

New Pastor and First Lady of First A.M.E. Zion Church

Please welcome Rev. Dr. Dennis G. Payne, II and Debra Ingram Payne - the New Pastor and First Lady of First A.M.E. Zion Church, Portland, Oregon



Photo courtesy of Phillis Whitmore, Secretary, First AME Zion Church

tick, tick ... BOOM!

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of the gorgeous harmonies that feel so characteristic of Larson's other work and moving together with joy and alacrity. And they make the most of deft choreography by Muffie Delgado Connelly, smart costumes by Lucy Wells, versatile scene design by the design collective known as dots, and wonderful work from the musicians along with musical director Ash. PCS artistic director Marisa Wolf's direction invests the show with intention; each movement of body and

voice feel spontaneous in the way that can only reflect careful and thoughtful work. The show's lean staging captures the hunger of its characters, and assists in transporting you to the places you are meant to imagine.

Strangely, for the first time watching Larson's work, I thought about the fact that Larson is writing for and about my own generation, and capturing things about how we experienced coming of age that are specific even while people in other generations still connect to them. I appreciated how

Larson's love of musical theater brims through so many of the musical cues and language. And the artists have captured something of the hunger of youth and the contradictions of heart, toil, and longing that are so much a part of artistic creation which fights for recognition in a world that may or may not be discerning.

The show's 95 minutes move tightly and joyfully, and it's hard to imagine a better way to spend them. You can catch this beautiful work at Portland Center Stage through September 18.

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