

David Quang Pham (he/him)

1140 Alger St SW Wyoming, MI 49509 | (616) 818-5413 | davidquangpham@outlook.com

In college, my peers pursued higher education to become well-written scientists. They are now discovering new ions, fighting cancer with lasers, and stopping asteroids from hurtling towards our planet. My higher calling has been to be the science playwright. I can make up monologues for ions, create stage combat between lasers and cancer, and break Earth with a rocky game of dodgeball. I have also given a voice to my unheard colleagues.

2018 was the last I heard from them while studying in the cyclotron at my alma mater, Michigan State University (MSU). I was immersed in my subatomic opera for my entire senior year. After graduation, I took a gap year to send this play out. Then, the writer of *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*, Reggie Gaines, read it and invited me to New York. He said that the science spoke to the urban heart. We are all quarks colliding with one another in the accelerator called life. And like any particle, I needed to reach the excited state of a higher degree.

At the start of a blazing 2020, a Dramatists Guild class led by alumni Laura Neill made me aware of Boston University (BU). I had visited the city twice for the Asian American Playwright Collective Playfest and a physics retreat at Boston College. The goal of either events was for the betterment of the world. I knew that my scientific insights ought to be shared with writers of the future. Once I branded myself as the science theatremaker, many playwrights reached out for help on their science plays. Soon, Working Title Playwrights (WTP) asked me to be their apprentice. In 2021, 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. To be more like the pioneering playwrights that mentored me there, I strive to obtain a higher degree.

How do I plan to stand out amongst the other dozens of particles who are applying? I will advance myself in New Noises. Particularly, this program would further my effectiveness in sharing how sparks fly when tackling limited daily prompts and weeklong assignments. 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 artistic events where they saw compelling relationships in nature. One of the events was Physics and Astronomy Day, where we combined performance and science demonstrations to school-aged children at a local museum. I also mentored neurodivergent kids at 4th Wall Theatre Company (now Openspot). And in the past year, underserved communities have approached me to teach master classes on musical writing. My experiences as a literary fellow have shaped my empathy with aspiring writers.