



LIP

SES

Book, Music, and Lyrics  
DAVID QUANG PHAM

[www.ellipsesplay.com](http://www.ellipsesplay.com)

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\*[All texts highlighted in blue are hyperlinks](#)



## FROM THE PRODUCER

Universal... What makes a story universal? It is when each and everyone's universes connect. What connects us more than anything in the whole Universe? Family.

The world needs stories about the importance of connections while embracing science. As an astronomer turned musical writer, I connect everything in our Universe through verse. The Universe is everything. And family is everything. The Universe is actually a family, just on a grander scale. Like our Universe, family makes us. But what made the cosmos? Family.

"I love stories about families and yours is truly the most unique I've seen," an award-winning playwright said in the audience during our talkback in July 2021.

I welcome you to experience my story of how our Universe came to be by getting to know the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity in the family musical of epic proportions: ELLIPSES.

Clear skies,

David Quang Pham

Creator and Producer





## ELLIPSES ○○○ SYNOPSIS

Spend an eternity in the family musical of epic proportions: ELLIPSES is a cosmology mythology that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they face a life-changing event known as the Big Bang. Before the world that we have come to know, there lived a remote family of Galaxies. Singularity is the single parent who locked their six kids in the house. Milky Way is the baby sibling going through galactic puberty. JD is the oldest sibling looking to explore the Universe. This outgrown young adult is perfect for Gravity's manipulation. In a violent altercation, JD strikes down Singularity to run away with Gravity (aka the Big Bang). Without their parent, the teenage Galaxies must fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos. The chronology of our Universe is a family drama in play. The heart of its coming-of-age story is self-discovery as an anomaly.



## CHRONOLOGY

- August 2020 — July 2021: Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship
  - October 5, 2020: Reading with Talkback of the first scenes
  - December 7, 2020: Reading with Talkback of the first scenes of the second act
  - February 1, 2021: Reading with Talkback of the Big Bang
  - May 3, 2021: Reading with Talkback of Milky Way's arc
  - July 15, 2021: Concert Reading with Talkback directed by [Aliyah Curry](#)
- June 2021 — February 2022: Theater Resources Unlimited Workshops
  - June 13, 2021: How to Write a Musical That Works – Part One: The World and the Want [Workshop with Talkback](#)
  - October 17, 2021: How to Write a Musical That Works – Part Two: Conflict and Obstacles [Workshop with Talkback](#)
  - February 27, 2022: How to Write a Musical That Works – Part Three: Reckoning and Resolution [Workshop with Talkback](#)
- 2020 – ongoing: Awards & Others
  - 2022: O'Neill Theater Center National Music Theatre Conference Semifinalist

Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship presents  
a concert reading of a science musical about family



Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM  
Dramaturgy by JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY  
Directed by ALIYAH CURRY  
Managed by ALEXIS MCKAY  
Moderated by AMBER BRADSHAW  
Narrated by SOFIA PALMERO  
Performed by the Star-Studded Cast

ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

SHOW · 6:30PM ET | TALKBACK · 9PM ET  
[ELLIPSESPRAY.COM](http://ELLIPSESPRAY.COM)



PARRIS SARTER  
Singularity



VALLEA E. WOODBURY  
Gravity



DANIELA COBB  
SPT0615-JD



JASON-JAMAL LIGON  
Cartwheel



SKYE PASSMORE  
Whirlpool



ABBY HOLLAND  
Triangulum



DANIEL SAKAMOTO-WENGEL  
Andromeda



EVAN PHILLIPS  
Milky Way



KAIT RIVAS  
Tidals





## QUOTES

“I absolutely love this idea. The idea about a universe that’s a family drama... How incredible is that... It’s very unique and very original.” – [Paul Gordon](#), Broadway Composer-Lyricist

“I love stories about families and yours is truly the most unique I’ve seen.” – [John Mabey](#), Award-Winning Playwright

“The humor and sibling rivalry/politics is a strength of the piece overall.” – [Emily McClain](#), Award-Winning Playwright

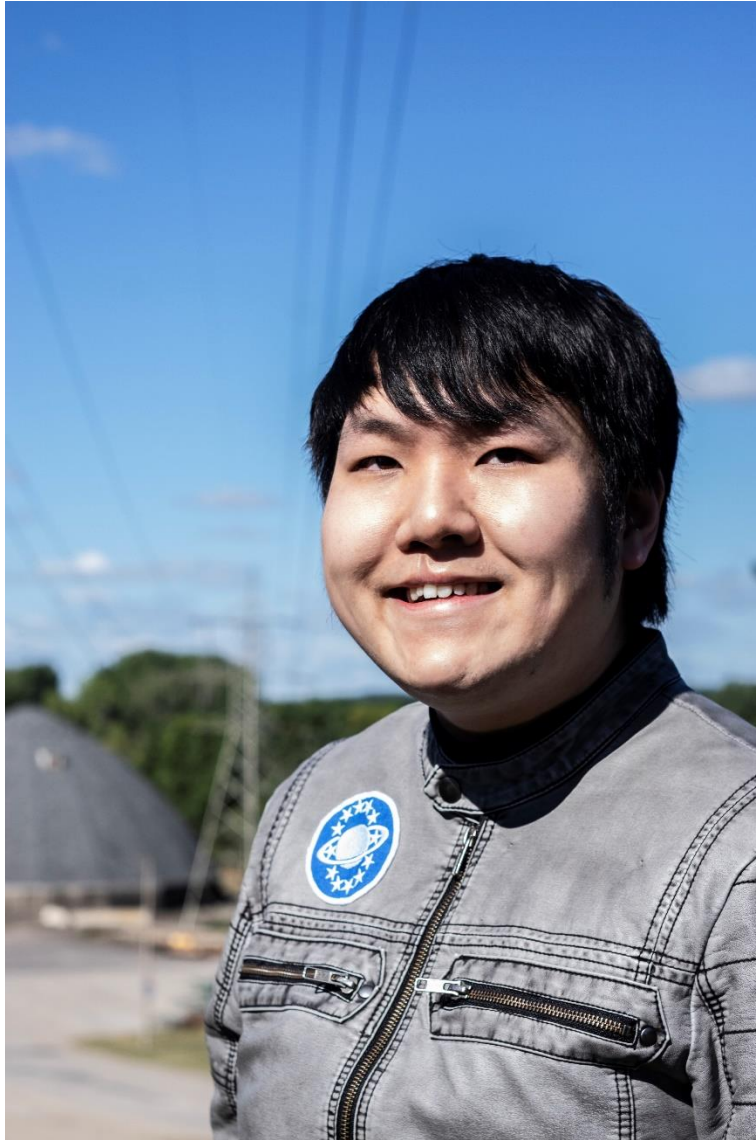
“The play got me thinking about my / our place in the Universe – you can’t get more epic than that.” – [Hank Kimmel](#), Board President of Working Title Playwrights and the Alliance for Jewish Theatre

“The musical that I most compare it to in terms of character journey is actually *American Idiot* but like through the lens of *Katamari Damacy*.” – [Liz Dooley](#), Award-Winning Playwright





## CREATIVE/PRODUCTION TEAM



**David Quang Pham** (he/him) is a musical theater science communicator who guides scientists to the fourth wall and theatre artists to the fourth dimension. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science. His notable musicals personifying quantum mechanics, cosmology, and dimensions are respectively: [TOUR](#) (2020 DUAF finalist), [ELLIPSES](#), and [PARALLEL UNIVERSITY](#) with Malina Detcheva-Rossa and Marie Incontrera. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as the second apprentice of [Working Title Playwrights](#) in Atlanta. He is the Literary Fellow of [Playwrights Foundation](#), San Francisco. [Janelle Lawrence](#) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including gospel, pop, tango, and Xiqu. He is also a proficient trombonist; a founding member of CreateTheater ETC; a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, the Dramatists Guild, LMDA, and TRU. Be up to lightspeed at <https://www.scitheatre.org/>



### **Dramaturg**

**Jordan Alexandria Ealey** (they/she) is a dramaturg, theatre artist, and scholar who divides their time between Atlanta, GA and the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area. As a dramaturg, Jordan specializes in new play and musical development; her work has been seen with places such as Synchronicity Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Working Title Playwrights, and Hush Harbor Lab. Jordan co-hosts and co-produces *Daughters of Lorraine*, a podcast on black theatre from a black feminist perspective, which is supported by HowlRound Theatre Commons. A proud artist-scholar, Jordan is pursuing a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, where they research black women-authored musicals from the nineteenth century to the present. Jordan is most passionate about advocating for marginalized theatre artists and hopes to continue to do so in their career. <https://www.jordanealey.com/>





### Facilitator

**Jay Lucas Chacon** (he/him) has become an active and noticeable artist in NYC. Jay performed with **Write Act Rep** in a concert *A Good Day* of music by **off-Broadway** composer Eric Sirota, singing music of the character Sam in his developmental work *A Good Day*, a musical about dealing with Alzheimer's. Upcoming performances for Jay include his first work as an extra in the Spanish language short film *Sin Fondo* with **Ripple Effect Artists**, covering Silvio in *Cav+Pag* with **New Camerata Opera**, and the Inkeeper in a film version of Sirota's *Frankenstein* with **Write Act Rep**.

Jay is the founder/director of **ViOp Productions**, a virtual performing company producing work and opportunities through virtual medium, creating opera on film, filmed concerts and online recitals, and virtual readings. He produced and performed with tenor John Riesen in a duet recital *Crossing Paths*, Rodolfo in a socially distanced film version of *La bohème* Act 3 by Leoncavallo, *The Spirit of Christmas; a holiday special*. and as Anatoly in *The CHESS Project*. Jay also conceived and produced *An American's Journey*; a monodrama of Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*, directed a film of Mascagni's *Zanetto*, and a recital of African American music featuring soprano Stephanie Ball on location in Washington DC. Upcoming productions with **ViOp** are *The Strong Ones*, a series of music videos focusing on mental and emotional health, and **ViOp's** annual Christmas Special. <https://www.jaylucaschacon.com/>



# WORKSHOP BUDGET

Washington–Baltimore Metropolitan Area

Rehearsals: 2 Days

Showcase: 1 Day; Half Hour-Preview of ELLIPSES

Item	Fee	Notes	Budgeted
<b>Salaries</b>			<b>\$7,650.00</b>
Vocalists	10 \$300	<a href="#">Resources</a>	\$3,000.00
Instrumentalists	2 \$500	Guitarist & Pianist   <a href="#">Resources</a>	\$1,000.00
Music Director		<a href="#">Resources</a>	\$500.00
Dramaturg		Jordan Alexandria Ealey	\$500.00
Stage Director		<a href="#">Resources</a>	\$500.00
Stage Manager		<a href="#">Resources</a>	\$500.00
Vocal Coach		<a href="#">Resources</a>	\$500.00
Sound Designer		<a href="#">Resources</a>	\$500.00
Videographer			\$500.00
Filmographer		Post-Production	\$150.00
<b>Rentals</b>			<b>\$500.00</b>
Lighting		ViOp has lighting equipment at their disposal	\$0.00
Sound		<a href="#">Audio Equipment Rentals Baltimore</a>	\$500.00
<b>Marketing</b>			<b>\$180.00</b>
Graphic Design		DQP has a UI/UX background and a design skillset	\$0.00
Web Design		<a href="https://www.ellipsesplay.com">https://www.ellipsesplay.com</a>	\$0.00
Programs		<a href="#">125 prints of 12-page programs</a>	\$180.00
<b>Theatre</b>			<b>\$600.00</b>
Rehearsal Venue	2 \$200	Venue cost based on Opera America's concert hall at the rate of \$200/day (JLC's experience)	\$400.00
Performance Venue		Options: St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C./Barney & Bea Rec. Center	\$200.00
<b>Physical Production</b>			<b>\$900.00</b>
Props			\$300.00
Costumes	10 \$60	Celestial costumes are possible	\$600.00
<b>Development</b>			<b>\$300.00</b>
Professional Development Fees		3 workshops (2 rehearsal workshop, 1 showcase workshop)	\$300.00
<b>General &amp; Administrative</b>			<b>\$7,181</b>
Living Expenses	20 \$45	\$45 for 3 breakfasts, lunches, and dinners	\$900.00
General Admin. Expenses		3 months payroll for administrator(s) (DQP-JLC) at \$17/hr (JLC's experience)	\$3,600.00
Child Care	6 \$30	Accessibility: contingency funds for 6 personnel or daily occurrences   <a href="#">Article</a>	\$180.00
Transportation - Creative Personnel		NY<=>MD (\$79)(JLC) & MI<=>MD (\$227)(DQP) & UMD<=>DC (\$4)(8 members)(3 days)   <a href="#">Trip</a>	\$402.00
Transportation - Performers		College Park, MD<=>Washington, D.C. (\$4)(10 performers + 2 instrumentalists)(3 days)	\$144.00



<b>General &amp; Administrative (cont.)</b>			<b>\$7,181</b>
Housing - Creative Personnel		4 nights (\$125+/room) for JLC & DQP   College Park Marriott (DQP stayed in 2017 & 2019)	\$600.00
<del>Housing - Performers</del>		MD and DC-based Performers	\$0.00
Research Materials		Inclusion: fashion illustrations (especially if costume design is not utilized)	\$90.00
Instrumental Cartage		Contingency fund for a baby grand piano if venue that JLC partners with has no piano	\$350.00
Fundraising Expenses		4 different crowdsourcing/fundraising platforms used by JLC's ViOp	\$232.00
Ticket Subsidies		Fees paid to ticketing platform based on 200 sales made by JLC's ViOp	\$258.00
Tuition Expenses		DQP is in TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program until January 2022	\$425.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$17,311</b>
<b>Contingency</b>			<b>\$1,732</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>			<b>\$ 19,043</b>



**David Quang Pham**  
**1140 Alger St SW**  
**Wyoming, Michigan 49509**

Dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

[\_\_\_\_\_]

[\_\_\_\_\_]

[\_\_\_\_\_]

Dear [\_\_\_\_\_]:

This letter will constitute an agreement between you and me (“**Producer**”) (and such other co-producers as I may select) concerning certain monies to be advanced by you for expenses relating to the development and production of a musical stage play written by me entitled ELLIPSES (the “**Play**”).

Upon execution of this Agreement, you agree to advance to Producer the sum of Thousand (\$ ) Dollars (the “Advance”) to be used by me as Producer, in my sole discretion, in connection with workshop production purposes relating to the Workshop, such as fees, advances, deposits or bonds made for the purpose of engaging creative personnel, retaining marketing assets, or other purposes reasonably related to the aforestated Workshop and the reimbursement to me of any such expenses.

...

...

...





If this letter correctly sets forth your understanding, please sign in the appropriate space below to indicate your agreement to and acceptance of the terms hereof.

Yours truly,

\_\_\_\_\_ LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_,

A Managing Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_

An Authorized Officer

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

[INVESTOR]

By:

Name:

Title:



## THE OPPORTUNITY

We are currently raising a minimum of \$13,700 to a maximum of \$20,000 from investors for the workshop production of ELLIPSES.

### **For Potential Investors**

The suggested investment amount is a minimum of \$5,000.

### **For Donors**

Please visit the link below to make your tax – deductible donation:

<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/donate>



## WHY STAGE?

Theatre is where we can break walls, new grounds, and dimensions.

My theatrical Big Bang happened at the age of six. While drawing the stars and Sun on the set of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, I played the Giant. Years later, my family went to see *Turandot* after visiting Space Camp. It was then that I cannot separate the two: performing arts and science.

My high school drama and math teachers made them visible and indivisible. During my AP Calculus class, our project was to creatively teach integration. The summer before, I trained in music theory at a fine arts camp. I began writing lyrics. I ended up writing a musical titled *Mathland*. It was a musical about people integrated in a two-dimensional world, unable to go upstage or downstage. When my teacher graded my rubric, he wrote: “You should consider being a scriptwriter.”

I knew that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of eternity. My purpose is to introduce theatre artists to science and scientists to theatre. My heart looks to guide researchers to the fourth wall and theatremakers to the fourth dimension. Henceforth, I write love letters to science through musicals.

**David Quang Pham as King Arthur in *Spamalot* (Wyoming Theater Company, 2013)**



# AUTHOR'S CONTACT



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   @WorkingTidal

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