

Review for Christian Bible Drama Series

Author's Insights

PASTOR ERROL LESLIE

Rev. Dr. Errol E. Leslie is the founding pastor of Grace and Mercy Ministries Inc. in Palm Bay, Florida where he presently resides. He is originally from Jamaica and in August of 1995 along with his family he immigrated to the USA. Prior to that, he had worked as a Methodist minister in the Caribbean. After transferring to the United States, he continued his ministry at five separate congregations within the United Methodist Church in the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Florida.

Early in his life, he found that he had a natural and innate love for music and drama. Over the duration of his ministry, he wrote several plays and skits with a Christian message. Among these productions are two full-length Christmas musicals which are based on the Christmas narrative as we know it from the Bible, but he added some imaginary scenes and characters which are not detailed in the biblical narrative. He is also a singer and a self-taught musician with the gift of being able to play several musical instruments. As such, for a long time, his family participated in a reggae gospel music ministry where they were able to minister in song to several audiences all over Jamaica and in several states within the USA. During the process, they were able to release three separate musical CDs. More recently, he also released a solo acapella album comprising older gospel songs. For this project, he was able to use what he deems to be his God-given gift of creating harmony to lay several separate vocal tracks using only his voice. The net effect is that on the project, he created the feel of an all-male acapella group using just his voice alone. This latest acapella CD is titled "The Old Time Religion" and is available on all the major musical platforms including Spotify, iTunes, Apple, and Amazon.

He received his BA in theology from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica, in 1978 and his Doctor of Ministry (D Min) from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, in 1991.

He has written two separate books, and both were triggered or inspired by different events in his life. His latest book is the first in a series entitled CHRISTIAN BIBLE DRAMA SERIES.

The original publisher, **Christian Faith Publishing** describes it as an engaging pair of complete musical productions.

The summary of the release is also described as: Two Musicals: Same Story, Same Message, Same Jesus, Different Plots” in which author Rev. Dr. Errol E. Leslie offers a duo of dramas that can be used in full or as individual scenes to enrich the celebration and study of key components of the Christian faith.

Rev Dr Leslie offered his own comments on the project.

These separate plots were developed as “I tried to put myself in the towns or villages where the story unfolded in real time.” He writes further. *Now, in the gospel of John, the writer ends the story by stating the purpose of writing the Gospel. This purpose is recorded in verses 30 and 31 of chapter 20. Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Based on this ending, it stands to reason that for even the other Bible stories which are included in scripture, many details have been left out because the respective writers can say so much and no more. Have you ever wondered what details might have been left out of the Christmas narrative as we know them? It is that kind of curiosity which sparked the imaginative thoughts that brought these two Christmas musicals together.

The characters were normal human beings with emotions. If you think of it, Joseph would have been jealous and angry when he thought that Mary was unfaithful to him. That kind of emotion might have led to a verbal showdown between the two until the angel appeared to Joseph directly. In turn, Mary must have been distraught that Joseph kept accusing her wrongly and that he continued to question her integrity. Why was he going to break off the engagement? Did he not trust and have confidence in the innocent virgin? Both

Mary and Joseph would have had parents too, so how did they come into the picture? What were their immediate thoughts when news of the miracle pregnancy unfolded? There might have been uncertainty and confusion, even among the people of God. One may even assume that there may have been gossips in that society who, like some persons today, just enjoyed embellishing stories which sounded juicy.

At the other end of the spectrum, one wonders what the atmosphere may have been like in the palace of Herod. Was it all anger and jealousy which prevailed, or did the raw human emotions of nervousness and anxiety come to the fore?

A Dream Come True and Believe Me, I Believe depict the Christmas narrative fully as described in the Bible. However, some of these thoughts and questions come out very clearly during the plot. In a combination of poetry and drama, music and dance, the story with the added imaginative scenes unfolds with all these elements interwoven into one continuous narrative.

EXPLORABOOKS, BOOK REVIEW: ONE

"Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" takes readers on an extraordinary journey, diving deep into the untold emotions and unexplored details of the beloved Christmas narrative. Weaving together poetry, drama, music, and dance, the book breathes new life into the characters and events of that transformative season. **It delves into the doubts, conflicts, and human experiences that surrounded the birth of Jesus,** capturing the hearts and imaginations of readers.

The musical creates a visually captivating and emotionally resonant adaptation that will engage and inspire audiences worldwide. It holds immense potential to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impact. It will transport viewers into the vibrant scenes, immerse them in the characters' emotions, and allow them to experience the Christmas story in a profoundly personal way. The added visual and auditory elements will deepen the connection between the audience and the narrative, making it a truly transformative and memorable experience.

EXPLORABOOKS, BOOK REVIEW: TWO

"Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" is an exceptional literary work that beautifully reimagines the timeless tale of the Christmas narrative. Pastor Leslie's revised edition takes readers on a captivating journey, exploring the untold emotions, conflicts, and intricate details surrounding the birth of Jesus. Through a masterful blend of poetry, drama, music, and dance, the author breathes new life into familiar characters and events, leaving readers spellbound.

What sets this book apart is its ability to **evoke a deep sense of empathy and connection with the characters.** Pastor Leslie artfully delves into the inner thoughts and struggles of figures like Joseph and Mary, inviting readers to experience their doubts, fears, and unwavering faith. By peeling back the layers of these characters' humanity, the author unveils a profound and relatable narrative that resonates with readers on a personal level.

The imaginative retelling of the Christmas story is nothing short of captivating. The inclusion of imaginative scenes and interwoven elements adds richness and depth to the familiar plot, sparking curiosity and challenging readers to contemplate the untold aspects of this transformative season. The author's vivid descriptions and meticulous attention to detail create a vivid tapestry that transports readers to the heart of biblical times.

Rating: ★★★★★ (5/5)

"Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" is a literary masterpiece that deserves the highest praise. This book's adaptation potential is undeniable, as its powerful imagery and emotional depth make it a perfect candidate for the big screen. The cinematic adaptation has the potential to mesmerize audiences and bring the profound message of the Christmas narrative to a wider audience. Pastor Leslie's work is a testament to the enduring power of storytelling, and this book is a must-read for anyone seeking a fresh and evocative retelling of the Christmas story.

Vision:

Our vision is to create a cinematic masterpiece that not only entertains but also enlightens and inspires viewers. Through "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition," we aim to touch the hearts of audiences, igniting a renewed sense of faith and hope. By staying true to the underlying theme of evangelism, the adaptation will encourage viewers to believe in Jesus and embrace the transformative power of His love.

In order to embark on this extraordinary journey, we kindly request your collaboration in securing the necessary permissions and agreements. Your invaluable support will enable us to initiate the adaptation process and bring your visionary work to the silver screen.

We are excited about the potential of "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" as a cinematic masterpiece, and we believe that together, we can create an awe-inspiring movie that resonates with audiences around the world.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We eagerly await the opportunity to collaborate with you and bring your imaginative retelling of the Christmas story to life on the big screen.

Warmest regards,

I hope this message finds you filled with inspiration and creativity. It is with great excitement that I reach out to you on behalf of Explora Books, a visionary production company committed to bringing captivating stories to life on the silver screen. Your remarkable work, "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" (Revised Edition): Two Musicals: Same Story, Same Message, Same Jesus, Different Plots," has caught our attention, and we are thrilled by its potential to enchant audiences as a powerful cinematic experience.

Proposal:

Explora Books envisions bringing your book to the big screen, creating a visually captivating and emotionally resonant adaptation that engages and inspires audiences worldwide. Our team of esteemed producers, executives, and directors is passionate about preserving the essence of your work while elevating it with the cinematic elements that make a truly unforgettable movie.

Adaptation Potential:

The adaptation of "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" holds immense potential to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impact. By harnessing the power of film, we can transport viewers into the vibrant scenes, immerse them in the characters' emotions, and allow them to experience the Christmas story in a profoundly personal way. The added visual and auditory elements will deepen the connection between the audience and the narrative, making it a truly transformative and memorable experience.

Highlights:

Emotional depth: The adaptation will bring to life the raw human emotions and conflicts faced by characters like Joseph and Mary, offering a fresh and relatable perspective on their journey. Audiences will witness their doubts, struggles, and unwavering faith, forging a profound connection with the story.

Imaginative retelling: By incorporating imaginative scenes and interwoven elements, the adaptation will breathe new life into the Christmas story, offering a unique and captivating take on its timeless themes. This creative approach will engage viewers and spark their curiosity, inviting them to reflect on the narrative in fresh and thought-provoking ways.

Cinematic spectacle: The adaptation will leverage the power of cinema to create visually stunning and awe-inspiring scenes. From evocative landscapes to exquisite set designs, audiences will be transported to the heart of the biblical world, enveloped in the magic and wonder of the Christmas story.

Rating: ★★★★★ (5/5)

Online BookClub.org Review

Michael Valentine

Rating: ★★★★★ (5/5)

16 Jun 2023, 03:48

Rev. Dr. Errol E. Leslie creates two storylines that portray the events leading up to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in his book, Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition. This book is a collection of two dramas with the same message: the birth of Jesus Christ. Despite the differences in the storylines of both stories, certain key characters and events remain constant, such as the villainous character of King Herod and the saving power of God.

The stories involve the divine conception of a poor young girl, Mary, who was, at the time, betrothed to a young carpenter named Joseph. She gets that this may affect her engagement with him, but with the help of an angel, Joseph still takes her as his wife. When they eventually give birth to the child, King Herod does everything within his power to see that the ancient prophecy about the child does not come to pass.

Leslie uses this book to teach about the origin of Christmas and the importance of the celebration of Christmas in the Christian faith. The book has a touch of humor. For example, in the first story, despite the depletion of gold in Herod's country, the three wise men he sent to visit baby Jesus took gold to give him as one of the presents.

There are certain positive aspects of the book. First, the book is written in a simple and understandable language. Second, the author uses the book to teach certain lessons to Christians. For example, the author taught that God will not allow a person to be in a situation that the person cannot handle. This is exemplified in the story involving Mary when she was afraid of how Joseph would react to the news of her pregnancy. The book also teaches that God will certainly do everything to guide His own. Despite King Herod's decree for the

killing of male children under the age of two, God still saved baby Jesus. Another positive aspect of the book is that it contains songs that can be sung independently during Christmas, and the author also provides the sol-fa notations of some songs.

I only found one error in the book. This shows that the book was professionally edited. Added to the positives identified above, I will be giving the book five out of five stars. The negative aspect I found was insufficient to deduct a star from my rating. I recommend this book to all Christians, especially those interested in Christmas dramas.

Professional Book Review

Jacob Mendez

Rating: ★★★★★ (5/5)

"Rev. Dr. Errol E. Leslie's "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" presents two engaging musicals that capture the essence of the Christmas story. Both musicals share the same core message and the central figure of Jesus, yet they unfold through different plots, offering fresh and creative perspectives on the timeless tale. Leslie's work is both accessible and deeply meaningful, making it a wonderful addition to any Christmas celebration, whether for personal enjoyment or church performances.

Rev. Dr. Errol E. Leslie's "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" is a captivating collection that brings the Christmas narrative to life through two unique musicals. Despite differing in plot, both pieces converge on the same central message: the birth and significance of Jesus Christ. Leslie masterfully balances creativity and theological depth, ensuring that each musical resonates with both its narrative innovation and its faithfulness to the Biblical account.

The first musical offers a traditional take on the Christmas story, filled with familiar characters and scenes that evoke the warmth and wonder of the Nativity. Through thoughtful dialogue and stirring musical numbers, Leslie captures the profound simplicity of Christ's birth, emphasizing themes of hope,

love, and divine intervention. The traditional elements are presented with a fresh vibrancy that engages both new audiences and those well-versed in the Christmas narrative.

The second musical diverges in its plot, presenting the Christmas story through a contemporary lens or an alternative setting. This approach not only showcases Leslie's creative prowess but also serves to highlight the timeless and universal relevance of the Christmas message. By placing familiar events in new contexts, he invites the audience to see the story from different angles, deepening their understanding and appreciation of its core message.

Leslie's work is marked by his eloquent writing and deep theological insight, making these musicals more than mere performances—they are profound explorations of faith and the transformative power of Jesus's birth. His attention to detail in character development, setting, and musical composition ensures that both pieces are rich, engaging, and spiritually uplifting.

"Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition" is an invaluable resource for churches and Christian communities looking to celebrate the Christmas season with meaningful and engaging performances. Rev. Dr. Errol E. Leslie has created a work that not only entertains but also enriches the spiritual life of its audience, making the timeless story of Christmas both accessible and deeply impactful.

Review by DC Literary – Maggie Torres

This review is a projection on the potential movie adaptation and for that purpose, it is renamed "***The Christmas Journey***"

"The Christmas Journey" is a spectacular and emotionally resonant cinematic adaptation of the book "Christian Bible Drama Series, Christmas Edition (Revised Edition)." This captivating film brings to life the untold details and deep emotions surrounding the Christmas story, offering a fresh and visually stunning perspective on this beloved narrative.

Set in the ancient world, "The Christmas Journey" takes audiences on a breathtaking and immersive adventure through the lives of Joseph, Mary, and the other key characters of the Christmas narrative. The film

explores the doubts, challenges, and profound faith that shaped their journey, while also delving into the societal pressures, gossip, and rumors that surrounded them.

Through meticulous attention to historical accuracy and awe-inspiring visual effects, "The Christmas Journey" transports viewers to the bustling streets of Bethlehem, the majestic halls of Herod's palace, and the serene beauty of the Judean countryside. The film's stunning cinematography and intricate set designs create a visually mesmerizing experience that truly brings the ancient world to life.

At the heart of "The Christmas Journey" are its powerful musical numbers. From soul-stirring solos to breathtaking ensemble performances, the film's original songs and choreography elevate the storytelling to new heights. Each musical moment serves as a window into the characters' innermost thoughts and emotions, allowing the audience to connect deeply with their journey and experiences.

As the story unfolds, "The Christmas Journey" emphasizes the universal themes of love, hope, and redemption. It showcases the transformative power of faith and the profound impact that a single act of obedience can have on the world. Through its engaging narrative and heartfelt performances, the film invites viewers to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the enduring message of peace and goodwill.

"The Christmas Journey" is a cinematic experience that will captivate audiences of all ages, believers and non-believers alike. It celebrates the beauty of the Christmas story while offering a fresh perspective that resonates with modern audiences. This visually stunning and emotionally resonant film is destined to become a beloved holiday classic, reminding us all of the power of faith, love, and the Christmas spirit.

BELIEVE ME, I BELIEVE is a Christmas musical written by Rev Dr. Errol E Leslie who presents the Christmas story through a contemporary lens or an alternative setting. This approach also serves to highlight the timeless and universal relevance of the Christmas message. By placing familiar events in new and creative contexts, he invites the audience to see the story from different angles, deepening their understanding and

appreciation of its core message. It delves into the doubts, conflicts, and human experiences that surrounded the birth of Jesus, capturing the hearts and imaginations of readers. The book breathes new life into the characters and events of that transformative season.

The story depicts the Christmas narrative fully as described in the Bible. In a combination of poetry and drama, music and dance, the story with the added imaginative scenes unfolds with all these elements interwoven into one continuous narrative.

What sets this book apart is its ability to evoke a deep sense of empathy and connection with the characters. Pastor Leslie artfully delves into the inner thoughts and struggles of figures like Joseph and Mary, inviting readers to experience their doubts, fears, and unwavering faith. By peeling back the layers of these characters' humanity, Rev Dr Leslie unveils a profound and relatable narrative that resonates with audiences on a personal level. enjoyed embellishing stories which sounded juicy.

Set in the ancient world, "The Christmas Journey" takes audiences on a breathtaking and immersive adventure through the lives of Joseph, Mary, and the other key characters of the Christmas narrative. The film explores the doubts, challenges, and profound faith that shaped their journey, while also delving into the societal pressures, gossip, and rumors that surrounded them.

The characters were normal human beings with emotions. If you think of it, Joseph would have been jealous and angry when he thought that Mary was unfaithful to him. This is exemplified in the story involving Mary when she was afraid of how Joseph would react to the news of her pregnancy. That kind of emotion might have led to a verbal showdown between the two until the angel appeared to Joseph directly.

In turn, Mary must have been both scared and distraught that Joseph kept accusing her wrongly and that he continued to question her integrity. Why was he going to break off the engagement? Did he not trust and have confidence in the innocent virgin? Both Mary and Joseph would have had parents too, so how did they come into the picture? What were their immediate thoughts when news of the miracle pregnancy unfolded. At the other end of the spectrum, one wonders what the atmosphere may have been like in the palace of Herod. Was it

all anger and jealousy which prevailed, or did the raw human emotions of nervousness and anxiety come to the fore?

In ***BELIEVE ME, I BELIEVE*** we see miracle after miracle and the characters move from a state of doubt and uncertainty to a state of assurance, confidence and conviction.

A DREAM COME TRUE is a Christmas Musical written by Rev Dr. Errol E. Leslie and it offers a traditional take on the traditional Christmas story, filled with familiar characters and scenes that evoke the warmth and wonder of the Nativity. Through thoughtful dialogue and stirring musical numbers, Rev Leslie captures the profound simplicity of Christ's birth, emphasizing themes of hope, love, and divine intervention. The traditional elements are presented with a fresh vibrancy that engages both new audiences and those well-versed in the Christmas narrative.

Through meticulous attention to historical accuracy and awe-inspiring visual effects, "The Christmas Journey" transports viewers to the bustling streets of Bethlehem, the majestic halls of Herod's palace, and the serene beauty of the Judean countryside.

The narrative starts with characters in the Old Testament acknowledging God's power and love through creation, but these same people fell into sin as they disobeyed God continuously. There were many prophets who were sent by God to warn the people of Israel. Some people heeded the warning while others took it lightly. So, when the announcement was made that the long-awaited messiah was born in the form of baby Jesus, there were persons even outside of the palace of Herod who were also skeptical and who hastily dismissed the thought.

However, there were some persons who truly became burdened by the message of the prophets and became worried that they were going to be punished by God for their ongoing sinfulness. These were the persons who embraced the message of the heralds and the shepherds who broadcast the message of Jesus's birth. It truly also represents what happens now where many persons continue to believe the message taught by Jesus and by those who have been called to continue His ministry.

At the other end of the spectrum, one wonders what the atmosphere may have been like in the palace of Herod. Was it all anger and jealousy which prevailed, or did the raw human emotions of nervousness and anxiety come to the fore? The villainous character of King Herod and the saving power of God are scenes played against each other. Despite King Herod's decree for the killing of male children under the age of two, God still saved baby Jesus. King Herod does everything within his power to see that the ancient prophecy about the child does not come to pass.

The adaptation will bring to life the raw human emotions and conflicts faced by characters like Joseph and Mary, offering a fresh and relatable perspective on their journey. Audiences will witness their doubts, struggles, and unwavering faith, forging a profound connection with the story.

Imaginative retelling: By incorporating imaginative scenes and interwoven elements, the adaptation will breathe new life into the Christmas story, offering a unique and captivating take on its timeless themes. This creative approach will engage viewers and spark their curiosity, inviting them to reflect on the narrative in fresh and thought-provoking ways.

In ***A DREAM COME TRUE***, we see the experience of the Israelites from the first creation to the new creation and from the prophets to the Christ. We see lives and situation transformed from despair to hope; from anxiety to peacefulness and calm; from fear to confidence and from sorrow to joy in a combination of poetry and drama, music and dance, the story with the added imaginative scenes unfold with all these elements interwoven into one continuous narrative.