



DIRECTOR'S VISION



When I first came across the musical *LMNOP* several years ago I was immediately struck by how smart it was, smart *and* entertaining. And it has a score that simply soars.

Then again this musical is so many things. It is a show that crossword puzzle lovers will adore hanging on every word a character speaks dreading that they may use an “illegal” letter. It is set in a totally original world unlike any I have seen on stage. It is also a romantic love story where two very quirky outsiders start out haltingly, afraid to risk two broken hearts, but who end up fully committed, invaluable to one another, and vowing to love each other no matter what. It also has a bona fide heroine in its lead character. She’s smart, she’s unsure, she questions, she demands, she believes, and she acts.

Watching rehearsals I have more than once thought about *The Hunger Games* another story about a young woman who fights for what’s right in a world that’s gone mad. And it’s very much about our world today and about the country that we live in.

The other day in rehearsal I was struck by the fact that there was a moment where I realized that both characters are “wrong,” even our heroine. Or I should say that both characters are so set in their belief system that they can’t communicate with each other effectively. The characters’ knee jerk reactions to each other, to someone whose belief system is different than their own, are not allowing them to hear one another or to come to any place where they might share common ground.

LMNOP is set on a fictitious island off the coast of South Carolina. Well, that “fictitious” scene plays itself out every day on the very real mainland of this country. As I said, *LMNOP*, is smart.

- Joe Calarco, *Director*