode's journey.

• THE FILM

The discoveries of the roundtable, the rehearsal, and the film-making artists' creativity are all brought together into a fully informed screenplay and beautifully crafted final piece of cinematography.

In this way, the viewer is taken on a voyage of discovery. Each of these elements sheds light on what meanings the story holds and how the final film evolves. It is a rational, emotional and artistic journey, revealing why and how a film is crafted but also holding in suspense which choices will impact the end result.





THE ROUNDTABLE

(ACADEMIC EXPLORATION)

We gather **theologians, practitioners** and **commentators** around a table to discuss a story from the Bible. As they ask questions of the text and one another, observations and insights emerge that challenge the viewer to approach Scripture in a new way.

Martin Young moderates the panel, guiding the discussion towards important inflection points. Perhaps it is the meaning of a word in its original language, the historical context, contrasting interpretations, a theme expressed in contemporary culture, or the nature of a character in the story. These conversations cast unique light onto each scriptural scene.

The knowledge and intellectual insight revealed around the table lay the groundwork and inspire the actors, filmmakers and artists in the next elements of the show...



(EMOTIONAL EXPLORATION)

THE REHEARSAL

We join **Martin** and a group of **actors** in a **blackbox theater**.

By rehearsing the scene, every actor brings their perspective to the text. Martin facilitates their preparation, creating an environment of exploration and decision-making.



The group asks: How can we bring this traditional bible passage to life? How can we distil the density of a Bible verse into the expression of a face, the posture of a body, the tone of a voice?

These actors bring their personal and physical interpretations to the text. They also reveal their own experiences and feelings in rehearsal, and coverage of the conversation and relationships of the cast adds a layer of reality to the episode. It is **spontaneous, communal** and **honest**.



And so we discover the story in a strikingly fresh way - absorbing the intellectual insight of the roundtable while experiencing its emotional expression through performance.





BEHIND THE SCENES

(CREATIVE EXPLORATION)

The director, Ethan Milner, and crew are tasked with responding to these various understandings and interpretations of the bible text, then shaping them into a final piece of cinematography. This creative process reveals how the biblical story may be told and also becomes part of the broader story in itself.

Each episode may include a focus on a particular aspect of the filmmaking process - for example documenting the writing of a score or song, lighting, cinematography, set, or post-production - following the journey of **ideation, challenge, ingenuity** and **finish**. Any guest artists at the Roundtable and Rehearsal will also bring their own insights and craftsmanship to the piece.

Behind the scenes demonstrates that the **creative process** is as much a part of our understanding and experience as a finished piece of work.



DIRECTOR ETHAN MILNER



DRAMATIC ENCOUNTERS CREATOR: MARTIN YOUNG



THE FILM

(CINEMATIC EXPLORATION)

- Each of the previous steps culminates in a short film, fully bringing to life the insights of the theologians, the discoveries of the actors, and the craft of the filmmakers, onto the screen.
- Ethan Milner will direct, creating a rich new pattern from all these strands, utilizing creative techniques and locations to put they viewer directly in the action of the story.
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As the audience, we experience this short film with the added context of the Roundtable, Rehearsal and Behind the Scenes. Exchanges from the rehearsal studio play out in moments on screen. The poignant remark of a commentator manifests in an actor's reaction or lighting effect. A technical challenge interprets, emphasizes, and manifests an often ignored but important theme.

The final film is able to stand alone but its impact comes from being the result of this broader experience.

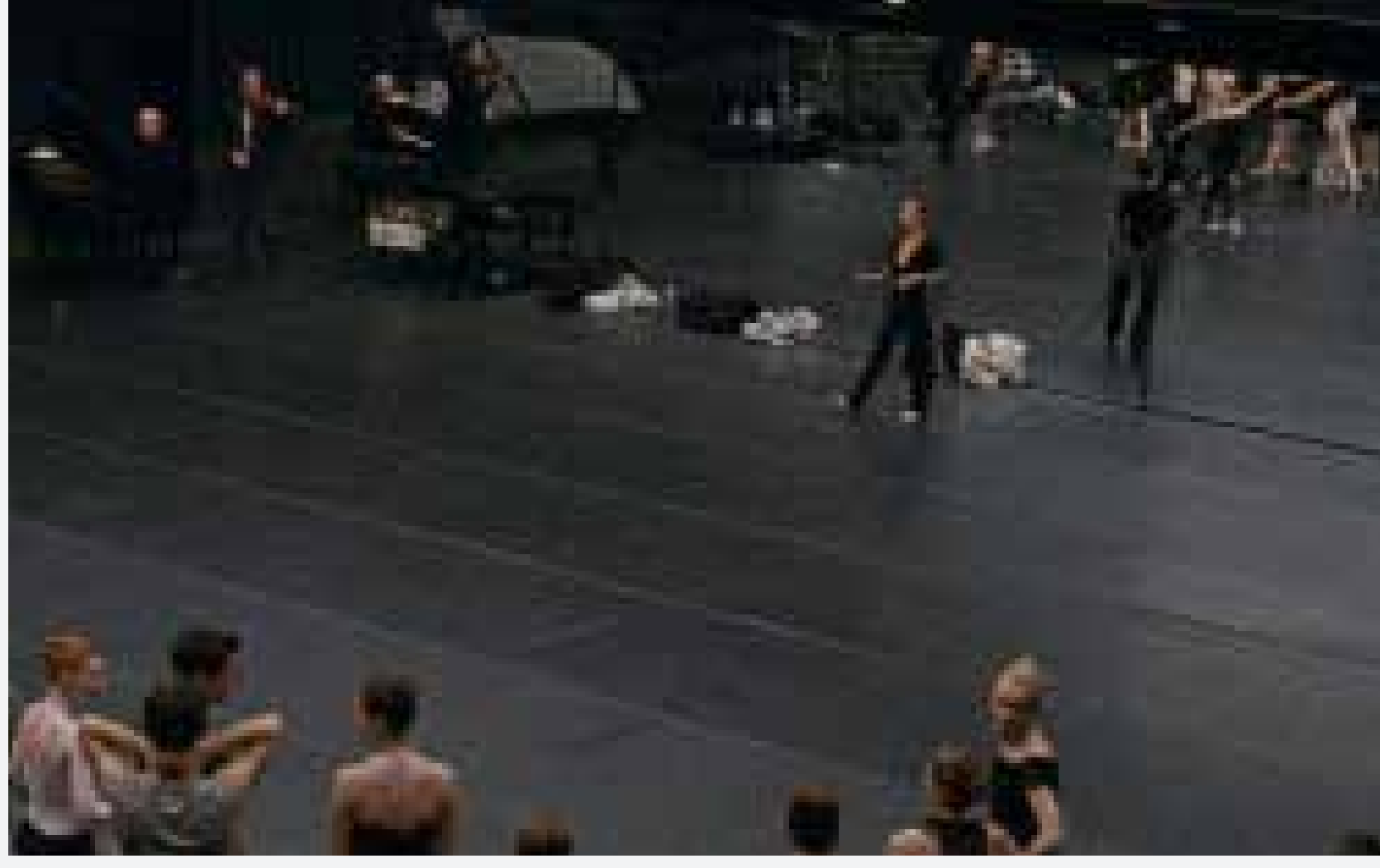
RESOURCES

We intend to create accompanying resource packages pertaining to each episode's Biblical text.

The Roundtable, Rehearsal and Behind the Scenes elements will hold more content than each episode can contain. This content can be repurposed into further resources such as: complete or extracts of Roundtable conversations and actors' and artists' creative process documentaries; standalone final film editions; studies; books; podcasts; articles, etc.

Where an original piece of art - such as a painting, sculpture, song, dance or written word - accompanies an episode, this, too can be promoted and distributed alongside and within an episode.





DRAMATIC ENCOUNTERS LLC

THE TEAM

Martin Young (Host and Executive Producer) is UK based and has been exploring and communicating the bible in creative ways for many years. Dramatic Encounters is an idea that was birthed as a live theatrical experience which showed how the creative process itself can enable an audience response that is rational, emotional and spiritual all at the same time.

- **Ethan Milner (Director)** had a childhood obsession with movies that has carried him to a career of making films and telling stories. His nine years of experience producing creative content for a very large church has refined his storytelling philosophy. Ethan functions as a creative director at Birmingham AL based Cedar Creative, bringing projects from the seed of a creative vision to life and fulfilment. Ethan's vision on this project is to shape one compelling and visually rich narrative, out of a number of excellently produced stories.

As a kid, **Kevin Johnson (Producer)** loved nothing more than telling a good story. Kevin functions as producer at Cedar Creative. His two great passions are communication and organization. Kevin's 10+ years of experience in communication and organizational leadership helps us move this vision forward.

Greyson Welch (Production Manager) began his film career crewing on feature films. In between learning from larger sets, he diligently created his own projects. Years later - Greyson still loves the process of making films doing so as a director of Cedar Creative. His expertise in storytelling, colour correction, and directing are an essential part of this project.





DRAMATIC ENCOUNTERS

Why storytelling, film & the creative process fit so perfectly with the dramatic encounters in the bible and other cultural characters and moments.

John's gospel has been revered as great literature by many cultures over many years. John is a storyteller, writing compelling stories that are full of both action and dialogue. In recent years, scholars have suggested John's style as being influenced by the Greek drama of his time, so it's not surprising that these encounters are as vividly relevant and real now as they ever were.

There are many excellent films and TV productions about Jesus, but very few that stick to the original bible text itself. For many people, including those who have Christian faith, even the best poetry of the Bible can sound old fashioned, obscure or irrelevant. This series is an attempt at faithful improvisation, exploring these ancient and yet familiar texts precisely but creatively, engaging all the senses in order to open up the imagination of the soul

Our aim, therefore, is to not only produce a final film of a story about Jesus, but to craft a whole episode that informs, entertains and intrigues. It is the combination of intellect, emotion and creativity, seen through the creative process of the academics, actors, artists and filmmakers taking part, that brings to life influential and profound historical moments.

This approach could also, therefore, be applied to other important events and characters in human history. The combining of artists with historians and commentators, to re-examine the time and places of significance in our culture.



DIRECTOR ETHAN MILNER

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DRAMATIC ENCOUNTERS CREATOR: MARTIN YOUNG

