

Artist Statement ○○○ ELLIPSES

Theatre is where we break walls, new grounds, and dimensions. My theatrical Big Bang occurred 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.” Still, I continue to study science so that I can faithfully create ionic lyrics and break Earth with rocky choreography. I uncover truth by writing musical fables. Years ago, a theatre in Atlanta read my opera about particles going to college in a nuclear reactor. They soon made me the figurehead of their new developmental program where we devised on a macroscale. The singularity of perspectives birthed the universal coming-of-age musical starring the remote Galaxy family and their relentless dog Gravity titled 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 the 2020s, ELLIPSES had four table reads, three workshops, and a public concert reading. The Relentless Award would develop the musical by supporting: a) an ongoing collaboration with our dramaturg who is devoted to Black and Asian theatre; b) new alliances with directors of matching specialties; c) concerts at theatre festivals for professional feedback and audience reactions; and d) the creation of a concept album to accompany the libretto—studio recordings with established vocalists; new pop or operatic compositions such as “Far-Fetched” and more; grander reorchestrations of “Cutting Edge”, “Anomaly/Family is Everything”, “Tangent”, etc. 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, musical, and universal touchstone that it knows it is.

Thank you, American Playwriting Foundation, for your consideration and spacetime.