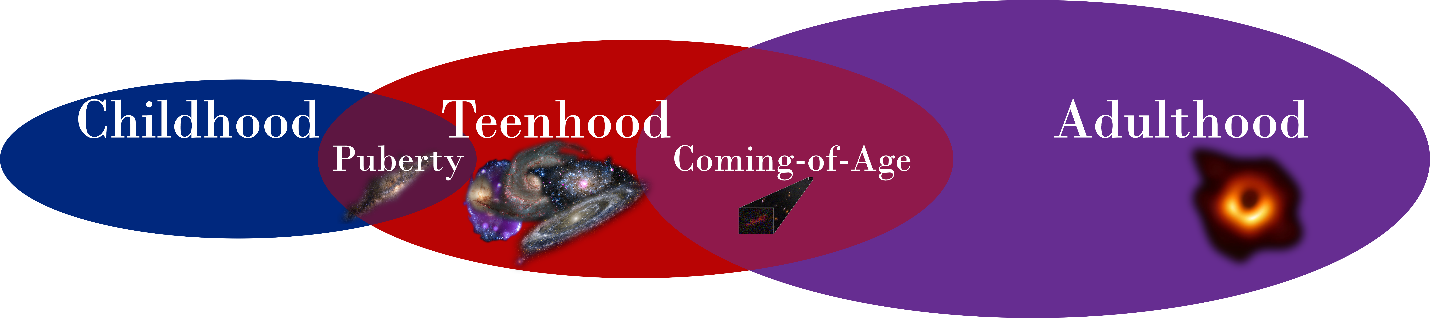
**PLOT SUMMARY**

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.

Before the world we have come to know, Singularity lived remotely with their adult child HD, baby child Milky Way, other teenage children (Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Triangulum, and Andromeda), and their unruly dog named Gravity. Gravity and HD are dual protagonists who want to free themselves from Singularity. Gravity's pursuit is freedom as a wild animal while HD has outgrown their family and wants to venture out into an outer space where an adult can be an adult. Gravity hopes to lead their only friend HD to the Edge of the Universe. Taking advantage of HD's angst, Gravity manipulates HD into committing an unspeakable act, known as the Big Bang.

The Big Bang kills Singularity, frees Gravity, and dooms the living family members. The Universe spirals out of control as this newfound nothingness reveals uncomfortable truths about growing up. Now, the parentless kids must fend for themselves against a brutal world ahead of them.

Adapting the origin of the cosmos into a family drama, astrophysicist-turned-dramatist David Quang Pham celebrates family and science with this universal musical, ELLIPSES... Our Universe is a family drama in play and this coming-of-age story answers the 13.8-billion-year-old question: What is family and how is it everything?



“Ellipse” has a universal meaning. In geometry, ellipses are ovals. The oval-shaped Galaxies are the occupants of our Universe. In linguistics, ellipses indicate omissions. This Universe is made up of nothing but hidden meanings.

ELLIPSES is a coming-of-age story. It is represented by three overlapping ovals, where two liminal ovals are formed. The three characters that most represent theses liminal spaces are Milky Way, HD1, and Singularity. Milky Way transitions from child to teen, JD transitions from teen to adult, and Singularity transitions into the great beyond.

In the context of the story, HD1 strikes their parent to run away and be an independent adult. When Singularity goes through the hidden third liminal space of death, the children are left to fend for themselves. They no longer have a parent to feed them, so they decide to venture out and undo HD’s mess. A pair of siblings (Triangulum and Andromeda) instruct another pair of siblings (Cartwheel and Whirlpool) to babysit Milky Way. However, Milky Way gets left behind. Cartwheel and Whirlpool goes on an adventure (“Time is Relative” arc). In a fit of curiosity and wanting to make themself useful, Milky Way ventures out into the unknown.

Milky Way’s “Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles” arc is about self-love and adolescence. Left behind by their family, the baby sibling and youngest Galaxy roams out in the cosmos alone. While going through puberty, Milky Way learns to love themself through their imaginary/planetary friends. This universal production number happens near the end of the first act.

**Song-by-Song Narrative**

Overview: The structure of ELLIPSES is based on the Big Crunch Theory. This is a theory of the end of our Universe, where its expansion eventually reverses and collapses into a singularity.

{Legend: ("Musical Number")}

ACT I

\*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”). HD 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, HD and Milky Way discuss growing up (“Figure”).

After Milky Way goes to bed, HD hears Gravity persuading them to search the rug. HD finds Singularity’s Big Bang Taser stashed underneath and deems the Fabric of Spacetime to be just as sturdy (“Zilch”). Singularity gets into another fight with Gravity, and stumbles into the room. Singularity recollects a traumatic event that has them seeing themself in HD. With this being the final straw, HD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. Singularity goes lifeless. In the chaos, HD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing away. It is like a rolled-up rug that HD keeps rolling away (“Big Bang”). At this start of the Universe, Gravity and HD enjoy themselves (“Verse”).

Meanwhile, the teen Galaxies mourn (“Rip”). They realize that they must get a move on and undo the Big Bang. Because there is no longer Crunch Time, they may starve without Singularity’s care and with the Universe thinning itself out. Triangulum manages to convince the family to bring HD home (“Anomaly is Everything”). Triangulum decides to journey out to the Edge with Andromeda. They instruct Cartwheel and Whirlpool to babysit Milky Way. However, they leave Milky Way behind. Eventually, they decide to return home to be present for their baby sibling (“Time is Relative”). But they find that Milky Way has left to wander the Universe alone (“Big Rip”).

Isolated and alone, Milky Way talks to their planetary friends about physically growing up (“Warps, Waves, and Wrinkles”). Eventually, Triangulum and Andromeda find Milky Way in an exhausted state of adolescence (“Globular”). The Solar System has developed into a swelling. Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. As a result, Milky Way becomes a Quasar, leading the teen Galaxies to be reunited (“Fabric”).

A trillion years pass, and Gravity and HD are still traversing space. They find time to play fetch, and Gravity catches on HD’s fugue. Through a stellar speech, Gravity explains that the point of return is far-fetched (“Far-Fetched”).

From the cosmic beyond, Singularity sings (“Point”).

ACT II

In the following act, Singularity’s backstory is presented. Apparently, they themself ran away from their own Universe. Their old self dies and physical relationship to their family dies, and a respective new essences are born (“Heat Death”). An eternity passes, and Gravity and HD hit a wall while looking for the Edge. Gravity believes that one can overcome it by relaxing (“Parallax”). In that spirit, the Edge unveils (“Tangent”). Surrounded by spectacles that remind them of family, HD decides to head back and take the Edge with them. Gravity feels betrayed as they fought hard for the wide-open space, only for it to be a singularity again. Gravity wounds HD and HD is left to return home alone, unrolling the Edge (“…”).

HD stumbles upon their siblings’ campsite. The teen Galaxies have been caging tidal dogs. HD releases them but is caught (“Bounce Back”). HD blames Gravity for the Big Bang. The Galaxies believe HD and returns home to heal them (“Family is Everything”).

Meanwhile, Gravity demonstrates their growth as a caring alpha Tidal wolf when their weak links fall apart (“Put Down”).

HD tries to adjust to life as a caretaker but ends up being a dropout (“Apparent”). Without HD, Gravity leads a tidal wolfpack. The Galaxies and the tidal forces end time in this epic showdown, where HD makes their return and Gravity has their downfall (“The Big Rip of Zenith”). When all is lost, the Galaxies pray at their table in the Center of our Universe as the tidal forces consume them (“Big Crunch”).

ACT III

In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again (“Big Bounce”).