

Personal Statement

Those who have graduated alongside me are now discovering new ions, fighting cancer with lasers, and stopping asteroids from hurtling towards our planet. They are pursuing a higher education to be well-written scientists. For me, my higher calling has been to be the science playwright. I can make monologues for ions, create stage combat between lasers and cancer, and break Earth with a game of dodgeball. I have also given a voice to my unheard colleagues.

The last time I heard them was in 2018, while studying at the cyclotron. For over a year, I had been immersed in my subatomic opera. After graduating, I took a gap year to send this play out and soon reg e gaines – writer of *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk* – read it and invited me to New York. He said that the science spoke to the heart of urban living. We are quarks colliding with one another in the accelerator called life. Like a particle, I wanted the feel of a higher degree.

At the start of a fiery 2020, a Dramatists Guild workshop led by alumni Laura Neill made me aware of BU. I visited the city twice for the Asian American Playwright Collective Playfest and a physics retreat at Boston College. In both events, their goal was for the betterment of the world. I know that my scientific insights are to be shared with the dramatists of the future. Once I branded myself as the science theatremaker in all gatherings, writers reached out for help on their science plays. Soon, Working Title Playwrights asked me to be their apprentice. The following year, Playwrights Foundation approached me to be their literary fellow. My formal studies in playwriting and dramaturgy happened under the leading new play incubators in Atlanta and the Bay Area. Like the innovative playwrights that mentored me there, I strive to obtain a higher degree.

What would I do while attaining a higher degree compared to the hundreds of other particles? I may accelerate in New Noises. Particularly, this program would further my effectiveness in sharing how sparks fly when tackling limited daily prompts and weeklong assignments that are amorphous as quantum mechanics. Young playwrights with fresh ideas may get a lot out of positive mentorship from me as someone who has original thoughts and runs with it. As the Vice President of MSU's Society of Physics Students, I kept undergrads engaged by organizing artsy events where they saw compelling relationships in nature. I also mentored neurodivergent kids at 4th Wall Theatre Company (now Openspot). And in the past year, underserved communities have approached me to teach musical writing, with reg e gaines having sit in as a student. To add, my experiences as a literary fellow has shaped my empathy with aspiring writers. I aspire to grow as an educator at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

And as a playwright, a pattern in my work is that the story traverses science communication through the human condition. *TOUR*, an opera about subatomic educators colliding in the academic Accelerator, was conceived as a physics undergrad. *ELLIPSES*, a musical about the isolated Galaxy family, was developed in our 2020 isolation. This musical found a yearlong home at Working Title Playwrights. My three-year-long hope is for Boston University to be the home of a notable musical as well.

Based on the work at Boston Theater Marathon Festival and alumni Steven Barkhimer's musical profession, I know that BU is open to the form. As a librettist, I am going to be writing librettos,

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and seek mentorship from Barkhimer. My three-year graduate school project will be a musical that personifies science, perhaps telecommunication, having observed BU's research in it. Also, I will make the most of writing unplanned dozens of shorts and several full-length plays a year. Working Title Playwrights made me disciplined and connected me with my first stage manager, dramaturg, and director. I also produced as an affiliate of CreateTheater and Playwrights Foundation; as a partner of Tim Kashani of Apples and Oranges Arts; and a mentee under Jane Dubin and Jennifer Isaacson of Theater Resources Unlimited. Working with Boston's artists may be sought if I am accepted, but I also look forward to connecting BU's theatre with their first ecologist, astronomer, and geologist. Under my watch and in my time, this work we would do is a STEAM collaboration. Together, I would like to focus on humanizing the rich history of science in Boston.

My chronology in playwriting looks expansive lately. The best years of my life was as an apprentice, is as a fellow, and always as a champion of science plays. Much of the enlightenment happened in the dark years of 2020-2021. So, the time is now to get out of my Dark Age and onto an era of large-scale structure emergence. It is never too late to start grad school. However, the sooner I start, the earlier the galaxies, stars, planets, and ultimately cells can form; the more time there is for chaotic systems to settle with ecosystems; the smoother it is for intelligent life to set design my worlds and find their callings in art and science. Those who have graduated alongside me may be discovering new ions, fighting cancer with lasers, and stopping asteroids from hurtling towards our planet. However, I am a rare particle who can gravitate the masses towards what is present in the field of STEM and the natural field of science.

If I am accepted into Boston University's Playwriting program's orbit, I would acquire the tools that needed in order to not only build myself but the communities who have raised me with limited resources and yet has the passion for the performing arts. I believe your open and diverse background, and reliable mission would accelerate me to be the pioneer in science playwriting that I know I could be. Thank you for your consideration and spacetime.