How did you come up with this story and why do you feel compelled to tell it now?

June 20, 2021 Notes {Marie’s and David’s}:

Summary of June 20, 2021: Marie Incontrera sets up the first meeting, where Malina Detcheva-Rossa and David Quang Pham were introduced to one another. Marie connected them due to their scientific pursuits. Malina Detcheva-Rossa has a keen interest in writing science fiction screenplays. David Quang Pham approaches science communication through the performing arts, as his academic background are in astrophysics and theatre. Malina spoke of every physics subject matter and soon landed on dimensions in the multiverse. We brainstormed situations of what the protagonist could go through, that lands them in the parallel situation. David approached it in a magical park and in car and thought of the title: “Parallel Park.” His abstract story did not resonate with Malina. Marie considered making the protagonist a college student rather than an everyday person. Marie noted that David often personifies the college experience through science and encouraged him to do so again. David added “University” to the end of the title. They agreed that the musical should focus on the college experience. After the meeting, David got started on the synopsis and book of “Parallel Park University.” Overnight, David ultimately named the musical “Parallel University” and kept “Parallel Park” as the opening number.

July — November 2022: David wanted to throw the audience into the parallel worlds while Malina wanted to ease the audience into them. Malina is capable of writing one-acts while David is experienced with writing full-lengths. David had a fantasy world built in his head that exceeded beyond an hour. For the 20-minute mold of the NYPL for the Performing Arts lab, Malina’s interpretation of Parallel University was mostly followed with elements of David’s initial plot reorganized. The protagonist’s name and persona shifted from David’s to Marie’s to Malina’s (Vana to Nova to Emma; original to ordinary).

Parallel University started in NYPL 2021 Across a Crowded Room.

June 20, 2021: Marie connected Malina and David. Malina crafts sci-fi screenplays. David approaches science communication by writing stage musicals, due to his astrophysics and theatre profession. Malina spoke of the multiverse. We brainstormed how the protagonist faces dimensional problems. David saw a magical park and car and thought: “Parallel Park.” Marie considered making them a college student, noting that David often personifies the college experience and encouraged him to do so again. David added “University” to the title. We decided it to be a college story. Afterwards, David started the synopsis and book of “Parallel Park University.” Overnight, David named us “Parallel University” with “Parallel Park” as the opening.

July — November 2021: David looks to throw the audience into the parallel worlds while Malina wants to ease the audience into them. Malina is adept in one-acts while David is proficient with full-lengths. David built a fantasy world that exceeded beyond an hour. For the 20-minute mold of NYPL, we followed Malina’s model with elements of David’s initial plot reorganized. The protagonist’s name and persona shifted from David’s to Marie’s to Malina’s (Vana to Nova to Emma; original to ordinary).

Our world needs stories about the importance of connections. As students in college, we had to find the spaces that we belonged in. Incoming freshman, high school students, and any newcomer resonate with this universal feeling. It is why we are compelled to enroll all to Parallel University.