

PRESS KIT



Cross and Light

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ABOUT US

CROSS & LIGHT IS A BROADWAY-CALIBER MUSICAL AND SURROUND VIDEO EXPERIENCE

Cross & Light is an international, critically acclaimed musical and multi-sensory experience of Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It's a story of common men and women who find themselves called on an incredible journey from Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to his horrible murder and the surprising events that transform their lives.

A PROCLAMATION OF THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

From the incredible talent to the lights, sound, and projection technology, parishes will experience the story of Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit in an entirely new way. Powerful evangelism and modern musical theater emotionally engages people in the story of who Jesus is, what He did for us, and how He calls us to live.

A WAY TO LEAD PEOPLE TO CHRIST IN THE SACRAMENTS

More than a just show, Cross & Light is an authentic encounter with Christ. After the standing ovation, the cast leads the audience members in a beautiful prayer of commitment or re-commitment to Christ and encourages people to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, available after every show.

FAQ'S

WHAT MAKES CROSS & LIGHT THE MOST TALKED ABOUT EVENT IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TODAY?

Cross & Light is the only Broadway-caliber production of Christ's Passion to Pentecost in the Church today. Because the performance is a multi-sensory experience, audiences are immersed and deeply engaged in the story of Christ's Passion to Pentecost, and often come to recognize more fully the heart of Christ' the love and mercy of Christ for them personally.

WHY IS AN EXPERIENCE WITH CROSS & LIGHT TRANSFORMATIVE FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES?

Cross & Light offers a new and fresh approach to personal evangelization in a large-scale setting. Many Catholic leaders have expressed frustration that few opportunities for evangelization exist beyond speaker-based events or multi-weekly study programs. As effective as these experiences can be, many leaders are seeking a fresh and more engaging approach to awaken their communities to God's love for them and his desire for them to know him in a personal way. Cross & Light offers this transformative approach and is applicable to any person at any stage of their faith journey, even those who have not yet encountered Christ.

WHAT MAKES CROSS & LIGHT THE MOST POWERFUL EVANGELIZATION EVENT IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

Church leaders from coast to coast have indicated a need for evangelization events that give people an opportunity to experience the Catholic faith outside of attending Mass or other sacramental occasions that new-comers often find intimidating. Cross & Light offers an exciting, non-threatening and engaging presentation of the Gospel within the context of a welcoming and enthusiastic Catholic environment.

WHO IS THE CREATOR OF THE SHOW?

Cross & Light was created by Kelly Nieto after having a life-changing vision from God at the Stations of the Cross in 2000. You can read more about Cross & Light and Kelly's amazing conversion story that led to her development of this show by clicking here. (<http://www.crossandlight.com/story-behind-show-kelly-nieto/>)

HOW LONG IS THE SHOW?

The running time of the show is 90 minutes. There is no intermission.

HOW EARLY CAN PEOPLE ARRIVE?

Doors open one hour before show time.

IS THE SHOW APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN?

If your child understands the story of Jesus—including his death on a cross—then, yes! Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 5 not allowed.

DO YOU OFFER GROUP SALES & DISCOUNTS?

Group sales are for larger groups—schools, ministry groups, retirement communities. Tickets are reserved in blocks of 20+ seats and discounts are provided.

DO VOLUNTEERS ATTEND FOR FREE?

At every venue, we have over 100 volunteers helping with the performances. Everyone volunteering will need to purchase their own tickets to the show. Whether people are volunteering as a parking attendant, video crew, usher, ticket seller, prayer team, or sponsor host, they will need to give their full attention to their volunteer position. We hope our volunteers will attend a different performance, so they can fully enjoy the show and be touched by this amazing experience.

IS THE CONTENT OF THE SHOW APPROVED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Yes! You can read a letter of theological approval from Fr. Charles Fox of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Former Spiritual Director for Cross & Light at <http://www.crossandlight.com/theological-approval/>.

MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact Kelly@crossandlight.com or call 248.444.1034.

PRODUCTION STAFF & CAST LIST

AUTHORS

Songwriters	Kelly Nieto, Nick Dalbis, Antoinette Olesen
Lyricists	Kelly Nieto, Antoinette Olesen
Scriptwriter	Kelly Nieto
Arrangers	Nick Dalbis, John Hinchey, David Kole, Brian LeDuc, Kelly Nieto

PRODUCTION STAFF

Executive Producer	Kelly Nieto
Technical Director	Ryan Richert
Music Director	Brian LeDuc
Costume designer	Vincent Kelley
Choreographer	Molly Zaleski
Stage Manager	Justin Smith
Lighting & Sound	Reinforcements, Inc.

CAST

Jesus	Kenny Watson
Peter	Vincent Kelley
The Blessed Mother	Nancy Ingles
Mary Magdalene	Ashley Rozanski
Pilate, thomas, soldier	Bradley Ellison
Judas, High Priest	Kevin Stewart
mary cleophus	Christiana Perrault

For more information about our Production Staff & Cast Members, go to www.CrossAndLight.com

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Kelly Nieto (Executive Producer/Creator, Writer & Composer)

Kelly Garver Nieto is a professional speaker who combines her background as a comedic entertainer with her conversion story of how a non-believer came to be the creator, scriptwriter, songwriter, lyricist, and producer of *The Cross and the Light*. Kelly is the Founder and CEO of Living Faith-Fine Arts Apostolate, Nieto Publishing, Nieto Productions, LLC, the production company that produces *The Cross and the Light*. She is also a former Miss Michigan, Miss America Runner-Up, and Miss America Talent Winner. She is a dynamic entertainer, fiddle player, and musical comedienne, and has performed her one-woman show for corporations worldwide, as well as performing as the opening act for Garth Brooks, Willie Nelson, and Charlie Daniels. Kelly has emceed the Miss Michigan Pageant for twenty-three years and recently emceed the Miss America Pageant Prelim nights in Las Vegas. Her and her husband, Dominic, have five wonderful children ages twelve to twenty-three.

Ryan Richert (Technical Director)

Ryan Richert is the President of Outside the Box Ministries, a non-profit organization that provides programming and production solutions exclusively for faith-based live events. Ryan's event management team serves local and nationwide ministries to bring their events to life with creativity and technical excellence. For the last 16 years, Ryan has specialized in organizing complex needs into powerful communication environments with kingdom purpose. Learn more at www.OtBministries.org.

Brian Leduc (Music Director)

Brian Leduc has been a member of the Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) chorus since 2007. Leduc made his main stage debut in the role of Spoletta in *Tosca* at the MOT in May 2010. He also played Monastatos during MOT's *Magic Flute* in April 2011. Leduc studied music at Wayne State University, where he received acclaim in operatic and musical theatre productions. He sings, directs, teaches, and accompanies regularly in the Detroit area, nationally, and internationally.



Kenny Watson



Vincent Kelley



Nancy Engles



Ashley Rozanski



Kevin Stewart



Christiana Perrault



Brad Ellison

Cross and Light

2018 NATIONAL TOUR

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Kenny Watson (*"Jesus"*)

Kenny Watson, an accomplished musician who has toured nationally and internationally, has vocal versatility that spans across the genres of R&B, jazz, alternative, classical, and hip-hop. He is engaged in social activism with his music as the co-music director and headline performer with AfroFlow, a cancer awareness initiatives with the American Cancer Society. This is Kenny's fifth year playing role of "Jesus."

Vincent Kelley (*"Peter" & Costumer*)

Vince Kelley is honored to be returning to Cross & Light. When he's not performing, Vince enjoys working with schools and youth theater programs all over metro Detroit. Vince is so blessed to be able to spread the word with the amazing family at Neito Productions and he wishes to thank you all for coming to share in God's love at today's performance.

Nancy Ingles (*"The Blessed Mother"*)

Born and raised in Michigan, Nancy moved to NYC where she started her professional theatre career. She began as the lead singer for Holland America cruise lines, later joined the national tours of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Shout! The Mod Musical," and finally was crowned Miss USA in 2008 where she toured nationally performing for our troops and veterans. She recently moved back to the state she never stopped calling home where she has since joined several local theaters playing Amalia in "She Loves Me," Emma in "Jekyll and Hyde," and Cosette in "Les Miserables." She is thrilled to join the cast of "The Cross and the Light" where her faith will be the inspiration behind the music.

Ashley Rozanski (*"Mary Magdalene"*)

Ashley currently resides and performs throughout New York City, but is proud to originally be from Michigan. Ashley holds a BFA in Musical Theatre and has been performing professionally since she was 6. Her favorite roles include Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde" at the Detroit Actors Theatre Company for which she was the recipient of the DATCY Award for Best Actress in a musical, and Marta

in "Company," for which she was an Irene Ryan semi-finalist at KCACTF. This is Ashley's 5th season with Cross & Light. As always, she wants to thank her incredible family for their love and support.

Kevin Stewart ("Judas, Caiphas, Thomas")

With always having a desire to reach people through song, and on stage. Kevin has made it his mission to impact every life that comes in contact with his gift. From an early age, until now, Kevin has served many national artists and has now branched out to walk in his true calling and identity. With the release of one ep "Yes" and three singles it is safe to say Kevin has found his lane and is letting God lead him down the path designed for him.

Christiana Perrault ("Mary Cleophus")

Detroit native actor, singer-songwriter, was last seen onstage performing at the Apollo theatre for their legendary "Amateur Night" in New York City. She is currently working on her debut album while touring the country and performing theatrically. She thanks God for His relentless blessings and for her Cross and Light family.

TBD ("Pontius Pilate, Singing Soldier, Priest")

Brad couldn't be more happy to be joining his Cross & Light family for a fifth consecutive year. The past two years have been his busiest, including his wedding to his wife Rachel, the birth of their daughter Lennox, and the successful launching of their own business! A metro-Detroit native, Brad has been performing on stage for almost 3 decades but counts his role in C&L as his most important. "Thanks to God for giving me the gift of music, and love to Rachel, Lennox, and Calvin - the greatest team ever assembled. Let's Go!"

PRESS RELEASE

Send out six weeks before Opening Night

An Extraordinary Evangelizing Event Comes to [Church] in [month year] One-of-a-kind Event Sparks Conversions and Ignites Personal Faith in Christ

[City & Date] - Cross and Light - one of the most effective and talked-about evangelization tools for the twenty-first century - is coming to [Church Name] in [City, Date]. This powerful Broadway-quality production depicting the most defining moments in the Early Church - from Passion to Pentecost - is awakening audiences across the country to the love of Christ, igniting conversions, sparking re-versions, and opening hearts of all ages to Christ in a more profound way.

"This is a defining moment in our culture and in our Church," said Fr. John Simmons, pastor of St. Hilary's. "We are seeking to engage people in a modern way beyond attending Mass or a Bible study. At St. Hilary's we want to provide a really mighty and meaning experience of the Gospel," continued Simmons. "That's why we are so excited to bring Cross and Light to the Charlotte area."

Cross and Light is described as powerful evangelism and modern musical theater combined into an immersive faith experience that emotionally engages people in the story of who Jesus is, what He did for us, and how He calls us to live. Created and produced to engage and evangelize, this international critically-acclaimed musical and video-surround experience uniquely uses environmental projection technology to project incredible video imagery onto the walls of the church, 150 foot wide by 30 foot tall, bringing the most pivotal parts of the Gospel to life in unexpected ways.

Now in it's seventh season, Cross and Light was created by Detroit-native Kelly Garver Nieto, a former Miss America Runner-Up and successful musician and artist who opened for acts such as Garth Brooks and Willie Nelson. "This is a whole new method of evangelization for the Church," said Nieto, an acclaimed performer, who worked internationally before converting to Catholicism. "This is what is meant by an encounter event. We have seen thousands of people of all ages experience God's love and mercy in life-changing ways. This show is truly an evangelization game-changer!"

The production opened at Detroit's famed Music Hall in 2013, where it was met with unexpected praise from secular reviewers and eventually nominated for a coveted Wilde award. David Kiley, Theatrical Reviewer for Encore Michigan, said, "Cross & Light feels very rooted in evangelizing the Good News of the Gospels in a big, theatrical way...(the production is) powerful evangelism and theater combined into a unique faith experience." This one-of-a-kind experience is not to be missed.

Tickets go on sale [Date] and can be purchased online at [web address] for [\$20 each and \$15 each for groups of 10 or more.] The show is open to the public and is suitable for all ages. All [Number of shows] performances will be performed in the [main church-venue] and seating is limited.

For more information visit the website or contact [Church Name] at [Phone Number]. [Church Name] is located at [Address] and primarily serves the communities of [Aspinwall, Hendrix and Gaffin.]

Kelly Nieto, creator and producer of Cross and Light, is available for interviews by calling 248.444.1034 or emailing kelly@crossandlight.com.

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REVIEWS

**Nominated for two Wilde Awards by Encore Michigan in 2014*

A PASSION PLAY FOR OUR TIMES

EncoreMichigan.com • April 11, 2014

Review by John Quinn

"The Cross and the Light is strongly grounded in the very American traditions of musical theater. While remaining reverential to the source material, the creators were not afraid to retell "the greatest story ever told" in contemporary terms."

"...the emphasis driving the narrative is not the same as in other musicals drawn from the same source – Jesus as teacher ("Godspell") or Judas as Grecian-style tragic hero ("Jesus Christ Superstar"). This Jesus is a leader, and how that leadership influences his followers is the main theme."

"But there's no story without the strong central character, and Kenny Watson succeeds on all fronts. His Jesus is approachable, warm, and gentle..."

"Watson, like all the principals in this production, possesses a killer voice."

THE PASSION IS EVERYWHERE IN "THE CROSS AND THE LIGHT"

EncoreMichigan.com • April 25, 2015

Review by David Kiley

"The Cross and The Light feels very rooted...in evangelizing the Good News of the gospels in a big, theatrical way....(the production is) powerful evangelism and theater combined into a unique faith experience."

"The Cross and the Light makes innovative use of light, using high-powered projectors to create images 150-feet wide and 30-feet high."

"The performances and multi-media aspects of the show are mighty impressive, especially the ability to make all the production values so portable."

TESTIMONIALS

"(this production) promises to draw countless people closer to Jesus, knowing his love more clearly, understanding His sacrifice more deeply, and becoming more ready to share the Good News of His love with others."

- The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit

This is Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel!...Cross & Light is the essence of the New Evangelization."

- Bishop Felipe Estevez, Diocese of St. Augustine, FL

"I was in AWE with the whole program. It truly is a must see event."

- Pastor of St. Joan of Arc, St. Clair Shores, MI

"Cross & Light opens the floodgates of God's mercy and love...You can't deliver the Good News of Jesus in a more dynamic and sensational way in our present time!

- Monsignor Gary Smetanka, Host Church 2015 Tour

"The sheer magnitude of this production is unbelievable! It should be in every diocese in the country!"

- Al Kresta, Nationally syndicated Catholic Talk Show Host and author

"C&L is an awesome experience of the New Evangelization in action! They are pioneers of a whole new style of ministry in the Church. This is truly what is meant by an ENCOUNTER event!"

- Craig Pohl, New Evangelization Director, Diocese of Lansing, MI

"This production raises the bar for all Christian media. C&L's presentation of the greatest love story of all time is perhaps the greatest presentation ever staged!"

- Stanley H. Williams, Ph.D., Filmmaker, Hollywood Script Consultant

"It was a way to transform our community...and we will never be the same...to see priests coming out of the confessional crying and saying 'this is why I became a priest' it's amazing!"

- Vincent Reilly, DRE, St. Catherine of Siena, Host Church 2016

"The words, the music, the choreography, the emotion that is brought out to people in the seats is priceless! It is life-changing for parishioners, life-changing for people who are not members!"

- Jack Metz, Event Host Coordinator 2017, St. Stephen Catholic Church, FL

"If priests brought this to other churches, their youth ministry would explode! If people opened their hearts and minds to feel what we felt here today...we could set the world ablaze!"

- Benjamin Woods, 17 year old, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Augustine FL

"This is GOD'S LANGUAGE and HOW he speaks to his people. That's why it works."

- Keith Major, Former Franciscan University Marketing Director

"This is a bridge between where people are and where God wants them to be! My studies at the seminary are focused on the 'New Evangelization,' and this is a great example of what Pope John Paul II meant when he used that expression."

- Fr. Charlie Fox, Priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit

"C&L is still the best-kept secret. When it explodes, and be assured that it will, people will have to book you YEARS in advance! You are doing AMAZING and INSPIRED work!"

- Erin Carlson, Director of Communications in the Diocese of Saginaw

"It's Les Miserables in Jerusalem!"

- Teresa Tomeo, Nationally syndicated Catholic Talk Show Host & best-selling author

"If priests brought this to other churches, their youth ministry would explode! If people opened their hearts and minds to feel what we felt here today, we could set the world ablaze!"

- Benjamin Woods, 17 year old, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Augustine FL

"They're taking the Stations off the walls and into the HEARTS of their people!"

- Val Clark, Channel 7 Action News Detroit

"I was skeptical, but I found NO religious compromises. In my mind it's right up there with perfect! It indeed was a true spiritual experience. I'm on fire!"

- Father Denis O'Shaughnessey, Mary Queen of Heaven, Jacksonville, FL

"Cross and ight brings the Gospel to life in all its beauty and power! ...a contemporary example of how the arts can evangelize by drawing upon the treasures of our faith, and then transmitting them through new signs, new symbols, and a new language."

- Fr. Eduardo Montemayor, SOLT, Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas

They're taking the Stations off the walls and into the HEARTS of their people!"
– Val Clark, Channel 7 Action News Detroit

"This powerful prayer brought both my husband and I back to the church after fifty years!"
– Kathy N., audience member

"When I was in college I saw Godspell and it stayed with me for months.
Living Stations will be with me forever!"
– 2011 Living Stations Audience Member

"I will never pray the Stations the same again!"
– Brother Jacob, St. Benedict Monastery

"It's a spiritual wake-up call! A visual realization of what Jesus went through on the cross."
– Brian Koziara, high school student who played John in 2009

"It was a fantastic performance of Broadway quality. You are touching thousands of lives. It is amazing what God has created through you and your team."
– Jack Krasula, Host of "Anything is Possible," WJR Radio 760am

"...amazing! It really made me feel like I was there during Jesus' time, experiencing the passion of Christ. Thank you! It was awesome! I hope we can come back next year"
– Kersten Everest Collegiate 9th Grader

I recently flew to Tampa, Florida to see the live production of The Cross and The Light. It was beautiful! To experience the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Pentecost was powerful. The show was something the entire family can enjoy. By the end of the show I was spiritually enriched.

– Larry Massey, President of the Scanlan Foundation, Archdiocese of Houston/Galveston, Texas

"A powerful example of the New Evangelization in action in Archdiocese of Detroit."
– Kathleen Lindemann, Northeast Regional Director of Evangelization, Archdiocese of Detroit

SCENE LIST

SCENE 1 Palm Sunday in Jerusalem

“Hosanna”Company

SCENE 2 The Last Supper in the Upper Room

“Follow”Jesus, Peter, and Apostles

“Do You Believe”Jesus

“Three Years”Judas

SCENE 3 Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives

“Not Crucified” Jesus

SCENE 4 Jesus is Betrayed by Judas

SCENE 5 Jesus is Condemned to Death by the Sanhedrin

“A Lunatic, A Liar”Caiphas and Priests

SCENE 6 Jesus is Betrayed by Peter

“Not Him”Peter and Mary Cleophus

SCENE 7 Pilate’s Struggle with Truth

“Damned If I Do”Pontius Pilate

SCENE 8 Jesus is Flogged and Crowned with Thorns

“No Hope For Me”Mary Magdalene, Mary Cleophus
Blessed Mother

SCENE 9 Jesus is Sentence to Death by Pontius Pilate

“Pilate’s Lament”Pontius Pilate

SCENE 10 Jesus is Crucified

“In the Distance/Our Father”Thomas, Peter, Judas, Mary
Magdalene, Mary Cleophus and
Blessed Mother

- SCENE 11 Jesus Prays on the Cross to His Father
 "Follow Reprise"Jesus
- SCENE 12 Crucifixion Scene
 "From The Cross"Singing Soldier
 "Where Are Your Miracles Now?"Caiphas and Priests
 "My Son"Blessed Mother
- SCENE 13 Jesus Dies on the Cross
 Reprise: "Follow, It is Finished"Jesus and Blessed Mother
- SCENE 14 Jesus' Body is Placed in the Tomb
 "Jesus Remember Me"Mary Magdalene, Mary
 Cleophus & Blessed Mother
- SCENE 15 Mary Magdalene Shares the Good News with the Apostles
 "He's Alive"Mary Magdalene &
 Company
- SCENE 16 The Risen Lord Appears to Thomas
 "I Need To See"Thomas, Peter, and James
- SCENE 17 The Risen Lord Forgives Peter and Entrusts Him to Feed His Sheep
 "One Heart, Mind, One Faith"Jesus and Peter
- SCENE 18 The Risen Lord Ascends into Heaven
 "In My Name"Jesus, Peter, Thomas, &
 James
- SCENE 19 Jesus' Mother Prays to Her Son
 "One More Moment"Blessed Mother
- SCENE 20 The Risen Lord Sends the Holy Spirit, The First Pentecost
 "Finale"Company