

David Quang Pham

What are three aspects of our program that you feel would be helpful for you to learn from me (Heather Helinsky) as your mentor in this process?

- People skills, especially (hundreds of) new people [as a playwright so used to the virtual world who now has to transition to the physical world eventually]
 - I am happy as a cheerleader to the public channels on Slack and a private messenger to each reader who can lead them to what to read. Most of the interactions happened in Heather's "absence."
 - Everything is a little preparation for the physical space, but I am never going to feel the true weight of physical interaction until either academia or other paths that I have yet to know.
- The balance between innovation/uniqueness with the general consensus of a community
 - I am not bright in the structural shadows as I am unusual in any settlement. I thought about this goal in terms of play selection but shifted it to the process of literary management.
 - The Lit Council appreciates stories that are edgy and weird.
 - Google Drive (personal PF account / not general) collaboration can be annoying with its limitations. I desperately wanted to clean empty docs and trash repeated files.
- Building reputation as a specialized dramaturg [it is obvious that I, the science dramaturg, have fought for and helped advance certain stories onto the BAPF stage]
 - Everyone knows I like science, so mission accomplished. I have not been helpful to science storytelling as I looked to be. But as a general dramaturg, I have been entrusted as a judge and adjudicator for other organizations' new play processes.
 - The shift I need to make is that I am a... "playwright." *A playwright who does not rely on composing music and spectacles to tell the play, that is a whole 'nother story.*

What have you achieved while you are here? (ongoing)

– Literary Management

- Play reading
 - Skimmed 50~ plays
 - Read 30~ plays
 - 18 thought-out reports
 - Learnt to pace myself at 2 plays / per day / 5 days a week
 - Had trouble pacing myself with reports
- Literary meetings
 - Getting to know Heather and Kaela
 - Learnt effective skimming
 - Learnt assessment of developmental goals
 - Learnt intentions / removed biases towards blind reading
 - More to learn about enthusiasm
 - Failure to diversify age; playwrights leaned towards Kaela's and my generation
 - My biases towards this generation's plays need addressing
- Community
 - Email/Slack
 - Spoken individually with dozens of readers in professional-personal capacities
 - Gathering
 - Leveled my seriousness and silliness (Be authentic~)
 - Introductions grow concise
 - DJ'd once
 - No one likes my songs
- Technology
 - Google
 - Transferred Microsoft Office skills to Google Drive
 - Slack

- Somehow worked with three Slacks with a dozen channel each
- Frequent time logging
- ***No confidential stuff leaked, yay!***

– Science Advocacy

- Built reputation as a science-specialized dramaturg/adjudicator
 - Cared much about this **vocally** but not in **practice**
 - Depending on time and mentality, my level of objectivity is primarily to be harsher on plays with these themes
- Play selection process of science and technology-driven/esque plays
 - Uplifted *Brown Bodies on a Blue Earth* **but is not a selection**
 - Uplifted *The Lost Ballad of Our Mechanical Ancestor* **but did not reach finals**
 - Uplifted *Memory of Ice* **but did not reach finals**
 - Uplifted *Men Accumulate* **but is not a selection**
 - Did not uplift *The Family Tree*
 - Did not uplift *The Secret Lives of Gamers and Dead Astronauts*

– Musical Development - My hopes of achievement mostly centered on uplifting music-driven playwrights

- Play selection process of music-driven/esque plays
 - Uplifted *All My Mothers Dream in Spanish* **but did not reach finals**
 - Uplifted *Crawfish* **but faltered because of them having a production**
 - Uplifted *Throw Away Temple* **but did not reach finals**
 - Play with string instruments that my compositions are engaged to
 - Did not uplift *Revelations of Divine Love*
 - Ongoing: Considering *Comrades* and *Skin Song*
- As a musical writer, this is sort of external or indirect
 - Again, getting to know Kaela, a fellow musical writer!
 - January 2022: Undiscovered Countries
 - Writing a completely new song; the last was June 2021

- Getting to know Play Café more
- December 2021: Second “accolade”; the last was December 2019
- Professionally reformatted my librettos
 - Inspired by reading countless plays of certain formats