

ELLIPSES

CREATETHEATER COLLEGE MUSICAL THEATRE PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

ELLIPSES was created during my 2020-21 Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship, and I got to see the show on its feet with four table reads and a public reading. Seeing the show with an audience was astronomically helpful, and my revisions are based on rehearsal feedback and audience responses I got through that yearlong experience. At the Colorado New Musical Festival in July 2022, ELLIPSES is going through a process of reworking the characterization and lyrics of the deuteragonist, Milky Way.

At this point in my process, SUNY Cortland Performing Arts Department would be useful in terms of post-workshop discussions and audience feedback. In the inaugural CreateTheater College Musical Theatre Partnership program, I look to work with those who took part in SUNY's production of *Big Fish*. Like that musical, ELLIPSES packs many themes from family dynamics, parenthood, mortality, and the passage of time. The intention for the residency is to rework the characterization and lyrics of the protagonist. I look to address two specific development goals:

1) Clarify JD's motivation. In the story, JD starts off longing for adventure, having outgrown the nest and feeling discontent with their parent Singularity. They then have a moment with their youngest sibling Milky Way, which may lead the audience to believe JD is loyal. But they kill their parent and run out on their siblings, so their motivation to be free seems stronger than their loyalty to their siblings. But once they reach the Edge of the Universe, they flip on a dime and rush back to their siblings, betraying Gravity. JD changes their mind almost every time we see them. Gravity is often the driving force for JD's action, but I can have these actions make sense internally. I am stuck on how to naturally plant the liminal context and reason for this teenager's mind changes. I want the opportunity for a liminal and parental performer, such as Dominic Green (Edward in *Big Fish* and Ed Boone in *Curious Incident*), to portray JD and help flesh out JD's motivation and complexity.

2) Reorchestrate "[Cutting Edge](#)" and "[Apparent](#)." The connective songs are respectively JD's "I Want" song and JD's last song. These songs currently come across as metaphorical free verse poetry with backing tracks rather than connected to the instrumentation and flowing organically. The lyrics are too disjointed, with rests in the middle of phrases. I lean heavily on Xiqu influence to give the spacey tone of the musical, but I plan to craft more contemporary styles in the composition. I want to work with Jacob Carll (Assistant MD of *South Pacific* at Cape Playhouse) or Adriana Kabat (Assistant MD of *Big Fish*).