

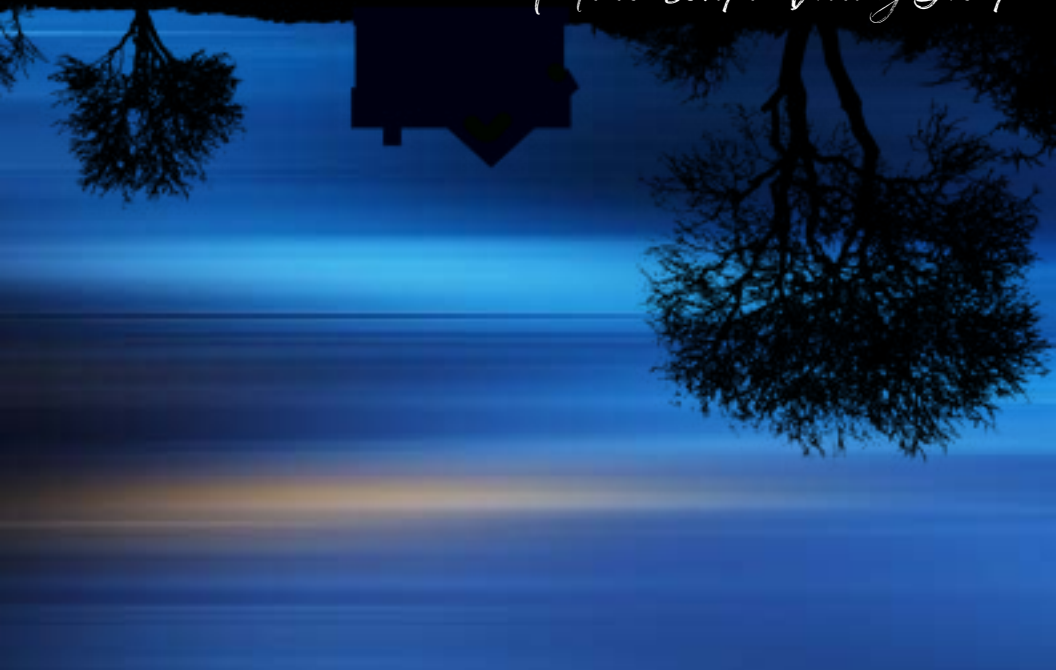


The Veteran's Spouse Project
Telling generations of stories



in ★ **BETWEEN**

*by Amy Uptgraft and the members of the
Heart to Script Writing Group*





in★ **BETWEEN**

*by Amy Uptgraft and the members of
the Heart to Script Writing Group*

Sponsored by



*Performed with permission by playwright Amy Uptgraft.
First public reading performed in Knoxville, Tennessee
at the Old City Performing Arts Center.*

Director's Notes

When I taught my first Heart to Script class back in OCT 2020, the world had turned upside down. Life was uncertain, unsteady, surreal. As I clicked open the Zoom class link and saw those fellow military spouses' faces staring back at me, I felt us all collectively sigh. We would be okay; we knew how to do this - the unknown path ahead. In fact, it is our specialty.

In class after class, I watched as spouses poured their guts into writing monologues based on their lives, and I was so inspired by what they showed me. Honesty, vulnerability, authenticity - it is my honor and privilege to share those stories with you tonight. May your heart be opened by their bravery and by their lives lived in the "in*Between."

Amy Uptgraft

Cast

DELTA- Nancy Duckles

SIERRA- Val Landrum*

JULIETT- Isabella Minter

PLAYER 2- Jae Campbell

PLAYER 3- Claire Whitehead

PLAYER 4- Terri Lloyd

PLAYER 5- Kelley Gray

STAGE DIRECTION - Amy Uptgraft

* Appears courtesy of Actors Equity Association



Production Team

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Scott Baron

VIDEOGRAPHER - Jacob Dean

GRAPHIC DESIGN - Terri Lloyd

MARKETING & PR - Lydia Magallanes

VSP's Internal Team

Executive & Development Director - Lea Johnson

Accounting & Finance Director - Kristie Rigdon

Business & Marketing Manager - Audra Edwards

Special Thanks

Christina Chase, Corvias

Amanda Pagani, Mesa Associates, Inc.

Jerry & Lisa Williams, Trinity Homecare &
Consulting Services, LLC

JJ Montanaro, USAA

Mike Guzman, Northwestern Mutual

Oak Ridge High School

Peyton Uptgraft

Writers

We want to thank all of the military spouses who contributed their stories to *in*Between*, to include those who wish to remain anonymous.



Amy Uptgraft is the co-founder and artistic director of The Veteran's Spouse Project and playwright of the plays, *I Will Wait*, *Ridge Where They Cry* and

*in*Between*. Amy grew up in Woodburn, Indiana and received her BA in theatre performance from Purdue University. She spent several years as a working actor in New York City and trained with the Public Theatre's Shakespeare Lab. She has performed in numerous productions around the country as well as taught hundreds of students, directing shows from Alaska to Georgia. Amy is also co-authoring a book based on the story of famed military spouse, Jeannie Puckett. Amy was a proud military spouse for 21 years before her husband, LTC (R) Jamie Uptgraft retired from the Army. Amy, Jamie and their four children settled in Oak Ridge, TN where she continues to write, act and direct.



Lea Johnson is the co-founder and VSP Executive and Development Director. Lea has been a business owner for much of her life and has dabbled in entrepreneurship. Lea grew up in Daytona Beach, FL and attended the University of

Florida. She has been a proud military spouse for 20 years, following her husband, COL Rick Johnson, to 12 duty stations. They currently live in West Point, NY with their three children as they eagerly await Rick's retirement and a "forever" move to Alaska.



Kristie Rigdon is the Accounting and Finance Director of VSP. She has a BS in accounting from Truman State University and has worked in various business positions ranging from management to financial advising over the

last 10 years. She is a proud military spouse of 10 years and has 3 young children whom she homeschools. Whenever possible, she is enjoying the outdoors with her family, exploring their current duty station or finding a new medium of art to create with.



Audra Edwards is the Business and Marketing Manager of Veteran's Spouse Project, along with a writer and editor. She received her B.A. in English and Communication at Indiana University before traveling the world. Returning to the States to complete her M.A. in Secondary English Education at West

Virginia University, she taught for several years before discovering that her passions were for writing. Audra is co-authoring Korean veteran spouse Jeannie Puckett's memoir. Audra has been an active duty Air Force spouse to Maj. Richard "Ross" Edwards for the past six years. They are currently exploring their new Texas duty station and simply enjoying the continued journey of their two and a half decades of loving each other.



Lydia Magallanes is a professional storyteller, journalist, and Army spouse, currently living near Fort Liberty. Having met her soldier while working as a TV reporter covering military news in Louisiana, Lydia stepped away from her

career to follow her soldier full-time. The Veteran's Spouse Project Heart to Script initiative has taught Lydia the importance of telling her own story after years of being an observer to other people's lives. Lydia enjoys "getting back to her roots" of writing, going on adventures with her husband, taking their black labrador Nova to the park, dabbling in collage art and playing soccer.



Heather Barnhill has been following her soldier around for 22 years! From snowy Fort Drum to the beaches of Oahu, Heather has been grateful for the people and experiences the military has brought into her life but is especially thankful to have discovered VSP! She has a BA in drama and political

science from Mount Allison University, holds a Post Graduate in Secondary English and Drama Education from Oxford University and spent a summer at Circle in the Square Theatre & School in New York. She is in between jobs and time zones these days with their recent move as they head toward retirement.



Kathleen Palmer is an army spouse of 27 years, an educator, and a project seeker. She is currently the Content Director for Mission: Milspouse and has contributed writing pieces to The Fort Hood Sentinel, The Army Spouse Handbook, Inside Abu Ghraib, Memoirs of Two US Military Intelligence Officers, NFMA, and The Army War College at Carlisle. Her favorite writing piece about being an Army wife is “The Lady in the Grey Suit” (2015) in Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors (Vol.3). Kathleen enjoys traveling, especially to see her acquired community of battle buddies.



Joan Green, M.Ed., is a native of Augusta, Georgia and is the surviving spouse of a USAF veteran. She is using creativity in words and art along with a deliberately cultivated positive attitude to learn how to live alone, advocate for caregivers, enjoy her life, and face its challenges. She writes creative nonfiction, essays, flash, and poetry to help herself and others develop methods for coping with the vagaries of life. Her work

has been published in three print anthologies: *We Were Not Alone: A Community Building Art Works Anthology*; *Tea with My Monster: A Mental Health Awareness Anthology* from Beyond the Veil Press; and *How to Heal a Bloodline: A Mental Health Awareness Anthology* from Beyond the Veil Press, and in one online digital exhibit: 'In This Together' by Community Building Art Works. She is still here.



Jenny Lynne Stroup is a native of the Hampton Roads, Virginia area. She is the spouse of a prior-enlisted, combat experienced naval officer and a mother of two children. Jenny Lynne grew up a civilian in the shadow of the world's largest Navy base, yet had no idea what military life entailed. She uses stories to connect to others, by showcasing the human experience through the lens

of being an active duty military spouse. Her works are represented in her publishing credits, including a personal blog, *Task & Purpose*, the *Warhorse*, *Military.com*, and *Legacy Magazine*, as well as through her co-hosting of several seasons of the *Holding Down the Fort* Podcast.



Manda Lynn McVey is a holistic nutrition wellness practitioner and master resilience trainer who, as the devoted wife of an active duty US Army Soldier, finds her voice and purpose in advocating for fellow military spouses and guiding them through the challenges military life continually throws their way. Manda hopes sharing her own experiences

within in*Between will encourage resilience and empowerment in the military spouse community and will lead to greater understanding and connection for the civilian population.



The Veteran's Spouse Project
Telling generations of stories