

# If I Only Knew Your Name

## A Musical Play in Two Acts

### The Story



Kevin O'Brian grew up in a rough part of East Boston. As a teenager, he saw his brother shot to death in a barroom brawl. Years later, after a bitter divorce, Kevin lost himself in petty crime and drug addiction and wound up in prison. In February 1969, out of prison for two years, 50-year-old Kevin lives alone with Jake, his goldfish, in a one-room flat in a tenement building overlooking a street not much different from those of his childhood. He's clean now and works a minimum-wage job on the docks and visits occasionally with Frankie, a local letter carrier and a friend from the old days. But it's not enough. Kevin longs for a family of his own. In the dead of winter he befriends the Hooker (as she is known throughout the majority of the play), a neighborhood prostitute who works the streetlight underneath his window. Although initially cautious, they quickly warm to one another and recognize their paths through life haven't been that different. But even as they become more intimate, there's one thing she won't reveal to Kevin: her name. And he keeps a secret as well.

Together Kevin and the Hooker explore, confront and ultimately triumph over their harsh pasts. The 13 original songs in the play are performed live by charted Americana recording artist Arthur Godfrey, who acts as a musical narrator of sorts. The full-length, two-act, play opens and closes with Godfrey alone onstage, and the actions of the characters take place in his memory as he plays the songs and reflects on an eight-month period at the close of the 1960s.

### About the Authors



#### Arthur Godfrey

Arthur Godfrey may not sound like your typical singer-songwriter, but one listen to his gritty songs about life and surviving reveals the soul of a poet (*Performing Songwriter* magazine, July/August 2005). In 2001 Godfrey released his critically acclaimed CD *East Side of Town*, catching the attention of actor/director Sean Penn. He's won the prestigious John Lennon Songwriting Contest twice and been featured on the Americana Music Association's 2004 compilation CD with such artists as Willie Nelson, Lucinda Williams and the late Johnny Cash. Having achieved recognition among music-industry peers, he's now focusing on taking this play, his first work for the stage, on the road. Godfrey, who acts as a musical narrator of sorts during the play, performs the 13 original songs in *If I Only Knew Your Name* live during each performance, and the play opens and closes with Godfrey alone onstage.

"Arthur Godfrey is a deeply moving storyteller with a vocal grace and an acute heart." — Sean Penn, Actor/Director



#### Edward Pittman

Edward Pittman's writing runs the gamut from screenwriting to fiction to songwriting to poetry. His first feature screenplay, *Second Coming*, is currently making the rounds in Hollywood and his poems have been featured in *Image Magazine*, *Sidewinder*, *Analecta* and *Wellspring*. This is his first work for the stage. In addition to creative pursuits, Pittman has been a communications and graphics professional for more than 20 years. His writing accomplishments include numerous one-on-one interviews with such luminaries as Secretary of State Colin Powell, Lance Armstrong, Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper, Norman Swazkopf (U.S. Army, Ret.), famed heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley, NASA mission commander Glynn S. Lunney and such sports legends as Troy Aikman, Jimmy Connors and Evandor Holyfield, among many others.

### Booking

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