

IT'S MY LIFE

Concept: Tanya Price, Jessica Braun
Choreography: Tanya Price, Jessica Braun, Michelle Renaud
Song: It's My Life
Artist: Dr. Alban
CD: One Love
Biblical Reference: John 11:25, 12:25; Matthew 10:39

This drama portrays six characters participating in various activities that occupy their lives. Some of these activities are good: others are detrimental. All the while, Jesus stands in the middle gently urging all to give their lives to Him. Jesus asks for each character's life, but they all refuse and keep their lives as their own. The more they refuse, the heavier the burden of their sin weighs down upon them. Soon they are trapped, shovelling and being dragged by a chain, symbolizing their captivity to sin. Jesus dies and is resurrected, showing them the reason that their lives belong to Him. Some see their need for Him and give their hearts to Jesus. He breaks their chains and sets them free. To others, Jesus continues to invite, but they reject Him and cling to their own lives.

LYRICS

It's my life, take it or leave it
Set me free, what's that crap
Papa-know-it-all
I got my own life, you got your own life
Live your own life and set me free
Mind your business and leave my business
You know everything, papa-know-it-all
Very little knowledge is dangerous
Stop bugging me, stop bothering me
Stop bugging me, stop forcing me
Stop fighting me, stop yelling at me

[CHORUS]

It's my life (it's my life) (x5)

It's my life, do you understand
I live the way I want to live
I make decisions day and night
Show me signs and good examples
Stop telling people how to run your business
Take a trip to east and west
You'll find that you don't know anything
Everybody's getting tired of you

Sometimes you have to look and listen
You can even learn from me
Little knowledge is dangerous

[CHORUS]

It's my life, set me free
So you beg, so you lie
What you see is what you get
Listen to people and sort things out
Things I do I do them no more
Things I say I say them no more
Changes come once in a lifetime
Stop bugging me, stop bothering me
Stop bugging me, stop forcing me
Stop fighting me, stop yelling at me
Stop telling me, stop saying me

[CHORUS]

It's my life (x8)
(stop fighting me, stop bugging me, stop forcing me, stop yelling at me)

CHARACTERS

(Characters change throughout the drama, but for the sake of simplicity, each is called according to an identity, usually the first trait they demonstrate)

Vain: female
Dancer: female
Relationship girl: female
Relationship guy: male
Abuse girl: female
Abuse guy: male
Jesus: male

PROPS/COSTUMES

1 white shirt

OVERVIEW OF ALL MEASURES

(each measure is 4 beats)

4	Characters frozen in starting position	8	Chorus
4	4 Hand sweeps	2	Mirror/partners
4	8 Face sweeps	2	Smoking
4	Abstract hands; freeze	2	Martial arts
8	slam and walk around Jesus	2	Snaps/ spin back into position
		4	7 slams
2	Vain		
2	Religion	8	Chorus
2	Drinking		
2	Relationship	6	6 shovels
2	Dancer	1	Turn to opposite direction
2	3 slams	8	4 pulls of chain
		2	Drop chain; move into position
8	Chorus	8	Crucifixion and resurrection
		8	Jesus frees repenters
2	Push-ups	9	Rejecting of Jesus
2	Abuse	2	Characters make final motion; freeze
2	Drugs		
2	Painting		
4	Fight scene		

DETAILED DRAMA SCRIPT

(see glossary at end of script for explanations of underlined terms)

At the start of the drama, all characters form a hexagon and freeze in corresponding positions facing the audience. Vain and Dancer are downstage on a low knee with their right knees up and their fists crossed below their eyes. Vain stage left, Dancer stage right. Abuse girl and Relationship girl are in the second row, stage left and stage right respectively. Their hands frame the top and the bottom of their faces with their right hands in front of their foreheads and their left hands right below their chins, palms out and fingers spread. Their feet are together with their knees slightly bent. Abuse guy (upstage left) and Relationship guy (upstage right) stand up straight in line with Vain and Dancer, feet together. Their fists are held just under their eyes with arms touching together. Jesus is standing in the center of the hexagon with feet together and head down.

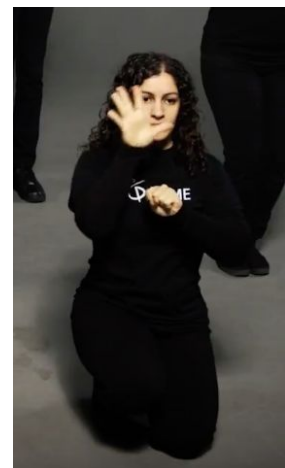


[4 measures] All Characters are frozen in their starting positions.



[4 measures] The six hexagon characters move in unison. Standing or kneeling in their original positions, each person's right hand traces a semi-circle in front of their body at shoulder height, palms down, fingers together (see left photo). Their hands move from left to right; character's eyes should follow their hands. The opposite hand should be on their hip. Each 'arm glide' will take 1 measure. In the next measure, characters do the same motion with the opposite arm, on the opposite side. These 2 measures are replicated for measures 3 and 4.

[4 measures] At double the time of the previous motion, characters open their hands in front of their face with their palms out (see photo right). Each 'face sweep' is 2 beats; characters complete 8 total, staring blankly straight ahead. Starting on sweep 5 (measure 3) all characters stand to full height, standing by sweep 8.



[4 measure] Still staring straight ahead, characters do abstract hands for 3 measures (14 beats). On beat 3 of measure 3, characters freeze with their hands framing their faces for 2 beats. Right hand should be in front of forehead, left hand directly below chin, and arms horizontal and parallel with one another and palms out.

[8 measures] Characters immediately slam Jesus for 2 beats then begin walking clockwise around Him, stepping on the beat. As they walk, they spit, point, and throw rocks at Jesus, lashing out at Him. Everyone walks back to their original positions, continuing to step on the beat, maintaining movement for the entire allotted time.

Meanwhile, after remaining frozen while the other characters perform abstract motions in unison, Jesus' head comes up sharply as the other characters slam (beat 1) and he takes on his character immediately. As they mock him, he turns counter-clockwise slowly, reaching out to them with compassion but saddened by their rejection. By the end of the 8 measures, he is again facing forward.

After circling Jesus, all characters freeze on beat 1 of the next measure except Vain, who begins her actions. Dancer, Relationship girl, and Abuse girl freeze standing arms at their sides, feet together, but Relationship guy and Abuse guy slam Jesus on beat 1 and freeze in this position.

[Each character is frozen until their measures of movement and again immediately after. Each character's time of movement, although usually consisting of 2 measures or 8 beats, is normally 4 clear moves.]

[2 measures] Representing pride, vanity: For 2 beats, Vain grazes her right hip with her right hand; her left hip with her left hand; her right temple with her right hand; her left temple with her left hand.

[2 measures] Representing religion: Dancer and Relationship girl move their hands with their index fingers and thumbs together in front of themselves for 2 beats as if drawing the McDonald's arches. On beats 3-4 both girls drop to their knees. In the next measure Dancer crosses her legs behind her then sits back ending with her hands in a meditation pose on beats 3-4. In the second measure Relationship girl bows down face forward ending with her hands above her head, palms down on the ground on beats 3-4

[2 measures] Representing a drinking party scene: Vain and Abuse girl turn towards one another, keeping their bodies open to the audience, and on beats 1-2 open a hand to represent a glass (Vain-left hand; Abuse girl- right hand). On beats 3-4 each girl uses her opposite hand to pour herself a drink. In beats 1-2 in the second measure the girls clink their glasses resembling "cheers" then tip their hands back and drink on beats 3-4

Meanwhile, during beats 3-4 of the second measure of the drinking scene, Relationship girl stands and turns to face Relationship guy.

[2 measures] Representing finding one's worth in a relationship: Relationship girl's left hand and Relationship guy's right hand meet on beats 1-2, then their opposite hands meet on 3-4. Next the guy spins the girl under his arms on beats 1-2 of the second measure and the girl ends with her back against the guy's chest; the couple finishes the move and gazes happily at each other for beats 3-4.

Meanwhile, during beats 3-4 of the second measure of the Relationship couple's scene, Dancer stands.

[2 measures] Dancer puts her arms out horizontally to her sides, and rests her right foot on her left knee on beats 1-2 then moves her right toe out the right on ground while sweeping her right arm in towards her chest then out again on beats 3-4. She spins on the first 2 beats of the second measure, ending with her arms out and feet together on beats 3-4.

[2 measures] All characters slam Jesus 3 times, on beats 1, 3, and 1, freezing after the final slam.

[Chorus – 8 measures] When the individual vocalist sings "It's my life", Jesus mouths the words and invites the other characters towards Himself by reaching out His hands to them. When the group of vocalists sing "It's my life", all of the characters turn into Jesus and extend their arms with open hands to reach for Him, then pull back into themselves, also mouthing the words "It's my life". When the characters reach to Jesus they stand; when they pull back, they bend their knees and crouch down, their hands are clutched in fists at their chest. In this chorus, Jesus mouths "It's my life" and reaches out 4 times, as do the other characters

On the 5th "It's my life," Jesus reaches out to the characters again while Relationship guy turns to face center stage and drops to the ground to get ready for push-ups. The front 4 characters kneel on beat 1 of the next measure (the word "life").

[2 measures] Representing obsession with physical appearance and exercise: Relationship guy does two push-ups in slow motion. He lowers on beats 1-2 and pushes up on beats 3-4. Repeat for measure 2.

[2 measures] Representing domestic abuse: Abuse guy curls his fingers on his right hand to resemble a cup, tips it up and his head back to drink on beats 1 and 3. On these beats, Abuse girl faces him, keeping her body open to the audience, and waves her hands in front of Abuse guy's face mouthing 'No, No.' On beat 1 of the next measure, he backhands her across the face with his right hand, moving from left to right, then pushes her to the ground on beats 3-4. The girl turns away with her right hand on her right cheek on beat 1 and falls on beats 3-4. She should fall on her low knees crouching in a way so she is easily able to stand again.

[2 measures] Representing drug use: Dancer and Relationship girl stand immediately, holding their drugs in their right hands. Dancer forms her fingers around a syringe and Relationship girl sweeps her right fingers across her left palm on beat 3-4; Dancer injects her left arm and Relationship girl sniffs on beat 1 of the second measure. Both relax and drop their arms to their sides, portraying 'high' expressions on beat 3-4.

[2 measures] Representing finding one's worth in a hobby: Vain extends her left hand in front of her palm up, as if holding a palette on beats 1-2. On beats 3-4 she rubs a brush she is holding in her right hand in the paint. For beats 1-2 of the second measure, she paints gracefully in front of her, moving her hand from left to right. She freezes on beat 3.

Meanwhile, during beats 3-4 of painting scene, Relationship guy and Abuse guy stand; Relationship guy approaches Abuse guy to start a fight.

[4 measures] Representing violence:

1. Abuse guy punches Relationship guy in the face with his right fist on beats 1 and 3.
2. Relationship guy punches the face with his right fist on beat 1, but a punch with his left hand on beat 3 is blocked by Abuse guy's right arm.
3. Relationship guy punches Abuse guy in the stomach with his right fist on beats 1 and 3.
4. Relationship guy pushes Abuse guy to the ground on beat 1; then forms a gun and shoots on beat 3, Abuse guy flinches.

Both characters step into position immediately after fight scene for chorus.

[CHORUS – 8 measures] Same as previous chorus, except when Jesus reaches out on the 5th "It's my life," the other characters take the below steps to get ready for the "mirroring" below.

[2 measures] Immediately following the chorus, Relationship girl steps forward to the right of Dancer and stands facing her; Abuse girl steps to the right of Vain and stands facing her; Relationship guy and Abuse guy turn and face each other. On beats 1-2 and 3-4, all characters 'mirror' one another with the following actions:

Measure 1: Beats 1-2: Girls put eyeshadow on their audience eye with audience hand. Guys put aftershave on their audience cheek with audience hand.

Measure 1: Beats 3-4 : Girls put eyeshadow on their opposite eye with their audience hand. Guys put on aftershave on their opposite cheek with audience hand.

Measure 2: Beats 1-2: All characters sweep their hair back on their audience side of head with their audience hand.

Measure 2: Beats 3-4: All characters sweep their hair back on the opposite side of their head with their opposite hand.

[2 measures] All six characters immediately turn to face the audience. The character on the left in the pairs (Vain, Dancer, and Abuse guy) smokes with their right hand for 1-2 beats; on beats 3-4, they pass the cigarette to the character on their right, who reaches over and takes the cigarette with their left hand. On beats 1-2 of the second measure, the character on the right smokes; on beat 3, all six characters blow smoke over their left shoulder.

[2 measures] Starting on beat 4 of the previous measure, all six characters perform the following martial arts moves together:

Beat 4 (of previous measure): arms crossed in "X" in front of chest; hands in fists

Measure 1: Beat 1: Arms come down to sides in "A" shape, hands still in fists; right foot stomps out to the right.

Beat 2: Left fist punches; right fist pulled in towards chest.

Beat 3: Right fist punches; left fist pulled in towards chest

Beat 4: Right arm pulled in to left side of chest; left arm pulled back at elbow.

Measure 2: Beats 1-2: Stomp forward with right foot; right arm extends up to the right, palm down ("karate chop" the air.) Stay in position for beat 2.

Measure 2: Beats 3-4: Stomp forward with left foot, feet now shoulder-width apart; left arm extends and left wrist meets the right. Hands are now in an "X" in front of face, left wrist closest to audience. Stay in position for beat 4.

[2 measures] All characters turn to the left, stepping back to their original positions on beats 1 and 3. They also make the motion of snapping their fingers on these beats. Repeat for second measure so characters end up making a full circle to face audience again.

[4 measures] 7 slams on beats 1 and 3 of each measure (last is held for a full measure)

[Chorus – 8 measures] Same as previous chorus.

[6 measures] Representing the heaviness of their sin: All characters shovel 6 times, once per measure. As they shovel, they form 2 horizontal lines. The front line is led by Dancer, with Relationship girl and Relationship guy behind. They step with their left foot and holding it with their left hand below their right, push their shovels into the ground on beat 1. On beat 3 they throw the dirt over their left shoulder and drag their right foot forward so their feet are now together. The back line is led by Abuse guy with Abuse girl and Vain behind. They step with their right foot and holding it with their right hand



below their left, push their shovels into the ground on beat 1. On beat 3 they throw the dirt over their right shoulder and drag their left foot forward so their feet are now together.

[1 measure] After shovelling six times, characters turn to the opposite direction by spinning towards the audience and step with their back foot (right for front row, left for the back row) on beat 3.

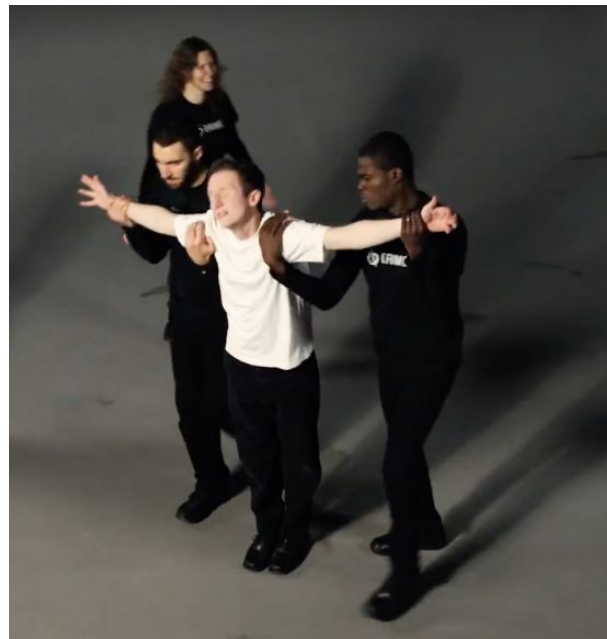


[8 measures] Characters pull a chain a total of 4 times, within 8 measures. Characters grab the chain with their back hand (right for the front row, left for the back row) on beat 1, then with their audience hand on beat 3, and pull the chain towards their body for the next full measure, sliding their audience foot forward so their feet are now together. This “step, grab, grab, pull” sequence is repeated 3 more times. The chain should be held at consistent width and height between all

characters.

[2 measures] Characters drop the chain (1 measure) and move into position: girls scatter to their original sides of the stage and guys move upstage and prepare for the crucifixion.

[8 measures] Guys have moved behind Jesus in the previous measure and Abuse guy grabs a whip from the ground. On beat 1 of measure 1, Abuse guy whips Jesus across His back, right to left. Jesus flinches for beats 2-4. In the next measure Relationship guy does the same motion, but from left to right. In measure 3, Abuse guy grabs Jesus’ left hand with his right and nails it twice with his left hand, on beats 1 and 3. Relationship guy does the same with Jesus’ right hand in measure 4, grabbing it with his left and nailing it with his right on beats 1 and 3. Abuse guy bends to nail Jesus’ feet on beats 1 and 3 of measure 5. Jesus suffers for 2 beats, and then lowers His head to represent death on beat 3 of measure 6. Both guys immediately grab Jesus under His shoulders and at His wrists



to lower Him to the ground for 1 measure,
then raise Him for one measure. After He is

raised, Jesus raises His hands in the air mouthing “It’s my life.”

Meanwhile, the girls watch the crucifixion while pointing, laughing and mocking Jesus. When Jesus is lowered, the girls rush over to Him and extend their hands, palms down, over Him as if creating a tomb. They raise their arms and move back as He is being raised.

[8 measures] Immediately after Jesus’ resurrection, all characters react with shock and surprise. Vain, Abuse guy and Relationship girl rush in front of Jesus and kneel on one knee. Their hands are extended in front of them in shackles, repenting and begging to be set free. Jesus frees each of these repenters by grabbing each of their wrists individually, then pulling them apart, breaking their shackles. Each of these motions is on a single word, “It’s”, “My”, “Life”. Characters arms move to a praise “V” position.

Meanwhile, immediately after Jesus’ resurrection, Dancer, Relationship guy and Abuse girl actively reject Jesus by pointing, yelling and mouthing some of the words of the song (“stop fighting me, stop bugging me, stop forcing me, stop yelling at me”).

[9 measures] After setting the repenters free, Jesus turns to the rejecters and asks for their lives. They continue to reject him.

[2 measures] On the last “It’s my life” Jesus returns to the repenters and mouths to the audience, extending His hands. On the final crescendo He slowly raises His hands while the others stop moving and look at Him. On the last beat, Jesus raises His hands to full height, repenters rise to high knees, and rejecters slam Jesus.



STAGE DIRECTIONS

backstage

upstage right	upstage	upstage left
stage right	center stage	stage left
downstage right	downstage	downstage left

audience

GLOSSARY

AUDIENCE EYE, CHEEK, HAND, OR FOOT: that which is closest to the audience

ABSTRACT HANDS: move hands loosely and quickly in front of face



PRAISE: extend hands out and up in front of self, palms up



HIGH KNEES: kneeling up straight, as tall as possible



SLAM: extend both arms to one side at shoulder height, away from body, palms out and face turned away



LOW KNEES: kneeling low, sitting back on one's feet