

Artist Statement ○○○ ELLIPSES

Theatre is where we can break walls, new grounds, and dimensions. My theatrical Big Bang happened when I saw *Turandot* after visiting Space Camp. It was then that I cannot separate the performing arts and science. And my teachers made them more visible and indivisible. I wrote math songs that had them saying: “You should be a musical writer.” I continue studying science so that I can faithfully make ionic monologues, create stage combat with lasers, and break Earth with rocky choreography. I made sense of it all through musical fables. A theatre in Atlanta read my musical about subatomic particles going to college in a nuclear reactor. Soon, they made me the figurehead of their new developmental program. As a community, we conceptualized on a macroscale. The singularity of perspectives birthed the universal coming-of-age musical about the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity: ELLIPSES.

Speaking of dogs: “Force!” I loved *T.U.F.F. Puppy* and I am grateful that this year’s award is dedicated to the cartoon’s composer, Adam Schlesinger. In his spirit, I look to be the champion of nerd musicals in my own right.

In this decade, ELLIPSES has had four table reads and a public concert reading. The Relentless Award would develop the musical by supporting: a) in-person concerts for professional feedback and audience responses at prospective festivals, such as the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival; b) my ongoing relationship with my musical dramaturg who is dedicated to Black and Asian voices; c) new partnerships with directors of matching specialties; and d) the creation of a concept album to accompany the libretto—studio recordings with established vocalists; grander reorchestrations of “Anomaly/Family is Everything”, “Apparent”, “Big Crunch”, etc.; new pop and operatic compositions. A national performing arts organization gave me a complementary call after ELLIPSES did not advance as one of their two annual grantee selections. The adjudicators noted the story as being “a cultural touchstone that would soar with professional quality demos.”

For Theatre Row or any prospective theatre that connects with me, I look to also spearhead as a science advocating literary expert and adjudicator. The stage reading series and funds would help ELLIPSES be a cultural, familial, and technical touchstone that it knows it is.

Thank you for your consideration and spacetime.