

ACT ISCENE 1

## THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

1. "BOUNCE"

The Circle. A table and rug rest in its dome. The stage outside is teeming with floral equations. The side curtains conceal the upstage.

GRAVITY sits in The Circle, clawing at the invisible wall separating them from the stage/space outside.

SINGULARITY stomps in. They force GRAVITY to hide away in the back. They go outside to pick formulas. They set them in a mortar bowl. They head to the rug and meditate.

SPECIAL and GENERAL drift by the stage as ghostly parents looking for their child. They soon vanish.

SPECIAL & GENERAL

NOTHING...

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

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

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

In the back of the audience, a glimmer of light shines as a *bell*.

A shadow of HD in a shooting stance protrudes from the home. HD then enters, carrying a pestle.

SINGULARITY

NOTHING...

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

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

OOOHHHHHH.

HD unveils a scope in the pestle  
and scope out the edge of the home.

TRIANGULUM wanders out to HD. They  
grab HD's scope and toss it behind.

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

WHIRLPOOL spirals out while  
CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They  
catch the scope. They scope out.

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING.

ANDROMEDA pops out. CARTWHEEL  
hands the scope to them. They  
scope out before stowing it away.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

The TEEN GALAXIES - CARTWHEEL,  
WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA,  
MILKY WAY - cluster in the center,  
bounce onto the walls, and dance.

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

GRAVITY leads in a pack of TIDALS.  
SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY skips to the table.  
ANDROMEDA sails to the table.  
TRIANGULUM triangulates the table.  
WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.  
CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.  
HD joins the table with the bowl.

HD

ABELL...

End of "BOUNCE"

GALAXIES

(Bowing)

Singularity. Declinations.

HD hands the bowl to SINGULARITY  
and helps set 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. This single parent cannot stand me.  
They barely understand their Galaxies. That  
power-hungry tyrant sits on the stardust throne,  
having 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. TRIANGULUM sits on  
the whoopee cushion.

SINGULARITY

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

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way! Can you all be  
normal for an eon or two?!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL high five  
while TRIANGULUM puts up a fist.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

*The dog did it!*

GRAVITY

When kids get into trouble, most blame the dog.  
Cartwheel and Whirlpool are the most relative.  
Not even time can separate them. Andromeda is?

ANDROMEDA

(Playing with their food)

Let's set sail over seven spaces. Dig up pearls  
in their clams. The 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

Stupid dog! That's not for you to gravitate to.  
It's never a normal family with you around...

HD sets a dish on the ground.

TIDALS

(Gratefully barking)  
Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

(Making the TIDALS sit)  
Fix... Fix... Fix... Fix...

GRAVITY

We can do no wrong with this one. We're never  
blamed by this one. We Tidals like this one. The  
Circle's bearable with the fairest Galaxy: HD1.

SINGULARITY

Quit dogging my firstborn!

GRAVITY

Doggone it. Ya kid- My best friend. That'll be  
the last thing ya see. It'll be the last time  
ya see them. We've got time to kill. In Zenith,  
Gravity shall bring the house down. Force!

MILKY WAY

Why is that dog always staring out into space?

HD

The dog sees something.

TEEN GALAXIES

The dogs speaks to no one.

GRAVITY & HD

There are lives out there. Life is out of here...

SINGULARITY

Remember gals: stepping out of our house and  
escaping my gravitational pull would...?

TEEN GALAXIES

Rip up the Fabric of Spacetime...

SINGULARITY

You never ever want this grandmaster of the  
Universe to worry. Anywho, 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.*  
*(Vietnamese for "white tiger," sounds like*  
*"black hole," and implies tiger parenting.)*

## SINGULARITY

*Unlike your oldest sibling, y'all don't know  
how to cook stardust. You'd die without us.  
Your tiger nom/mom/dad heated our meal over ten  
million degrees Kelvin in our cosmic microwave  
background. It's the healthiest 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. Y'all want to be a  
Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy, like Whirlpool?

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's body.

## WHIRLPOOL

I know you be looking cute with your ring, but  
you ain't got spiral arms like us, *Ring Galaxy*.

## CARTWHEEL

Gal, your arms dwarf my bright stars, you  
stretched-out circle. *Morbidly oval Galaxies*.

## ANDROMEDA

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

## TRIANGULUM

I'll run circles around you, *Galaxies*.

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

## MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, *ellipsoids*.

## CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

Wash your wormhole with soap, you quasi-baby!

## SINGULARITY

Oneness, clusters of stars! In our hearts of  
darkness, we are beings of light and energy. We  
matter. Gals, your hearts are all vigorous.  
Always full of grace. Let us save space.

SINGULARITY lovingly pinches MILKY  
WAY's cheek. They all sit and pray.

The TIDALS yearn for what's outside  
while GRAVITY inches towards HD.

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.

## TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

(Individually)

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)"

## HD

WHY DOES MY FAMILY LACK MY CURIOSITY?  
WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH TO KNOW?  
WHY DO THESE OVALS SEE NOTHING IN THIS MYSTERY?  
WHEN I KNOW I NEED TO GO...

(Standing)

WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...