

To: Santa
aka Ken Davenport



I am so excited about the opportunity to present our story *Come Find Me, A Christmas Musical* to the Davenport Theatrical staff and the Producer's Perspective Pro community.

Come Find Me, A Christmas Musical tells the story of Benjamin Patterson (an autistic ten-year-old), his sister Kami (a pre-med student at Yale), and their father Harry (a widowed Air Force lieutenant). When Harry is called away on a top-secret military mission just before Christmas, Ben and Kami's already turbulent lives are shaken again. With a wish, a letter, and some unique seasonal help, the Patterson family discovers what just an ounce of belief can do.



Come Find Me juxtaposes the joy of the Christmas season with the inevitable pressures of our self-imposed ideals. Following the journey of a child with autism, it also champions the fortitude and resolve of children on the spectrum. A holiday musical for all ages, *Come Find Me* will strike a chord in the hearts of young and old alike, realizing it takes courage, humility, and sometimes a village to help keep Christmas hope alive.

Our goal with *Come Find Me* is to garner support on a regional level first, then pursue a one-season Broadway run. After the Broadway exposure, we would love to do seasonal tours as well as license the show. From what we've heard, theaters and artistic directors are growing weary of the overused and limited canon of holiday shows and are excited about the relevance and uniqueness of *Come Find Me*.

An investment from Davenport Theatrical would propel us forward greatly, as we need to produce a full staged reading with audience of *Come Find Me* in 2019. We have Dallas theaters interested in hosting and this would help us launch on sure footing. It would be wonderful to have Ken Davenport's name behind us, but an even greater gift would be knowing he believed in our project enough to support it. That encouragement helps keep our artistic momentum high.

Prior to joining Inner Circle, *Come Find Me* was creeping along slowly but surely. We were pretty much just blazing a trail through uncharted territory, as this was our first musical intended for a commercial audience. I had read books about writing musicals, but the path to

production (including fundraising, readings, show marketing, etc.) weren't addressed in those resources. Inner Circle proved immensely valuable as I was able to connect with others on the journey, hear where they were on their production journey, and learn how they were accomplishing their goals. Our first meeting I was making notes like crazy! Also hearing Ken's feedback, suggestions, encouragement, and challenges was so helpful. It was like being handed all the keys....learning all the secrets....and immediately being able to apply them to our show and our unique goals.

In addition to learning industry tips and tools, being able to sit under various Broadway greats and hear their unique stories has been so interesting. One of my favorite things about Inner Circle has been learning that the Broadway community is made up of real people. Broadway had always seemed so untouchable, so beyond reach, so elite. After spending time with Ken and others he has brought to speak to our group, I have realized that we are all in this together. That people are people...that I can talk to a Tony Award-winning producer about how his newborn isn't sleeping through the night...and we can connect as people with a heart for the same thing...to inspire and move people from the live theatre stage.

Inner Circle has helped me build relationships with other musical writers and enabled us to bounce ideas off each other, offer our individual expertise, and offer genuine in-the-trenches encouragement to fellows on this challenging road. Those are relationships I will keep for a long, long time, both personally and professionally.

I'm so excited about where *Come Find Me* is headed. We have been accepted into a Cocoon musical theatre incubator, have a concert reading this December, and are slated for a full reading in Dallas in 2019. The momentum I've gained from being in Inner Circle has continued to push us to the next stage and I will proudly and gratefully thank Ken and his staff each step of the way for all they have contributed to our success.

From: Holly Reed

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 **COME FIND ME**
A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

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A Reed Creative Group LLC Production