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

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A Universal Musicalby David Quang Pham

DAVID QUANG PHAM (he ★him) | [Resume](https://www.scitheatre.org/starwrights/pham_david_quang/resume)

David is a musical theater science communicator. 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 (2022 Eugene O'Neill NMTC semifinalist), and PARALLEL UNIVERSITY (2021 NYPL Lab) with [Marie Incontrera](https://www.incontrera.com/). He is the composer of [Minka Wiltz](https://www.minkawiltz.com/)’s mixed-media musical *Behind the Veil*. Composer [Janelle Lawrence](https://www.janellelawrence.com/) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including gospel, pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu.

After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as the apprentice of Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He is the Literary Fellow of Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco. He is also a proficient trombonist; a critic in Kennedy Center's BIPOC Critics Lab; a moderator at LMDA; a founding member of CreateTheater; a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild. Be up to lightspeed at [davidquang.com](https://www.davidquang.com/)

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

**SINGULARITY**, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies **GRAVITY**, a dogSPT0615-**JD**, young adult, Singularity's oldest child**CARTWHEEL**, teen, Singularity’s child**WHIRLPOOL**, teen, Singularity’s child**TRIANGULUM**, teen, Singularity’s child**ANDROMEDA**, teen, Singularity’s child**MILKY WAY**, preteen, Singularity’s youngest child

Supporting Characters

**ABELL**, young child, JD’s eventual Galaxy, never utters a word**INVARIANT**, adult, Singularity’s parent, appears in Act II**FIX**, adult, Singularity’s parent, appears in Act II

Ensemble

**TIDALS**, tidal forces personified as dogs Bark: “Force” Howl: “Fall”**SOLAR SYSTEM**, Milky Way's imaginary friends**MULTIPLICITIES**, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

\*Cast Size {Reading: 10 (includes stage directions reader); Doubling: Cartwheel-Invariant & Whirlpool-Fix; Absent: Abell / Workshop: 16+ (8 Principal, 3 Supporting, 5+ Ensemble)}

SYNOPSIS

Spend an eternity in the family musical of epic proportions. In ELLIPSES, the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity sing and dance their way through 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 from home with Gravity (aka the Big Bang). Without their parent, the teenage Galaxies must fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos.Family is everything we know, and so is the Universe. The entire chronology of our Universe is a family drama in play. To live as a family or to leave as anomalies is the heart of this universal coming-of-age story.

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In geometry, an “ellipse” is an oval. ⬭  
In punctuation, “ellipses” indicate omissions. ...

“An ellipse in the ellipses” ⬭ A Stage in the Three Stages of Human Development (Childhood/Teenhood/Adulthood)

“Ellipses” ⬭ A (divisive) term for Galaxies, besides “Ovals” and “Ellipsoids”

“[The Elliptic](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/set)” ⬭ The Dome Home in the Center of the Universe (A Setting)

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Virtually, ELLIPSES has had four table reads, three workshops, and a public concert reading. ELLIPSES was David’s apprenticeship project at [Working Title Playwrights](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com/) in Atlanta, and David got to see the show on its virtual feet this past year. Seeing the readings with an audience was immensely helpful, and his revisions are based on rehearsal feedback and professional responses he got through that yearlong experience. [Aliyah Curry](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8550270/) directed the final virtual reading with dramaturg [Jordan Alexandria Ealey](https://www.jordanealey.com/) leading the talkback. ELLIPSES participated in [Theater Resources Unlimited](https://truonline.org/)’s How to Write a Musical That Works 3-part workshops (June and October 2021, February 2022) and their Writer-Director Communications Lab (December 2021).