With a physics degree, my colleagues went out to discover new ions, fight cancer with lasers, and stop asteroids from hurtling into our planet. I’ve been instrumental, too. In terms of degree, I angle to fill their lives with vibrating particles. Whenever their laboratories open up to field trips, wave of kids to academic could dream: “Discoveries. Symmetry. The journeys. Quite loopy.” The lyrics of “Entanglement.” Or they could ponder: “In comes interaction. Oh the nucleation. A plasmic collision.” The lyrics of “Centration.” They will be singing TOUR, after the actual tour.

Let’s tour around this lab that is me. I drew the planets, and Pluto, on the corners of my alphabet homework. Beyond paper, theatre was the open way I could express my astronomical dreams. Like the fabric of spacetime, the audience was dark matter and we, as stellar objects, project into the void. In middle and high school, I delved into music theory and played the trombone. The nerdy persona remained, and the artistic talents dwelled into my college years. As I was finishing up my bachelor’s thesis, my sister informed me that my high school calculus teacher had been annually sharing my musical fable. During my junior year of high school, I wrote MATHLANDfor their winter project. Studying the magnetohydrodynamics modelling of the solar corona was not fluid, so I decided to return to musical writing on the side to be dynamic. Like a star, TOUR had its matters aligned in the span of billions of years.

One may come to believe that my parents love this journey. Of course, no. I respect particles like family, as they made us. In terms of science and humanity, which is not entirely exclusive to each other, new particles and immigrants entering our equations and lands propel us all. My pride in a Vietnamese upbringing grows and its inherent strangeness has shown worth. During this pandemic, I have newfound passion for particle physics. Beyond these small matters building us rather than tearing us down, its fundamental scientific research has practical medical applications that keep us built. The things that I realized within conceptualizing this unique story was that science was often essentially taken, not just from individuals but from community. It would be a community effort to bring back community awareness and community efforts of understanding how we can come together and own our science movements and culture. As an individual of a community, I coined TOUR, an operatic musical that experiments with tango, pop, choral, and four particles – Quark, Lepton, Boson, and Atom. These standard particles collide and compete with one another in the physics academic and professional field. By the end of act I, they all pass college and get jobs at the particle accelerator. In the end, they all rise as God Particles.

To end this tour, the takeaway is that this is the lab of an artistic scientist. What is the difference between that and the lab of a scientific artist, one may ask? Their theory is that science and art are two sides of the same coin. That is not conclusive. Science and art make the coin. I do not flip. I spin. That experimentation is my theatrical application. Specific and direct correlation as an artist.

~~Respectively, these radiations come from Working Title Playwrights, the International Dramaturgy Lab, and eventually Science Gallery and the Sloan Project commissions.~~ The mission’s outputs are musicals ~~TOUR, a physics fable~~ about particles in college, and ~~ELLIPSES, an astrophysics epic~~ about a family of galaxies.