



AUTHORS' NOTES



I first picked up Mark Dunn's novel because a friend thought it might appeal since I love wordplay, religiously work *The New York Times* crossword (is there any other?), and have been known to correct bad grammar on the street. I read it having no idea it would affect me like it did. I found its deceptively simple story of a peaceful island whose colorful inhabitants are suddenly forced to deal with the gradual loss of the language they love one letter at a time incredibly compelling, unique, and entertaining.

And most importantly I felt like it wanted to sing! I immediately passed the book on to Paul, as we had unsuccessfully been trying to find something to adapt for the musical theatre. I held my breath and crossed my fingers as he read it, hoping that it would have the same effect on him and that he would also feel inspired enough to want to musicalize the book. Thankfully, he did.

Our whole experience with *LMNOP* has been an exciting one. (And yes, Mark's book is titled "Ella Minnow Pea", and if you want to know why we changed it for the musical, stop us in the lobby or shoot us an email. We'd love to share!) The first production was at the University of Michigan, followed by extensive rewrites and readings, and finally a three-week Lab production in New York in the Fall of 2012.

Now, here we are at the next step...and what a step! We are honored and humbled to be here in beautiful Connecticut working on our musical with such a ridiculously talented group of people. We hope our time at Goodspeed gives us the chance to look at the show with creative and critical eyes, rewriting and honing and, hopefully, moving ever closer to our goals. We are also so thankful for the chance to take advantage of one of Goodspeed's most incredible resources: its supportive and intelligent audiences. You are indeed one of our most valuable assistants in this very important developmental process, and we thank you for your support.

This timeless tale resonates on many levels, as any good fable will. Hopefully its message of remaining optimistic, even in the darkest of times, and standing up for what you believe, no matter the odds, will speak to you as well.

By the way, these authors' notes were written without the use of the letter 'J' (at least up until this point). We challenge you to pick a letter and try to live without it for a spell. Don't pick a 'D' though... it's too difficult!)