

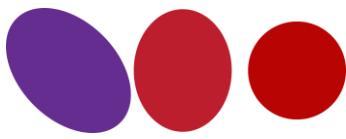


EL LIP SES

Book, Music, and Lyrics
DAVID QUANG PHAM

www.ellipsesplay.com
  [tumblr. @EllipsesPlay](#)

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DAVID QUANG PHAM (he★him)



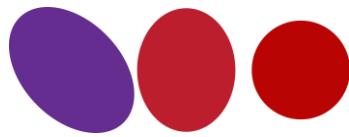
David loves the theatre space and space in general.

This passion for astronomy and theatre manifested from trips to space camp and operas as a kid. In middle and high school, he delved into music theory and plays the modern sackbut. The nerdy persona remained, and the artistic talents dwelled into his collegiate years. As he was finishing his bachelor's thesis, his sister informed him that his high school calculus teacher had been annually sharing his musical. During his junior year of high school, he wrote MATHLAND for their winter project. He returned to musical writing on the side. Soon, he uncovered his niche: science communication through the human condition.

Now, he is a science dramaturg from Wyoming, Michigan. He is the recipient of the 2020-2021 New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship for [Working Title Playwrights](#) in Atlanta. He practices professional new development dramaturgy under their Dramaturgy Master Intensive and the International Dramaturgy Lab with LMDA. He is a Founding Member of the [CreateTheater's Expert's Theater Company](#). A member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild, he attained an astrophysics degree with a minor in theatre at Michigan State University.

Since college, he has been working on a particle physics fable. [TOUR](#) revolves around Quark, Lepton, Boson, and Atom. This opera has these subatomic educators collide and compete with one another in the academic Accelerator.

As an artistic scientist, he theorizes that science and art are not two sides of the same coin. Science and art make the coin. He spins this superposition.



★tist Statement

With an astrophysics degree, my colleagues went out to discover new ions, fight cancer with lasers, and stop asteroids from hurtling into our planet. I've been instrumental, too. I compose songs and draft love letters to science!

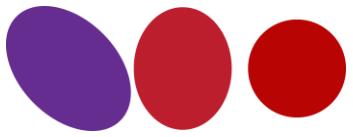
By the way, Brian May, Brian Cox, and Brian Wecht are physicists who have these instrumental brains. I look up to Zhu Zaiyu, a sixteenth-century Chinese astrophysicist and music theorist. They applied mathematics into our modern tonal principles, showing the potential outcomes of a unified mind. As a scientific artist and artistic scientist, I make simple things complex and complex things simple. Respectively, that is how I approach composition and science communication. I realize that universities are best suited to progress the musicals that I strive to make universal.

Naturally, I compose on a pentatonic scale. As opposed to an eight-note diatonic scale in Western music, six notes are simple. However, if the instruments are primitive and the theme of the story is folksy, the opera is suddenly elaborate. I grew up in a Vietnamese household. All my parents ever watch were Eastern operas and Kabuki-esque theatre. I strive to make my compositions accessible and to eventually be mainstream. Who would help in that endeavor are college students, who are always the most inclusive of any generation.

Logically, I feel safe speaking in scientific jargon. It is where I get my *sui generis* material. When I am a dramaturg, it gives me a sense of purpose to be the bridge between science/scientist and the storyteller. The Universities have scientific and dramaturgical personnel.

The objective of my musicals is to build community. Therefore, the story needs to be universal. I strive to bridge the STEM and art field and produce an esteemed STEAM community, where scientists become frequent theatre patrons and creatives become laboratory guests. I aspire to connect the Eastern and Western art form.

Regional and commercial theatres are compartmentalized. Universities are continuously expanding into either terrain of science, art, and culture. Not only do I foresee future theatremakers reading these scientific love letters but writing them with me. Our work is universal. The Universe is expanding.



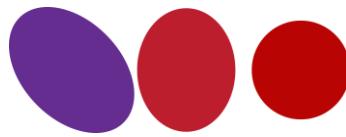


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*All texts highlighted in blue are hyperlinks to files

THANK YOU

Name	Role
Edward Brown, Danny Caballero, Professors of Physics and Astronomy	
Daniel Smith, Denise Troutman Professors of Theatre or Writing	
<u>Janelle Lawrence</u>	Musical Theatre Mentor
<u>Emily McClain</u>	First Reader
<u>Alexis McKay</u>	Originated Fireworks/Stage Manager
<u>Jordan Alexandria Ealey</u>	Originated Hat/Dramaturg
<u>Aliyah Curry</u>	Originated Butterfly/Director
<u>Minka Wiltz</u>	Originated Singularity
<u>Vallea E. Woodbury</u>	Originated Gravity
<u>Daniela Cobb</u>	Originated SPT0615-JD
<u>Jason-Jamal Ligon</u>	Originated Cartwheel
<u>Skye Passmore</u>	Originated Whirlpool
<u>Abby Holland</u>	Originated Triangulum
<u>Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel</u>	Originated Andromeda
<u>Evan Phillips</u>	Originated Milky Way

SYNOPSIS

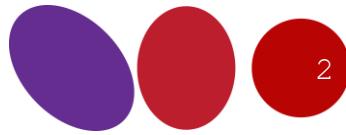
An ELLIPSES is a musical science fantasy about family, child development, and adulthood. It follows Singularity, their six children, and their quest to undo the Big Bang, after a family member sets it off. When JD strikes down Singularity to run away from home with Gravity (the family dog), their younger siblings are left to fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos. The supermassive heart of this coming-of-age story is finding oneself in the nothingness...

The Galaxies begin their routine by scoping out towards the Edge ("[Bounce](#)"). Their parent calls them up for supper. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at this family gathering ("[Crunch](#)"). JD remains looking out, tangentially wanting to go to the Edge ("[Cutting Edge](#)"). They see their legacy as apparent. However, Singularity speaks of its perils. In retaliation, Gravity fights Singularity to go outside but ends up getting grounded in the doghouse. As the siblings head off to bed, JD and Milky Way discuss growing up ("[Figure](#)").

After Milky Way goes to bed, JD hears Gravity persuading them to search the rug. JD finds Singularity's Big Bang Taser stashed underneath and deems the Fabric of Spacetime to be just as sturdy ("[Zilch](#)"). Later, Singularity assesses their children's black-hole hearts ("[Luminous](#)"). With this being the final straw, JD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. Singularity goes lifeless. In the chaos, JD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing away. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away ("[Big Bang](#)").

As a consequence of the Big Bang and Singularity's demise, the Universe infinitely expands and spreads itself out thin. Food and resources also diminish. The rest of the musical follows the struggles of the teen Galaxies as they try to bring JD home and unroll the Universe back to the singularity that once was.

Cartwheel and Whirlpool discover that time is relative together. Triangulum learns what it means to be an anomaly. Andromeda uncovers the pearl of the oysterous Universe. Milky Way accepts adolescence and finds self-love in the isolation. JD learns what it means to be an apparent adult.



CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Astronomy ○

Character	Nature	Identity
<u>SINGULARITY</u> The relativistically impossible single parent. Singularity wants to keep the oneness of the Universe.	Super Infinite Black Hole Tidal Force	Adult Any
<u>GRAVITY</u> A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground and free up the wide-open space.	Embryonic Galaxy	Young Adult
<u>SPT0615-JD</u> The distant galactic sibling. JD wants to shed light and be apparent to their lightless legacy.	Ring Galaxy	Teen
<u>CARTWHEEL</u> The aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to earn their ring.	Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy	Teen
<u>WHIRLPOOL</u> The anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to spiral into enlightenment.	Spiral Galaxy	Teen
<u>TRIANGULUM</u> The jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role model.	Spiral Galaxy	Teen
<u>ANDROMEDA</u> The scenic galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find the pearl in this universal oyster.	Spiral Galaxy	Teen
<u>MILKY WAY</u> The angelic galactic sibling. Milky Way wants their voice to be all that it's cracked up to be.	Barred Spiral Galaxy	Preteen

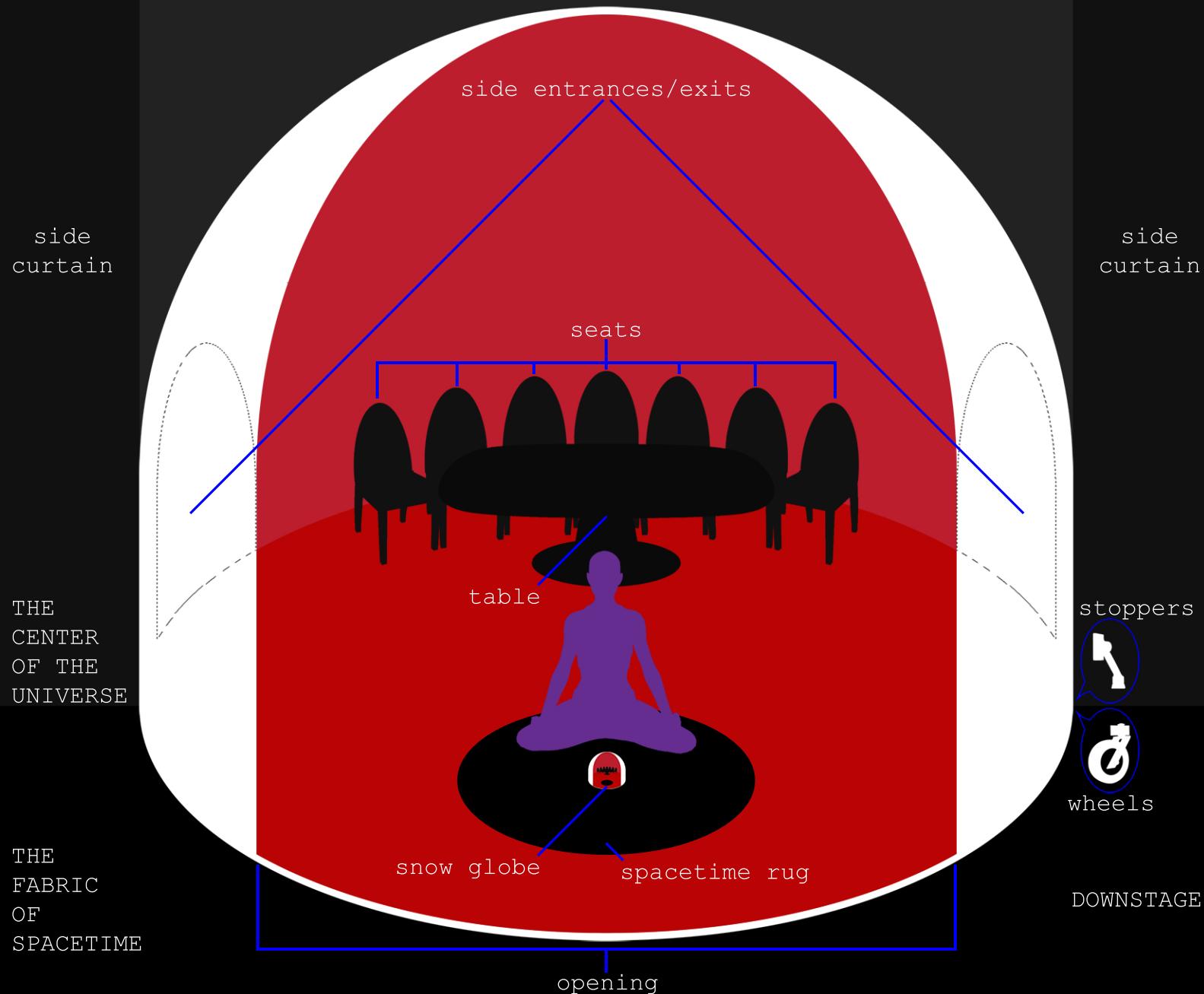
Ensembles

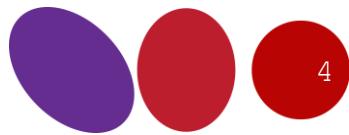
TIDALS	<u>SOLAR SYSTEMS</u> Sun Earth Jupiter Saturn Uranus Eris Oort Cloud	<u>MULTIPLICITIES</u> Invariant Fix Abell*
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BRIGHT IDEA*

<u>ABELL</u> 2261	Elliptical Galaxy An anomalous galactic sweetheart beyond the Edge of the Universe. Abell is JD's timely loved one in the audience. They may not have a heart or a supermassive black hole, much like the Multiplicities.	Onlooker
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THE ELLIPSE / DOME HOME





4

SET DESIGN



DEMOS

- 1) "Bounce" (Galaxy Family) | 1:47
 - "We Are" Dance Overture
- 2) "Crunch" (Singularity, Teen Galaxies) | 3:36
 - Choral Opening Number
- 3) "Cutting Edge" (SPT0615-JD, Galaxies) | 5:07
 - "I Want" Song
- 7) "Big Bang" (Singularity, Galaxies, Gravity, Tidals) | 4:00
 - Production Number
- 10) "Anomaly is Everything" (Triangulum, Teen Galaxies) | 4:28
 - Uptempo Number
- 11) "Time is Relative" (Cartwheel, Whirlpool) | 9:19
 - Ballad Duet
- 13) "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles" (Milky Way, Solar System) | 3:57
 - Showstopper
- 19) "Parallax" (Gravity, SPT0615-JD) | 2:24
 - Charm Number

ORCHESTRA



...

CRUNCH

(Singularity, Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Triangulum, Andromeda, Milky Way)

DAVID QUANG PHAM

Adagio

SINGULARITY E(add2) A(add2) E G#m⁷ C#m(add4) B⁶ A⁶ E⁶

Feed that hole in your heart. _____ Give in-to in-ter-nal dark - ness. ____

5 E(add2) A(add2) E G#m⁷ A⁶ E⁶ B% E% E(add2) A(add2) E G#m⁷

SINGULARITY Shed our light for no one. _____ As it's Crunch Time, Ga-lax- ies.

Guitar - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - |

11 E(add2) A(add2) E G#m⁷ C#m(add4) B⁶ A⁶ E⁶

SINGULARITY In black holes, dwell wis-dom. _____ Fed by the sprin-kles of star - dust. __

Guitar - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - |

15 E(add2) A(add2) E G#m⁷ A⁶ E⁶ B% E%

SINGULARITY Crush their dreams in your palm. _____ It is Crunch _____ Time, my ba-bies.

Guitar - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - | - - - - |

19 A⁶ E⁶ B⁶ E⁶ E B⁶ C^{#(sus4)} G^{#(sus4)}

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

Con-sume star sy stems. Con-sume worlds
Con-sume star sy stems. Con-sume worlds

Guitar

24 E E B⁶ C^{#(sus4)} G^{#(sus4)} C^{#(sus4)} E^(sus4)

SINGULARITY

String

C^{#m(add2)} G^{#m11}

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

that teem. Con-sumed by thoughts of fam-i-ly. Fam-i - ly...
that teem. Con-sumed by thoughts of fam-i-ly. Fam-i - ly...

Guitar

29 E C^{#m(add4)} E E C^{#m(add4)} C^{#m(add2)} E⁶

SINGULARITY

by string in theor-y. And fa-bric by space-time fa bric. Hold

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

Guitar

33

SINGULARITY

A⁶ B⁶ F#m¹¹ A⁶ B⁶ E⁶ E^(add2) A^(add2)

our love as a whole. It is Crunch Time, we_be_lieve.

Guitar

CARTWHEEL 38 WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

E WHIRLPOOL B^(add2) B⁶ E E TRIANGULUM B^(add2) E B

It is Crunch Time, Singularity. It is Crunch Time, Singularity.

Guitar

CARTWHEEL 42 CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

E CARTWHEEL B^(add2) B⁶ E E B^(add2) E B

It is Crunch Time, Singularity. It is Crunch Time, Singularity.

Guitar

CARTWHEEL 46 MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

E MILKY WAY B^(add2) B⁶ E E B^(add2) JD is absent. E B

It is Crunch Time, Mommy Sing.

Guitar

SINGULARITY 50

E B^(add2) E B B⁶ E^(add2) B⁶ E⁶

It is Crunch Time, J D? S P T 0 6 1 5 J D?

Guitar

DEVELOPMENT

- August 2020 – July 2021: Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship
 - August 15, 2020: “Generating Story Idea” Master Class with Addae Moon, where WORKING TIDAL (ELLIPSES’s working title) was conceived
 - October 5, 2020: Reading with Talkback of the first 11 pages at the Monday Night Critique Sessions
 - December 7, 2020: Reading with Talkback of the first 11 pages of the second act at the MNCS
 - February 1, 2021: Reading with Talkback of “Zilch” to “Big Bang” at the Monday Night Development Workshops
 - May 3, 2021: Reading with Talkback of “Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles” at the MNDW
 - July 15, 2021: Concert-Reading with Talkback backed by Working Title Playwrights

[Zoom Recording of Readthrough at the Rehearsal on July 11, 2021](#)

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

A LIP SES

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
ELLIPSESPLAY.COM



MINKA WILTZ
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

OBJECTIVES

Periodic Table Reads



University Outreach and Engagement (Target Audience and Market)



The material is astrophysics. The words on the page do not convey the entropy, the collisions, and the movement of the Galaxies, quite like workshop productions. ELLIPSES strives to have its overall coming-of-age theme be more relatable. Their theatre departments will focus on the theories of theatre, while our writer focuses on the laws of physics.

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