

SAVING Cinderella

FAQ

WHAT IS SAVING CINDERELLA?

Saving Cinderella is a musical: a sequel to the original story that follows Cinderella and her Prince into a not so happily ever after. It explores modern issues of poverty and charity by asking questions like “Did the Prince really save the girl?” Or is there more to alleviating poverty than simply changing someone’s social station.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO USE A FAIRYTALE TO WRITE A MUSICAL ABOUT MODERN POVERTY AND CHARITY?

The idea to use a fairytale setting for Saving Cinderella came from my years growing up in Europe. To me it was the land of fairytales, and that aesthetic seems to have gotten deep into my bones. So when I wanted to talk about poverty and charity, I readily thought of how the Prince didn’t even know Cinderella when he “rescued her” by whisking her away to the palace. It’s a dynamic I was introduced to while volunteering to fight poverty and one I lived out in my own journey: the person who is struggling must be a part of devising their own solutions vs having solutions forced on them from outside.

YOU’VE VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT POVERTY, BUT HOW HAS POVERTY IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY?

My family has experienced situational poverty. My husband and I both grew up in middle class families, and we built successful careers. But over the last 6 years we have encountered a series of devastating losses. At one point we had no income, no employment, and unemployment was denied. During this time we also discovered that I have an underlying health condition that has made me unable to do any form of traditional work. I actually wrote the first draft of Saving Cinderella by recording parts on my phone as I endured months of horrible symptoms and painful tests. A lot of people wonder why I never went on disability, but the lawyer said I would have to stop working on Saving Cinderella, stay sick (bedridden) for 2 years, go to the doctor regularly to document how sick I was, and then go before a judge with still only a 50/50 chance. My husband couldn’t bear to see me go through that and we agreed that would be a very last resort.

WITH ALL THAT’S HAPPENED, HOW HAVE YOU FUNDED SAVING CINDERELLA?

The funding for Saving Cinderella has come from a generous group of 28 Patrons who have given either monthly or in lump sums to make this project possible. Anyone interested in joining this extraordinary group of individuals can sign up at patreon.com/savingcinderella.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR SAVING CINDERELLA?

The primary focus for Saving Cinderella in 2021 is to work toward a local production within the next year to two years. Our Patrons have patiently waited to see this show go from page to stage, and we are all excited to be working with artists to do just that.

The long term goals are to record a demo and have materials available for schools and community theaters to license the show. Don’t get me wrong, Broadway would be great, but more people actually see your show through the school system than Broadway. And my primary goal is to share the message of building relationships in order to fight poverty. I want Saving Cinderella to take that message to as many people as possible.