

I never thought I'd be doing this. And neither did my dad. For the first 14 years of my life, I was a sports kid. I played baseball, basketball, football, and golf, and my dad coached me as often as he could. I was not a singer, a musician, or a theatre lover. Baseball was my life, and working on my fastball or change-up in the backyard was often how I spent time with my dad. But I felt something was missing. Baseball wasn't my passion anymore, so when I decided to quit, I was full of anxiety. What was my passion? What would my dad think? Then I discovered music. I was never the kid who was singing in the car or shower, but I had an unexplainable attraction to music. So, I asked for a keyboard for Christmas and started playing. I played every day, sometimes for hours upon end. I didn't take lessons, I just played. I discovered joy in writing new melodies and discovered, unbeknownst to me, that my dad did too. He was in a band and loved writing lyrics when he was in high school. We shared a common bond that I never knew, and this bond became more apparent the night in October, 2015 when he approached me with a "crazy idea". That night he asked me if I would be interested in writing a musical with him- a musical set in the Emergency Room. He had thought of the idea several years earlier but never deemed it possible since he couldn't play any musical instruments. Despite having no knowledge of how to write a script or lyrics, I instantly said "yes". I pulled out my notebook and *Emergency* was born. Over the next two years, we wrote and revised, then re-wrote and revised the book, and I played and recorded all the tracks in my closet using recording equipment I got for Christmas. My high school friends, my dad, and I recorded the vocals, then I spent hours trying to learn how to mix and edit them. I was a high school student by day, musical writer by night. My dad and I spent hours talking about plot twists, funny ideas, melodies, and harmonies. I quickly learned that my dad didn't care if I played baseball, he just loved spending time with me.

After rewriting *Emergency* over and over, we were stalled. We felt like we had a good setting, concept, and story that people would enjoy, but we didn't know how to get it to them. Then we found Ken Davenport. Like many others, we found Ken on the internet as we were trying to figure out what our next steps should be. After meeting with Ken for a script coverage, his positive feedback and encouragement were literally life-changing. When Ken, a famous Broadway producer, told me my songs were "fantastic", my life would never be the same. His words gave me the confidence that I could really do this, and that I could really do this for my career. We approached our project with renewed energy and excitement, and when we heard about the inner circle, we knew we had to join. At our first meeting, we were nervous and intimidated. How would 2 guys from the Midwest, where corn and cows set the scene, fit in the New York City theatre world? Our welcome couldn't have been warmer. Ken and his team made us feel very at ease, and we quickly became friends with our colleagues in the group. Now, 9 months into our program, we have written a second musical called *One Night Only*, have produced the world premiere of *Emergency* to fantastic critical reviews, released our tracks on Spotify and iTunes (yes, the ones I recorded in my closet) and are setting our sights on a full production of our show in New York City in 2019. And the best part is, Dad and I have traveled together to New York City five times this year, just us. None of this would have been possible without Ken Davenport and the Inner Circle. We would probably still be staring at our script and asking each other what we should do next. Ken has given us guidance every step of the way, and has given us very focused action items that are pertinent to where we are in our project. We have made numerous industry connections, and are becoming much more confident that we can get our show to the people for whom it was written. And because of Ken and the Inner Circle, I am now a "theatre guy." In fact, I have declared Theatre as my college major, and I'm excitedly awaiting a career in this business. I have 2 and a half years of school left, and am hoping that after my graduation I can come to New York with my show up and running. I

ask you to please vote for *Emergency*. An investment in my show truly is an investment in my career- a career I never thought I'd be doing.