

PASSING THROUGH

WRITERS' NOTES

BY BRETT RYBACK & ERIC ULLOA

In 2019 we had the great fortune of premiering a workshop production of *Passing Through* at Goodspeed's Terris Theatre. It was a so-called "workshop" production, because for a certain amount of time during the run we could continue to rehearse and implement changes based on how the show played to a live audience. Musicals can only truly be crafted on their feet, and we took full advantage of every opportunity to work on the show before we finally had to stop and let it be frozen in place.

You never know exactly how your story will resonate over time, and for this reason musicals are constantly evolving and changing as they find their way to their "final" form. So it's very interesting to see how this piece—frozen in time from August 2019 and based on a true story that took place in 2011—still cuts to the heart and soul of the moment we find ourselves in. In



Eric Ulloa and Brett Ryback at the first performance of *Passing Through* in 2019.

the midst of our current personal and collective isolation, grief, and pain, as well as a centuries-old struggle for social justice and equality, the story of a young man walking across America and collecting stories as he goes will surprise you with its relevance.

Andrew's journey is one of awakening and reflection. Through him we experience America for all that it is and all that it is not. Hopefully,

his path toward listening and forgiveness will provide a light to guide us all.

We both believe in the healing properties of art and we invite you to experience a story that is at once incredibly epic and achingly intimate. The themes of hope, loss, optimism, reconciliation, connection, and grace are as resonant as ever in America today. *Passing Through* celebrates the rich diversity of this country and reminds us that while the past may shape today, we choose how to shape tomorrow.

