

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog

SPT0615-JD, 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, child, person in the audience that JD sees, never speaks

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, Galaxies in the audience

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

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The Ellipse is stationed downstage center. Inside is a table with seats and a rug. Lights dwell solely within the Dome. Outside, the stage is mainly off limits. Everything upstage is concealed by the side curtains. Equations are teeming flowers in the space.
(<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/set>)

SINGULARITY hums as they pick equations outside the home. They place them on a dish. They head to the rug to meditate.

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

Startled, SINGULARITY draws out the Big Bang Taser. They ignite it outwards.

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

The lights flicker. The curtains ripple. The field equations loom like a field of flowers. The Universe flashes their wonders.

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

SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug, reversing the Universe. They look upon ABELL.

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

SINGULARITY leaves through a side exit of the home.

1. "BOUNCE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/1-bounce>)

JD enters, holding a monocular.
They position themselves at the edge
of the home. They look out through
the monocular.

TRIANGULUM wanders out, carrying a
snow globe that resembles the
home. They head to JD. They snatch
their monocular and look out. They
toss it behind.

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

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

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to
ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA looks out. They stow
away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY is disheveled. They
stroll in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

The TEEN GALAXIES - CARTWHEEL,
WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA,
MILKY WAY - cluster towards the
center.

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home. In choreographic exposition, they distinctly pose at certain melodic phrases.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

MILKY WAY lugs their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA heads to the table.

TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They set the snow globe on the table.

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

SINGULARITY (O.S) (CONT'D)

JD!

JD remains staring out at the Edge. They extend their arm out.

JD

ABELL...

ABELL reaches out to JD.

End of "BOUNCE"

All TIDALS prowl in and surround the table.

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes. They bow.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family. The Galaxy family. It is that time.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

GRAVITY narrates.

GRAVITY

Nothing comes close to family... Except "pets."
I'm Gravity.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

I've been in here for infinite dog years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family. We've long lived in this Ellipse. Singularity has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. This Dome is all they've ever known. Most kids aren't much older than a dozen eternities, but one is nearing two. I like this one. This Ellipse is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD...

JD is on the edge. While their siblings see "nothing" out there, JD sees their future Ellipse in the nothingness. Beyond the Edge of the Universe. I sense that their dream is to have an ellipse of their own. JD deserves a life of their own. What adult doesn't want to leave the safety of their home to go explore the Universe?

Singularity does not own us: Galaxies or me, a tidal force. Singularity can't hold us forever. Singularity shall face the Big Bang, even if it's the last thing Gravity does. In Zenith... Force!

SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY. They set a dish on the ground, for the TIDALS to feast upon.

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

TEEN GALAXIES

Declinations, Singularity.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit, while TRIANGULUM unfortunately sits on the whoopie cushion.

SINGULARITY

Sounds like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

Has anyone seen my scope? Where could they be? It's got to be in here...

SINGULARITY touches the snow globe.

ANDROMEDA

Everything in here is a cluster flux. Wouldn't hurt to look out-

SINGULARITY

If you escape my gravitational pull and step out onto the space, you'll end up ripping apart the Fabric of Spacetime. Then I, the grandmaster of the Universe, will be out of order. Forget the scope. We got all the cosmic formulas right here in our Ellipse. With my wrists and black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae something special: nuclear pasta and meteors.

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

I, *tiger nomy/mom/dad*, am so glad that this meal is as special as our first. They're heated to over ten million degrees Kelvin and rotated 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.

GRAVITY tries to grab TRIANGULUM's dish.

TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY.

TRIANGULUM

That is not for you to gravitate to. Stupid tidal force... Nothing between those ears but a vacuum.

TRIANGULUM unnervingly scratches GRAVITY's ear.

ANDROMEDA

Throw the dog a meteor. If a tidal force wants a swig, they can have the spaghettification. Fix...?

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible spaghetti to GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

Who's a good tidal force? You all are!

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY
tries to get them to sit.

TIDALS	SINGULARITY
Force! Force! Force! Force!	Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix.
Force! Force!	

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes eight millennia to burn that,
Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

Most of you went through a phase where you ate
megatons. You want to accrete and be a Grand-
Design Spiral Galaxy, don't you? 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. Y'all are
the morbidly spiral Galaxies.

ANDROMEDA

Least you're not a two-dimensional square, like
this Galaxy.

TRIANGULUM

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

TRIANGULUM tosses the whoopie
cushion at CARTWHEEL.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the
defense.

MILKY WAY
(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)
Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM
Shut your worm hole, you quasi-Galaxy. At least
we're not babies!

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

SINGULARITY lovingly pinches MILKY
WAY's cheek.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
Always, full of grace. Let us save space.

2. "CRUNCH" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch>)

SINGULARITY prays.

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.

The TEEN GALAXIES pray with
SINGULARITY.

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 IS CRUNCH TIME, NOMY/MOMMY/DADDY SING.

SINGULARITY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?
SPT0615-JD?

End of "CRUNCH"

3. "CUTTING EDGE" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/3-cutting_edge)

GRAVITY splits from the TIDALS.
They stroll to JD, who is looking
upon their Galaxy family, to be
their canine companion.

JD

NOT THE TIME
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...
CUT INTO MY—
PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE OF THE...

GRAVITY turns JD's head to what's
outside.

JD (CONT'D)

CENTER WITH OUR RELATIVES.
OUR TIDAL DOGS.
GRAVITY, ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.

JD nears the edge of the home.

JD (CONT'D)

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.

JD takes a jab at their siblings.

JD (CONT'D)

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!

JD
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—

In JD's head, the TEEN GALAXIES
seem to be droning on.

TEEN GALAXIES
SPT0615-JD.
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.

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

TEEN GALAXIES
SPT0615. CHILD.
NO NEED TO BE APPARENT— (DRONING ON IN JD'S HEAD)
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

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

JD lets GRAVITY ground them.

TEEN GALAXIES
SPT0615-JADED—

JD
JD 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"

GRAVITY
Force!

JD
Grounded. You're my tidal
force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

I will spare a millennium to listen to your verse, JD. You are apparent to me. Clear and crisp like how I raised you to be.

JD

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

You love Gravity, too much. That dog is a bad influence.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

Your soul will be dragged down to their level if you keep it up. What are you looking forward to? What's pulling at your heart?

JD

Abell... There is something ringing in mine.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

My biological clock remains malnourished.

SINGULARITY

Our biology has no logic. If you hope for any of your fictitious clock to be functioning and *nourished*, you may... *Galaxies*?

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

JD

I'm done with Crunch. I'm tired of the same old dish of photons that we eat and dishing it out with these teen Galaxies.

MILKY WAY

JD, *who* is Abell?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

Even a grownup Galaxy needs to accrete. My babies need to grow. There's *nothing* out there for you.

JD

There is someone for that *nothing*. That 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 shed.

JD

I'm ready to pass on your light. Our light. Singularity... *May I go to the Edge of the Universe?*

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Can I play with *nothing*? Please?

SINGULARITY

No means *no*.

JD

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

JD

As your heart has told you... There is a prophecy that once we gather enough light, we must share with the lightless. Abell... I've set my sights on a fulfilling legacy.

SINGULARITY

What was said is unapparent. Drop this legacy nonsense. The future is *nothing*. Be present for your family. Join us for Cr-

SINGULARITY reaches for JD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl with SINGULARITY.

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY grounds SINGULARITY on the rug. They try to corral the TIDALS.

GRAVITY

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

GRAVITY runs to the opening of the
Ellipse. They hit an invisible
wall and dizzily fall back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Free... Free... Free... Free... Free... Free...

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

SINGULARITY

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

The TIDALS tremble and bow out.
They leave.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

Um, I literally am the center. I, Singularity,
have my hands in and on the entire Universe...
Better a puppet than a pet.

JD

If you're going to keep the Galaxies in, at
least let Gravity and the dogs out... It will
come back to bite you in the end if you don't
give them space.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY

Oh now you want to consider my center...

JD

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

SINGULARITY

I expect lights out when you Galaxies go off to
bed. See you Gals in Crunch Time.

SINGULARITY exits, dragging
GRAVITY out.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

TRIANGULUM

You know... *Nothing's* more childish than being fixated on anything but Gravity of the situation.

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity went berserk. Brought down Singularity.

JD

Gravity never lets me down. *I'm not stooping to your level and blaming the dog, Galaxies.*

ANDROMEDA

We're all on the same plane. The same Ellipse.

CARTWHEEL

What is so special about the Edge?

WHIRLPOOL

Nothing ain't relative to us there.

JD

You'll understand in no time...

MILKY WAY

We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

JD

Crunch Time is all that you look forward to. This Universe is all you see. You're too young to notice what's outside.

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

ANDROMEDA

Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one... Declinations.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

With nomy/mama/papa not around, let's deck the Ellipse—

TRIANGULUM

Oh no, you're not.

TRIANGULUM tries to drag away CARTWHEEL or WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You're such a square, Triangulum.

MILKY WAY

Square? Reminds me... Board game? Tardigrades
and Elevators?!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Look at the time... Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off
to bed.

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

TRIANGULUM

Last one to bed is an anomaly!

JD

I can't even with this family...

JD sets the snow globe on the rug.
They sense some perplexity.

JD (CONT'D)

I'm with you, every step of the way. I was you,
Milky Way.

MILKY WAY

In what way?

JD sits at the table.

JD

Well, I'm waiting on you to grab Water Bears
and Elevators.

MILKY WAY joyfully brings out a
board game.

MILKY WAY

Wait... You like games? You an adult?

JD holds up a miniature figure.

JD

No... I'm a wat- Land bear.

MILKY WAY

Oh! That means... I the water-

JD

You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY

Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusing.

JD

I'm the adult around here.

MILKY WAY

Fine. Gas it is... May I ask...? What different? Being adult?

JD

Even at this age, I still like to game. Mess around even. We play a game called "life." The goal is to go from one Ellipse to another. Every Ellipse are risks.

MILKY WAY

To you... What is between Ellipse?

JD

A liminal space...?

MILKY WAY tries to repeat the word.

JD (CONT'D)

Liminal. It's where who we were ends and who we are begins. You're in the liminal space, too.

MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on the board.

JD holds figures of various heights.

JD (CONT'D)

You'll soon not fit in your Ellipse... I stopped fitting in yours ten eternities ago. I don't fit in mine anymore. 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 air bear, I only go up from here... I will own you, land bear!

4. "FIGURE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-figure>)

The actions taken upon the board as JD and MILKY WAY sing this duet is open ended.

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

JD
LIFE HAS ITS *UPS AND DOWNS*.

MILKY WAY
GO FIG— UH.

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

MILKY WAY
TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

JD
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?

JD
NO ONE KEEPS THEIR FIGURE.
YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FIGURE.

MILKY WAY
I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

JD
LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

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

JD
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.

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

MILKY WAY
(Intensely cracking their voice)
I no want to go far in this game, called— Uh,
life. I hate my figure. I hate myself.

JD puts their figure in a winning
position.

JD

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

MILKY WAY slaps JD's figure off
the board.

JD (CONT'D)

LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY hands their figure to
JD.

MILKY WAY

KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Pawn!

JD

Gravity?

MILKY WAY

That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Free fall! Free me, JD!

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)

Quiet dog before
Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake
up. That dog is nuthin' but
trouble!

JD

Nothing... I'll take care of them. It's
bedtime. Gal, you're still a baby. *Quit the
sour face, Milky Way.* I'm the anomaly in this
family.

JD bows.

MILKY WAY bows. They head off to
bed.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is free!

JD (CONT'D)

You always understand me...

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

I believe in *nothing*, like you. There's nothing
out there for you.

JD

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

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is out there for you. *Nothing* is out
there, waiting for you. A wide-open space for
you and me. Save space, for the dogs.

(MORE)

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

Save space for me. A space without Singularity.
Zilch is not out of our Ellipse. Zilch is
underneath. You'll know in spacetime.

JD unrolls the rug. They discover
the Big Bang Taser.

JD

Our rug of spacetime...?

5. "ZILCH" (<https://www.ellipseplay.com/music/5-zilch>)

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.

JD ignites the Big Bang Taser,
accidentally shocking themselves.
They read it.

JD

Zilch— Big Bang Taser...?

TIDALS (O.S.)

(*Whimpering*) Fall...

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Free me! End Singularity! No longer bound by
family. Make *nothing* your legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up from their
seat.

End of "ZILCH"

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

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

JD hides the Big Bang Taser under
the rug.

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY enters.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Something wrong, my Capricorn? Tardigrades and
Elevators? I remember making this for you,
twenty-something eternities ago. I guess,
nothing really changes. Declinations, JD.

JD

Nothing... Declinations, nomy/mother/father.

SINGULARITY

Speaking of declining. I know that Gravity and I seemed to have a falling out. Gravity has been... Letting me down lately.

JD

Maybe you should let them out?

SINGULARITY

I let the tidal dogs out and the next thing you know you Gals are out and about. I'm not letting any of you play outside.

JD

I'm passed that. I'm an adult. I don't play outside. I want to make something of myself on the other side.

SINGULARITY

You can't make something out of nothing.

JD

How did you make us? Out of nothing?

SINGULARITY

JD (CONT'D)

JD...

Why?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

SPT0615-JD. How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light. To you all, the lightless. "Nothing." I fed you the finest photons from the field equations I picked. Now, my oldest cluster of stars... Your heart is too massive for this Ellipse?

JD

My supermassive heart is ready. I have light to shed.

SINGULARITY

I will not let go of your light. All your luminosity stays here.

I know your urge to jump to another Ellipse. You're in a liminal space; which is also my space. You take one step out of this place and you're dead to me.

JD

What other space is there for you to go, you old Galaxy? I wish "Crunch Time" would die... I wish family time... Well...? I'm dying to know what's out there!

SINGULARITY

Fine. I'll... I'll answer why. So long as I pass over what you sai- JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It became *apparent* that I had to leave my parents.

JD

Parents? You had multiple parents? Can I meet my grandparents...?

SINGULARITY

There is *nothing* to them, Bach Ho. They never poured a drop of light for me. They're apparently heartless.

JD

Being a single parent sure did wonders to you.

SINGULARITY

Quit the antics. Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

JD

Stop making light-

SINGULARITY

I need to shed my light.

JD

Light isn't made. It's passed down. And I'm not. There's not enough space. That's why I'm shedding.

SINGULARITY

Oh the luminosity. You got to be shedding me...

SINGULARITY hands the monocular to JD. They point out.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You are old enough to respond to a heartless and lightless world beyond the Edge of the Universe, by not making light of it.

JD

You've raised my supermassive heart by pouring light into it. My lighty heart is ready to be shared with the heartless.

SINGULARITY

The point of my hearty outpouring is for you to forever lighten up. Not to ever lighten down. You are never getting passed me.

JD scopes out the Edge, longing for ABELL.

JD

Our purpose is to pour our heart out to life
with less heart. The only way I can see light
is if another Galaxy lightens up.
Singularity... I wish— Nothing gets passed
you... Not even light.

6. "LUMINOUS" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-luminous>)

SINGULARITY takes back the
monocular.

SINGULARITY

WHY DON'T YOU ENLIGHTEN US?
SHED SOME LIGHT TO YOUR FAMILY.
FORGET ME, SINCERELY.
LET OUR CENTERS SET US STRAIGHT...

The TEEN GALAXIES enter in
alignment.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY. LUMINOUS.

TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.
I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.
LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.

WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

Us. And us. And us. And us. And us. At the
center of us all is heavy. What looms in us is
light. Take it in. Our black holes. And you...
At the center of yours, is supermassive.

End of "LUMINOUS"

GRAVITY rushes in, scattering the
GALAXIES. They scratch up the rug.

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're
destroying the family rug! Its spacetime fabric
is passed down from my parents... Gravity...
For the last time, you've let down this family.
You entitled dog... I'm putting you down for
eternity.

JD grabs the Big Bang Taser from
the rug.

SINGULARITY reaches underneath the
rug to feel zilch. They soon see
that JD is armed.

JD

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

7. "BIG BANG" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-big_bang)

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.

SINGULARITY gets electrocuted.
They melodically shriek and jerk
in place. They perform one last
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 (O.S.)

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

The TIDALS freely rush out. They
make JD turn to what is outside.

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

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

JD gently walks to the edge of the
home to look out, shifting from
grief to wonder. They are
surprised to step out onto the
stage. They look back at their
petrified siblings.

JD

MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT TO YOU ALL, FAMILY.
BUT MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT FOR ME AND GRAVITY.
DECLINATIONS!

GRAVITY gets a knapsack full of balls, embodying stars. They grab JD and run out. They run in place. They stop when they notice their lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground, and in response, the TIDALS unleash and scatter away.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. This wide-open space is our destination. Zenith is our destiny. Force!

JD

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

JD takes a step downstage, causing the lights to expand further out and the home to move upstage in between the back curtains.

JD (CONT'D)

It's getting further away. The Fabric of Spacetime is fabric, after all. And we're rolling it out, like our rug... We're going to go off on a tangent... For all eternity. For the rest of spacetime. This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

JD reruns in place with a grateful GRAVITY.

Most TEEN GALAXIES step away to watch the Universe unravel, while 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 home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

Field equations bloom.

8. "VERSE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/8-verse>)

GRAVITY and JD blissfully frolic
now. They mix and match the
constants of equations, as though
they are picking flowers.

JD

LETTERS, NUMERIALS, 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 echoes from another
plane.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a big mis—

JD stops in their tracks while
picking up the frequency ratio of
a semitone in twelve-tone equal
temperament: $\sqrt[12]{2}$.

JD

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 fixes and turns their
equation into Newton's second law
of motion: $F = MA$.

GRAVITY

Force?

JD smiles.

GRAVITY puts together Hubble's
Law: $v = H_0 D$.

JD

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

End of "VERSE"

GRAVITY

Force!

GRAVITY and JD hastily skip out.

The home returns, wheeled
downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

9. "RIP" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/9-rip>)

The TEEN GALAXIES lay SINGULARITY
to rest under the rug. They bow.

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations, nomy/mommy/daddy.

End of "RIP"

MILKY WAY sniffles.

CARTWHEEL

Will you grow up? It's what Singularity would
have wanted us to do.

ANDROMEDA

But not too much. We may be the oldest ones
left, but we're still children.

WHIRLPOOL

We'll get older... We'll grow pessimistic.

CARTWHEEL

Nothing matters.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Ain't anything holding mass.

ANDROMEDA

Sorry, but this mass isn't over... Let's make
time to grieve.

CARTWHEEL

We can't make time to grieve! We're about to
lose mass.

WHIRLPOOL

We must make of what is left with no Crunch Ti-

MILKY WAY

We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL

Look at Singularity. What do you think?

MILKY WAY

I can't. When I hungry...

WHIRLPOOL

Let's at least think like Singularity. We're gonna round up all the 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 is thinning out. The cosmos is going to have a field day with us. We will starve to death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates.

TRIANGULUM

Luminous, Gals. Let's lighten up. Don't think too hard. Just be Singularities.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Is your head a vacuum too, you square? Our nomy/mother/father lightened up, remember?

TRIANGULUM

The Universe will 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

I blame Big Bang thingy.

WHIRLPOOL

It ain't just a thingy.

CARTWHEEL

The thingy tases. So, a taser...?

ANDROMEDA

Why would such a weapon be in the hands of our wisest sibling?

WHIRLPOOL sits on the rug.

WHIRLPOOL

Uh, it was passed down by the wisest being...?

CARTWHEEL

Singularity? They had this, *Big Bang Taser*, the whole time?

WHIRLPOOL

Wholesomely, I joined them in meditation. One time, they felt out of place. Suddenly, they pulled it out. Our nomy/mama/papa never fired the thing. I didn't know it would do, *that...*

TRIANGULUM

There's no way that Singularity would give anything to us beyond light. Let alone power?

ANDROMEDA

Where is the power...?

TRIANGULUM

Power comes with age. It's adulthood. JD is all we have left. Let's bring home our caretaker-

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

MILKY WAY

You all mistaken... Gravity ravel JD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

MILKY WAY

Gravity, cute, but plots with JD. JD gone mad.

TRIANGULUM

It is absolutely the dog's fault. Gravity caused the Big Bang. And it's on us Galaxies to start the Big Crunch. JD is the only Galaxy who knows how to pick field equations, put together its formulas, and cook up some light. Like Singularity had done. We are not forgiving JD. JD will forgo *nothing*. This nothingness. And our anomaly will give back everything.

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

Gal... No one has time for this Barred Galaxy.

TRIANGULUM

Cart-Whirl! You two are barred from stepping out of the Ellipse for eternities. *Andromeda and I* are going to find JD. Disarm the anomalous. Any anomaly is powerless without their family...

CARTWHEEL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything is a... What is family?

MILKY WAY

What is anomaly?

10. "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/10-anomaly_is_everything)

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

FAMILY IS... FAMILY IS...? FAMILY IS...
FAMILY ISN'T... FAMILY IS NOT... ANOMALY.

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 MOVED TO THE WAY THEY UNDERSTOOD.
ANOMALY IS OUR THING,
LIKE THIS ELLIPSE WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.

TRIANGULUM brings out the
shattered snow globe.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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.

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
FAMILY IS ALL WE'VE EVER KNOWN...

TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopie
cushion at the table.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly
laugh.

TRIANGULUM appears flustered. They
shift to delight. They pull out
the cushion.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

TRIANGULUM hides away the cushion.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!
ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.
NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

TRIANGULUM grabs ANDROMEDA and
exits with them.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL stop
laughing. They realize that they
have been bamboozled.

MILKY WAY
Do you wanna play Tardigrades and Elevators
with me?

CARTWHEEL
Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs
off.

WHIRLPOOL
We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling
alone 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.

(MORE)

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

We may have very few games or distractions around, but *kids have their imaginations*. Now imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum's and Andromeda's face that we're the galactic duos! We'll undo the Big Bang before them and save the Universe! We'll be home in Crunch Time.

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.

The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's mind.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

You are now the adult in the house.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Go out there and prove it! Put an end to the Big Bang!

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

We're another sense. We're adole-

MILKY WAY

Sounds like peer pressure...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY departs away from the safety of the Ellipse.

MILKY WAY

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