

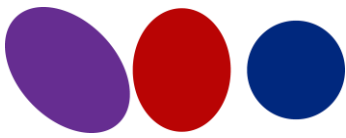
A stylized, white, serif letter 'M' is centered within a purple, horizontally-oriented oval. The oval has a soft, glowing effect against the black background.The word 'LIP' is written in a white, serif font and is centered within a red, horizontally-oriented oval. The oval has a soft, glowing effect against the black background.The word 'SES' is written in a white, serif font and is centered within a blue, horizontally-oriented oval. The oval has a soft, glowing effect against the black background.

Book, Music, and Lyrics  
DAVID QUANG PHAM

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

  **tumblr.** [@EllipsesPlay](#)

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## DAVID QUANG PHAM (he★him)



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 and cosmology are respectively: [TOUR](#) (2020 DUAF finalist) and [ELLIPSES](#). After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State, he studied playwriting as the apprentice of [Working Title Playwrights](#) in Atlanta. He was the 2021-22 Literary Fellow of [Playwrights Foundation](#), San Francisco. Be up to lightspeed at [davidquang.com](#)

### ARTIST STATEMENT

My theatrical Big Bang happened at the age of seven. While visiting Space Camp, my family took us to TURANDOT. Science and theatre became inseparable. My teachers made them visible and indivisible. In high school, a class assigned a Calculus project. At that time, I played the clock Cogsworth in a production of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. This inspired MATHLAND, a musical that personified time derivatives. My teacher wrote on my rubric: "You have a future as a musical writer." So, I went and got an astrophysics degree (and a theatre minor).

I study science so that I can faithfully bake ionic lyrics and break Earth with rocky choreography. I uncover truths by writing fables. My next musical TOUR happened while working around the cyclotron at my alma mater. I felt that the quarks are also going to college trying to attain a higher degree. Lyricist Reg E. Gaines read this story and encouraged me to follow this musical writing path, saying: "The science spoke to the heart. We're all quarks colliding with one another in the accelerator called life."

It was also beyond the experience of playing "non-human" roles that inspired my work. My Vietnamese parents have had a role, telling bedtime stories that personified nature. My culture's inherent devotion to this form of storytelling drives the vessel of my hearty personifications. I am now an animated human being because my family and community raised me to see inanimate objects as beings. These aspects grant me the spirit of a science fablist and musical writer.



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\*All texts highlighted in blue are hyperlinks

## SYNOPSIS

This story answers the 13.8-billion-year-old question: What is family? ELLIPSES is a universal musical that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way out of a family tragedy, known as the Big Bang. The plot chronicles the events leading up to the Big Bang and ends with a theoretical end of the Universe (Big Crunch). This coming-of-age story adapts the theories into a family drama.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**SINGULARITY**, adult, single parent of the six Galaxies

Beloved, Strict, Compunctious

**GRAVITY**, a dog, the Galaxy family's pet

Abused, Crafty, Rambunctious

**HD1**, young adult, Singularity's oldest child

Caring, Deviant, Credulous

**CARTWHEEL**, teen, Singularity's child

Tense, Insensitive, Cantankerous

**WHIRLPOOL**, teen, Singularity's child

Spiritual, Sensitive, Mischievous

**TRIANGULUM**, teen, Singularity's child

Organized, Snappy, Ambitious

**ANDROMEDA**, teen, Singularity's child

Seafaring, Wacky, Glamorous

**MILKY WAY**, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Loving, Naïve, Zealous

### Supporting Characters

**SPECIAL**, adult, Singularity's parent

Difficult, Considerate, Prejudiced

**GENERAL**, adult, Singularity's parent

Straightforward, Negligent, Prejudiced

### Ensemble

**TIDALS**, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force"                      Howl: "Fall"

**SOLAR SYSTEM**, Milky Way's imaginary friends

○ Named: Sun, Mercury, Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Pluto

○ Androgyny Astronomy: Each character resembles the androgynous nature, with open-ended vocal requirements

○ People of the Global Majority most represent the experiences of this universal family; cast accordingly



## DEMOS

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1) " <a href="#">Bounce</a> " (Galaxy Family)                               | 1:47               |
| ➤ "We Are" Dance Overture   | Genre: Pop         |
| 2) " <a href="#">Crunch</a> " (Singularity, Teen Galaxies)                  | 3:36               |
| ➤ Choral Opening Number   | Genre: Opera       |
| 3) " <a href="#">Cutting Edge</a> " (HD1, Galaxies)                         | 5:07               |
| ➤ "I Want" Song   | Genre: Pop         |
| 6) " <a href="#">Big Bang</a> " (Singularity, Galaxies, Gravity, Tidal)     | 3:46               |
| ➤ Production Number   | Genre: Punk        |
| 7) " <a href="#">Anomaly is Everything</a> " (Triangulum, Teen Galaxies)    | 4:02               |
| ➤ Uptempo Number  | Genre: Pop         |
| 9) " <a href="#">Time is Relative</a> " (Cartwheel, Whirlpool)              | 7:38               |
| ➤ Ballad Duet   | Genre: Psychedelia |
| 12) " <a href="#">Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</a> " (Milky Way, Solar System) | 3:57               |
| ➤ Showstopper   | Genre: Opera       |
| 15) " <a href="#">Parallax</a> " (Gravity, HD1)                             | 2:24               |
| ➤ Charm Number  | Genre: Pop         |

## ORCHESTRA



# ELLIPSES

Piano/Conductor

## 2. CRUNCH

(Singularity, Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Triangulum, Andromeda, Milky Way) Music & Lyrics by David Quang Pham

**Adagio**

**SINGULARITY:**  
*pp*

Feed that hole in your heart.\_\_\_\_ Give in - to in - ter - nal dark - ness.

*p*

6

Shed our light for no one.\_\_\_\_ As it's Crunch Time, Ga - lax - ies. *simple*  
*mp*

12

*p*

In black holes, dwell wis - dom.\_\_\_\_ Fed by the sprin-kles of star - dust.\_\_\_\_

*pp*

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

16

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

*mf*

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

[Rev. 1/17/23]  
[Rev. 1/17/23]

V.S.

20

MILKYWAY: *p*

TRIANGULUM,  
ANDROMEDA:

Con - sume star sy- stems. Con - sume\_\_\_ worlds that

*pp*  
E<sup>6</sup> A<sup>6</sup>  
Guitar

play  
A<sup>6</sup> E<sup>6</sup> B<sup>9</sup> E<sup>9</sup> E B<sup>9</sup> C<sup>♯</sup>(sus4) G<sup>♯</sup>(sus4)

25

WHIRLPOOL,  
CARTWHEEL:

teem. Con - sumed\_\_\_ by thoughts\_ of\_\_\_ fa - mi - ly. \_\_\_

C<sup>♯</sup>m(add2) G<sup>♯</sup>m11 E B<sup>9</sup> C<sup>♯</sup>(sus4) G<sup>♯</sup>(sus4)

29

Tender

SINGULARITY:

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

TEEN GALAXIES:

Fa - mi - ly...\_\_\_

*mp* *p*  
tutti rhythm

*mp* *p*  
C<sup>♯</sup>(sus4) E(sus4) E C<sup>♯</sup>m(add4) E C<sup>♯</sup>m(add4) C<sup>♯</sup>m(add2) E<sup>6</sup>

kick drum on quarter notes

34

Hold our love as a whole. It is Crunch Time, we be - lieve.

A<sup>6</sup> B<sup>6</sup> F<sup>#m</sup>11 A<sup>6</sup> B<sup>6</sup> E<sup>6</sup> E(add2) A(add2)

39

WHIRLPOOL: CARTWHEEL: It is Crunch Time,

It is Crunch Time, Sin-gu - la - ri - ty. Sin-gu - la - ri - ty.

TRIANGULUM: It is Crunch Time, Sin-gu - la - ri - ty.

E B(add2) E B E B(add2) B<sup>6</sup> E E B(add2)

bs.  
kick out

44

Sin-gu - la - ri - ty. MILKY WAY: It tis Crunch Time, Dad - dy Sing.

ANDROMEDA: It is Crunch Time, Sin-gu - la - ri - ty.

WHIRLPOOL/ TRIANGULUM: CARTWHEEL/ WHIRLPOOL/ TRIANGULUM: Sin-gu - la - ri - ty.

E B E B(add2) B<sup>6</sup> E E B(add2) E B

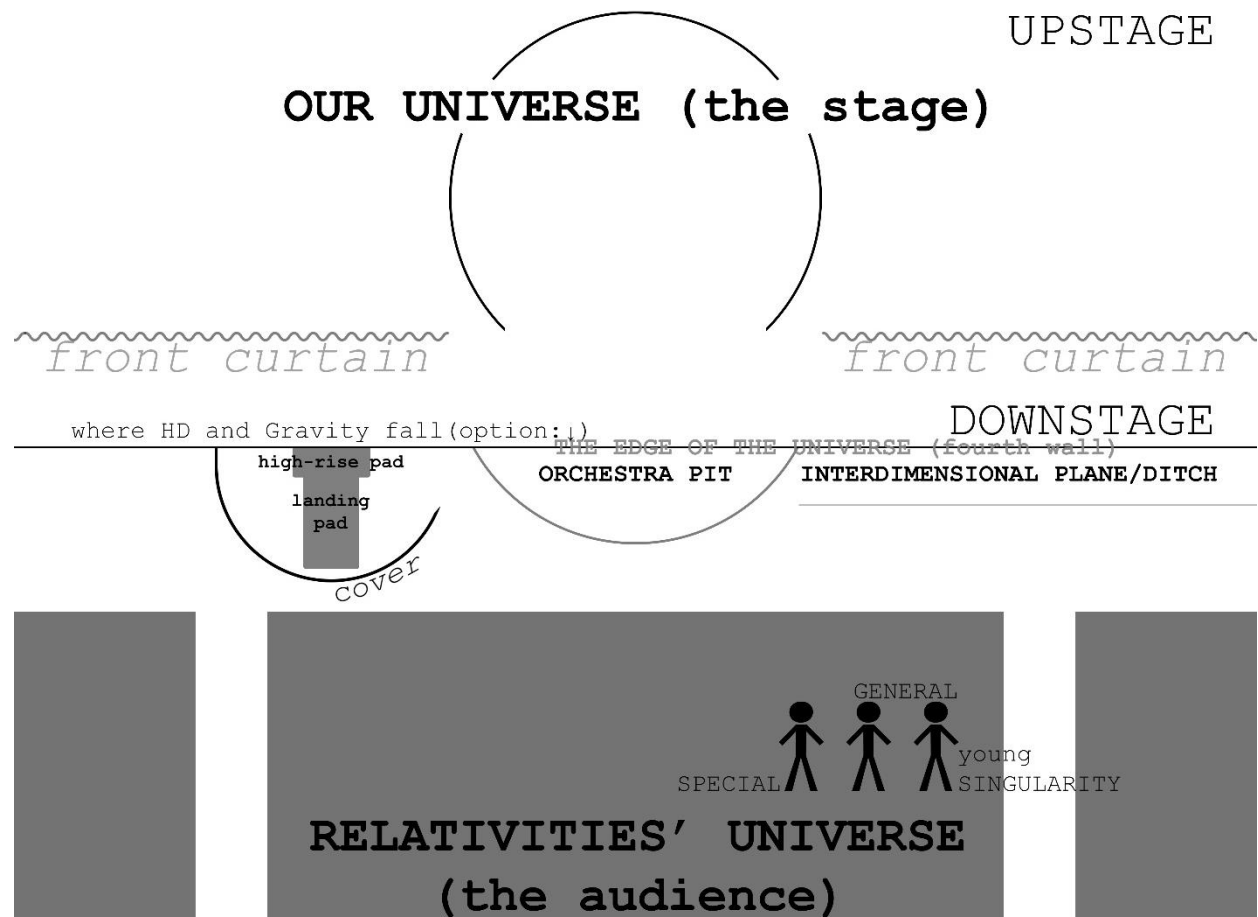




## SET DESIGN

The Circle functions as a singularity to Singularity. This is where the Universe will have order and where everything can be accounted for. After the Big Bang, the Ellipse remains symbolic of the legendary "Center of the Universe."

The inspiration for the Circle or the Dome Home is from the worldwide isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. In geometry, ellipses are ovals. The oval-shaped Galaxies are the occupants of this household. In linguistics, ellipses indicate omissions. This household is remote. The Ellipse may have been more representative of the "alienation effect" prior to the pandemic. The benefit of the post-pandemic era of isolation is that this household is more relatable. Many in Generation Z moved back to their parents to make ends meet in skyrocketing unemployment. It does not help when siblings are returning home, too.



## DEVELOPMENT

- October 2022 – January 2023: [Milky Way Theatre Company's](#) New Works Festival; Producer [Jamiel T Burkhardt](#), Director [Jay Michaels](#), AD Si Boudoin, MD [Simon Broucke](#)
- July 2022: Colorado New Musical Festival
- June 2021 – February 2022: Theater Resources Unlimited Workshops
  - June 13; October 17, 2021; February 27, 2022
- August 2020 – July 2021: [Working Title Playwrights](#) Apprenticeship
  - Table Reads: October 5; December 7, 2020; February 1; May 3, 2021
  - July 15, 2021: [Concert Reading with Talkback](#) directed by [Aliyah Curry](#); Dramaturgy by [Jordan Alexandria Ealey](#)
- [Accolades](#)
  - 2022 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Music Theatre Conference semifinalist
  - 2022 CreateTheater SUNY Cortland semifinalist

MILKY WAY THEATRE COMPANY presents  
a stage reading of a universal musical about family



Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM  
 Producer JAMIEL TAKO L BURKHART  
 Director JAY MICHAELS  
 Assistant Director & Dramaturg SI BOUDOIN  
 Music Director & Orchestrator SIMON BROUCKE  
 Stage Manager DOMINIKA ZAWADA  
 Percussionist BRANDON JACKSON  
 Guitarist ISABELLE WOOD  
 Violinist JASON SHU

THE FIRST ANNUAL NEW WORKS FESTIVAL  
**THEATRE 71, 152 W 71ST ST, NEW YORK, NY 10023**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 | 7:30PM | \$30**  
**TICKETS: [ELLIPSESPLAY.COM/EVENTS](https://ellipsesplay.com/events)**

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[MILKYWAYTHEATRE.COM](https://milkywaytheatre.com)



Joseph Lee  
SINGULARITY



Maria Noriko  
GRAVITY



Isaac Williams  
HD1



Karina Ordóñez  
CARTWHEEL



Kristen Smith  
WHIRLPOOL



Carla Angeline Mongado  
TRIANGULUM



Yoosep Im  
ANDROMEDA



Yasmin Ranz-Lind  
MILKY WAY



Oscar Chicaiza | Flynn B  
BE | ING



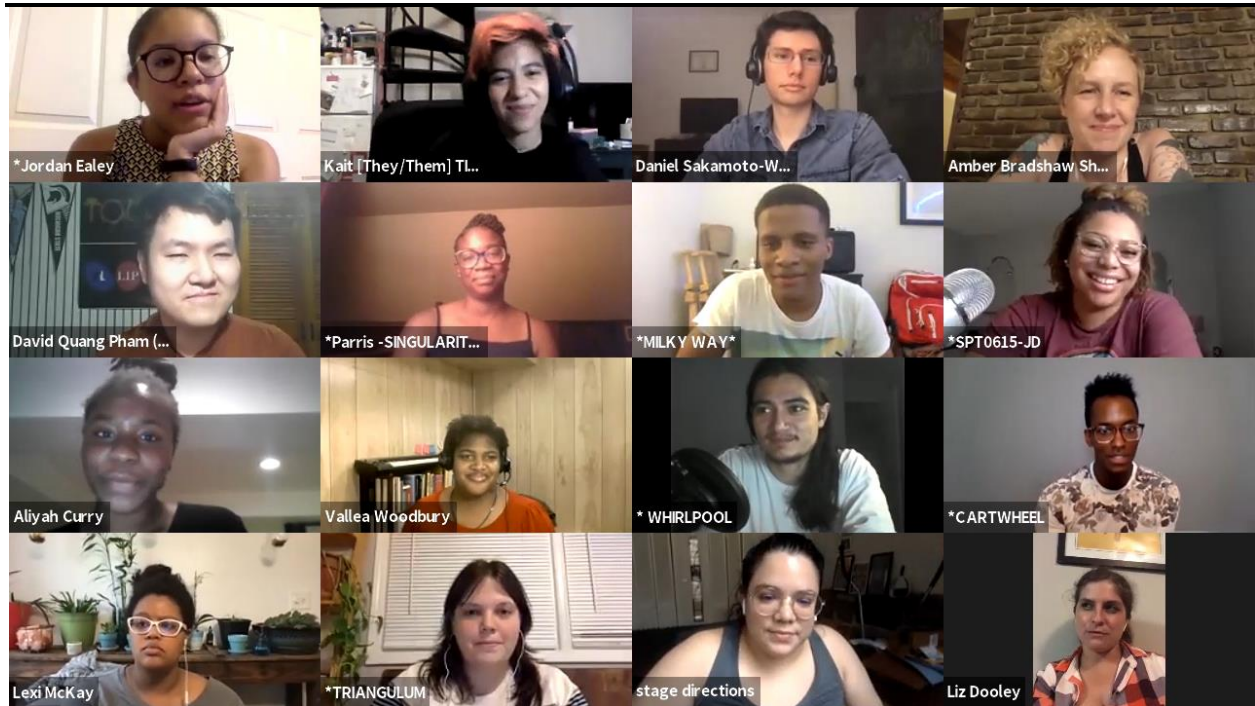
Kenedi Chriske | Chyna Jackson



Leigh Dillon, Sabrina López, Chris King,  
Caitlyn Somerville, Eli Wassertzug  
TIDALS

# OBJECTIVES

## Quarterly-Semiannual Readings



## High School - University Outreach and Engagement (Target 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. The University's theatre departments will focus on the theories of theatre, while our writer focuses on the laws of physics.

ELLIPSES strives to:

- Support the educational needs of theatre students
- Form connections between dramaturgs and scientists
- Encourage fruitful collaborations beyond the classrooms
- *Give teachers and professors a break from lecturing by sending their students off to go see a live science experiment in action*



# AUTHOR'S CONTACT

A stylized white letter 'M' logo inside a purple oval.A stylized white letter 'LIP' logo inside a red oval.A stylized white letter 'SES' logo inside a blue oval.

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