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# Completeness

by Itamar Moses

Are these **science geniuses** smart enough to figure out **love**?

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**Tony-Award-Winning Playwright & Science Experts!**

**MARCH**, 2021 as part of the ATLANTA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

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# Completeness

by **Itamar Moses**

directed by **HEIDI CLINE MCKERLEY**

Edited and Designed by  
**AMY L. LEVIN and KEVIN QIAN**

Elliot.....**CHRIS HECKE**  
Molly.....**NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL**  
Lauren/Nell.....**SHELLI DELGADO**  
Don/Franklin.....**ERIC J. LITTLE**  
Stage Directions.....**GREG HUNTER**

**POST-SHOW DISCUSSION MODERATORS**

**Kellie Vinal, Ph.D.**, *Public Events Coordinator, Science ATL*  
**Nichole Palmietto**, *National New Play Network Producer-in-Residence*  
**Lisa Adler**, *Horizon Co-Artistic/Producing Director*

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SPECIAL THANKS TO **ITAMAR MOSES** FOR ALLOWING US TO PRESENT HIS WORK!  
SPECIAL THANKS FOR OUR PRESENTING PARTNER: **SCIENCE ATL**.

The taking of pictures/screenshots, videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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**We welcome your feedback, volunteer assistance, or contributions.**

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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



**ITAMAR MOSES** is an acclaimed writer for stage and screen. Itamar is the 2018 Tony-Award-winner for the Best Book of a Musical for the hit Broadway production of *The Band's Visit*—for which he and David Yazbek (music and lyrics) also took home top honors in Musical Theatre from the Obie Awards (for its Off-Broadway debut at the Atlantic Theater Company in 2016-17). Born in Berkeley, CA, and a resident of Brooklyn, NY, Moses holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, has taught playwriting at both his alma mater and at Yale University, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild and a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop. His other plays (which include *The*

*Four of Us*, *Bach at Leipzig*, and *Completeness*) and musicals (*Nobody Loves You* with Gaby Alter and *Fortress of Solitude* with Michael Friedman) have appeared Off-Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Horizon Theatre produced the hilarious *Nobody Loves You*, set in on a dating reality show, in 2017. His writing for the popular TV series *Men of a Certain Age* (TNT), *Boardwalk Empire* (HBO), and *Outsiders* (WGN) is well known to viewers throughout the country.

## ABOUT THE CAST



### **SHELLI DELGADO**

(*Lauren/Nell/Et al.*)

recently played Sobhan in Horizon's & Aurora Theatre's joint production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Regional Credits: *A Christmas Carol*, *Max Makes a Million*, *Tiger Style!*, *Little Raindrop Songs and Dinosaur!* (Alliance Theatre); *A Doll's House Part 2*, *The Crucible\**, *RENT* (Actor's Express, \*Suzi Bass Award for Featured Actress), *Hamlet* (Atlanta Shakespeare Company), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Warehouse Theatre), *Into the Woods*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *4000 Miles*, *Les Misérables* (Aurora Theatre), *Sense & Sensibility* (Synchronicity Theatre), *Grease*, *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe). TV: *The Vampire Diaries*. IG: @shellidelgado. Black Lives Matter.



### **CHRIS HECKE**

(*Elliot*) is a Regional Actor and a proud Immigrant from Brazil. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas. Since moving to the US at the age of 18, Chris has been blessed to work from Atlanta,

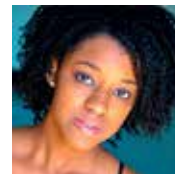
to Fayetteville, to Greenville, to Gainesville. Since making Atlanta his professional, home-base in 2016, his favorite credits include *Hotspur (Henry IV Pt.1)*, *Edmund the Bastard (King Lear)*, and *Berowne (Love's Labours Lost)* at the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern; stints in *Shakespeare in Love* and *My Father's War* at Theatre Squared; and *Pablo (Native Gardens)* at Aurora Theatre. He has also been an actor in Horizon Theatre's Young Playwright's Festival from 2018-2020.



### **ERIC J. LITTLE**

(*Don/Franklin/Et al.*) is an actor, teacher, director, and writer. Having received his MFA in acting from Louisiana State University, he has acted on professional stages across Atlanta, as well as in New York

and Louisiana. His Film/TV work includes *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*, *Necessary Roughness*, *The Clubhouse - (Pilot)*, *The Know Better Effect - (Pilot)*, *Hamlet's Ghost*, *Lottery Ticket*, the lead in two short films *Perfect Day* and *A Beautiful Death*, and also various commercials. Eric's been nominated for five Suzi Awards and was the winner of the 2011 Suzi Award Winner Lead Actor for *Superior Donuts* (Horizon Theatre Company). Eric is currently an Adjunct Professor at Clark Atlanta University where he teaches acting and where he has directed productions of *for black boys who have considered homicide when the streets were too much*, *Before It Hits Home*, and *The Brothers Size*.



### **NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL**

(*Molly*) is an Atlanta resident, FSU Alumnus, and a Suzi Bass Award-winner for her role as Felicia Farrell in *Memphis* (Aurora Theater /Theatrical Outfit). Other regional

credits include *The Nacirema Society...* and *A Christmas Carol* (Alliance Theatre); *Big Fish* and *Godspell* (Theatrical Outfit); *Tranced* and *Lark Eden* (Aurora Theatre); *Antigone* (Georgia Shakespeare), *Caroline, or Change* (St. Louis Black Rep), and *Rejoice* (True Colors Theatre Company). Film/TV credits include: *House of Payne*, *Let's Stay Together*, and *Banshee*. She is a passionate diverse book reviewer and shares the drama of mothering 2 girls @itsthedramamama on Instagram.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



**HEIDI MCKERLEY** is a Horizon Artistic Associate who has been directing for Horizon for over two decades, including most of Horizon's musicals, most recently the acclaimed *Once*. She has been fortunate to work with most professional theatres in Atlanta during her three decades here; including, the Alliance Theatre, Horizon Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Georgia Shakespeare, Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, Aurora Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Actor's Express, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Theatre Emory, Dad's Garage, Fabrefaction, Jewish Theatre of the South, Theatre in the Square, Push Push Theatre, and has been a guest artist for the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, Berry College, Kennesaw State University, the Lagrange Lyric, and the University of Georgia. She has also taught for the acting intern companies of Actor's Express and the Atlanta Shakespeare Company. Heidi has been nominated for 13 Suzi Bass Awards, and won Best Director of a Musical in 2011 for *Avenue Q*. She enjoys writing and wrote the book for one of the three first official entries to be showcased in the Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival, *The Fine Art of Forgetting*. Heidi was the Founding Producing Artistic Director of Soulstice Repertory Ensemble, offering 31 theatrical classics at 7 Stages in 11 years. Regionally, Heidi has worked for the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia and the Oasis Theatre and Hippodrome State Theatre in Florida. She is a member of the Southern Order of Storytellers, the National Storytelling Network, the Alliance for Theatre in Education, Georgia Thespians, the Georgia Theatre Conference, and the Educational Theatre Association of America.



## ABOUT THE SCIENTIST PANELISTS

### JOINING US FOR A LIVE DISCUSSION ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021



**SENA AGEZO** is a fourth-year Neuroscience PhD student working jointly in the labs of Drs. Robert Liu, Gordon Berman and Larry Young at Emory University. His research focuses on understanding how the oxytocin system in the striatum influences the neurophysiological mechanisms in behaviors such as social attachment. He is also interested in using machine learning to elucidate the subtle behavioral differences that emerge as a result of social bond formation. Sena obtained his Master and Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering at Drexel University. He spent some time in industry working with Abbott Point of Care as a project engineer.

### JOINING US FOR A LIVE DISCUSSION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021



**CHARLES FORD** graduated from Davidson College with a BS in Neuroscience in 2012. He began a combined MD-PhD program at Emory University in 2015 and is currently completing his PhD in Neuroscience under the mentorship of Dr. Larry Young. His dissertation work focuses on oxytocin and the neurobiological basis of social bonding, behavior, and cognition.

### JOINING US FOR A LIVE DISCUSSION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021



**SARAH BLUMENTHAL** is a second-year Neuroscience Ph.D. student at Emory University working in the lab of Dr. Larry Young. Her research focuses on the neurobiological mechanisms underlying empathy-like behaviors and social bonding. Sarah obtained her Master's degree in Experimental Psychology at William & Mary and her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and German from Wake Forest University.

## ABOUT THE PLAY

How does a computer scientist hook up with a molecular biologist? He blinds her with science, of course!

It may sound like a joke, but for Elliot and Molly, two intellectuals struggling with the realities of romance, it's a very real equation that will take both of them working together to solve. When Elliot builds a computer program to help Molly with her research project, the variables in their evolving relationship shift as rapidly as the terms of their experiment.

Written by the Tony-Award-Winning playwright Itamar Moses (*The Band's Visit*, *Nobody Loves You*, *Fortress of Solitude*) this modern rom-com inspires both laughter and empathy when it comes to nerds in love.

Moses links the idea for *Completeness* back to a college engineering course, where he learned about the "Traveling Salesman Problem."

"I remember liking how simple the problem was and that it had this evocative, non-science sounding name," says Moses. "The Traveling Salesman Problem... is essentially a problem of choice-making when there are too many possibilities, and it suddenly occurred to me that it was a good metaphor for choosing a life partner. I immediately saw the seeds of a romantic comedy about someone working on the problem who also sees it manifest in his personal life, and my protagonist, Elliot, was born."

At its heart, *Completeness* is a play about the impossibility of certainty...in life, love, and cellular reproduction. At turns hilarious and seductive, *Completeness* will inspire both laughter and empathy.