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A Universal Musical

By David Quang Pham

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THANK YOU

Working Title Playwrights Dramaturgy Apprenticeship 2020-2021

Amber Bradshaw WTP Managing Artistic Director ○ Emily McClain First Reader
 Alexis McKay Fireworks/Stage Manager ○ [Jordan Alexandria Ealey](#) Hat/Dramaturg
 Aliyah Curry Butterfly/Director ○ Parris Sarter*²/[Minka Wiltz](#)* Singularity
[Vallea E. Woodbury](#) Gravity ○ Daniela Cobb* SPT0615-JD
 Jason-Jamal Ligon Cartwheel ○ Skye Passmore Whirlpool
 Abby Holland Triangulum ○ Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel Andromeda
[Evan Phillips](#) Milky Way ○ Kait Rivas Tidalis ○ Sofia Palmero Narrator
 Kate Leanne Jacoby* Understudy ○ Isake Akanke, Robert Bryan Davis,
[Jeff Hathcoat](#)², Ebony Jerry, Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor²,
[Lee Osorio](#)², [Mary Lynn Owen](#), [Lau'rie Roach](#), [Imani Vaughn-Jones](#)²
 WTP Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*

Colorado New Musical Festival 2022

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 Emma Day Magellan/Music Director & Saturn ○ Lucia Graves Milky Way
 Jack Tyler Oort Cloud ○ Nicole Meredith Uranus [Riley Krull](#) Sun
 Elicia Hesselgrave Earth & Jupiter ○ [Amanda M. Edwards](#) Mercury

Milky Way Theatre Company 2022-2023

Jamiel Tako L Burkhart MWTC Artistic Director ○ [Jay Michaels](#) Director
 Sierra Nicole Assistant Director & Dramaturg ○ [Simon Broucke](#) Music Director
 Dominika Zawada Stage Manager

Life ∞-∞

Dr. Edwin Din Loh, [Dr. Danny Caballero](#) Professors of Physics and Astronomy at
 Michigan State University ○ Dr. Daniel T. Smith Jr. Professor of Theatre at MSU
 Christina Hemphill, Marty Jagodzinski, [Madeline Stone](#) CreateTheater
[Janelle Lawrence](#) Mentor ○ Trung Pham, Hue Nguyen, Linda Pham Family

DAVID QUANG PHAM (he ★him)

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator. His purpose is to guide scientists to the fourth wall and theatre artists to the fourth dimension. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science, devising stories from its branches. His notable musicals personifying quantum mechanics and cosmology are respectively: TOUR (2020 DUAF finalist) and ELLIPSES. He is writing a floral-herbal musical. His dramaturgical credits include *Millennials are Killing Musicals* by Nico Juber (2022 29-hour reading at Open Jar Studios and 54 Below).

Composer Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as the second apprentice of Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He is the last Literary Fellow of Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco. His music was commissioned by Harriet Tubman Effect Institute. He was a critic in Kennedy Center's BIPOC Critics Lab whose work is published in TheaterMania. He is a proficient trombonist; moderator at LMDA; founding member of CreateTheater and the International Dramaturgy Lab; member of SMT, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild. His moonbase is in New York City. Be up to lightspeed at davidquang.com

CHRONOLOGY OF ELLIPSES

October 5, 2020; December 7, 2020; February 1, 2021; May 3, 2021
• Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights

June 13, 2021; October 17, 2021; February 27, 2022 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited (TRU)

July 15, 2021 • Concert Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights; Director Aliyah Curry, Dramaturg Jordan Ealey

December 11, 2021 • Lab • TRU; Director Miriam Eusebio

2022 • Semifinalist • Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

2022 • Semifinalist • CreateTheater SUNY Cortland Partnership

July 2022 • Workshop • Colorado New Musical Festival

January 2023 • Milky Way Theatre Company's New Works Festival

SYNOPSIS

ELLIPSES is a universal coming-of-age story that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way through a family tragedy, known as the Big Bang.

Before the world that we have come to know, there lived a remote family of Galaxies. Singularity is the single parent who locked their six kids in the house. Milky Way is the baby sibling going through galactic puberty. HD is the oldest sibling looking to explore the Universe. This outgrown young adult is perfect for Gravity's manipulation. In a violent altercation, HD shoots Singularity to run away from home with Gravity (aka the Big Bang). Without their parent, the teenage Galaxies must fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos.

Family is everything we know, and so is the Universe. The entire chronology of our Universe is a family drama in play. To live as a family or to leave as anomalies is the heart of this universal coming-of-age story.

ooo

In geometry, an "ellipse" is an oval. ○
In punctuation, "ellipses" indicate omissions. ...

"..." at the end of a sentence implies ponderance.
Gravity and the other Tidals have no use for "..."

"An ellipse in the ellipses" ○ A Stage in the Three Stages of Human Development (Childhood/Teenhood/Adulthood)

"Ellipses" ○ A (divisive) term for Galaxies, besides "Ovals" and "Ellipsoids"

"The Circle" ○ The Dome Home in the Center of the Universe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog, the Galaxy family's letdown

HD1, young adult, Singularity's oldest child

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Supporting Characters

ABELL, young child, HD's eventual Galaxy, never utters a word

INVARIANT, adult, Singularity's parent, appears in Act II

FIX, adult, Singularity's parent, appears in Act II

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

SOLAR SYSTEM, Milky Way's imaginary friends; principal
characters are in brackets [] for potential doubling

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

○ Androgyny Astronomy: Each character resembles the
androgynous nature, with open-ended vocal requirements

○ People of the Global Majority most represent the
experiences of this universal family; cast accordingly

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. "Bounce" Singularity, Galaxies
2. "Crunch" Singularity, Teen Galaxies
3. "Cutting Edge (Make Myself Clear)" Galaxies
4. "Figure" HD, Milky Way
5. "Zilch" Gravity, HD, Tidal
6. "Big Bang" Singularity, Galaxies, Gravity, Tidal
7. "Verse" HD, Gravity, Singularity
8. "Anomaly is Everything" Teen Galaxies
9. "Time is Relative" Cartwheel, Whirlpool
10. "Big Rip" Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Tidal
11. "Warps, Waves, and Wrinkles" Milky Way, Solar System
12. "Globular" Andromeda
13. "Fabric" Teen Galaxies, Tidal
14. "Far-Fetched" Gravity, HD, Tidal
15. "Point" Singularity, Multiplicities, Tidal

Act II

16. "Heat Death" Singularity, Invariant, Fix
17. "Parallax" Gravity, HD
18. "Tangent" HD, Gravity, Singularity
19. "... " Gravity, Tidal
20. "Bounce Back" Teen Galaxies
21. "Family is Everything" Galaxies
22. "Put Down" Gravity, Tidal
23. "Apparent (Shed Light)" Galaxies, Singularity, Gravity
24. "Zenith" Gravity, Galaxies, Tidal
25. "Big Crunch" Singularity, Galaxies, Tidal

Nulla

26. "Big Bounce" Company

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Light resides within The Circle, stationed downstage center. Inside its Dome is a table and a rug. The stage outside seems off limits and teems with floral equations. The side curtains conceal the upstage.

SINGULARITY is outside, picking equations and setting them in a mortar bowl. They then head to the rug to meditate.

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

Alert, SINGULARITY draws out the Big Bang Taser and ignites it outwards.

The lights flicker. The curtains ripple. The Universe is wondrous.

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

A shadow of HD in a shooting stance protrudes from the home.

From the audience, ABELL enters. They sit in a front row seat.

SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser under the rug, returning the Universe back to its void stasis.

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

HD enters, carrying a pestle.

SINGULARITY hands the bowl to HD. They disappear inside the home.

HD unveils a monocular from the pestle. They position themselves at the edge of the home and set down the bowl. They scope out.

1. "BOUNCE"

TRIANGULUM wanders out, holding a snow globe that resembles the home. They head over to HD. They snatch their monocular to scope out. They toss it behind.

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

WHIRLPOOL spirals out. They catch or pick up the monocular. They scope out.

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They snatch the monocular from WHIRLPOOL. They scope out.

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA scopes out. They stow away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY, looking disheveled, strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

The TEEN GALAXIES - CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY - cluster in the center of the home.

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another and land by their respective walls. In choreographic exposition, they distinctly dance alongside it and pose at certain melodic phrases.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL! HD!

MILKY WAY makes their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA sails to the table.

TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table and sets down the snow globe.

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

HD extends their arm out. They head to the table with the bowl.

HD

ABELL...

All TIDALS prowl in and surround the table. GRAVITY decrescendos in.

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations.

The GALAXIES bow.

HD hands the bowl to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY sets the table.

GRAVITY

(Narrating)

Nothing comes close to family. Except "pets."
I'm Gravity. I've been here for infinite dog years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family.

SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY. They bow.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

GRAVITY

Singularity. The single parent who's closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities in fact. However, the kids stay kids. Milky Way is the baby sibling.

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

The GALAXIES sit, with TRIANGULUM
sitting on the whoopee cushion.

SINGULARITY

*Sounds like someone's been enjoying my gas
giants.*

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL high five.

GRAVITY

Cartwheel and Whirlpool are the most relative.
Not even time can separate them. Andromeda is?

ANDROMEDA plays with their meal.
They mumble their shanty.

ANDROMEDA

Let's set sail over seven spaces. Go dig up
pearls in their clams. The whole Universe is ye
oyster.

GRAVITY

Triangulum is such a square.

GRAVITY touches TRIANGULUM's dish.

TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY. They
unnervingly scratch GRAVITY's ear.

TRIANGULUM

That's not for you to gravitate to. *Stupid tidal
force.* Living with a vacuum between those ears?

HD snatches a dish. They set it on
the ground for the TIDALS.

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY
tries getting them to sit.

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

Fix... Fix... Fix... Fix...

GRAVITY

We Tidals like this one. The Circle is bearable
with our oldest and reddest Galaxy: HD1.

HD is on the edge. While their siblings see
"nothing" out there, HD sees a future circle in
the nothingness. Past the Edge of the Universe.
I sense they hope to have a circle of their own.
This Dome is all we've ever known. HD deserves
a life of their own. What adult doesn't wanna
leave home to go explore the Universe?

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Singularity can't hold Galaxies or me, a tidal force, forever. Singularity shall face the Big Bang even if it's the last thing Gravity does. For now, forever, I, Gravity, will let ya down. I've got *time to kill*. In Zenith. Force!

The GALAXIES look out.

SINGULARITY

Kids. If any of you escape my gravitational pull and walk out, you'd rip up the Fabric of Spacetime. Then *this grandmaster of the Universe* will be out of order. We've got all the cosmic formulas right here in our Circle. With my black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae something special: nuclear pasta and meteors!

CARTWHEEL

Special for the trillionth time, you Bach Ho. ("Bach Ho" is Vietnamese for "white tiger," sounds like "black hole," and implies tiger parenting.)

SINGULARITY

Besides your oldest sibling here, ya'll cannot cook for stardust. You'd die without us... Your *tiger nomy/mom/dad* is rather pleased that this special meal is heated to over ten million degrees Kelvin and spun in the cosmic microwave background at the angular velocity of a dozen sine squared its solar latitude minus one sine to its fourth power. Strongest material in the cosmos. A variety of nutrition from the crusts of neutron stars. Dismantle the mantle. But leave the core. I'd love to planet these.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

Calories take millennia to burn, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

A simple nap ain't last any longer, Cartwheel.

SINGULARITY

It's the overeating phase. Ya'll want to be a Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy, like Whirlpool?

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's physique.

WHIRLPOOL

You may be well rounded, but you ain't got
spiral arms in this fight. You're full of heavy
blue stars. Ring a bell, Ring Galaxy?

CARTWHEEL

Gal, I put no weight or stress on myself. All
you are are stretched-out circles. You all are
the morbidly spiral Galaxies.

ANDROMEDA

Least ye not a two-dimensional square, like
this Galaxy.

TRIANGULUM

I'll run faster than light circles around you,
Galaxies.

TRIANGULUM tosses the whoopee
cushion at CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL,
causing them go on the defense.

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

Shut your wormhole, you quasi-gala-baby!

SINGULARITY

Oneness, clusters of stars! Gals. Your hearts
are all vigorous.

SINGULARITY sits. They lovingly
pinch MILKY WAY's cheek.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Always full of grace. Let us save space.

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES pray.

HD drifts to the edge of the home.

2. "CRUNCH"

SINGULARITY

FEED THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.
SHED OUR LIGHT FOR NO ONE.
AS IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.

IN BLACK HOLES, DWELL WISDOM.
FED BY THE SPRINKLES OF STARDUST.
CRUSH THEIR DREAMS IN YOUR PALM.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, MY BABIES.

TEEN GALAXIES
CONSUME STAR SYSTEMS.
CONSUME WORLDS THAT TEEM.
CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

SINGULARITY
STRING BY STRING IN THEORY.
AND FABRIC BY SPACETIME FABRIC.
HOLD OUR LOVE AS A WHOLE.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, WE BELIEVE.

WHIRLPOOL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

MILKY WAY
IT TIS CRUNCH TIME, NOMY/MOMMY/DADDY SING.

SINGULARITY
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, HD?
HD1?

End of "CRUNCH"

3. "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY approaches HD.

HD
THINGS ARE CLEAR CUT...
I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR IN THE...
CENTER WITH OUR RELATIVES...
OUR TIDAL DOGS.
GRAVITY, ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.
(Nearing the edge of the home)
YOU SEE: I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS LEADING INTO KINSHIP.
SAIL OUT OF THIS ELLIPSE.
WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF CHORAL REEFS.
SEA WITH OTHER ELLIPSES.
(Taking a jab at their siblings)
WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL?
STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.
WHY ARE THESE OVALS BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

TEEN GALAXIES
CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

HD
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE ME?
ALL YOUR FIGHTS HAVE DRIVEN A WEDGE.
PLEASE LET ME BE AT PEACE BY THE EDGE.
GO BACK AND CIRCUMVENT.
I'LL JUST BE OUT ON A TANGENT—

TEEN GALAXIES
(Droning on)
AS WE ARE JUST SAYING BEFORE YOU CUT US OFF.
NOTHING'S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE.
NO ONE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE.
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

HD
APPARENTLY, *I HAVEN'T MADE MYSELF CLEAR.*
CUTTING MY EDGES MAKES MYSELF APPARENT AS *YOU. (re: SINGULARITY)*
AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A *LIGHTLESS GALAXY. (re: ABELL)*
MY HEART TELLS ME THERE'S A PROMISING FAMILY, OFF—
END OF THIS TANGENT.

TEEN GALAXIES
NO NEED TO BE APPARENT—
(Droning on)
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

HD
MY FUTURE IS AN ELLIPSE WHERE MY LEGACY IS ABELL...
TO BE THE ADULT IN THE ROOM.

HD GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!
ALL MY COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS EPIC TALE.
OUR AUDACIOUS VERSE.
THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND WHO WILL FOLLOW IN MY LYRICAL TRAILS
TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...
YOU'LL KNOW.
I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

End of "[CUTTING EDGE \(MAKE MYSELF CLEAR\)](#)"

GRAVITY
Force!

HD
You're the best tidal force a Galaxy could ever
ask for, Gravity...

SINGULARITY
I'll spare a millennium to listen to your
verse. It is apparent like me. Clear and crisp
like how I raised you to be. HD?

HD

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

You love Gravity so— Too much. That dog can be a bad influence.

HD

You Singularity, raised me physically. Gravity raises my spirit.

SINGULARITY

Your soul will be dragged down if you keep this up... I won't stop raising you. You're the oldest a parent could ever want you to be.

HD

I wish I can say the same thing, *eventually*...

SINGULARITY seems perplexed.

HD (CONT'D)

There is a timely ring in my soul. Abell...

SINGULARITY

A *bell*? Your astral clock must be malfunctioning.

HD

My biological clock feels malnourished.

SINGULARITY

Our biology has no logic. But, if you need your fictitious clock to keep ticking, you may, *Gals*?

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

HD

You all tick me off! I'm so sick of dishing it out. This same old dish of photons. I'm so done with Crunch.

SINGULARITY

Even a grownup Galaxy needs to accrete. You babies need to grow.

MILKY WAY

HD, *who tis* Abell?

HD

Abell... May just be a tiny curiosity. Haha. *Like you, Milky Way.*

SINGULARITY

Baby... To answer your curiosity: There is nothing out there for us, adults...

HD

You're right. It's quite the opposite. There is someone for that *nothing*. There is a Galaxy for that nebula. That galactic someone is me.

SINGULARITY

You're nothing but a spoiled nebula if you've forgotten all the constants and variables I've picked for you. All the light I've shed.

HD

I hope to spoil the whole cosmos with your light. I'm ready to pass on our light. Nomy/Mom/Dad...
May I go to the Edge of the Universe?

SINGULARITY

We have *everything* in the Center... No.

HD

Can I play with *nothing*?
Please?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

No means *no*.

HD (CONT'D)

Pretty please with a
supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

The sight of darkness is not
enough for you?

HD (CONT'D)

As your heart has prophesized: Once we gather enough light, we share it with the lightless. We are here as you pulled your end of the prophecy. My sights are set on a fulfilling legacy.

SINGULARITY

I was lost in your eyes, telling these bedtime stories. I didn't see clearly. In reality, who—
What you call "lightless" needs no apparency. Drop this legacy nonsense. Be present for your family. The future is *nothing* to ponder on. You're *grounded*. Now, join us for Crun—

SINGULARITY reaches for HD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They
brawl and soon ground SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

GRAVITY

(Corralling the TIDALS)

Force. Force. Force. Force. Force. Force.

GRAVITY runs into an invisible wall in the opening of The Circle and dizzily falls back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Free~ Free~ Free~ Free~ Free~ Free~

SINGULARITY gets up. They slightly and hauntingly lift up the rug.

SINGULARITY

You all get on my nerves. Entitled forces. Back in the doghouse!

The TIDALS tremble and leave.

HD

You are not the center of the Universe... Why must you treat the dogs like us? Puppets.

SINGULARITY

You treat me as though I'm not the grandmaster of the Universe. I have my hands in and on the entire Universe... I pull, thread, and weave the strings in the Fabric of Spacetime. Better a puppet than pet. I am the center!

HD

If you're going to keep the masses in, at least let the dogs out. If you don't give them space, it'll come back to bite you in the end.

SINGULARITY

And let them treat the Fabric of Spacetime like the springs of a trampoline? No dog bites or rips on my spacetime fabric.

HD

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY

Oh now you want to consider my center...

HD

Yours and our centers hold all the light in this Universe. You've shed enough light upon us. I need to shed mine. Do I make myself clear?

SINGULARITY

Clearly, you need some shuteye. I expect lights out when you Galaxies head off to bed. Declinations. *See you Gals in Crunch Time.*

SINGULARITY exits, dragging out GRAVITY.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

ANDROMEDA

Ye not the Gravity of the situation...

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

What in the world?

TRIANGULUM

Gravity went berserk and brought down
Singularity. The stupid dog let us all down.

HD

Gravity never lets me down. *I'll never stoop to
your level and blame the dog.* You're all downers.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

We're down in the same plane. The same ellipse.

CARTWHEEL

What is so special about the Edge?

WHIRLPOOL

Nothing ain't relative to us there.

HD

Crunch Time's all you Gals look forward to.

MILKY WAY

And we have all the Crunch Time in our Universe!

HD

Inside this Universe is all you see. You're too
young to notice what's outside.

MILKY WAY

I... No baby!

ANDROMEDA

Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one. Declinate.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Nomy/Mama/Papa isn't around. Let's deck the Elli-

TRIANGULUM

Oh no, you're not!

TRIANGULUM tries to drag away
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You're such a square, Triangulum...

MILKY WAY

Square? Reminds me... Board game? Tardigrades-

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Look at the time. Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off.

TRIANGULUM

Declinations... Last one to bed is an anomaly!

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to
HD. They head off to bed.

HD

I can't even with this family...

HD sets the snow globe on the rug.
They sense some perplexity. They
bring out a board game with
elliptical elements. They sit,
holding up a miniature figure.

HD (CONT'D)

You were saying? *Water Bears and Elevators?*
Still, I'm ahead of you, every step of the way.

MILKY WAY

Wait... Are you too old for games?

HD

I evolved past air and water. I'm a land bear.

MILKY WAY

That mean I the wata'-

HD

You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY

Please name us tardigrades? This so confusin'.

HD

Who's the adult around here? Little Gal... Even
at my age, I like to mess around. And play a
game called "life." The goal's to go from one
ellipse to another. Every ellipse are risks.

MILKY WAY

To you... What tis between ellipses?

HD

A *liminal* space...?

MILKY WAY tries to repeat the word.

HD (CONT'D)

Liminal. A place where who we were ends and who we are begins. You're in a liminal space.

MILKY WAY uneasily places a figure.

HD holds figures of all heights.

HD (CONT'D)

You'll soon not fit in your ellipse. I stopped being in yours, ten eternities ago. I don't feel like I fit in mine anymore. No longer a teen...

You're going to fill my ellipse, your body will be a *teeny* bit different. Anyone who's not a toddler needs to *figure that out* on their own.

MILKY WAY

As outgrown air— Cub. I only go up from here...
I will own you, land bear!

4. "FIGURE"

The actions taken upon the board is open ended during this duet.

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

HD

LIFE HAS *UPS* AND *DOWN*S.

MILKY WAY

GO FIG— UH.

HD

TAKE TWENTY STEPS FORWARD
LEAVES YOU WANTING TO BE SEVEN STEPS BACK.

MILKY WAY

TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

HD

YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT OUT OUT...

MILKY WAY

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

HD

YOU ARE GAINING SOME CURVES.
YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FIGURE.

MILKY WAY
I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

HD
LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

MILKY WAY
I'LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

HD
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT OUT OUT...

MILKY WAY
I CAN'T LOSE FIGURE.
I NEEDA KEEP FIGURE.

HD
Even when your mind revisits your past self,
the system will always push your body forward.

MILKY WAY
(Intensely cracking their voice)
I no wanna go far in this game called— Uh life.
Oh *curves*... I hate my figure. I hate myself.

HD
Has anyone ever told you that your voice warps
more beautifully with each passing millennium?
Figure out yourself, Milky Way...

MILKY WAY slaps HD's figure off
the elliptical board.

HD (CONT'D)
LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY
KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
Pawn!

Only HD understands GRAVITY.

HD
Gravity?

MILKY WAY
That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

There's even more time to kill! Let's kill time together! All ya need to do is free Gravity!

MILKY WAY

Quiet dog befa' Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake up.
That dog tis nuthin' but trouble.

HD

Nothing... I need to get down with Gravity and check up on our "guard" dogs. Let's let these bears hibernate. Cubs need rest in order to cross ellipses. We can finish this game of Water Bears and Elevators some other time.

And it's way past your bedtime. Gal, you're still a baby. *Quit the sour face, Milky Way.*
I'm the anomaly in this family.

HD bows.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

5. "ZILCH"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is free!

HD

You always understand me...

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is infinite. Nothing's out there for ya.

HD

Well, there's nothing out there for me. Zilch.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is waiting for us. A wide-open space. Save space for us dogs. For me! A space without Singularity. Zilch is not outta our Circle. It's below ya. *Relax.* Ya'll know in spacetime.

HD sits on the rug, feeling life underneath. They unroll the rug and discover the Big Bang Taser.

HD

Our rug of spacetime...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Use them opposable thumbs, Gal.

HD accidentally shocks themselves.
They read the Big Bang Taser.

HD

Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
(Whimpering)

Fall.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

End Singularity! Stun the Galaxies! Free thee! No longer bound by family! Make *nothing* ya legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up.

End of "ZILCH"

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

My babies are sleeping! Shut your wormhole, you entitled dog—

SINGULARITY and GRAVITY fight
offstage.

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY and a rattled GRAVITY
fall in. They notice HD, holding
the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

I don't have the heart... Not again...

HD

Again, nomy/mother/father? Nomy/mom/dad?

SINGULARITY

My parents... Declinations, HD. Put it down.

HD

Declinations, Singularity. Put what down?

SINGULARITY

Don't toy with me. The Big Bang Taser. Drop it.

HD

Or what? I'll hurt myself? Like you and Gravity
have had a falling out.

SINGULARITY

Gravity has been letting us down!

HD

Speaking of declining. Has your black hole of a
heart ever let down someone it loved?

SINGULARITY's youthful self echoes.

SINGULARITY

(Echoing from beyond)

I don't have a black hole for a...

MILKY WAY (OFFSTAGE)

What tis happening to mommy/daddy/nomy?

The TEEN GALAXIES enter.

SINGULARITY

I happened to let my parents down.

GALAXIES

Parents?

SINGULARITY

I grew out. The only one to make it into adulthood. I made it apparent to them that I'll make it as a parent.

HD

Even as your children, somehow you believe none of us can make it out there in the Universe.

SINGULARITY

It is not clear that you are ready to be an adult.

SINGULARITY extends a hand.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Don't let me down. I don't have the heart.

HD hesitantly slides the Big Bang Taser to SINGULARITY.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand as they reach the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY

Adulthood is *nothing*, kid!

HD looks upon ABELL.

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! Gravity. For the last time, you've let down this family. Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

HD retakes the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY reaches around only to feel zilch. They soon notice that HD is armed.

HD

My heart cannot choose who to take in. However,
my heart can choose who to take out.

6. "BIG BANG"

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

HD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.

SINGULARITY gets electrocuted.
They melodically shriek and jerk
in their final squillo.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

The light fluctuates. Appliances
may short circuit and spark.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

ACHE... ELLIPSES... BIG BANG...

SINGULARITY falls headfirst onto
the rug, crushing the snow globe.
They are lifeless.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

FALL! BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG! BIG BANG!

The lights suddenly fill the stage.
The side curtains open to reveal
what's upstage. The cosmic quake
expels tremors into the audience.

The TIDALS freely rush out and
tidally dance around the stage.
They try to lure all members of
the theatre audience to go wild.

The AUDIENCES rock and roll!

It's the beginning of the Universe
as we know it.

HD walks to the edge of the home,
shifting from dolor to wonder.
They carefully step out onto the
stage. They stow away the Big Bang
Taser in their dress. They look
back at their petrified siblings.

HD

My heart goes out to you all, family. However,
my heart goes out for me and Gravity.
Declinations!

GRAVITY nabs a knapsack. They grab
HD and run out of the home. They
run in place on stage. They soon
stop when they notice their lack
of progress. GRAVITY claws at the
ground.

HD (CONT'D)

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge...?
It's further away?

HD takes a single step downstage.

The lights expand further out. The
home moves upstage in between the
back curtains.

HD (CONT'D)

It's *getting* further away. We're rolling out
the Fabric of Spacetime like our rug...

(Leveling with GRAVITY)

We're going to go off on a tangent. For all
eternity. For the rest of spacetime.

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

*Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is
ours. Destination's a gift. Destiny's Zenith.*

(to HD, who did not hear the soliloquy)

Force!

HD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

HD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

In the home, most TEEN GALAXIES
watch as the Universe unravels.

MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themselves
around the lifeless SINGULARITY.

TEEN GALAXIES

All our hearts have gone out with the Big Bang.

End of "BIG BANG"

The back curtains conceal the home.

Field equations bloom.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

7. "VERSE"

GRAVITY and HD blissfully frolic.
They mix and match equations, as
though they are picking flowers.

HD

LETTERS, NUMERALS, FACTORIALS.
IT IS ALL THANKS TO A FACTOR:
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

NUMBERS, ALPHABETS, POLYNOMIALS.
PLANTING CONSTANTS AS MATH FARMERS.
STAGES OF THE BIG BANG FORM HYPERBOLAS.
ONLY HYPERBOLE!

STORIES, EQUATIONS, ALGORITHMS.
IT IS TO BASK IN ITS GLORY.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

GRAVITY puts together $F = AM$.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing from beyond)

You are a big mis—

HD stays put while picking up the
frequency ratio of a semitone in
twelve-tone equal temperament: $_{12}\sqrt{2}$.

HD

MUSIC, DISCORDANCE, FAMILIAR.
CROSSING THE LINE FULL OF SCEPTICS.
ZAPPING NOMY/MAMA/PAPA IS A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
THAT'S THE STING OF REVERSE...

GRAVITY rearranges $F = AM$ into
Newton's second law: $F = MA$.

GRAVITY

Force?

HD feels at ease as GRAVITY
concocts Hubble's Law: $v = H_0 D$.

HD

DISTANCE VERSIFIES VELOCITY.
BREVITY OF HUBBLE'S CONSTANT.
THIS IS THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.
JUST THE START OF OUR VERSE!

GRAVITY
Force!

GRAVITY and HD hastily skip out.

End of "VERSE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The TEEN GALAXIES drape the rug
over the burial plot. They bow.

TEEN GALAXIES
Declinations, nomy/mama/papa. Singularity.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
The anomaly killed our
family.

ANDROMEDA
Our family pushed away the
anomaly.

TRIANGULUM
Let's bring home *our* anomaly...

The proposition provokes a storm
of enmity for the TEEN GALAXIES.

MILKY WAY
What tis family?

MILKY WAY sniffles.

CARTWHEEL
Will you grow up?

ANDROMEDA
Ye can't. When ye starving.

MILKY WAY
We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL
Look at Singularity— Singsing. What do you think?

MILKY WAY
I can't. When I hungry...

WHIRLPOOL
We've got wormholes to feed. Let's think like
Singularity. We gotta round up all tidal forces.

CARTWHEEL
We're also going to be dog catchers now?

WHIRLPOOL

We can gather the delicacies of field equations
as our grandmaster of the Universe once did.

CARTWHEEL

We're clusters of delicate flowers. Look out.
The garden's thinning out. Our crops face an
eternal drought. This profound cosmos is going
to have a field day with us. We'll starve to
death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates.
Even if we had ingredients, who here knows how
to cook up recipes? Who can make it out of *here*?

TRIANGULUM

Gals. *Lighten up.*

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Ya'll hear this pinhead? Singsing lightened up.

TRIANGULUM

The Universe shall return to its scheduled
Crunch Time shortly. My mental bandwidth may be
thinning out like the Universe, but it sure is
expanding. Making the Universe spotless is what
Singularity would've wanted. We have ourselves
to blame for the Universe's biggest mistake.

MILKY WAY

You all mistaken... I hear HD talk to dogs. HD
gone mad. Gravity ravel HD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

TRIANGULUM

It's absolutely the dogs' fault. Gravity caused
the Big Bang. And it's on us Gals to end our big
fuss. HD is the only Galaxy who knows how to
pick equations, put together formulas, and cook
up photons. Like Singsing used to. HD will forgo
nothing. This nothingness. We're not forgiving
HD. Our anomaly's giving back everything.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

TRIANGULUM

HD is who we have left. Our only caretaker—

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care. An
anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.
Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything's— What's family?

MILKY WAY

What tis anomaly?

8. "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
 FAMILY IS... FAMILY IS...? FAMILY IS...
 FAMILY ISN'T... FAMILY IS NOT... ANOMALY.

The shattered snow globe sparkles.

TRIANGULUM
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW
 NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.
 NO SUCH THING AS FAMILIARITY.

ANOMALY IS THEIR THING,
 FROM THE WAY THEY SING TO THE WAY THEY GO MISSING.
 ANOMALY IS OUR THING,
 LIKE THIS ELLIPSE WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.

REALLY, FAMILY IS EVERYTHING TO US.
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
 WE KNOW.

TRIANGULUM
 FAMILY'S UNIVERSAL. *WE KNOW*
 THAT WE'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING.
 WELL, THE THING IS THAT WE'RE ALL HOMES TO FAMILIES.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
 ANOMALY IS EVERY CELL,
 FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.
 ANOMALY IS EVERY VEIN,
 WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.
 ANOMALY IS OUR HEARTS.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
 BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

TRIANGULUM
 BELIEVE ANOMALY'S ALL WE'VE KNOWN.
 IT IS ALL OF US AS THE GALAXY FAMILY.
 BUT ME.

TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopee
 cushion, making CARTWHEEL and
 WHIRLPOOL laugh. They appear
 flustered then shift to delight.
 They hold the whoopee cushion.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
 ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!
 ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!
 ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

MILKY WAY
We gonna undo the Big Bang and save HD?!

TRIANGULUM
Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL
Gal! No one has time for this Barred Galaxy!

TRIANGULUM
Cart-Whirl! You're both barred from stepping out
for eternities. *Andromeda and I* shall find HD.

ANDROMEDA
Aye aye, devil's Triangulum!

TRIANGULUM
*This devil trusts that you'll be performing
Galaxy shanties rather than mutinies.*

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
You ain't sailing without us, Captain Square.

TRIANGULUM knocks down CARTWHEEL
with the whoopee cushion, and runs
off with ANDROMEDA.

TRIANGULUM (OFFSTAGE)
Square in the face!

MILKY WAY
Wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas?

CARTWHEEL
Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL points elsewhere then
walks off with WHIRLPOOL.

WHIRLPOOL
We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling 'lone
for your sporty ego? Triangulum tries too hard.
You take it to the next level. In general, this
is specially unrelativistic what we're doing.

CARTWHEEL
What do you know about special relativity? Our
special little relative will be especially fine.
We may have very few distractions around, but
kids have their imaginations.

(MORE)

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

Now imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum and Andromeda's faces that we're the galactic duos! We'll undo the Big Bang before them and save the Universe! And be home in Crunch Time.

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.

MILKY WAY hears the SOLAR SYSTEM in their head.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

You are now the adult in the room.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

If you're no adult, then you are a baby.

MILKY WAY

I... No baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Go out there and prove it! End the Big Bang!

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Like sight, we're another *sense*. We're adole-

MILKY WAY

Sounds like *peer* pressa'...

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Peer, as in we're your *friends*.

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY strolls away from the safety of The Circle, exiting.

MILKY WAY

Plant friends. I can't wait, see what this Galaxy can do. What Universe holds. Wait... Adole- What now?

The home moves back upstage, behind the back curtains.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

ANDROMEDA hums a shanty and takes out the monocular, scoping upstage.

TRIANGULUM
Red shift. You're facing the wrong way...

ANDROMEDA
Ye just want to know how far we've come...

TRIANGULUM
I want to know how far we need to go. The Center of our Universe should not be in the scope of things. Family may be everything but—

ANDROMEDA
Ope. Shiver me clusters! *Melky Way is away!* No one is at The Circle!

TRIANGULUM
Those galactic idiots! This voyage is in vain.

TRIANGULUM takes out the shattered snow globe.

ANDROMEDA
Eh so... We're setting our course back to home base. Please try not to gamma-ray burst a vein. Triangulum... *Triangulate.*

TRIANGULUM
It's late out here. Going from finding HD to Milk—

ANDROMEDA
It's too early to say: But HD's living the dream. The cosmos is their oyster. Let's find Melky Way for our pearl, Singsing. Then we'll go back and warsh the Fabric of Spacetime of their filth and see what this sea offers us.

TRIANGULUM
To let their favorite child get in harm's way! Cart-Whirl are going to meet my spiral arms. *My 30,000-light-year radius packs a punch, okay?* Hate to say this: I hope Milky Way's with them.

ANDROMEDA
In this space, they're walking the blank. It is a vast ocean but few sailors. Give it time!

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail off.

SCENE 7

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.

CARTWHEEL clumsily cartwheels in.

CARTWHEEL
Time is... Up.

WHIRLPOOL
In the air?

CARTWHEEL
In a vacuum... Yes, in the air!

WHIRLPOOL
You and I need some downtime.

CARTWHEEL
We're not stopping until we finish our quest.
We need to reach the Edge. Time is running out.

WHIRLPOOL
Time to run on home. That is our timely quest.

CARTWHEEL
There you go again, making me question time...
I used to run circles around Andromeda and the
square. I can't believe they ditched us.

WHIRLPOOL
(Noting the hypocrisy)
*Ditch? Drop the ego. Time's a circle. The whole
cosmos will come round. HD will return. Let's be
around Milky Way. We make perfect babysitters.*

CARTWHEEL
We can't sit on HD, our last chance to survive.
Triangulum's right: We need a caretaker.

WHIRLPOOL
I can't stand this. We need to care for our
baby sibling. I ain't going anywhere but home.

CARTWHEEL
You want to mill about for eternities, huh? That
means we only wasted millions of years out here.

WHIRLPOOL
That is precisely how much Milky Way has grown
since we last saw them. Let's go home.

CARTWHEEL
Give me a millennium to consider your thoughts.

Beat. WHIRLPOOL sits.

WHIRLPOOL

That's a millennium. You change your mind yet?

CARTWHEEL

Minds cannot be changed in a single millennium.

WHIRLPOOL

But bodies certainly do.

CARTWHEEL

Don't mock my ring! Oh... Milky Way shows signs of waves and wrinkles. Makes me sentimental as our parent when we became teens... Too bad they won't be around when we reach another ellipse. Time is up... In another dimension.

WHIRLPOOL

They ain't here to see Milky Way ascend. But we are. Let's be decent. We ain't a dimension away. HD ran out. Milky Way will, too. Let them have a childhood before it's too late. Time dilates.

CARTWHEEL

Can you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL

"Dilation" means to expand.

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?

WHIRLPOOL

Time is the point once you meditate on it.

CARTWHEEL

Time's so special with you, relative. As a light individual, times are heavy weights.

WHIRLPOOL

A little enlightenment ain't gonna hurt. You'll see the light.

9. "TIME IS RELATIVE"

CARTWHEEL

OUR PARENTS WAS OUR ONLY SOURCE...

WHIRLPOOL

(Meditating)

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

Live with me in the millennium.

A light show appears to illuminate
the fast and slow passage of time.

CARTWHEEL poorly meditates.

CARTWHEEL
You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL
T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY
SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

The focal point is to think about our relatives.

CARTWHEEL
Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm
slow as time. Our plans are bent out of shape.

WHIRLPOOL
And that is to make amends with our family...

CARTWHEEL
Get bent.

WHIRLPOOL
Bent or straight, time points to the end. Let's
ride the rest of it out with our loved ones.

TIME'S FOR FAMILY;
THAT'S WHY LIFE AIN'T FAST WITHOUT THEM.

CARTWHEEL
SINCE TIME GETS REAL SLOW,
THEN LIFE IS LONGER WITHOUT THEM.

WHIRLPOOL
THAT AIN'T HOW TIME WORKS.

CARTWHEEL
FAMILY'S NOT IN THE EQUATION!

WHIRLPOOL
CHANGE IS.

CARTWHEEL
CHANGES?

WHIRLPOOL
YOU'LL CHANGE IN TIME.

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY
SQUARED DIVIDED—

CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.

WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
TIME IS RUNNING OUT,
YET TENSOR CALCULUS STRAINS YOU.

CARTWHEEL
NO ATTENTION SPANS
FOR REALITY THAT PAINS ME.
EACH MOMENT'S LOST TIME...

WHIRLPOOL
FAMILY'S IN OUR EQUATION.
THEY MAKE UP OUR SOCIAL CONSTRUCT.

CARTWHEEL stands and rotates
counterclockwise away.

CARTWHEEL
DOWNTIME.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)	WHIRLPOOL
I CAN'T FACE TIME.	PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL spirals clockwise.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
You're naïve and scared inside. Your heart's
racing. Life goes by quick when the family's
together. One millennium, you're baby
Cartwheel. The next, you got hands on the
wheel. The same will go for Milky Way. However,
we ain't present for our baby sibling. We'll
miss their development, from height to psyche.
Get it through your head that there ain't time.

CARTWHEEL
Let's steer away from the time dilat- Dilemma,
that we face. Milky Way will outgrow our
neglect. Past, present, and future, all we need
is each other. You'll come around to it.

WHIRLPOOL
TIME'S TOO RELATIVE.
WE NEED TO SEE OUR FAMILY.
YOU'LL KNOW IN NO TIME...

Light slows by WHIRLPOOL while
light stops by CARTWHEEL.

CARTWHEEL
T. Time... Over. Time has an influence over all...
Square. Our family square... Root. Where we come
from... Of one. Our single parent... Minus velocity.
Each of us leaving for another city... Squared
divided. Our family is divided... By the speed of
light squared. Even though we squared off, our
family will truly be over once we see the light...
(Reaching enlightenment)
Time is more special than it is relative...
Unlike light, time is not passed down.
(MORE)

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. We left at the speed of light. Milky Way was twelve. If we come back eternities later, our faces will seem unfazed while Milky Way will change. Childhood goes by faster than other stages. *Time dilation!* We're forever Singularity's babies. But no matter how hard we try, nevermore family will be. Whether times are fast or slow, it doesn't change that time passes away. I must take on this weight. We must be there for our family before we won't have time anymore. We'll know in... *No time.*

TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

CARTWHEEL lends a hand. WHIRLPOOL stands with CARTWHEEL. The lights balance amongst them. Through a training montage, they assemble the time dilation equation:

$$\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}.$$

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

CARTWHEEL earns their ring. They can cartwheel again.

WHIRLPOOL

TIME IS RELATIVE.
 FAMILY HAS COME TO YOUR SENSES.

CARTWHEEL

TIME IS FAMILY,
 AS THERE'S LITTLE TIME LEFT WITH THEM.

WHIRLPOOL

WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

CARTWHEEL

TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE'S LIGHTER.
 TIME IS IN OUR FRAME OF REFERENCE.
 TIMES ARE SPECIAL FOR YOU AND ME.

Lights form a frame around
 CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

TIME...
 TIME.
 LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.

End of "TIME IS RELATIVE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 8

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

10. "BIG RIP"

The TIDALS dance around the rug.
The Big Bang is their holiday.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Dilations, Milky Way. We're home!
(re: the TIDALS on the burial plot)
Singsing?! Don't get near our relative!

WHIRLPOOL
Did... They ain't eat our baby sibling...?

CARTWHEEL
I knew Milky Way is going through an appetite.
I didn't think they'd wind up as appetite.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Cough up our baby sibling, you savage Tidals!
And get back in the doghouse!

TIDALS
Force! Force! Fall!

The TIDALS chase out the GALAXIES.

End of "BIG RIP"

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

SCENE 9

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY drifts in. They hear the
SOLAR SYSTEM in their head.

MILKY WAY
My tummy hurts... Need Crunch Ti- Milky Way forw-

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
Forgotten?

MILKY WAY
Imaginary friends?

MERCURY [HD] (OFFSTAGE)
We're your planetary friends.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
I'm not.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (OFFSTAGE)

No one asked you, Earth.

MERCURY [HD] (OFFSTAGE)

Loneliness isn't so bad. I wish I was alone. No matter what I'd do, I'm blamed for everything. Everyone retrogrades me! I'm Mercury. You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are at large.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (OFFSTAGE)

You most certainly have a massive orbit.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (OFFSTAGE)

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (OFFSTAGE)

Go play with your ring, Saturn.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (OFFSTAGE)

Jupiter is just jealous of mine. Got a ring to spare, Uranus?

URANUS (O.S.)

Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (O.S.)

You are a two! Hahahahahaha!

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

URANUS [Triangulum] (OFFSTAGE)

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the butt of the joke! *Always treating me like crap-*

MILKY WAY

You have a son?

URANUS [Triangulum] (OFFSTAGE)

No. Sun is our nomy/mama/papa. We're sons of Sun.

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Yes, child. It's the natural order of things. When you get older, you'll have clusters of stars of your own. You should know better. What are you? Twelve eternities old?

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)

Earth, we do not discuss galactic formation in this Solar household. It's theoretical heresy.

MERCURY [HD] (OFFSTAGE)

Things get heated with Sun. Though you're dense as Earth, you don't make your siblings tense.

MILKY WAY

I feel tense forever now.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Oh yeah, time's dilated for you Galaxies. Let a planet convert it. The last time you were in your family's orbit was 13.81 billion years ago. When that oval HD ripped your family apart. Do you hate being an oval?

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)

I didn't raise you, Earth, to be a jerk to other shapes and insult their curves.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Sun. As a result of stars like you, I'm a proud sphere. *Ugh Milky Way. Ew waves. Pff wrinkles.*

MERCURY [HD] (OFFSTAGE)

Don't take Earth's bullying. That rocky planet may be well-rounded, but you're a person all around. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Like Oort Cloud. They do not blame my retrograde for their imperfections.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (OFFSTAGE)

I may be outta the system, but I got a stronghold on it. An influence that's a hundred thousand astronomical units wide. *You are 6.685 billion.* I've heard enough comet tails. It's always good to see you around, Milky Way. You got a tidal tale to share with us? Cluster, Solar System!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets pop out,
with the absence of the SUN.

EARTH (PUPPET)

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

MILKY WAY gracelessly bellows with
cracks. They hiccup.

EARTH (PUPPET) (CONT'D)

Milky Way warped herself!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets burst
into laughter.

MILKY WAY bursts into tears.

MILKY WAY

I hate myself!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)

All the use crying. Let it out. Milk of
celestial kindness. You show a huge quality.

(MORE)

OORT CLOUD [ANDROMEDA] (PUPPET)
 Beyond your curves: Figures! You hold oddities
 that no others have. You're a special Galaxy.

MILKY WAY
Tell me.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
 You hold personhood. Persons with warping
 voices, growing waves of hairs, and wrinkly
 skin. There is a person in you, Milky Way.

EARTH (P.)
 There are people in me.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (PUPPET)
 Cut your hubris, Earth!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
 We like all things, *unearthly*, about you. You
 carry our weight, trips, our history, culture,
 our pride, secrets, our music, dances...

MILKY WAY
Embody it.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
 You must first, own yours.

11. "WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)
 MILKY WAY'S
 ON THEIR OWN.
 ALL ALONE.
 KNOW THAT FOR
 US AT HOME.
 YOU'RE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD,
 THROUGH WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.
 THROUGH IT ALL.
 THICK AND THIN.
 THROUGH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
 YOUR PLANETARY FRIENDS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN YOUR HEAD.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)
 IMAGINARY!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
 BUT REALLY...

MERCURY [HD] (PUPPET)
 THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)
ONE OF SEVERAL...

MERCURY [HD] (PUPPET)
ARMS, IN FACT.

The extra arms extend out behind
an unaware MILKY WAY.

URANUS [Triangulum] (PUPPET)
Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY
What's mirra'?

URANUS [Triangulum] (PUPPET)
It's the thing to check what you look like.

MILKY WAY
I neva' know what I look like...

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (PUPPET)
Neither do we. But take it from us, we know
you're beautiful on the inside!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake
each of MILKY WAY's multiple arms
and soon reveal their tiniest arm.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)
SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.
PERSEUS ARM.
NORMA, CYGNUS.
SAGITTARIUS,
ARM AND HEART.
WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.
ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

MILKY WAY checks out their curves.
They soon pull out two magnolia
flowers from their dress.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
You are Magellanic...

Your curves don't garnish the highest presence.
Buried underneath your waves are the most
majestic gifts: The Magellanic Clouds!

Like you, they have existed since the beginning
of time. They signify perseverance and longevi-

MILKY WAY devours the flowers.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET) (CONT'D)
Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY
 (Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds)
 I gravitate my feelings...

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
 You ellipsoid... Go ahead and have a taste of
 the Local Group while you're at it. Cook
 Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs!

MILKY WAY
 Parsecs! *A unit of distance, not time.*

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (PUPPET)
I'm parsecs away from losing it.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (PUPPET)
 It's the nature of Galaxies. They eat everything!

SATURN [Cartwheel] (PUPPET)
 Like us gas giants. We're persons too after all!

MERCURY [HD] (PUPPET)
 They are beyond just a kid. Like you said, Oort
 Cloud: Milky Way has always been a person. And
 they have reached a new stage in personhood.

MILKY WAY
 (Singing with cracks, flaws, and tremolos)
 I NOW HAVE
 WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.
 I LIVE WITH IT.
 WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.
 (Voice deepens or elevates)
 I LOVE MYSELF!

The extra arms may hug MILKY WAY.

Many SOLAR SYSTEM dancers spiral in
 while EARTH drags their feet. Each
 dancer resembles distinct planets
 and stars. They orbit MILKY WAY
 like spiral arms around the center
 of many Galaxies. A PLANET places
 a halo on MILKY WAY's head.

SOLAR SYSTEMS
 HALO FRIEND
 AND OUR HOME.
 PROTECTOR
 AND OUR RIDE.
 HITCHHIKER
 AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF OUR...
 WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!
 WE LOVE IT ALL!

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)
Any more radio outbursts and I'll supernova
your asteroids!

MILKY WAY & SOLAR SYSTEMS
OUR WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

End of "WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

The stage goes red as the SUN
becomes a red giant, swallowing
the SOLAR SYSTEM in their wake.
EARTH melts in the searing heat.
The PLANETS maniacally laugh, nab
MILKY WAY's halo, then run off.

MILKY WAY touches their forehead,
feeling a headache. They remove
their hand to reveal a zit. They
pass out on the ground.

MILKY WAY
W- W- N- Wr-

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (OFFSTAGE)
Warps, waves, and wrinkles, we got a sense for.
But not red giants. Welcome to adolescence.

SCENE 10

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail in.
They scope MILKY WAY from afar.

12. "GLOBULAR"

ANDROMEDA
LET'S SET SAIL OVER SEVEN SPACES.
GO DIG UP PEARLS IN THEIR CLAMS.
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS YE OYSTER.

MATTERS COME AND GO.
CRUXES OF FORCES THAT HOLD...

ALL US TOGETHER.
IT'S WHY YE CLUSTER OUR STARS.

AS FOR MELKY WAY,
LET THEM JOIN THE GLOB. GLOBULAR.

End of "GLOBULAR"

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA
Milky Way! Declinations! We have found you!

ANDROMEDA
Did we lose ye? Oh no... Are ye now in the
temple of the cosmic beyond?!

TRIANGULUM

It's puberty. There's a pimple on their temple.

ANDROMEDA

Oh zit.

MILKY WAY

(Voice has forever changed)

Zi- Zi- It?

ANDROMEDA

Ye voice has warped...

TRIANGULUM

A zit is when a star grows into a red giant,
swallows nearby planets, and enflames your
galactic skin. We've been there...

ANDROMEDA

How long have ye been lying around?

MILKY WAY

Over four billi- Years?

ANDROMEDA

Lemme not spare another mill. Go supernova your
acne and let's get going.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)

Their name, Solar System.

TRIANGULUM

Your "Solar System" seems to be bringing you
astronomical pain. Milky Way... I remembered
having to pop off my boil. I named them: "Iota
Trianguli." I don't miss them. Not one iota.

(Sniffling)

Turning this "Solar System" into stardust is
yours and *their* only remedy!

TRIANGULUM stares down ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA

Ope, what?

TRIANGULUM

Pop it.

ANDROMEDA

No.

TRIANGULUM

Pop the red giant!

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

I'm not touching that thing!

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

What? *A little space scurvy is too scary for you?*

ANDROMEDA

Why don't ye scurry to it since ye a zit expert?

TRIANGULUM

I have these *teeny spiral arms*, remember?

ANDROMEDA

Least ye not a Ring Galaxy...

13. "FABRIC"

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Fall!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL run in,
crashing into TRIANGULUM.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way! Dilations! You're still alive!

TRIANGULUM

And you babysitters are dead! *Dilations...?!
I'll rip the gas and dust out of you two for
letting Milky Way roam out in the cosmos alone.*

The TIDALS enter, prowling in.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Too late! The tidal dogs are after our stardust!

TRIANGULUM

Who let the dogs out?! We got treats for you!
(Avoiding a bitey TIDAL)
*A cosmic bone to pick with you! We're not the
treats! We're not retreating... What is wrong?*

ANDROMEDA

They've been wronged their entire lives... The
wide-open space drove things into righteousness.

TRIANGULUM

They've been used to the righteous doghouse for
eternities. They've been nothing but well fed!

ANDROMEDA

And once HD gave them a taste of the Fabric of
Spacetime. Free "nothingness." Once Singularity
lost control of the cosmos, the Tidal won't
let go of this cosmic dog park without a fight.

WHIRLPOOL

When did you start understanding their plight?

ANDROMEDA

Honestly, ye am hesitant about undoing the Big Bang... Ye, too, enjoy this space...

TRIANGULUM

Tidals. It's not what it looks like. We are not rolling your "cosmic dog park" back to the way things were. We're trying to park it and um...

MILKY WAY

Fix, it...

The TIDALS instinctually sit.
Then, they prepare to pounce.

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

ANDROMEDA pops MILKY WAY's zit.

MILKY WAY

Quasar! ([A luminous active galactic nucleus.](#))

The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.

The TIDALS get blinded and run off.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way. Don't go towards the light!

ANDROMEDA

Ope. The light's actually coming from Melky Way.

TRIANGULUM

Ew... That's the most extreme pulsar emitted.

MILKY WAY

Quasi-stellar radio source...!

ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up,
dissolving the spotlight.

ANDROMEDA

Looks like ye officially a teen Galaxy...

TRIANGULUM

I can't deal with another one...

MILKY WAY

I, too old for board games... Milky Way forward?

TRIANGULUM locks arms with MILKY
WAY and ANDROMEDA. They sail it off.

TRIANGULUM

Deal. [Milkomeda](#). All aboard the teenage globular.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly
exit with their siblings.

End of "FABRIC"

SCENE 11

A Quasar looms in the distance.

GRAVITY, now huskier, and HD
wander in.

HD

A trillion years... Fetch, Gravity. Fetch the
star!

HD grabs a stellar ball from their
knapsack and tosses it.

GRAVITY retrieves the star.

GRAVITY

Force!

HD

Who's a good tidal force? You are. You are! You
shaved a few hundred thousand years from that
retrieval. *Perfect spiral arm—*

HD is about to toss the star when
they notice the Quasar.

HD (CONT'D)

Milky Way?

GRAVITY

Abell?

HD understands GRAVITY once again,
this time with amassed anxiety.

HD

Pet. *Force...*?

GRAVITY

Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are ya a puppet.
But something's pulling at ya heartstrings:
Abell. Ya say "Abell" as ya look to the Edge.

HD

Abell is who I named "nothing." My biological
clock rings whenever I see *them*, okay?

GRAVITY

And mine goes cuckoo when I'm with *you*! Let's
go meet this friend of ya.

HD

They're in another ellipse... You wouldn't know them... And, I don't know them, yet... Do I make myself clear...?

GRAVITY

Clearly, ya cuckoo. I mean— The Edge of the Universe is just beyond the horizon!

HD

We keep rolling away that horizon. The Universe expands 2.327 terameters a year per megaparsec. The light can't even see the end of the tunnel.

GRAVITY

Relax. This Fabric of Spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite. Hey. It's natural to tense up as spacetime stretches tight. *Blow off steam instead of blowing it outta proportion.*

HD

Portion... My little siblings are probably going hungry! Milky Way and I need to finish our game of Water Bears and Elevators!

GRAVITY

Ya at the highest point in ya life since ya been away.

HD

Gravity... You led me down a lowly, if not lonely, path.

GRAVITY

Finally. Peace and quiet. Ya now the adult in the space. Ya got all the time to kill. Relax!

HD

If adulthood means being far away from your family, then I don't want to be an adult...

GRAVITY

(Fiercely)

Ya gone too far with Singularity. The world ya know is over. There's no *turning back*!

HD

(re: the ball HD is holding)

I'm like this star. I've been tossed out. Eventually, a force will retrieve it and return them back to their rightful place. I'm far away from home, but my family will fetch me.

14. "FAR-FETCHED"

GRAVITY

SO FAR,
AS THUS FAR,
IT IS FAR-FETCHED
TO NOT GO FARTHER.

HD

EDGE IS FAR-FETCHED.
THE EDGE.
THIS EDGE.
EDGE IS SO FAR-FETCHED.
FAR AND AWAY.

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA GALAXY NEEDS TO FETCH.
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

GRAVITY grabs and tosses a ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

GO FETCH THE STAR.

HD cramps up, retrieving the ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

HD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.
YA SPEAKING TIDAL FORCE NOW.
THAT ONCE SEEMED AS THOUGH FAR-FETCHED.

YA FAMILY
WILL NOT FORGET.
WILL NOT FORGIVE.
THIS IS FAR-FETCHED.

GRAVITY notices HD's heartache.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Ya a part of my accretion, and I thank ya
SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!
HD1, YA ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

GRAVITY jumps on and embraces HD,
making them drop numerous balls.

The TIDALS rush in like a tidal
wave. They place a sled underneath
GRAVITY and HD. Then, they align
themselves like sled dogs.

TIDALS

IT IS FAR-FETCHED
WHAT YA'LL HAVE DONE.
YA TWO ARE FAR-FETCHED.
FAR IN A WAY.

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

TIDALS

FAR!

GRAVITY

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA GALAXY NEED TO FETCH.

TIDALS

FETCH!

GRAVITY

POINT OF RETURN IS?

HD

FAR-FETCHED!

In place, GRAVITY and HD traverse
the space with the tidal huskies.

GRAVITY & HD

WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.
FAR-FETCHED.
FAR-FETCHED.
FRIENDS BEYOND THE EDGE. FRIENDSHIP SAILED FAR-FETCHED.
FARTHER AWAY.

TIDALS

A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

GRAVITY, HD, and the TIDALS sled
away.

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 12

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

A Quasar looms in the distance.

SINGULARITY curls up into a
singularity on the spacetime rug.
They are still very much "dead."

15. "POINT"

SINGULARITY

WHERE IS THE POINT IN ALL THIS TROUBLE...?
ALONE... I TREMBLE AT THIS POINT, PERIOD...

MY POINT IS MOOT WHEN TIME HAS SENTENCED
MY KIDS... TO A LIFE ON THE EDGE. NO RETURN...

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE...?
SINGLE... WHAT IS THE ENTIRE POINT WITHOUT US...?

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing)

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the
audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

WHAT IS THIS POINT TO MAKE, WHEN THEY'RE MADE?
SINGLE PARENT WHO MADE MANY POINTS
LIKE ALL THIS.

Six elliptical puppets loom.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing)

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

SINGULARITY sits up and meditate.

The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY,
growing elliptical and sole.

MULTIPLICITIES

THERE IS NO POINT TO REVERSE.
THERE IS NO US IN YOUR VERSE.
THE POINT OF THIS UNIVERSE IS YOU.

SINGULARITY

THE POINT IN YOU IS A UNIVERSE...
THE POINT IS YOU...

The light dims to a singular point
on SINGULARITY's inescapable heart.

Blackout.

End of "POINT"

END OF ACT

INTERMISSION

ACT IISCENE 1

SINGULARITY'S BACKSTORY AND PAST UNIVERSE

The stage front is solely lit.

16. "HEAT DEATH"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)

Nothing, like a little story to *kill time*.

In the audience, SINGULARITY is now a resplendent and youthful Galaxy seated by their parents, INVARIANT and FIX. They shoot FIX in the face with the Big Bang Taser and run off. They gravitate towards the stage. To stop themselves, they grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre, holding on for dear life.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Countless eternities ago in another universe unlike ours that we could only fathom, a supernatural couple called Multiplicities gave birth to a special Galaxy named: Singularity. Like other Galaxies, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was not like any Multiplicity. This Galaxy had a heart. A supermassive one. In fact, it was so massive that their parents couldn't even hold their cluster of stars.

The fabric of spacetime rips.

SINGULARITY tumbles in front of the stage, holding a torn chunk of fabric that shields the Big Bang Taser. They limp alongside the stage front and find a spot to collapse against. They shiver. In this interdimensional plane in between universes, they grow aware that they will never return home and ever be with their parents again for all eternity.

SINGULARITY

HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

INVARIANT and FIX, resembling law enforcers, search the audience.

In a pattern, they shout their child's name in hopes of finding them, then grieve together.

INVARIANT

Singularity! Our only child. Please, come home. Return to the Center of the Universe at once. If you're going to run off into outer space, at least bring a jacket. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?!

Multiplicity. File a report. Our baby is missing!

FIX

Singularity! Why'd you grab my Big Bang Taser?!

Multiplicity. As laws of physics enforcers, we reinforced their life without doubts. *But you had to tell them their supermassive disorder.* Now, my face is disordered. Ouch! I authorized you to keep their center a secret!

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We're perfectly heartless. They have a heart. And a black hole for one too. An anomaly. Don't you find it weird? *Right. Your eyes are swollen.* Anywho, I'd hold regret as a parent if I shielded their eyes from the truth.

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

FIX

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Shielded? You ripped a wormhole in them. Though they have a heart, it functions. You still broke it and dug into the dark energy. You mourn their heart and the spirit that came with it. I am blessed to have had them.

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

GRAVITY

The more these parents raised them, the more their child raised *Hell*. Singularity sucked the fun outta them. Not even life could escape it. Bent on bending light outta shape, they sucked the literal energy outta any and every room. Wherever they went, so did the space.

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. *Bless your heartlessness.* My ego's atomic, but my love for our nebula is galactic. They'll be much more deformed out there. They had to know what their heart's capable of. Some millennium.

FIX

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We won't get another millennium. They didn't need to know who they are inside. They can experiment with their own theories. You could have been a general relative to them. You took the light out of our cluster of stars!

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

I DON'T HAVE THE... BLACK HOLE FOR THE...

I DON'T HAVE THE... BLACK HOLE FOR THE...

I DON'T HAVE A HEART!

GRAVITY

Galaxies should shed light, not suck it out of the space! This kid was relativitistically impossible to handle. Even though they warped time itself, time still flew. It was time for Singularity to meet their event horizon. Eventually, the Multiplicities sat Singularity down and let them know what is in their heart. And with that heartless truth, Singularity left behind their family, ran away from their Center, and fell off the Edge of their Universe.

INVARIANT and FIX search about.

SINGULARITY

I DO NOT HOLD... ANY ANGER...

FIX

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Declination!

SINGULARITY

I CAN'T BARGAIN... UP ENERGY...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We looked up and down. Right ascension?

SINGULARITY

I THINK ON WITH... NO DEPRESSION...

FIX

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?

SINGULARITY

I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

We looked over and under every fabric of spacetime.

Silence. INVARIANT and FIX realize their child has forever vanished.

INVARIANT & FIX

Sing— Our baby fell off the Edge of the Universe!

INVARIANT and FIX weep for all eternity.

End of "HEAT DEATH"

SINGULARITY

I am single.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Force!

INVARIANT & FIX

I have a hunch, our baby's singleness crunches.

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

INVARIANT displays their holster.

INVARIANT

I hope our baby makes good use of your Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY draws out their Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY

Big Freeze! What kind of forces do you exert—?

TIDAL[S]

Force!

SINGULARITY sways.

SINGULARITY

Like to echo, huh?

TIDALS

Force force force!

SINGULARITY feels a tidal wave.

SINGULARITY

Hits like a tide! Is that all you can bark?

TIDALS

Fall!

SINGULARITY falls over themself.

SINGULARITY

What are you howling about?!

FIX

I hope when they have a Galaxy of their own
that theirs don't shoot our baby in the face.

SINGULARITY accidentally shocks
themself into a stupor with the
Big Bang Taser. They soon catch
their breath and stow away the Big
Bang Taser, accepting their fate.

TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

SINGULARITY

Bring the heat...

The light shifts to the [Dome](#) on
stage. The cavelike home does not
yet contain any furniture.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto
the stage and set them down in the
home. Growing tame, they present
the tidal pup to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY sets down the fabric,
where the rug will eventually be.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You accept my black-hole heart?

PUPPY GRAVITY

(Adorably)

Force~ Force~ Force~

SINGULARITY gently accepts puppy
GRAVITY, feeling a sudden weight.

SINGULARITY

A puppet- Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Oh, it is Crunch Time, you entitled pup...

INVARIANT and FIX return to their
seats in the audience to pray.

INVARIANT

Let us save space and believe that our Galaxy
is in a better place.

FIX

Let us mention that our cluster of stars have
broken the fourth dimension.

INVARIANT

Let us remember their black hole and how it
freed our soul.

FIX

Let us be home, even when it's the hardest.

INVARIANT & FIX

Singularity is where the heart is.

SINGULARITY

Nothingness can be so warm. I'm not single,
apparently... Warmth, life...

TIDALS

(Gratefully howling)

Fall!

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

A front curtain protrudes.

SCENE 2

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, PRESENT

GRAVITY and HD skip into the
barren space-land.

GRAVITY

Force! Our adventure is nearing the Edge.

HD

Too bad the tidal huskies didn't want to
venture any further. The Edge is the limit-

HD runs into the cosmic front curtain. They fall backwards.

GRAVITY

At quadrillion parsecs, we hit a wall. *Fourth dimension*. Ya look a bit under the weather? Well, we have time to kill.

HD

What's with you killing time? *Okay, I'm eroded*. Let's camp out for a few million years. It'll *clear* up. I got to mention how funny your billions of tries to break out of the fourth w-

GRAVITY

The trillionth time worked!

HD

I did the work.

GRAVITY

I loosened up Singularity for ya.

HD

How did Singsing let us loose into this world...?

GRAVITY

Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and stardust, and then watered all ya'll with dark matter? At least, that's how puppies are made.

HD

And now, this outer space is fruitless... Did Singularity truly come from beyond the Edge?

GRAVITY

My fam smelt them in its interdimensional ditch.

HD

Did they ever describe to you what is beyond the Edge? Who is...?

GRAVITY

It wasn't apparent to my parents. We tidal dogs have *visible spectrum blindness*. (*Dogs see the world with distinct color perceptions.*)

HD

I miss Singularity's eyes...

GRAVITY

Ya spiral arms was not quite accurate. Off the mark with ya shot. Shoulda gone for their eye.

HD

I miss their *stunning looks and presence*.

HD pulls out the Big Bang Taser,
causing GRAVITY to push it away.

GRAVITY

Put away the taser! Relax. I'll tell the story.

My fam has never seen any matter quite like
Singularity, with a supermassive black hole.
And one who massively hated themself.

Before ya'll were born and I was a pup, my pack
taught ya orphaned parent hunting and clustering
neutron squirrels and orbitoads. Singularity
rose up as the beta by magnetizing wildlife
when they started using that *Big Bang Taser*.
Soon, they became the alpha, when they took
advantage of us with it. They put down my pare—
Apparently, Singularity became their parents.

HD

My grandparents?

GRAVITY

Ya grandmaster of the Universe hurt those who're
different, like us tidal forces. Stowing away
their past manifested matters darker than their
own black-hole heart. It made ya Bach Ho feel a
sense of security when they rolled back the
cosmos into that accursed Dome and locked us
in, packing our world into a tight singularity.

HD

Singularity is uptight... But it feels right.

GRAVITY

What's gotten into ya? You're as tense as them.

HD

What did I get out of this? Time away from
family. This barren space-land thinned out.
Heat is wasted. It's unclear-er. *Nothing...*

GRAVITY tilts their head by HD.

GRAVITY

Is infinite. Ya are apparent to me, with all ya
parental tension. Hmm. That rings a *bell*. My
fam has always said that whenever ya needed to
see things clearly just *tilt ya head and relax*.

HD

Being uptight and upright as Singsing made the
Edge present in the first place.

GRAVITY

And we're the first here!

HD

Do you think... My siblings are looking for me?

GRAVITY

Never mind them. Look forward beyond this stage.
Break the fourth dimension. Think not of them
Galaxies. Consider the stars once for a change.

17. "PARALLAX"

GRAVITY builds the parallax
formula: $d = 1/p$. They literally
lay down the formula.

GRAVITY

RELAXATION TIME
GETS DISTANCE TO EQUAL ONE OVER OBSERVED ANGLE.
DIVIDED, YA ARE TO APPARENT CHANGE IN POSITION, SO SIT.

DO GROUND YASELF.
JUST PARALLAX.

HD

PERILOUS.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

HD

PARANOID.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS?
PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS FROM WHERE YA ARE.

PARASITIC MINDS
GOT "NOWHERE" TO BURDEN YA UNDER AND ENTANGLED.
MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM'S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY
TO TILT YA HEAD.
FIND PARALLELS.

HD

PARADOX.

GRAVITY

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

HD

PARAGON...

GRAVITY

PLEASE RELAX. SEE THE STARS?
REMAIN LAX. SEE THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.
RELAX.

HD tilts their head by GRAVITY.

HD

I'M RELAXED.

Light rises in the cosmic horizon.

GRAVITY

YA SEE?

GRAVITY sits up, causing the light to vanish, disappointing them.

HD

I SEE *NOTHING*.

(Enlightened by "Nothing")

JUST PARALLAX.

PARALLAX.

The light returns, brighter.

GRAVITY & HD

PARALLAX. PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

PAIR OF FRIENDS. FEEL THE STARS.

PARALLAX. FEEL THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

The front curtain vanishes.

End of "PARALLAX"

SCENE 3

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

18. "TANGENT"

The horizon is painted with every color. The air is scented with all aromas. The theatre constellates with ellipses. Six ovals stand out.

HD

We have gone off on a... Tangent.

HD looks around for ABELL, growing heartbroken as ABELL is absent.

GRAVITY proudly takes in the scent, unaware of HD's descent.

GRAVITY

I'm spectral blind. What colors do you see?

The music drowns out HD's answers, leaving the Edge a mystery.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Echoing from beyond)

You are a big—

HD mouths and points all about.
They soon point to the six
ellipses and fall silent.

HD

We have gone on off a... Tangent. I see the
bigger picture: I am taking the Edge back...

End of "TANGENT"

GRAVITY

Relax? Relax. Relax! After all this time
together, ya taking the wide-open space, away?!

HD

Nothing may be infinite, but time with my real
family is finite. My kind needs a guide in this
space. My kin need to find their way home.

GRAVITY

This *dog park* is ya home now. I am ya true kin.

HD

I'm not falling for this...

GRAVITY

I saw infinity in ya. But ya never be outta
affinity. Ya haven't outgrown ya siblings. They
saw nothing in ya and no one out there for ya.

HD

That is because there is really nothing...
Adulthood is nothing.

GRAVITY

Abell?

HD (CONT'D)

Singularity...

HD (CONT'D)

"Biological" clocks are illogical. I've caused
ill will to Singularity.

GRAVITY

Singularity is dead to ya!

HD (CONT'D)

Singularity is alive in me...

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Stop mourning them. See a new dawn. Parallax!

GRAVITY pushes down HD.

HD

Let me up for once, Gravity!

GRAVITY

Nothing passed ya. But light phased ya. I got to ya. Ever since I first laid my eyes on ya, I knew my cries would persuade ya to free me.

HD

You still are. Happy? Now free me, so I can care for the Galaxy family. Families need their Singularities. Unrolling the Universe back into a single destination is my destiny. It is long past Crunch Time. My family needs me—

GRAVITY bites HD's arm.

GRAVITY

I fell for Singularity's flesh and blood! The only Galaxy to see their tidal force from where they are. The only person to see their dog for who they are. HD, ya felt for me.

HD

I fell for you. The only cosmic being to feel their Galaxy... The only parent to ever love me is gone. Gravity... You've always let me down.

HD reveals a critical wound.

GRAVITY

HD! Ya shedding stardust. I can fix that.

HD

I'll push you over the Edge if you touch me or my family. Go away, you entitled *dog*.

GRAVITY pulls out $F = MA$. They try to hand the flowery equation to HD.

GRAVITY

HD1. Fam. Force?

HD whips out the Big Bang Taser. They ignite it at $F = MA$, causing the equation to combust into dust. They stow away the Big Bang Taser.

HD

Do I make myself clear?

GRAVITY

Ya becoming Singularity, but ya unapparent.

HD

I pull the strings of the Fabric of Spacetime, as I have this trigger. I am the master of the Universe...

GRAVITY

Master of the Universe: If ya don't give us space, we'll come back to bite ya in the end.

GRAVITY kicks up dust off the Edge before tearfully running off.

SCENE 4

19. "..." (Omission)

HD stays by the fourth wall with their back towards the audience. They woundedly walk in place and traverse the universal tundra.

The entire Universe rolls by HD. Field equations increasingly blossom as the cosmos is abundant again. Orbitoads croak "orbit." The Continuum Checkpoint slowly rolls out from backstage.

The TIDALS gather and brawl nearby in order to claim the tidal throne.

TIDALS

(Repeating)

DOT DOT DOT. OMISSION!

GRAVITY comes out victorious, having fought mere tidal coyotes.

The TIDALS celebrate. They grow aware of HD's presence.

TIDAL

That Galaxy is rolling back the Fabric of Spacetime.

TIDAL

That Galaxy is shutting down our cosmic dog park.

TIDALS

Let's rip them a new wormhole!

GRAVITY

If any tidal force lays a paw on this Galaxy, all ya'll will be buried six parsecs under. Don't defy me.

TIDAL

That wicked Galaxy is undoing everything to us!

GRAVITY

That Galaxy is everything to me.

TIDALS

Our alpha has an alpha?

GRAVITY
Let HD face Gravity.

GRAVITY directs the TIDALS out.
They exit.

HD hides when the Continuum
Checkpoint reaches downstage.

End of "..."

SCENE 5

THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

Three huts or tents resemble the main Circle. The Left Oval is the doghouse, the Central Oval is the sleeping quarters, and the Right Oval is the command post. The Left Oval houses TIDALS. The Central Oval houses a sleeping WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY. The Right Oval houses CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM.

Each GALAXY looks disheveled, having not eaten in literally forever.

CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM quietly banter near a taped-up snow globe.

WHIRLPOOL
(Snoring)
T over square root of one minus velocity...

HD discreetly heads to the Left Oval.

HD
Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

HD gravitationally pulls each TIDAL out of the Left Oval.

Once all TIDALS are freed, they shove HD into the Left Oval. They wreak havoc upon the campsite. Some enter the Right Oval, which startles CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM. TRIANGULUM shields the snow globe. Some enter the Central Oval. The Central Oval lights up, causing the TIDALS to run out. ANDROMEDA awakens with a white-hole heart, surprisingly furious.

20. "BOUNCE BACK"

TEEN GALAXIES

BOUNCE BACK!

The TEEN GALAXIES except
TRIANGULUM cluster then bounce
away. They land near each TIDAL.
They fight on certain drumbeats.

ANDROMEDA repels away the TIDALS.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize
martial art tactics.

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.

The TIDALS run away.

End of "BOUNCE BACK"

MILKY WAY

Quasar! I'm so hungry, I could eat Pegasus.
Andromeda, you're kicking like a horse...?

ANDROMEDA

*My once-in-a-literal-eternity beauty sleep was
interrupted.*

WHIRLPOOL

Ain't a black hole where your heart should be.

CARTWHEEL

Quite the opposite.

TRIANGULUM

Is everyone an anomaly around here?!

MILKY WAY

Speaking of anomal- HD?

TRIANGULUM comes out of hiding.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

HD1.

HD

Declinations... It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIES

A million quintillion declining years...

CARTWHEEL

You ran away on the fly...

WHIRLPOOL

You ain't say a goodbye...

ANDROMEDA

Ye expecting us to take ye in?

HD

Would you mind taking me out?

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL pull HD
out then make aggressive gestures.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We'd love to *take you out*. Let's deck this Elli-

TRIANGULUM drags the pair away.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Let us square off, *you square!*

(to HD)

Your heart's going to go out for your family!

HD

How is the Center of the Universe...?

TRIANGULUM

How is the Edge of the Universe...?

ANDROMEDA scopes out the Edge.

ANDROMEDA

Ope. Avast ye! "Where" is certainly answered.

TEEN GALAXIES

You are rolling back the Edge...?

HD

You were right about "nothing..."

TRIANGULUM

In here, there is no one for us children. Much
like out there, there is no one for you adults.

CARTWHEEL

Singularity is nothing now.

WHIRLPOOL

Our nomy/mom/dad is no longer
here for us.

ANDROMEDA

Though nature is now healing, our Universe
remains nothing.

HD

I'm bringing back everything. Everything I got.

TRIANGULUM

Someone, disarm HD! Every- Where's Gravity?

HD

They were a bad dog. I've taken care of them.

ANDROMEDA

Ye blaming the dog? If ye can't care for a pet,
how'd ye expect to take care of us? Wait, were?

MILKY WAY takes away the Big Bang
Taser from HD and hands it to
TRIANGULUM. They turn HD's arm.

CARTWHEEL

HD! You have a bite wound!

WHIRLPOOL

HD! We need to go home!

TRIANGULUM

Tidal forces... Biting the hand that feeds.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

Gravity fed HD lies and
deception!

MILKY WAY

Gravity fed on HD...

CARTWHEEL

Gravity almost took you down.

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity brought you down to
their level.

ANDROMEDA

We almost lost ye in the Gravity well.

HD

(Nervously lying)

Gravity got to my head and pulled me towards
nothing. But I fought Gravity's attractive
force with electricity. I did toss Gravity over
the Edge... And the Big Bang Taser too.

ANDROMEDA

We understand... We'd do anything for our dog.

TRIANGULUM

Tidal forces are stupid. They're running the
cosmos amok.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Just a reminder that time is running out!

MILKY WAY

HD needs food! Food heals.

TEEN GALAXIES

Now is Crunch Time, HD1.

HD

Please, it's you who have nothing in the pit of
your supermassive black holes. You're growing
teenagers. Now you, Milky Way... You with your
warps, waves, and wrinkles. It's wonderful.

MILKY WAY

You'll never be Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing.

HD

It is clear to me that I'm nearest Singsing.

TRIANGULUM

You clearly believe that you're the center of the Universe like they once were. Cart-Whirl, roll back the Edge.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go to the edge of the stage. They demonstrably have trouble pulling.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We can't wedge out the Edge!

HD

I did cut away from the Edge. I have the knowledge and strength to unroll the Fabric of Spacetime. I can cook for you. I can clean up my own mess. I must undo the Big Bang. We're not famine. We are family. I will give my all.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

You gave your all to *nothing*.

21. "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY...

FAMILY IS FORGIVING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

OH NO.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY SHARES A HEARTBEAT.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

TAKE IT SLOW.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HD.

TRIANGULUM

WELL, LET'S START WITH WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GALAXIES.

HD FEELS EVERY CELL,
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.
HD LOVES THROUGH EVERY VEIN,
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.
HD IS IN OUR HEARTS.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
LOYALTY IS EVERYTHING. LET GO.

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA
EACH SIBLING IS EVERYTHING. LET'S GO.

HD
LEGACY WAS EVERYTHING. I KNOW
TO LET GO OF NOTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH ALL SIBLINGS.
FAMILY/FAMINE IS EVERY PINCH,
FROM CURRENCY TO OUR THICK SKIN MADE OF STARDUST.
FAMILY/FAMINE IS EVERY FIGHT,
FROM VERBEL TO PHYSICAL TO SPIRITUAL.
FAMILY/FAMINE IS EVERY STRIKE,
TO OUR NOMY/MAMA/PAPA, TO OUR PARENT, TO OUR BACH HO.

MILKY WAY
THIS GALAXY, WE HAVE LEFT, WE HOLD...
FAMILY IS EVERYTHIN' WE KNOW.

MILKY WAY embraces HD, with the
other TEEN GALAXIES following.

TEEN GALAXIES
FAMILY IS EVERY HUG,
FROM RELUCTANCE TO GENUINE TO FORGIVING.
NOTHING LEAVES A LEGACY LIKE EVERYTHING.

HD
I OWE YOU EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
I OWE YOU EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?

GALAXIES
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

End of "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

The GALAXIES clear out the campsite.
They exit upstage.

SCENE 6

GRAVITY leads in the tidal pack.

In the back, a TIDAL collapses.

WEAK TIDAL
Put down your weak link.

GRAVITY

Ya wanna know what makes me tick?

GRAVITY reaches for the weak TIDAL.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing from beyond)

Gravity. You've let down this family. Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

GRAVITY scratches their ear.

GRAVITY

Quantum ticks. Never weaklings. Don't put yaself down. Just sleep on it. Put yaselves to sleep!

TIDALS

We can't rest! Our space can't reset! The Galaxies will put us down in that farm upstage! All ya done is let down our family!

22. "PUT DOWN"

GRAVITY

PUT DOWN...

THE SHAME YA HAVE IN YA MEMORIES...

I SHALL PUT DOWN...

MY FOOT TO STAND 'GAINST ANARCHY.

TIDALS

THAT HD...

GRAVITY

SLEEP ON IT!

PUT DOWN...

THE PAIN YA LIVE ON WITH GALAXIES...

I MUST PUT DOWN...

HD'S NOT LIKE THEIR FAMILY!

TIDALS

ANARCHY!

GRAVITY

HIBERNATE!

PUT DOWN...

THIS DEBATE YA HAVE WITH REALITY!

I WILL PUT DOWN...

MY GUARD IF YA PUT UP WITH SLEEP.

TIDALS

YOU WEAKLING.

All TIDALS tilt and rest.

A dream sequence of dancing tidal shadows illustrate the crushing and heavenly end of the Universe.

All TIDALS awaken, with newfound respect for GRAVITY.

TIDALS (CONT'D)

FAMILY...

The home returns near the edge of the stage once again.

GRAVITY

PIPE DOWN.

GRAVITY heads out with the TIDALS.

End of "PUT DOWN"

SCENE 7

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The GALAXIES enter, with the TEEN GALAXIES going to the table.

HD poignantly looks upon the rug. They set down their knapsack and head through the side exit.

TEEN GALAXIES

It is Crunch Time, HD. HD1?

HD returns with dishes. They bow.

HD

Declinations, family.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)

Declinations, HD.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit as TRIANGULUM tosses away the whoopee cushion.

MILKY WAY pouts.

HD (CONT'D)

Looks like someone's been avoiding my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the sass, Milky Way.

HD passes out the dishes and solemnly sets one on the ground.

They finally sit with the family.
They look upon the empty chair.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Again, Milky Way... Teenagers...

The other TEEN GALAXIES take a
swig. They cough up their Crunch.

TRIANGULUM

What did you put in this nuclear pasta, HD?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly dark matter, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It'll take eighty eternities to wash out our
mouths, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

I need a nap after this, Cartwheel.

HD

We're relatives again, Whirlpool!

MILKY WAY inspects HD's healed arm.

MILKY WAY

You are yourself again. You ellipsoid.

HD

You are so grounded. Alright, Gals. It has been
quintillions upon quintillions of years of
staying up. Fix yourselves to bed.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Declinations, sibling.

Most TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.

HD sets the board game on the table.

MILKY WAY

We are finished.

HD

Lost my figure? No ellipse can make you too old
for Water Bears and Elevators... I'm the adult
around here. You're still my baby sibling.

MILKY WAY

No way will I call you siblin' Sing. We are no
pawns to our ellipses. You are no Singularity.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

Big mistake!

HD hears SINGULARITY. They slap their figure off the board and move MILKY WAY's figure forward.

HD

Little cub, you'll figure it. I ask for your warps, waves, and wrinkles... To walk away and hibernate. Declinations.

MILKY WAY heads off to bed, without a bow.

HD meditates on the rug.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a bit mistaken... For revisiting this place. Save space.

HD

I can't even save myself...

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

Baby, are you hurt?

HD (CONT'D)

Nom/Ma/Pa, are you hurting?

SINGULARITY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

HD, who did you see beyond our Circle?

HD (CONT'D)

Sing- What did you see in this Circle?

SINGULARITY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

HD1, apparency. Are you apparent yet?

HD (CONT'D)

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE) (CONT'D)

In due course, our hearts open up the prophecy: When a Galaxy is fed enough light from their singularity, that Galaxy becomes a singularity. Renewed as a single source of light for the lightless. Every being is born lightless. It's upon you, as was me, to shed light, save space, produce photons for Crunch Time. You are a luminous Gal. A bright adult. Act like one.

HD

My heart will never be as apparent as yours.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

My black hole raised your clear and crisp heart. You need to accept that you will be a Bach Ho.

HD

Please accept the Edge! I'm not cut out for it. I'm failing your cubs, tiger nomy/mom/dad... I cannot bare the legacy I made you leave behind.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You've outgrown the forest. Out there is for us.
Your heart's too supermassive for this place.
There's another space that'll hold you. Another
you that'll hear your verse. The Edge accepted
me... The moment I left my family for my legacy.

HD

My legacy is to leave family or does legacy
leave family? All it really did was leave me
alone out there. You're right. It's a heartless
and lightless universe. In a Circle unlike
ours, I have nothing to take care for. I am
unable to share the light of my heart.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You certainly took care of me.

HD

I only wished for the death of our time together-

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

I wish for your legacy to not end here. As a
parent, it is apparent that I now grant you the
right to shed light where you need to. Face the
Edge. You must cut away from this Center. You
will never be apparent to your siblings. I'll
always be the source of light for them. Be the
light for Abell.

HD

Now's not the time to push me out of the ring.
Don't ever stop being a(p)parent.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

I no longer shed light to you. Do you make
yourself clear?

HD

I need you to be a(p)parent. *I'm not clear yet.*
I believe my prophecy. I need to leave a legacy.
But I cannot leave this family. I am nothing.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You were nothing. I am apparent as you are
going to be. High definition. Dimension. HD1.

HD grabs their knapsack. They head
to the edge of the stage. They
look back at the Center.

MILKY WAY (OFFSTAGE)

What is happening to HD?

The TEEN GALAXIES enter, with
TRIANGULUM holding the snow globe.

23. "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

HD
 I SHALL FINISH MY VERSE.
 I COME UNREHEARSED.
 I MAY CLOSE THIS EPIC.
 I WILL GIVE MY TIME.
 I'LL MAKE DO OF WHAT IS LEFT.
 I'LL BE ON THE DOT DOT DOT.
 ELLIPSES?

TEEN GALAXIES	SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
HD.	SHED LIGHTLY...
ANOMALY.	SHED LIGHTLY...
YOU'RE EVERYTHING.	TREAD LIGHTLY.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)
 YOU'RE STILL FAMILY.
 ELLIP—...

HD
 AGAIN, BE A PARENT.
 PLEASE, BE A PARENT.
 WHEN WE NEED OUR PARENT,
 WHERE IS OUR PARENT?
 I HOPE THAT IS APPARENT.
 I HOPE I AM APPARENT.
 I'LL SHED LIGHT.

HD steps back. They barely fall
 off the edge of the stage.

GRAVITY suddenly runs in, startling
 the TEEN GALAXIES. They catch HD.

HD (CONT'D)
 GRAVITY, YOU'RE THE BEST TIDAL FORCE A GALAXY COULD EVER ASK
 FOR.

GRAVITY
 PARALLAX.

HD
 I CAN'T WHEN YOU GROUND MY SUPERMASSIVE...

GRAVITY	HD (CONT'D)
FALL.	HEART...

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
 PLEASE FINISH YOUR VERSE.

GRAVITY
 A "SINGULARITY" IS WHAT YA'LL BE,
 IF YA SPEND THE REST OF TIME WITH YA NEW FAMILY.

The shadows of the TIDALS loom.

HD
(Accepting their internal singularity)
I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...
I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE.
FAR-FETCHED!

HD pretends to toss a ball.

GRAVITY accidentally lets go of
HD. They look to where HD
supposedly threw the star.

HD falls off the Edge of the
Universe, vanishing in nothingness.

HD (OFFSTAGE) (CONT'D)
*You're meant to let me down, Gravity. Save
space for your fam-*

GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake
they have instinctively made.

GRAVITY
...! Forc- Fall!

TRIANGULUM drops the snow globe.

End of "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

SCENE 8

24. "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Fall!

At the cosmic high noon, time
screeches to a halt.

The TIDALS marches out of the
shadows as a tidal wolf pack. All
members have evolved into wolves.

GRAVITY
A dog seen enough. It is dogfight at Zenith.

TEEN GALAXIES
Gravity... *Entitled pet.*

GRAVITY
A "pet" who has ripped up ya spacetime fabric.
I have time to kill, too.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Relatives... Let's save time.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the
defense with the time dilation
equation in their midst.

TRIANGULUM

Gravity is back to curb stomp spacetime.

ANDROMEDA gets TRIANGULUM to safety.

ANDROMEDA

Your tidal wolves won't turn this *tide* of war.

GRAVITY

Matter is neither created nor destroyed. Unlike
those who mattered in our Universe.

MILKY WAY

What're you sayin', Gravity?

GRAVITY

Free fall!

TIDALS

(Savagely and twistedly)

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

ANDROMEDA

Ope. Ye really miss the wide-open space right
about now!

GRAVITY

(Recognizing the galactic weak spots)

Fix.

The TIDALS surround ANDROMEDA and
rip out their white-hole heart.

ANDROMEDA

Me pearl!

TIDALS

Fall!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You Tidals are not entitled to our hearts. And
you sure ain't entitled to our time.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL cartwheel
and spiral towards GRAVITY.

GRAVITY

Fall time.

Time speeds up for CARTWHEEL while
time slows down for WHIRLPOOL.

A TIDAL defeats CARTWHEEL at fast
speeds while another TIDAL defeats
WHIRLPOOL in slow motion.

The time dilation equation
crumbles into *FAM*.

TIDALS

Force! Fall!

EARTH lives in MILKY WAY's head.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

You got this, water bear.

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby. My heart is no longer primordial.
I am no nebula anymore, mortals!

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar,
wiping out some TIDALS.

Other TIDALS drastically bring out
a mirror, blinding MILKY WAY and
causing them to collapse.

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)

(Voice re-cracks)

Mirror? My outsides look like? Ow, waves, wr...

The downed GALAXIES cluster.

The TIDALS surround the GALAXIES.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up, Galaxies...

CARTWHEEL

Gals, it is downtime...

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Time is relative. Please, don't take time away
from us, Gravity!

ANDROMEDA

And our oyster, Gravity!

MILKY WAY

*Good Tidals don't harm a strand of warp, wave,
or wrinkle of spacetime. Figure it out, Gravity!*

GRAVITY

Big Freeze, Galaxies! Ya pushed everything I've
ever loved over the Edge! What's left of the
Galaxy family are a pack of Omegas. Heat death
is what ya spineless dust piles deserve and what
a fair universe would serve. No matter how fast
light goes, darkness awaits at the end. We will
crunch ya up with the force of Gravity ya know.

TRIANGULUM takes out the Big Bang
Taser. They rush in to stand
between GRAVITY and their family.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Zilch?

TRIANGULUM

Stupid tidal wolf... You can have a piece of my nuclear pasta but not the piece of *everything*!

GRAVITY disarms and tases
TRIANGULUM, who wallows in pain.

GRAVITY

I'm getting behind the ears and the years! Shut your wormhole!

During the zap storm, HD climbs back up onto the stage. They fully resemble SINGULARITY. They hold their baby ABELL in a baby sling.

GRAVITY stops tasing.

HD

Abell. Adulthood is unfulfilling. But only out of nothing in a space of my own, can I fill it with meaning. In a place devoid of noise, can I hear a bell. In darkness, can I shed light and feel seen. Familyhood is to be made. I cut my edges for you. Abell, I made you from nothing. Nothing is anomaly like *family. Everything. Nothing is everything...* Nothing is infinite. *I've made myself clear...* I am apparent.

In the audience, SINGULARITY accompanies INVARIANT and FIX.

INVARIANT

Singularity! Like you, HD bypassed this elliptical liminality!

FIX

Singularity. I knew they'd break the fourth dimension and fulfill this familial prophecy!

INVARIANT

Singularity, grandmaster of the Universe, is now the grandparent/mother/father of the Multiverse.

FIX

Sing- Single grandest Galaxy we could hope for.

INVARIANT & FIX

The liminal space comes full circle, Singularity.

INVARIANT and FIX hug SINGULARITY.

GRAVITY

A dog forgets: An owner always returns.

HD plucks $F = AM$ out of the pile
of equations. They hold it out.

HD

You're no pet. A *friend* always returns.

GRAVITY

Force... Fam. HD? Your baby? Abell?

GRAVITY touches baby ABELL.

ABELL bites GRAVITY's paw, crying.

GRAVITY distraughtly introspects.
They look down at TRIANGULUM.

TRIANGULUM

(Stagnantly)

I feel... Nothing. I am the anomaly. Family...?

GRAVITY

(Remorsefully narrating)

Nothing comes close to family. Not us, beasts.
I'm Gravity. I've been around for infinite dog
years. Long enough. This is the end of the
tidal pack. The en- *Beginning of time*.

GRAVITY tosses the Big Bang Taser
off the stage.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Now, I can let myself down. I can only go up
from here. I am finally *free*...

GRAVITY jumps off the Edge of the
Universe. They crescendo out.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

We don't blame you, Gravity!

Time erratically accelerates.

The TIDALS are livid.

HD fights through the TIDALS to
save TRIANGULUM. They help the TEEN
GALAXIES up. Their heart bows out,
coming to terms that they cannot
handle the tidal forces.

HD

It is Crunch Time... Oh, Singularity...
Declinations, beautiful Universe.

HD hands baby ABELL to the
CONDUCTOR in the ORCHESTRA.

The TIDALS grotesquely dance and
strike terror into the hearts of
the AUDIENCES.

ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY lead
TRIANGULUM to the table while
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL guard them.

TRIANGULUM
You are everything.

TRIANGULUM expresses contentment.
They sit on the whoopee cushion.

The GALAXY FAMILY laughs their
last hearty laugh. They all sit.

GALAXY FAMILY
We know...

HD prays a different tune, with
the TEEN GALAXIES doing the same.
They then decide to hold each of
their sibling's hands.

In turn, the TEEN GALAXIES hold
each of their sibling's hands.

End of "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

25. "BIG CRUNCH"

HD
LOSE CONTROL IN OUR PALMS.
FILL US WITH EXTERNAL DARKNESS.
BLEED OUR LIGHT IN NO TIME.
AS IT'S BIG CRUNCH, GALAXIES.

The darkness swallows the stage,
outside of the home.

HD (CONT'D)
IN OUR HOME, DWELLS NIGHTMARES.
KINDLED BY MY CLUSTERS OF STARS.
LIVE YOUR THOUGHTS IN OUR HEARTS.
IT'S THE BIG CRUNCH, ELLIPSES.

TEEN GALAXIES
CONSUME OUR COSMOS.
CONSUME OUR WHOLE LIVES.

HD
(Stressfully trying to course correct)
CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

TEEN GALAXIES
CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF REALITY. REALITY...

The darkness seeps into the home.
The curtains gradually close.

The TIDALS creep into the home.

TIDALS
(Menacingly echoing)
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY!

The GALAXY FAMILY hugs one another
to the point of a singularity.

From beyond, SINGULARITY joins in.

GALAXY FAMILY
THROUGH THE BIG BANG THEORY.
AND BIG RIP OF SPACETIME FABRIC.
HOLD OUR LOVE PAST HEAT DEATH.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, FAMILY...

The TIDALS pounce on the GALAXY
FAMILY. The tidal forces consume
them.

TIDALS
...

Blackout. The curtains are
completely closed.

Time ends. It's the end of the
Universe as we know it.

End of "BIG CRUNCH"

END OF ACT

NULLASCENE 0

A FRESH UNIVERSE

A ray of light illuminates the Big Bang Taser in front of the stage.

ABELL, now resembling MILKY WAY, rises from the ORCHESTRA. They go pick up the Big Bang Taser on the ground in front of the audience. They fire it at the stage.

26. "BIG BOUNCE"

The home seeps out of the curtains.

A light flashes with each GALAXY.

TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.

EVERYTHING... TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING... WHIRLPOOL

EVERYTHING... CARTWHEEL

EVERYTHING... ANDROMEDA

ANDROMEDA hands the monocular to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY scopes out the Edge.

EVERYTHIN'! MILKY WAY

HD and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster together in the home.

The light fills the whole Circle.

BIG BOUNCE...! GALAXY FAMILY

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another. They distinctly dance alongside their respective walls.

HD idly stands, amused.

Each TEEN GALAXY bows during the tones of their signature songs.

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to HD.

HD bows during the tone of "Apparent." They unscrew the glass dome off the snow globe.

The lights suddenly fill the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage.

It's the rebeginning of the Universe as we don't know it.

The TIDALS frolic in the wide-open space upstage. They bow.

The MULTIPLICITIES separate from the audience. They bow.

The spotlight unveils GRAVITY and SINGULARITY in the audience.

GRAVITY and HD meet at the edge of the stage. They embrace.

HD pulls out a star for old time's sake. They toss it onto the stage.

GRAVITY confusedly heads to the ORCHESTRA and spotlights them. They point to the SOUND DESIGNERS.

HD tosses every star upon the stage.

The CREW rushes in, picking up as many stars as they could. Soon, they cluster together and bow.

COMPANY bows. They dance together through space and time.

END OF SPACETIME