David Quang Pham is a science communicator, award-winning composer-playwright, and aspiring animation screenwriter in Washington Heights, Manhattan. As a Midwestern child of Vietnamese immigrants, they are drawn to stories about where life can go if you let curiosity take you. As a Vietnamese American scientist, Eastern fables and modern science inform his stories. His notable musicals that personify astrophysics, quantum mechanics, climatology, chemistry, entomology, and botany are respectively: [*Ellipses*](https://www.ellipsesmusical.com/) (2024 Syracuse NWNV semifinalist, 2023 Theatre About Science International Conference, 2023 Musical Theatre Factory at Signature Theatre, 2023 Milky Way Theatre Company at Theatre 71, 2022 Colorado New Musical Festival, 2022 O'Neill Theater Center semifinalist, 2021 Working Title Playwrights), [*Tour*](https://www.tourmusical.com/) (2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist), *The Seasoned Veteran*, *Chemicals in the Water*, *The Bookworms*, and [*Turnover: A New Leaf*](https://www.turnovershow.com/) (2025 Queer Theatre Kalamazoo, 2024 Great Performances Artist Fellowship Award, 2024 The Tank’s Pridefest, 2024 Theatre on the Verge at Abington Art Center, 2023 Undiscovered Countries Infinite Festival). He collaborated with Stephanie L. Carlin and Marie Incontrera on *Life After* (2023 NYPL Performing Arts at Bruno Walter Auditorium). He is writing *Parallel University*, an interactive musical, and other non-fables: *The Control Freaks* and *The Poster Child*, a TYA fantasy musical.

David Quang Pham is the 2024 Great Performances Artist Fellowship Award recipient. [Milky Way Theatre Company](https://www.milkywaytheatrecompany.com/) produced a sold-out industry reading of *Ellipses* in Theatre 71 at Blessed Sacrament during their 2023 Off-Broadway New Works Festival. *Ellipses* also performed internationally at the [Theatre About Science International Conference](https://theatreaboutscience.com/) in Coimbra, Portugal. At [Theatre on the Verge](https://theatreontheverge.wixsite.com/)’s New Musicals Festival, *Turnover* was nominated for Best Musical and won Best Book and Best Director (Aliyah Curry). Fang Tseng recently directed The Tank’s 2024 PrideFest concert reading. [Queer Theatre Kalamazoo](https://www.queertk.org/) is producing *Turnover* at Jolliffe Theatre from May 16-18, 2025. Milan Levy is directing this production.

After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as the 2020-2021 New Play and Dramaturgy Apprentice of [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/), Atlanta. He was the 2021-2022 Literary Fellow of [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/), San Francisco. Composer [Janelle Lawrence](https://www.janellelawrence.com/) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and Cai Luong. [Harriet Tubman Effect Institute](https://www.harriettubmaneffect.com/) commissioned his music. His interviews with composers for Kennedy Center’s [BIPOC Critics Lab](https://publictheater.org/news-items/bipoc-critics-lab/) are published in The Public and [TheaterMania](https://www.theatermania.com/). Alexis Hauk interviewed him in the American Theatre Magazine’s Winter 2024 issue. He also consults on stories that explore STEM. His recent dramaturgical credits are [*Millennials are Killing Musicals*](https://www.millennialsarekillingmusicals.com/) by [Nico Juber](https://www.nicojuber.com/) (2022 29-hour reading, Open Jar Studios) and *Allies* by Michael McGoldrick (2022 PPADC Hamilton Arts Festival). His recent stage management credit is BAS by Janelle Lawrence and Sugar Vendil (2023 JACK). He is a moderator at [LMDA](https://lmda.org/); a screenwriter for the We Forgot the Title sketch group; founding member of [CreateTheater](https://createtheater.com/) and the International Dramaturgy Lab; member of [ΣΠΣ](https://www.sigmapisigma.org/), [ASCAP](https://www.ascap.com/), and the [Dramatists Guild](https://www.dramatistsguild.com/). He plays trombone in the [Queer Big Apple Corps](https://lgbac.org/), MUSE’s Sitprobe Experience, and professionally in Marching Band Casting.

His moonbase is in Washington Heights. His earth is Wyoming, Michigan. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

250 Words

a)

David Quang Pham is a composer-playwright dedicated to writing musicals that weave together science communication with human stories – a family of galaxies facing the Big Bang (*Ellipses*), two chemicals in a toxic relationship (*Chemicals in the Water*), sleeping pills living in dream states (*The Rest of My Life*). As a queer Midwestern kid of Vietnamese immigrants, he read fables, performed science experiments, acted on stage, and played trombone to pass the time – as an astrophysicist, he writes fables and science songs to make sense of it all. His plant-based musical *Turnover: A New Leaf*, about a mother trying to earn her green card while her son Parsley goes on an adventure with a pear named Pyrus, was awarded Best Book, Best Director (Aliyah Curry), and nominated for Best Musical at the 2024 Philadelphia New Musicals Festival. His musicals have been produced in Atlanta; Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan; and Coimbra, Portugal. He is a proud graduate of the Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship, Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship, and an astrophysics and theatre undergraduate alumna of Michigan State University. Composers Janelle Lawrence and Gonzalo Valencia-Peña mentor him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, and Cai Luong. When he is not writing songs full of science puns, he is photographing shows or playing trombone in parades with the Queer Big Apples Corps. He strives to musicalize all branches of science and to see Earth on a future trip to outer space. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

b)

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator. He writes science musicals and consults on stories that explore STEM. As a Vietnamese-American scientist, Eastern fables and modern science inform his stories. His musicals personifying astrophysics, quantum mechanics, and botany are respectively: [*Ellipses*](https://www.ellipsesmusical.com/) (2024 Syracuse NWNV semifinalist, 2023 Theatre About Science International Conference, 2023 Musical Theatre Factory at Signature Theatre, 2023 Milky Way Theatre Company at Theatre 71, 2022 Colorado New Musical Festival, 2022 O'Neill Theater Center semifinalist, 2021 Working Title Playwrights), [*Tour*](https://www.tourmusical.com/) (2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist), and [*Turnover: A New Leaf*](https://www.turnovershow.com/) (2024 The Tank Pridefest, 2024 Theatre on the Verge at Abington Art Center, 2023 Undiscovered Countries). *Turnover* was nominated for Best Musical, won Best Book and Best Director (Aliyah Curry) in Philadelphia's 2024 New Musicals Festival. His musicals have been produced in Atlanta; Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan; Philadelphia; and Coimbra, Portugal.

After finishing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State, he studied playwriting as the 2020-2021 New Play and Dramaturgy Apprentice of [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/), Atlanta. He was the 2021-2022 Literary Fellow of [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/), San Francisco. Composer [Janelle Lawrence](https://www.janellelawrence.com/) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and Cai Luong. He is a founding member of [CreateTheater](https://createtheater.com/) and the International Dramaturgy Lab; member of [ΣΠΣ](https://www.sigmapisigma.org/), [ASCAP](https://www.ascap.com/), [Dramatists Guild](https://www.dramatistsguild.com/), and LMDA. He plays trombone in the [Queer Big Apple Corps](https://lgbac.org/) and professionally in Marching Band Casting. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

200 Words

a)

David Quang Pham is a science communicator and composer-playwright in Washington Heights. As a Midwestern child of Vietnamese immigrants, they are drawn to stories about where life can go if you let curiosity take you. They earned an astrophysics degree and theatre minor at Michigan State University and studied playwriting as a [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/) apprentice in Atlanta and [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/) fellow in San Francisco. This composer’s best-known science musicals include **Ellipses**, a universal musical starring the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity during the Big Bang, and **Turnover: A New Leaf**, a plant-based musical about green cards. Turnover was nominated for Best Musical and won Best Book and Director (Aliyah Curry) in Philadelphia's New Musicals Festival. [Queer Theatre Kalamazoo](https://www.queertk.org/) is producing Turnover at Jolliffe Theatre in May 2025. Their musicals have been produced in Atlanta; Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan; Philadelphia; and Coimbra, Portugal. Composers [Janelle Lawrence](https://www.janellelawrence.com/) and [Gonzalo Valencia-Peña](http://www.gonzalovalencia.com/) mentor them, helping forge their musical styles from pop, punk, to Cai Luong. When not writing songs full of science puns, they play trombone in the Queer Big Apples Corps and study Vietnamese zithers. They plan to stage shows in outer space. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

b)

David Quang Pham is a science communicator, award-winning composer-playwright, and aspiring animation screenwriter in Manhattan. As a Midwestern child of Vietnamese immigrants, they are drawn to stories about where life can go if you let curiosity take you. They earned an astrophysics degree and theatre minor at Michigan State University and studied playwriting as a [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/) apprentice in Atlanta and [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/) fellow in San Francisco. This composer’s best-known musicals include ***Ellipses***, a universal epic starring the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity during the Big Bang, and ***Turnover: A New Leaf***, a plant-based comedy (Philadelphia's New Musicals Festival | Awards: Best Book, Director – Aliyah Curry / Nomination: Best Musical). [Queer Theatre Kalamazoo](https://www.queertk.org/) is producing ***Turnover*** at Jolliffe Theatre in May 2025. Their musicals have been produced in Atlanta, Colorado, Manhattan, Philadelphia, and Portugal. They readapted ***Ellipses*** and ***Turnover*** into the animated features ***The Galaxy Family*** and ***Photosynthesis***. [Janelle Lawrence](https://www.janellelawrence.com/) and [Gonzalo Valencia-Peña](http://www.gonzalovalencia.com/) mentor them, helping forge their musical styles from pop, punk, to Vietnamese folk. When not writing songs full of science puns, they play trombone in the Queer Big Apples Corps and Vietnamese zithers. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

150 Words

a)

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator. His musicals personifying astrophysics, quantum mechanics, and botany are respectively: [*Ellipses*](https://www.ellipsesmusical.com/) (2024 Syracuse NWNV semifinalist; 2023 Theatre About Science International Conference; 2023 Musical Theatre Factory, Signature Theatre; 2023 Milky Way Theatre Company, Theatre 71; 2022 Colorado New Musical Festival; 2022 O'Neill semifinalist), [*Tour*](https://www.tourmusical.com/) (2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist), and [*Turnover: A New Leaf*](https://www.turnovershow.com/) (2024 The Tank Pridefest; 2024 Theatre on the Verge, Abington Art Center; 2023 Undiscovered Countries). Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and Cai Luong. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as a [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/) apprentice in Atlanta and [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/) fellow in San Francisco. He plays trombone in the [Queer Big Apple Corps](https://lgbac.org/) and professionally in Marching Band Casting. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

b)

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator. As a Vietnamese-American scientist, Eastern fables and modern science inform his stories. His musicals include [*Ellipses*](https://www.ellipsesmusical.com/), a universal musical that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity facing the Big Bang, and [*Turnover: A New Leaf*](https://www.turnovershow.com/), a plant-based musical that follows a couple queer children uprooting their families' green card. *Turnover* was nominated for Best Musical and won Best Book and Best Director (Aliyah Curry) in Philadelphia's 2024 New Musicals Festival. Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, and Cai Luong. After an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State, he studied playwriting as the Working Title Playwrights Apprentice in Atlanta and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellow in San Francisco. He plays trombone in the [Queer Big Apple Corps](https://lgbac.org/) and [Marching Band Casting](mailto:https://www.marchingbandcasting.com/). Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

100 Words

David Quang Pham is a playwright-composer who writes science musicals like [*Ellipses*](https://www.ellipsesmusical.com/), a universal musical starring the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity facing the Big Bang, and [*Turnover: A New Leaf*](https://www.turnovershow.com/), a plant-based musical about a couple queer children uprooting their families' green card. *Turnover* was nominated for Best Musical and won Best Book and Best Director (Aliyah Curry) in Philadelphia's 2024 New Musicals Festival. After obtaining an astrophysics degree and theatre minor at Michigan State, he studied playwriting as a [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/) apprentice in Atlanta and [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/) fellow in San Francisco. Be up to lightspeed [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

500 Characters

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American musical theater science communicator best known for his universal musical [*Ellipses*](https://www.ellipsesmusical.com/), an original creation myth about the origin of the Universe, and his plant-based musical [*Turnover: A New Leaf*](https://www.turnovershow.com/). After obtaining an astrophysics degree at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as a [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/) apprentice in Atlanta and [Playwrights Foundation](https://playwrightsfoundation.org/) fellow in San Francisco. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

3 Sentences

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator who writes award-winning science musicals from his plant-based story TURNOVER: A NEW LEAF to ELLIPSES, a universal epic about the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity unleashing the Big Bang. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as a Working Title Playwrights apprentice in Atlanta and Playwrights Foundation literary fellow in San Francisco and is starstruck under fellow physicist-composer Gonzalo Valencia-Peña's mentorship. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

2 Sentences

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator who writes science musicals, consults on stories that explore STEM, and interviews out-of-the-world musical writers. Be up to lightspeed at [sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/) and [@sciencetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sciencetheatre).

1 Sentence

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American astronomer-songwriter whose STEM background inspires him to write science musicals and consult on science stories ([sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/)).

10 Words

David Quang Pham is an astronomer-songwriter who writes science musicals ([sciencetheatre.us](https://www.davidquang.com/)).

Writer Varieties

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American composer, playwright, and filmmaker from Michigan. He loves writing musicals that teach science mixed with queer experiences. His plant-based musical “Turnover: A New Leaf” has been produced in New York and won Best Book, Best Director (Aliyah Curry), and nominated Best Musical at the 2024 Philadelphia New Musicals Festival. He obtained an astrophysics degree and theatre minor at Michigan State University and trained in playwriting as the apprentice of Working Title Playwrights and literary fellow of Playwrights Foundation. He resides in Washington Heights.

David Quang Pham is a composer-playwright whose musicals intersect science communication and Vietnamese folk narratives. David is currently

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American science communicator and musical writer from Michigan. His experiences as a queer and bilingual astrophysicist compel them to write coming-of-age fables about a family of galaxies facing the Big Bang, a friendship between a cilantro and pear, and a pair of chemicals who fall in love to form a literal toxic relationship. His musicals have been produced in Atlanta; Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan; Philadelphia; and Coimbra, Portugal. [Queer Theatre Kalamazoo](https://www.queertk.org/) is producing “Turnover: A New Leaf” at Jolliffe Theatre from May 16-18, 2025. David is a proud graduate of the Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship.

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American composer-playwright drawn to anthropomorphic wildlife and forces of nature going through human plights and triumphs. After a science and theatre-filled childhood alongside an astrophysics and theatre undergraduate at Michigan State University, they studied playwriting in Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship. In his spare time, David is a stage photographer-videographer, plays trombone in the Queer Big Apple Corps, and sings in the National Asian Artists Project.

David Quang Pham is a queer composer, filmmaker, and science communicator. Raised by Vietnamese Michiganders, David weaves musical fables about cosmic transformation among a family of galaxies, atypical gardens with immigrants, and a pair of chemicals in a toxic relationship. Prior to that, he completed the yearlong Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship, where he formally studied playwriting and dramaturgy. David has a BS in Astrophysics with a Minor in Theatre at Michigan State University.

David Quang Pham is a Michigan-born composer-playwright dedicated to writing fables that weave science communication with human stories – a family of galaxies facing the Big Bang (*Ellipses*), an unlikely friendship between a cilantro and pear whose families are prejudice (*Turnover: A New Leaf*), and a pair of chemicals in a toxic relationship (*Chemicals in the Water*). His award-winning musicals have been produced in Atlanta; Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan; Philadelphia; and Coimbra, Portugal. You can usually find him photographing shows or playing trombone in parades with the Queer Big Apples Corps Marching Band throughout New York.

David Quang Pham is a science communicator and composer-playwright residing in Washington Heights. As a queer Midwestern child of Vietnamese immigrants, he read fables, visited science events, acted on stage, and played trombone to pass the time – as an astrophysicist, he writes fables and science songs to make sense of it all (time). His writing interrogates the coming-of-age genre by weaving together anthropomorphic wildlife and nebulas overcoming their forces of nature with human plights and triumphs. Recently, his plant-based musical “Turnover: A New Leaf” was awarded Best Book, Best Director (Aliyah Curry), and nominated for Best Musical at the 2024 Philadelphia New Musicals Festival. His musicals have been produced in Atlanta; Boulder, Colorado; Manhattan; Philadelphia; and Coimbra, Portugal. When he is not writing songs full of science puns, he is photographing shows or playing trombone in parades with the Queer Big Apples Corps Marching Band.

David Quang Pham is an award-winning composer-playwright and science communicator. His musicals explore family dynamics, environmental issues, immigration, and queerness that are drenched in unhealthy doses of his signature science puns. David has had a lifelong passion for science and theatre since his parents took him to space camp and operas, leading to his astrophysics degree and a minor in theatre at Michigan State University.

David Quang Pham is a composer-playwright and science communicator from Michigan. After growing up on fables, music, theatre, and science documentaries, he now understandably writes musicals about science. Tommy Wiseau autographed his copy of *The Room*.

David Quang Pham is a Manhattan-based composer-playwright channeling the experience of growing up as a Vietnamese Midwesterner with an astrophysics degree into his musicals. His plant-based musical “Turnover: A New Leaf,” about a Vietnamese mother trying to earn her green card while her son Parsley goes on an adventure with a queer pear named Pyrus, was awarded Best Book, Best Director (Aliyah Curry), and nominated for Best Musical at the 2024 Philadelphia New Musicals Festival.

David Quang Pham is a Manhattan-based, queer, science composer-playwright. David writes musicals about family dynamics, environmental issues, immigration, and queerness. His obsession with scientific anthropomorphization stems from his parents telling Vietnamese folktales at bedtime and attending science events. He went on to study astrophysics and theatre in college before mustering the courage to jot down his theories of the world through his own fables. His plant-based musical “Turnover: A New Leaf,” about a Vietnamese mother trying to earn her green card while her son Parsley goes on an adventure with a queer pear named Pyrus, was awarded Best Book, Best Director (Aliyah Curry), and nominated for Best Musical at the 2024 Philadelphia New Musicals Festival. He holds a BS in Astrophysics and a Minor in Theatre at Michigan State University. He strives to write musicals for all branches of science and to see Earth on his future visit to outer space.

David Quang Pham is a composer, filmmaker, and science communicator. As a queer Midwestern kid of Vietnamese immigrants, he is often drawn to stories about where life can go if you let curiosity take you, especially science. His whimsical yet thought-provoking sensibility has been shaped by space camp and operas.

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American composer-playwright and science communicator who challenges the status quo and weaponizes pun. After receiving a BS in Astrophysics and Minor in Theatre at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting in the yearlong Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship.

David Quang Pham is a composer-playwright who’s experienced the world as a queer Midwestern kid of Vietnamese immigrants. He’s passionate about stories that flaunt authenticity and challenge preconceived notions, connecting conflicting communities through their similarities (by science!). David’s first (small) step (for mankind) into the world of TV and film production was as the screenwriter of a short film produced by Eva Doherty Jacob, directed by Caitlin Mayernik with director of photography by … These experiences renewed his childhood passion for storytelling, leading her to attain his MFA…

David Quang Pham is an NYC-based, queer composer-playwright from Michigan. science and theatre-filled childhood alongside an astrophysics and theatre undergraduate at Michigan State University, they studied playwriting in Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship. He loves depicting the complex and flawed relationships of .. He currently works as a …

David Quang Pham is a composer-playwright and token scientist friend based in Washington Heights. He is currently a … David is a proud graduate of the Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship and an alumna of Michigan State University – where his bachelor’s dissertation modelled the magnetohydrodynamics of the solar corona. He is notorious for his unhealthy doses of science puns and dad jokes.

David Quang Pham is an NYC-based composer-playwright and science communicator with an affinity for the obscure and absurd. A queer Midwestern child of Vietnamese immigrants, his work exists to question societal norms through a scientific lens. David Quang Pham is a proud graduate of Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship. His plant-based musical “Turnover: A New Leaf,” about a Vietnamese mother trying to earn her green card while her son Parsley goes on an adventure with a queer pear named Pyrus, was awarded Best Book, Best Director (Aliyah Curry), and nominated for Best Musical at the 2024 Philadelphia New Musicals Festival. When he is not writing a song about quasars, he is photographing a show or playing trombone in a parade with the Queer Big Apples Corps Marching Band.

David Quang Pham is a Vietnamese-American composer-playwright and science communicator based in Washington Heights, Manhattan. Growing up in West Michigan, his work explores Asian identity with a heightened passive aggressive balance. After graduating from Michigan State University with an astrophysics and theatre education, David gained immense insight into playwriting in his yearlong Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellowship. When he is not writing songs full of science puns, you can find David photographing shows or playing trombone in parades with the Queer Big Apples Corps Marching Band.

**Artist Statement**

Animation and theatre are the best mediums to bring knowledge out of class and science out of labs and into the world. And throughout history, education and science literacy saved the world.

Once my parents sent me to space camp and operas as a kid, science and theatre became inseparable. From them, there were many memories that have stayed with me: the traditional Vietnamese bedtime stories and fables, educational cartoons and theme songs from PBS Kids, and teaching math and science in summer school using those inspirations. In these moments, I realized that scientific processes and human development are parallel, and that the more society is educated about it, the more they will find light and richness in the connections they form with their fellow humans. My life’s purpose became science communication.

My calculus teacher Eric Retan encouraged me to pursue storytelling when I turned his homework assignments into songs and narratives. I went on to attain an astrophysics degree and minor in theatre. After college, Reg E Gaines (*Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk* writer) invited me to New York when I was a finalist in his Downtown Urban Arts Festival. He encouraged me to continue writing scientific fables. Then, I studied playwriting and dramaturgy as the second Working Title Playwrights Apprentice in Atlanta and Playwrights Foundation Literary Fellow in San Francisco. My composition mentors are composers Janelle Lawrence and Gonzalo Valencia-Peña – who is also a physicist. I formally studied animation scriptwriting under David Weiss. I travel back and forth to Los Angeles to grow more acquainted with the animation industry. Now residing and producing in Manhattan for the past several years, the community – from Musical Theatre Factory and Undiscovered Countries – have come to know me as the science musical writer with work that represents Vietnamese sensibilities.

When I write, I am not just telling educational fables – I am weaving together the sentiments of children of Vietnamese immigrants and ancestors, principles passed down through generations that speak to the power of Cai Luong folk music, spirituality, respect for nature, and the strength in community. For example, my astrophysics epic “*Ellipses*” follows the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity causing the origin of the universe, but it is about a family splitting up during a war-like tragedy and reconnection after an eternity of healing. “*Ellipses*” engages the public in astrophysics, family reconciliation, and cyclical nature of violence. My plant-based comedy “*Turnover: A New Leaf*” follows a mother-son pair of cilantros running a salon, but it is about what it means to earn one’s green card and let your loved one make queer friends. “*Turnover: A New Leaf*” engages the public in botany, immigration policy, and queerness.

On our pale blue dot, I dedicate my time to writing songs and stories that weave together science communication with human stories to help the world make sense of themselves. Scientific and cultural literacy not only make you think – they get you to breathe.

Eastern fables and modern science inform my stories and dramaturgy. The queer Asian American artist community – from filmmakers Evans Chan to poet Ocean Vuong – also has had an impact on me here. As I have grown to cherish my heritage, I compose musical numbers inspired by Vietnamese folk operas like Cai Luong, which is practically nonexistent in the American theatre and film canon. This is how I exercise control of how scientific concepts are to be perceived as global rather than Western. Alongside scientific literacy, my work is a conduit for cultural literacy, especially Vietnamese American culture. Pioneering science communication on stage and in animation is my purpose until the end of time.