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A Universal Musical

By David Quang Pham

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THANK YOU

Working Title Playwrights New Play and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship

Dr. Edwin Din Loh, Dr. Danny Caballero ○ Professors of Physics
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Janelle Lawrence ○ Musical Theatre Mentor

Heather Helinsky ○ Literary Mentor at Playwrights Foundation

Amber Bradshaw ○ Managing Artistic Director of WTP

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 ○ Tidsals

Sofia Palmero* ○ Narrator

Kate Leanne Jacoby* ○ Understudy

Isake Akanke, Robert Bryan Davis, Jeff Hathcoat², Ebony Jerry,
Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor², Lee Osorio², Mary Lynn Owen,
Lau'rie Roach, Imani Vaughn-Jones²

○ Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*

CHRONOLOGY

October 5, 2020 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights

December 7, 2020 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights

February 1, 2021 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights

May 3, 2021 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights

June 13, 2021 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited

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

October 17, 2021 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited

December 11, 2021 • Lab • Theater Resources Unlimited; Director Miriam Eusebio

February 27, 2022 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited

2022 • Semifinalist • National Music Theater Conference, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

SYNOPSIS

Spend an eternity in the family musical of epic proportions: ELLIPSES is a cosmology mythology that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way out of a life-changing event 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. JD is the oldest sibling looking to explore the Universe. This outgrown young adult is perfect for Gravity's manipulation. In a violent altercation, JD 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. ...

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

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, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

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

Act II

18. "Heat Death" Singularity, Invariant, Fix
19. "Parallax" Gravity, JD
20. "Tangent" JD, Gravity, Singularity
21. "... " Gravity, Tidal
22. "Bounce Back" Teen Galaxies
23. "Family is Everything" Galaxies
24. "Apparent (Shed Light)" Galaxies, Singularity, Gravity
25. "Spacetime" Singularity, Teen Galaxies
26. "Liminality" JD, Invariant, Fix
27. "(The Big Rip of) Zenith" Gravity, Singularity, Teen Galaxies, Tidal
28. "Big Crunch" Singularity, Teen Galaxies, Tidal

Nulla

29. "Big Bounce" Company

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

Outside the home, SINGULARITY hums as they pick equations and place them on a dish. They then 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 in the center
of the room.

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another. 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 sails to the table.

TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They place 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.

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

GRAVITY narrates.

GRAVITY

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.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

We've long lived in the Elliptic. This Dome is all we've ever known. Singularity has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. The kids here aren't much older than a dozen eternities, but one is nearing two. I like this one. The Elliptic is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD...

JD is on the edge. While their siblings see "nothing" out there, JD sees a future elliptic in the nothingness. Beyond the Edge of the Universe. I sense that their dream is to have an elliptic 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.

SINGULARITY bows.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Sounds like someone's been eating my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

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

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 Elliptic. 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's 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 tidal dog a meteor. If ye wants a swig, ye can have spaghettification. *Fix...?*

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible spaghetti to a sitting GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

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

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

TIDALS

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

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes endless 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 and the GALAXIES pray.

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 IS CRUNCH TIME, NOMY/MOMMY/DADDY SING.

SINGULARITY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?
SPT0615-JD?

End of "CRUNCH"

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

GRAVITY splits from the TIDALS.
They join JD as their canine
companion.

JD

NOT THE TIME
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...
IT IS CLEAR CUT...
I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR IN 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 mind, 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 mind)
 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 (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY

Force!

JD (CONT'D)

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, raise me physically. Gravity raises 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 sick of the same old dish of photons that we eat and I'm tired of 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.
Nomy/Mom/Dad... *May I go to the Edge of the Universe?*

SINGULARITY

We have *everything* in the Center. 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

I may have been a sentimental parent when saying these things. In reality... 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 Elliptic. They hit an invisible wall and dizzily fall back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

SINGULARITY gets up. They slightly and hauntingly 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 you're childish when you think you're the 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 Elliptic-

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 have been waiting on a partner to play
Water Bears and Elevators with.

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.

(MORE)

JD (CONT'D)

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 ellipses?

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 a 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 outgrown air, um cub. 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?
 Figure out yourself, Milky Way...

MILKY WAY slaps JD's figure off
 the board.

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

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY
KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
Pawn!

JD
Gravity? MILKY WAY
That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (O.S.) MILKY WAY (CONT'D)
Free fall! Free me, JD! 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.

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

GRAVITY (O.S.) JD
Nothing is free! 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. Save space
for me. A space without Singularity. Zilch is
not out of our Elliptic. Zilch is underneath.
You'll know in spacetime.

JD
Our rug of spacetime...?

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

GRAVITY (O.S.)
Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.

JD reads the Big Bang Taser,
accidentally shocking themselves.

JD TIDALS (O.S.)
Zilch— Big Bang Taser...? (Whimpering) Fall...

GRAVITY (O.S.)
Free me! End Singularity! No longer bound by
family. Make *nothing* your legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up in the
audience.

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)

How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light to you all, the lightless. *Nothi-* 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 Elliptic?

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 elliptic. You're in a liminal space. It's also mine. You 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. JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It alerted me to put an end to my old relationships. 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.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

JD

Stop making light-

I need to shed my light.

JD (CONT'D)

Light isn't made. It's passed down. I need to
pass down. There's no longer 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. I can only see light 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 the monocular.

SINGULARITY

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

Other 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.

(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

At the center of us all is heavy. What looms in
us is light. Take it in. Our black holes. And
you. (JD) 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 (CONT'D)

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 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 (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 walks to the edge of the home, shifting from grief to wonder. They carefully step out onto the stage. They hide away the Big Bang Taser in their dress. 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 filled with stars. They grab JD and run out. They run in place. Gravity claws at the ground when noticing their lack of progress.

JD (CONT'D)

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. We're rolling out the Fabric of Spacetime like our rug... 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. Force!

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

JD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

From the home, most TEEN GALAXIES
watch the Universe unravel, while
MILKY WAY mournfully wraps itself
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 elsewhere.

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>)

Choreographically, 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. Famine will tear apart this family.

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 by 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

Singularity limited our gifts to light but *power*?

ANDROMEDA

Where is the power...? Who has 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 photons. 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 Elliptic for eternities. *Andromeda and I* are going to find JD. Disarm the anomalous. Even anomalies are 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
BELIEVE ANOMALY'S ALL WE'VE KNOWN.
IT IS ALL OF US AS THE GALAXY FAMILY.
BUT ME.

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 then hide it away.

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

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

TRIANGULUM exits with ANDROMEDA.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL stop
laughing, feeling bamboozled.

MILKY WAY
You wanna play Tardigrades and Elevators with me?

CARTWHEEL

Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs
off with them.

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 games or distractions
around, but *kids have their imaginations*. Now
imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum 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.

MILKY WAY hears the Solar System
in their head.

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

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

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)
...
Sounds like peer pressure...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
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 Elliptic.

MILKY WAY

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

MILKY WAY exits.

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

ANDROMEDA mumbles the Galaxy
shanty, "Globular." They take out
their monocular. They scope out
towards the Center.

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Ye just want to know how far we've come... We
walked a few mill...

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Ope. There's nothing.

TRIANGULUM

'Scuse me?

ANDROMEDA

Melky Way is away. No one is at the Elliptic...

TRIANGULUM

Those galactic idiots! This voyage is in vain.

ANDROMEDA

K, so... We're setting our course back to home
base. Please try not to gamma-ray burst a vein.

TRIANGULUM takes out the broken
snow globe.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

Triangulum... Triangulate.

TRIANGULUM

JD... It's late out here. Going from finding JD
to finding Milky...

ANDROMEDA

JD can wait...

TRIANGULUM

That was the problem... They waited too long.

ANDROMEDA

Ope. They're not waiting. They're living the
dream. The Universe is their oyster. Let's find
Melky Way. For our pearl, Singularity. Then
we'll go back and warsh the Fabric of Spacetime
of their filth and see what this sea offers us.

TRIANGULUM

To let the 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...? If their attention spans were this
short for Milky Way, it can only expand from
here. I hope they find their way back in time.

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA exit.

SCENE 7

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.

CARTWHEEL clumsily lands their
cartwheel.

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 back home. That is our real quest.

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

Ditch *um...* (*Seeing the hypocrisy*) Drop the ego.
Time is a circle. The whole Universe will come
around. JD will come back. *Let's be around for*
Milky Way. We make perfect babysitters.

CARTWHEEL

We can't sit on JD. Triangulum is right. Our
oldest sibling is our last chance for survival.
We need to bring home a caretaker.

WHIRLPOOL

We need to take care of our baby sibling. I'm
not going anywhere but home.

CARTWHEEL

You want to mill about for eternities, huh? We
only wasted millions of years out here.

WHIRLPOOL

That is precisely how much Milky Way has grown
since we last saw them.

CARTWHEEL

Give me a millennium to consider your thoughts.

Beat. WHIRLPOOL sits.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Minds cannot be changed in a single millennium.

WHIRLPOOL

But bodies certainly do.

CARTWHEEL

Don't mock my ring... Oh, I get it. Milky Way
is showing signs of waves and wrinkles. *Makes*
me sentimental as Singularity when we became
teens... Too bad our parent won't be around
when we reach another *ellipse*.

WHIRLPOOL

They ain't here to see Milky Way ascend. But we
are. We're not even a dimension away.

CARTWHEEL

Time is up... In another dimension.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is us. I must mention. JD ran out. And Milky Way will, too. Let them have a fulfilling childhood before it is too late. Time dilates.

CARTWHEEL

Can you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL

Dilation means to expand.

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?

WHIRLPOOL

Time feels like a point if 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. Wait for the light.

11. "TIME IS RELATIVE" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/11-time_is_relative)

CARTWHEEL

OUR PARENTS WAS OUR ONLY SOURCE...

WHIRLPOOL meditates.

WHIRLPOOL

$$\frac{T \text{ OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY SQUARED}}{\text{DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.}}$$

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

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Live with me in the millennium.

CARTWHEEL poorly meditates.

CARTWHEEL

You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL

$$\frac{T \text{ OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY SQUARED}}{\text{DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.}}$$

The focal point is to think about our relatives.

CARTWHEEL

*Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm
slow as time... Drop this meditation. We're not
bending from our objective.*

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Get bent.

WHIRLPOOL

Bent or straight, time points towards 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)
Time gets slower the deeper one's mass is. So,
your black-hole heart is younger than how you
look. Really, you're naïve and scared inside.
Life went by fast when the family was together.
One millennium, you were baby Cartwheel. The
next, you're a teen with hands on the wheel.
The same goes for Milky Way. However, we ain't
present for our baby sibling. We'll miss their
development, from height to psyche. Sure, you
yourself ain't grown a bit. But get it through
your head that there will someday be no 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...

CARTWHEEL reaches enlightenment.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)
Time is more special than it is relative...
Unlike light, time is not passed down. Time's
only here for the relationships in the moment.
We left home at ages thirteen plus eternities
near the speed of light. Milky Way was twelve.
(MORE)

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

If we come back eternities later, we'll only seem a bit older while Milky Way may be rightfully old. Time dilation... We are 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.
Their lights balance one another.
Through a training montage,
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL 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
(Proudly)
WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

Lights form a frame around them.

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

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL have a
warm stance.

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

12. "BIG RIP" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-big_rip)

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Dilations, Milky Way. We're home! Singularity?!
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
Give us back our baby sibling, you savage tidal
forces! Once we're through with the Big Bang,
we're putting you back in the doghouse!

The TIDALS surround CARTWHEEL and
WHIRLPOOL. They chase them out.

TIDALS
Force! Force! Fall!

End of "BIG RIP"

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 9

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY exhaustedly drifts in.

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

Milky Way hears the Solar System
in their head.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
Forgotten?

MILKY WAY
Imaginary friends?

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

No, we're your planetary friends.

EARTH (O.S.)

I'm not.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (O.S.)

No one is asking you, Earth.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

Don't give up. Being forgotten isn't all that bad. I wish I was cause no matter what I do, I'm always blamed for everything. Everyone hates retro and loves to grade me. I'm Mercury by the way. Milky Way... You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are larger than many.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (O.S.)

You most certainly are a massive spiral Galaxy.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (O.S.)

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (O.S.)

Go play with your ring.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (O.S.)

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

URANUS (O.S.)

Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (O.S.)

(Laughing) You are a two.

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

URANUS [Triangulum] (O.S.)

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] (O.S.)

No... Sun is our nomy/mother/father. We are basically sons of Sun.

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

EARTH (O.S.)

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] (O.S.)

Earth, you know we don't discuss galactic formation in our Solar System household. It is theoretical heresy.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

I'm so close to Sun that it gets pretty heated all the time. Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. However, you're so distant from your siblings that you're not such a drag.

MILKY WAY

I needa find JD... Mercury. Don't de- Uh. Grade yourself. I wish life go retro a million years ago.

EARTH (O.S.)

Oh yeah, the frame of time is dilated for you Galaxies. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last you were in your family's orbit was... 13.81 billion years ago. The year that your eldest elliptical sibling tore apart the Galaxy family. Gal, do you hate being an oval?

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

Earth, I didn't raise you to be mean to other shapes.

EARTH (O.S.)

Sun. Just like you as a star, I'm proud to be a sphere. Milky Way... Ew, waves... Pff, wrinkles.

MILKY WAY feels their body.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. That rocky planet may be the well-rounded person that you always want to be. But you are already a person, Milky Way. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Like Oort Cloud, who doesn't blame my retrograde for their imperfections.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (O.S.)

I'm out of this Solar System and yet I have a stronghold on it, like you. I have an influence that is about a hundred thousand astronomical units wide. You are 6.685 billion. I've heard a lot about you, Milky Way.

(MORE)

OORT CLOUD [ANDROMEDA] (O.S.)

Personally, I know enough about comets' tails.
Do you have a tidal tale to share with us,
Milky Way? Gather around, Solar System!

The SOLAR SYSTEM pops out as
puppets.

EARTH (PUPPET)

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

MILKY WAY gracelessly bellows with
cracks. They hiccup.

EARTH (P.) (CONT'D)

Milky Way warped themselves!

The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts into
laughter.

MILKY WAY bursts into tears.

MILKY WAY

I hate myself!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY examines their body.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.) (CONT'D)

Not your mass. Oh, the Ellipses... You are a
special Galaxy. You hold something dear that no
one else has. Well, *your siblings probably do*,
but they won't show it.

MILKY WAY

Tell me.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You hold personhood. Persons with warping
voices, growing waves of hairs, and whose skin
are covered in wrinkles. There is a person in
you, Milky Way.

EARTH (P.)

There are people in me.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (P.)

Cut your hubris, Earth!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

We like all things, *unearthly*, about you. You
carry our weight, our history, our culture, our
pride, our secrets, our voices.

MILKY WAY

Sing it.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You must first, own it.

MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM
puppets.

13. "WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/13-warp_waves_and_wrinkles)

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

MILKY WAY'S
ON THEIR OWN.
ALL ALONE.
KNOW THAT FOR
US AT HOME.
YOU'RE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD,
THROUGH WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

THROUGH IT ALL.
THICK AND THIN.
THROUGH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

YOUR PLANETARY FRIENDS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN YOUR HEAD.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

IMAGINARY!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

BUT REALLY...

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

ONE OF SEVERAL...

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

ARMS, IN FACT.

The extra arms extend out behind
an unaware MILKY WAY.

URANUS [Triangulum] (P.)

Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY

What's mirror?

URANUS [Triangulum] (P.)

It's the thing to check what you look like.

MILKY WAY

I never know what I look like...

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (P.)

Neither do we. But take it from us, we know
you're beautiful on the inside!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake
each hand.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

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

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets pull out
MILKY WAY's tiny hand.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You are Magellanic.
They're not planets and you don't need to
imagine. We hid a present in your waves.

MILKY WAY pulls out two magnolia
flowers from their dress.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.) (CONT'D)

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

MILKY WAY devours the flowers.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.) (CONT'D)

Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds)

I gravitate my feelings...

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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 distance, not time.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (P.)

It's the nature of Galaxies... They'll eat
everything.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (P.)

Like us gas giants. We're persons too after all!

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

Like you said, Oort Cloud: Milky Way has always been a person. They are beyond a kid. In fact, they have reached a new stage in personhood.

MILKY WAY

(With cracks and flaws)

I NOW HAVE

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LIVE WITH IT.

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Deepening or elevating voice) I LOVE MYSELF.

The extra arms may hug MILKY WAY.

Many SOLAR SYSTEMS spiral in.
These dancers resemble known and unknown stars and planets, while EARTH drags their feet. They orbit MILKY WAY like the spiral arms around the center of any Galaxy. One dancer 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...

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

WE LOVE IT ALL!

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)

Any more radio outbursts and I'll supernova your asteroids!

MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMS
stop then resume.

MILKY WAY & SOLAR SYSTEMS

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

End of "WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

The stage goes red as the Sun becomes a red giant, swallowing the Solar System in their wake.

The SOLAR SYSTEMS run away and
steal MILKY WAY's halo. EARTH
screams in the searing heat.
JUPITER and SATURN maniacally
laugh.

MILKY WAY feels a headache and
touches their forehead. They take
their hand off to reveal a zit.

MILKY WAY

W- W- N- Wr-

MILKY WAY passes out on the ground.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (O.S.)

Warp, waves, and wrinkles, we got a sense for...
But not red giants. Welcome to adolescence.

SCENE 10

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

14. "GLOBULAR" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/14-globular>)

ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING IS A BIG CLUSTER FLUX.
THAT IS THE SPIRIT, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S HOW YE BE SPENDING OUR SPACETIME?

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 you? Are they in the temple of the
cosmic beyond?

TRIANGULUM

Oh. No. They're going through puber- There's a
zit on their temple. A pimple. They certainly
found themself before we did...

MILKY WAY

Zi- Zi- It?

ANDROMEDA

Your voice has warped...

TRIANGULUM

It's a zit, we know... A zit is when after several billion years, a star grows into a red giant, swallows the planets near it, 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 it and let's get going.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)

Their name is Solar System.

TRIANGULUM

This Solar System of yours is causing you astronomical pain. Milky Way, extinguishing it is yours and their only remedy.

TRIANGULUM smirks at ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA

Ope, what?

TRIANGULUM

Pop it.

Pop the red giant.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

No.

I'm not touching that thing.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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

ANDROMEDA

Since ye such an expert on anomalous zits, why don't ye scurry to the red giant?

TRIANGULUM

I have these teeny spiral arms, remember?

ANDROMEDA

Least ye aren't a Ring Galaxy...

15. "FABRIC" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/15-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 out for our gas
and dust!

TRIANGULUM
Who let the tidal forces out?! Let's get you
all back in the doghouse. We have treats for
you!

TRIANGULUM nears the TIDALS and
almost gets bitten.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
A cosmic bone to pick with you! We're not the
treats! We're not retreating... What is wrong?

ANDROMEDA
They've been wronged for their entire lives...
The wide-open space has driven things into
righteousness...

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

ANDROMEDA
And once JD 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 the Universe back to the way things were... We're trying to... 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!

The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.

The TIDALS get blinded and scatter.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way. Don't go to the light!

ANDROMEDA

Ope... The light is actually coming from Melky Way.

TRIANGULUM

Ew... That's the most extreme pulsar I've ever seen emitted.

MILKY WAY stops emitting light.

MILKY WAY

Quasi-stellar radio source...!

ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up.

ANDROMEDA

Looks like you are officially a teen Galaxy...

TRIANGULUM

I can't deal with another one...

MILKY WAY offers their hand.

MILKY WAY

I'm too old for board games...

TRIANGULUM clusters with ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY. They walk it off.

TRIANGULUM

Deal, Milkomeda. All aboard the teenage globular.

ANDROMEDA sings the Galaxy shanty,
"Globular."

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly
exit with their siblings.

End of "FABRIC"

SCENE 11

A Quasar looms in the distance.

GRAVITY, now huskier, and JD
wander in.

JD

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

JD grabs a ball and tosses it.

GRAVITY retrieves the ball.

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

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

JD tosses the ball. They notice
the Quasar.

JD (CONT'D)

Milky Way...?

GRAVITY

Abell?

JD

Pet. Force...?

GRAVITY

Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are you a puppet any
longer. But there's something that's pulling at
your heartstrings: Abell. In that dome, you
always said "Abell" under your breath whenever
you looked out. What is Abell, and why do you
want to pour your heart out for this Abell?

JD

Abell is a name I gave "nothing."

GRAVITY

Why name it Abell?

JD

My biological clock rings when I see them.

GRAVITY

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

JD

They're in another ellipse... You wouldn't know them.

GRAVITY

The Edge of the Universe is just beyond the horizon.

JD

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

GRAVITY

This Fabric of Spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite. You're blowing it out of proportion.

JD

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

GRAVITY

You're at the highest point in your life since you were away.

JD

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

GRAVITY

Finally. Peace and quiet. You're now the adult in the space. Relax...

JD

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

GRAVITY

You've gone too far with Singularity. The world you know is over. There's no turning back.

JD examines one of the balls.

JD

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.

16. "FAR-FETCHED" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/16-far_fetched)

GRAVITY

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

JD

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 YOU GALAXY NEEDS TO FETCH.
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

GRAVITY grabs and tosses a ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

GO FETCH THE STAR...

JD cramps up, retrieving the ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

JD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

GRAVITY notices JD's heartache.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

You are part of my accretion, and I thank
your...
SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

GRAVITY jumps on and embraces JD,
making JD drop numerous balls.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
SPT0615-JD, YOU ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

The TIDALS rush in, forming lines.

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

GRAVITY
THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

TIDALS
FAR!

GRAVITY
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXY NEED TO FETCH.

TIDALS
FETCH!

GRAVITY
POINT OF RETURN IS...

JD
FAR-FETCHED!

In place, GRAVITY and JD traverse
the space with the tidal sled dogs.

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

JD (CONT'D)
WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.
FAR-FETCHED.
FAR-FETCHED.
FRIENDSHIP SAILED FAR-FETCHED.
FARTHER AWAY.

TIDALS
A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

GRAVITY, JD, and the TIDALS sled
away.

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 12

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

A Quasar looms in the distance.

17. "POINT" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/17-point>)

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

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.

Their six Galaxies are presented
as puppets in the distance.

TIDALS (O.S.)
(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.

End of "POINT"

END OF ACT

ACT IISCENE 1

SINGULARITY'S BACKSTORY AND PAST UNIVERSE

The front of the stage is solely lit. The stage is dark.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing... Like a little story to *kill time*.

Many eternities ago in a Universe unlike others that we could fathom, supernatural beings called Multiplicities birthed a very special Galaxy named Singularity. Like other Galaxies, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was unlike 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. Singularity sucked the energy out of them; not even light could escape it.

Their parents wanted to raise them but not beyond what's presented to them. And Singularity was better at raising... Hell. Wherever they went, so did the space. They literally sucked the energy out of the room. They were bent on bending light. 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.

18. "HEAT DEATH" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/18-heat_death)

In the audience, SINGULARITY is now a resplendent and youthful Galaxy. They shoot their parent FIX in the face with the Big Bang Taser and run away from their other parent INVARIANT. They gravitate towards the stage. To stop themselves, they grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre, holding on for dear life until the fabric of spacetime rips. They soon tumble in front of the stage, holding a torn chunk of fabric that shields the Big Bang Taser. They limp alongside the front of the stage and find a spot to collapse against. They shiver.

In this interdimensional plane in between universes, SINGULARITY grows 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 Singularity's name in the hopes of finding them, then grieve with one another.

INVARIANT
Singularity! Our single child. Without you, we are nothing... We love you. Please, come home. We need you. Return to the Center of the Universe, at once. If you're going to run off into the cold, dark Universe, 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. We're laws of physics enforcers. As a part of the force, we've raised our kid without forcing doubt on them. *But you just had to go and tell them their supermassive disorder.* Now, my face knows supermassive disorder. Ow... 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? Do you see the problem of stars orbiting that center of theirs? Right... *Your eyes are swollen.* Anywho, I'd hold regret if I spaghettified the truth.

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

FIX
Singularity!
Multiplicity. Spaghettify? You ripped a wormhole in them. Though they have a heart, it functions. You still broke it and dug into the dark energy.
(MORE)

FIX (CONT'D)

You mourn their supermassive heart and the spirit that came with it. I'm personally blessed to have had them.

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Bless your heartlessness... Ever since they were born, the doctors have been right. They wouldn't fit in school. The school literally fit in them. Our own fortress is trashed everywhere they go— Forget it. My ego is atomic, but my love for our little nebula is galactic. Out there, they themselves will be even more mutated and deformed. Agony. Ionized gas. They had to empirically know what their heart is capable of. Some millennium.

FIX

Singularity!

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

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. A Galaxy is meant to shed light, not suck the light out of any room into their little event horizon! They have been relativistically impossible to handle.

INVARIANT fights their despondence.

INVARIANT (CONT'D)

We're heartless. Children will lose their hearts as did their parents eventually. They will shed light once they hold a Galaxy of their own.

SINGULARITY

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

INVARIANT and FIX search about.

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 that 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!

FIX

Singularity... I have a hunch, that singleness crunches...

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

INVARIANT shows their personal Big Bang Taser from 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 a bit.

SINGULARITY

Like to echo, huh?

TIDALS

Force force force force force force...!

SINGULARITY feels a tidal wave.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

TIDALS

Fall!

SINGULARITY falls over themself.

SINGULARITY

What are you howling about?!

FIX

Multiplicity. When they have a baby of their own, I hope theirs don't shoot our baby in the face like they did to me.

SINGULARITY accidentally electrocutes themself with the Big Bang Taser. They shock themself into a stupor.

TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

SINGULARITY catches their breath. They stow away the Big Bang Taser, accepting their fate.

SINGULARITY

Bring the heat...

The light shifts to the Dome on stage. The home does not yet contain the family rug.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto the stage and carry them into the home. They set them down. They grow tame. They present the tidal pup to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY sets down the fabric, where the rug usually is.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
You accept my black-hole heart?

GRAVITY
(Adorably like a puppy)
Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY gently accepts puppy GRAVITY, feeling a sudden weight.

SINGULARITY
A puppet- Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

SINGULARITY bonds with puppy GRAVITY.

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 upstage, out of view.

The front curtains partially close
or some front curtains are lowered.

SCENE 2

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, PRESENT

GRAVITY and JD frolic in.

GRAVITY
Our adventure is nearing the Edge.

JD
Too bad the tidal sled dogs don't want to
venture any further. The Edge is the limit—

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

GRAVITY
At quadrillion parsecs, we hit a wall. The
fourth... Dimension. You look a little under
the weather?

JD sits up.

JD
Beyond that. I'm eroded. Let's camp out for a
few million years. Maybe this weather will
clear up... Fourth dimension... Have I ever
mentioned how funny it was when you tried to
break out of the Elliptic, billions of times?

GRAVITY
The trillionth time worked.

JD
I did the work.

GRAVITY
I loosened up Singularity for you.

JD
Hmm... How did Singularity let us loose into
this world?

GRAVITY
Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and dust
and watered you with dark matter... That's what
my parents told me how puppies are made.

JD

Did Singularity really come from beyond the Edge?

GRAVITY

My parents smelt them in its interdimensional ditch in fact.

JD

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.

JD

I miss Singularity's eyes...

GRAVITY

Your spiral arm was not quite accurate. You were off your mark with your shot. Should have gone for their eye.

JD pulls out the Big Bang Taser.

JD

I miss their *stunning looks and presence*.

GRAVITY

Put that taser away! I'll tell you what I saw.

JD stows away the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

The earlier eternities were spent trying to get this orphan to hide away their past deep in their internal darkness. My parents and their pack taught them how to cluster nuclear pasta from our hunts for neutron stars. Singularity rose up as the beta by magnetizing these neutron squirrels, when they used the full potential of the... Big Bang Taser. Soon, they became the alpha, when Singularity took advantage of us with it. My parents... Um...

Well, Singularity became their parents: these Multiplicities; who hurt those who are different, like us, tidal forces. Stowing away their past manifested into matters darker than their black-hole heart.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

They rolled back the cosmos into that accursed
Dome and locked us in, packing the entire
Universe into their singularity. That made your
nomy/mother/father feel security.

JD

Singularity seems uptight... But it feels right.

GRAVITY

What has gotten into you?

JD

Time away. From family. The warmth of this
Fabric of Spacetime is thinning out. This space
is empty. It's unclear-er. *Nothing...*

GRAVITY tilts their head on JD.

GRAVITY

You are *apparent* to me... Hmm... That rings a
bell. My parents told me that if you need to see
things clearly, just tilt your head and relax.

JD

Being uptight and upright like Singularity made
the Edge present in the first place.

GRAVITY

And we're the first here...

JD

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

GRAVITY

Never mind that. Think not of the Galaxies.
Consider the stars once for a change.

19. "PARALLAX" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/19-parallax>)

GRAVITY builds the parallax
formula: $d = 1/p$.

GRAVITY

RELAXATION TIME
GETS DISTANCE TO EQUAL ONE OVER OBSERVED ANGLE.
DIVIDED, YOU ARE TO APPARENT CHANGE IN POSITION, SO SIT.
DO GROUND YOURSELF.
JUST PARALLAX.

JD

PERILOUS.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

JD

PARANOID.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS?

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS FROM WHERE YOU ARE.

GRAVITY discards the formula.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

PARASITIC MINDS

GOT "NOWHERE" TO BURDEN YOU UNDER AND ENTANGLED.

MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM'S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY...

TO TILT YOUR HEAD.

FIND PARALLELS.

JD

PARADOX.

GRAVITY

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

JD

PARAGON...

GRAVITY

PLEASE RELAX. SEE THE STARS?

REMAIN LAX. SEE THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

RELAX.

JD tilts their head on GRAVITY.

JD

I'M RELAXED.

The light slightly peeks through a corner of the cosmic horizon.

GRAVITY instantly sits up straight.

GRAVITY

YOU SEE?

The light dissipates,
disappointing GRAVITY.

JD

I SEE *NOTHING*.

JD smiles at "nothing."

JD (CONT'D)

JUST PARALLAX.

PARALLAX.

The light returns, growing
brighter.

GRAVITY graciously relaxes.

GRAVITY & JD
PARALLAX. PARALLAX. PARALLAX.
PAIR OF FRIENDS. FEEL THE STARS.
PARALLAX. FEEL THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

The curtains rise or move away.

End of "PARALLAX"

SCENE 3

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

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

20. "TANGENT" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/20-tangent>)

JD
WE HAVE GONE OFF ON A... TANGENT.

JD looks around for ABELL. They
look on, heartbroken, as ABELL is
not in the audience.

Gravity enjoys the scent. They are
proud of JD.

GRAVITY
THIS TANGENT YOU HOWL FOR... I'M SPECTRAL BLIND.
WHAT DO YOU SEE BEYOND THE STARS? WHO DO YOU KNOW?

The music drowns out JD's voice,
leaving the Edge unanswered.

Singularity echoes from another
plane.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
You are a big—

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

JD
WE HAVE GONE ON OFF A... TANGENT.
LET'S BE GROUNDED.
I AM TAKING THE EDGE ON US.

JD (CONT'D)

I don't want to be the adult in the room anymore.

End of "TANGENT"

GRAVITY

After all this time together, the stars we felt,
the gas we expelled, the Universe we derailed.
You're taking the wide-open space... Away?

JD

The Galaxy family deserves to grow in a space
where they will not lose themselves. Far away
from feeling so away.

GRAVITY

Your siblings saw nothing in you. Those
Galaxies believed that there is no one out
there for you.

JD

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

GRAVITY

Abell...

JD

Singularity was right. "Biological" clocks are
illogical.

GRAVITY

Singularity is no more.

JD

There is more: me. I am to care for the Galaxy
family now. I say... It's time to unroll the
Universe back to the singularity that once was.
It is Crunch Time. It is long past Crunch Time.

GRAVITY bites JD's arm.

GRAVITY

I will not let you become Singularity. The only
Galaxy to see their tidal force from where they
are. The only person to see their dog for who
they are. JD, you felt for me.

JD

I fell for you. The only celestial being to see
their Galaxy is gone. The only parent to ever
love me is gone. Gravity... You always let me
down.

JD reveals a critical wound.

GRAVITY

JD, you're shedding stardust. I can fix that.

JD

I'll push you over the Edge if you touch me. A wolf really can't mend a heart like a dog can.

GRAVITY

Wolf? I'd rather you do that than- Feeding that hole in your heart always works on you Gals.

JD

So... Crunch Ti- There's no field equations left. The Universe has spread itself out too thin. The natural order of things is that I am going to, too. Go away, you entitled dog.

GRAVITY

SPT0615-JD.

JD (CONT'D)

Am I not apparent to you?
Let's bounce.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

You haven't outgrown your siblings. They saw nothing. *I*, I believed in all this. Ever since you were born, ever since I first laid my puppy eyes on you, I knew you'd be the one to take down Singularity. I knew my puppy cries would convince you to free me. But I never imagined I'd fall for Singularity's flesh and blood: JD-

JD

I'm not falling for it. Be with your family. You're nothing to your kin. Rise up for once, Gravity.

GRAVITY

I'll be there for my fellow pups. Have fun with your puppets. What else could a Galaxy do, other than become a singularity? You are turning into your parent.

JD pulls out the Big Bang Taser.

JD

My family needs, a Singularity... Do I make myself clear?

GRAVITY

Unapparent. We'll be back... At Crunch Time.

GRAVITY sadly runs off.

SCENE 4**21. "..."** (Omission) (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/21-omission>)

JD remains at the edge of the stage. They turn around, with their back towards the audience. They woundedly walk in place. They traverse the universal tundra.

The entire Universe rolls by JD. Field equations increasingly blossom, as though the Universe is growing abundant once again.

The TIDALS gather nearby. They brawl amongst themselves to claim the role as the alpha of the pack.

TIDALS
(Repeating)
DOT DOT DOT... OMISSION.

GRAVITY comes out victorious.

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

The Continuum Checkpoint slowly rolls out from the horizon, downward from backstage.

TIDAL
That Galaxy is rolling back the Fabric of Spacetime.

TIDAL
That Galaxy is shutting down our cosmic dog park.

TIDALS
Let's spaghettify them!

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

TIDAL
That wicked Galaxy is undoing everything we have worked for...

GRAVITY
That Galaxy is everything to me.

TIDALS

Our alpha has an alpha?

GRAVITY

This is between JD and Gravity.

GRAVITY directs the TIDALS out.
They exit.

JD goes into hiding when the
Continuum Checkpoint is near.

End of "..."

SCENE 5

THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

Three huts or tents resemble the main Elliptic. The Left Elliptic is the doghouse, the Central Elliptic is the sleeping quarters, and the Right Elliptic is the command post. The Left Elliptic houses Tidals, the Central Elliptic houses a sleeping WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY. The Right Elliptic houses CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM.
(<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/set>)

The TEEN GALAXIES are disheveled and have not eaten in literally forever.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM may be fixing the snow globe or planning on a map.

JD discreetly heads to the Left Elliptic.

JD

Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

JD gravitationally pulls out each TIDAL from the Left Elliptic.

Once the TIDALS are freed, they shove JD into the Left Elliptic. They wreak havoc upon the campsite.

Some enter the Right Elliptic, disgruntling CARTWHEEL, scaring TRIANGULUM, and breaking the snow globe in the process. Some enter the Central Elliptic. Some run amok on the campground.

22. "BOUNCE BACK"

(https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/22-bounce_back)

The Central Elliptic intensely lights up.

The TIDALS run out of the Central Elliptic.

ANDROMEDA strolls out with a supermassive white-hole heart, surprisingly mad.

TRIANGULUM sobs at the sight of the broken snow globe.

The TEEN GALAXIES but TRIANGULUM cluster together.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

BOUNCE BACK!

The TEEN GALAXIES but TRIANGULUM bounce off and land near their respective TIDALS. They choreographically fight the TIDALS, distinct in their combat. They pose or slow down whenever the song hits certain drums.

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.

ANDROMEDA repels away the TIDALS.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize martial art tactics.

The TIDALS run off.

End of "BOUNCE BACK"

MILKY WAY

So hungry, I eat Pegasus. Should we catch them?

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Time will catch up to them. Hopefully starvation doesn't.

MILKY WAY

Andromeda, we neva' see you so upset...

ANDROMEDA

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

WHIRLPOOL

That ain't a black hole where your heart should be.

CARTWHEEL

In fact, quite the opposite.

TRIANGULUM

Is everyone and everything an anomaly around here?! We're each becoming anomalies with each passing millennium...

Cartwheel finds JD in the Left Elliptic.

CARTWHEEL

Speaking of anomaly... JD?

WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY

JD? / JD. / JD!

TRIANGULUM comes out of the Right Elliptic.

TRIANGULUM

SPT0615-JD.

JD

Declinations... It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIES

A million to the millionth power of years of declining.

CARTWHEEL

You ran out of our home...

WHIRLPOOL

Ain't a goodbye...

TRIANGULUM

You come crawling back to us.

ANDROMEDA

You're now a pearl in...

MILKY WAY

A smaller elliptic!

JD

How is the Center of the Universe...?

MILKY WAY weeps.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

How is the Edge of the Universe...?

ANDROMEDA scopes out the Edge.

ANDROMEDA

Well, "where" is certainly answered.

TEEN GALAXIES

You're unrolling back the Edge?

JD

You were right about "nothing..."

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL

Singularity is nothing now.

WHIRLPOOL

Our nomy/mother/father is no longer here for
us.

ANDROMEDA

Though nature is now healing, our Universe
remains nothing.

JD

I'm bringing back everything. Everything I got.

TRIANGULUM

You're bringing back family? You don't have
Gravity? And we must disarm you of everything.

JD

Don't get near my arm! They are a bad dog...
Oh, I've taken care of them... Um... *They fell
off the face of the Universe.*

ANDROMEDA

If you can't care for a dog, how'd you expect
to take care of us?

TRIANGULUM flips JD's arm.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

Did you toss them overboard...?

CARTWHEEL

JD! You have a bite wound!

WHIRLPOOL

JD, we have to go home now.

TRIANGULUM

Tidal forces... Biting the hand that feeds.

MILKY WAY

No. Gravity fed JD...

TRIANGULUM

Gravity fed JD lies and deception.

CARTWHEEL

Gravity almost took you down.

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity brought you down to
their level.

ANDROMEDA

We almost lost you in the Gravity well.

JD nervously lies.

JD

Gravity lost themselves. Gravity got to my head.
Gravity attracted me to *nothing*. But I fought
Gravity's attractive force with electricity. I
did toss Gravity over the Edge... And I tossed
the taser off the face of the Universe.

ANDROMEDA

We understand... We'd do anything for our dog.
Even strike our nomy/mother/father...

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Just a reminder that time is running out!

MILKY WAY

JD needs food! Food heals. Growth make body
strong.

TEEN GALAXIES

It is Crunch Time, SPT0615-JD.

JD

Please, it is you who has nothing in the pit of
your supermassive black holes. You're growing
teen Galaxies. Even you, Milky Way... You with
your warp, waves, and wrinkles. It's wonderful.

MILKY WAY sees through JD.

MILKY WAY

You never be Singularity.

JD

That's apparent... It is all clear to me. *I'll
be apparent as Singularity.*

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!

JD
I did cut away from the Edge. I have the knowledge and strength to unroll the fabric of spacetime. I can clean up my own mess. I must undo the Big Bang. Listen, I'm the closest thing you have to Singularity. I shall not compare myself to the grandmaster. I may just be worthy as your master of the Universe. We're not famine. I will give my all. We are family.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
You gave your all to *nothing*.

23. "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/23-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 JD.

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

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

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

The TEEN GALAXIES clear out the
campsite.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH ALL SIBLINGS.

Most TEEN GALAXIES guilt trip JD.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY) (CONT'D)
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 embrace JD like
SINGULARITY.

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

The TEEN GALAXIES embrace JD.

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

The home returns from beyond.

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

GALAXIES
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

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

End of "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

SCENE 6

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

SINGULARITY remains lifeless under the rug.

JD sensibly returns to the Elliptic. They set down their knapsack. They head through the side exit.

The TEEN GALAXIES stand by the table.

TEEN GALAXIES

It is Crunch Time, JD. SPT0615-JD?

JD returns with the dishes. They bow.

JD

Declinations, family. The Galaxy family. It is Crunch Time.

TEEN GALAXIES

Declinations, SPT0615-JD.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit, and TRIANGULUM tosses away the whoopie cushion.

MILKY WAY pouts.

JD passes out the dishes.

JD

Looks like someone's been avoiding gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the sass, Milky Way.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Again, Milky Way... Teenagers...

JD finally sits amongst their family.

Each TEEN GALAXY takes a swig. All of them, but MILKY WAY, cough up their Crunch.

TRIANGULUM

What did you put in this nuclear pasta, JD?

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.

JD

We're a family again.

MILKY WAY inspects JD's healed wound.

MILKY WAY

You yourself again. You ellipsoid.

JD

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

The TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Declinations, sibling.

MILKY WAY

No way I call you sibling Sing. You no Singularity.

JD hands the Big Bang Taser to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)

Adults usually tell truth...?

JD

Even after hibernation, a solid bear still lies. Let me be the anomaly. I ask for your warp, waves, and wrinkles... To walk away.

MILKY WAY heads off to bed, without a bow.

SINGULARITY remains lifeless.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

I can't even save myself...

SINGULARITY

Baby, are you hurt?

JD

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy, are you hurting?

SINGULARITY

JD, who did you see beyond our Elliptic?

JD

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing, what did you see in this Elliptic?

SINGULARITY

SPT0615-JD, apparency. Are you apparent yet?

JD

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

SINGULARITY

Our hearts eventually open up the prophecy:
When a Galaxy takes in enough light from their singularity, it's time to be the single source of light for the lightless. Every being is born lightless. It's upon us to shed our light. It's upon us to save space. It's upon us to make photons in Crunch Time. You're a luminous adult. Act like one.

JD

My love is never going to be as apparent as you.

SINGULARITY

My black hole has only been feeding. Has only been accepting.

JD

Can you just please accept the Edge? I can't bare the legacy I made you leave behind...

SINGULARITY

It is apparent now that your heart is too supermassive and there is a space that'll hold you. A Universe that'll hear you. The Edge accepted me... The moment I left my family for my legacy.

JD

My legacy isn't out there. You were right. It's a heartless and lightless universe. In an elliptic unlike ours, I have nothing to take care of. I am unable to share the light of my heart.

SINGULARITY

You certainly took care of me.

JD

I only wished for the death of our time together...

SINGULARITY

I wish for you to not meet your end here. It is apparent as a parent 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.

JD

There comes a time when one must stop being apparent/a parent. Not now.

SINGULARITY

I no longer shed light to you.

JD

I need you to be apparent/a parent. More than ever. I want to leave a legacy. I don't want to leave this family. I am nothing.

SINGULARITY

I am apparent as you are going to be.
SPT0615—... Just dropout.

JD gets their knapsack. They head to the edge of the stage.

MILKY WAY enters, seeming to have listened the entire time. They rush out and return with the rest of the TEEN GALAXIES.

TRIANGULUM holds a fixed snow globe.

24. "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/24-apparent>)

JD

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
JD.		SHED LIGHTLY...
ANOMALY.		SHED LIGHTLY...
YOU'RE EVERYTHING.		TREAD LIGHTLY.

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

JD
 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.

JD steps backwards. They barely
 fall off the edge of the stage.

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

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

GRAVITY
 PARALLAX.

JD tilts their head into GRAVITY.

JD
 I CAN'T WHEN YOU GROUND MY SUPERMASSIVE

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

SINGULARITY
 PLEASE FINISH YOUR VERSE.

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

The shadows of the TIDALS loom.

JD makes their choice to fall.

JD
 I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...
 I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW U-
 'NIVERSE.
 FAR-FETCHED!

JD pretends to toss a ball over GRAVITY.

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

JD falls off the Edge of the Universe or the edge of the stage into nothingness.

JD (CONT'D)

You're meant to let me down, Gravity. Save space for your famil-

End of "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake they have instinctively made. They whimper.

GRAVITY

Forc- Fall...!

GRAVITY runs off.

TRIANGULUM drops the snow globe. They collapse into CARTWHEEL's arms.

MILKY WAY ignites the Big Bang Taser. They angrily and repeatedly stab it into SINGULARITY's chest, unintentionally like a defibrillator.

The other TEEN GALAXIES are caught unaware.

25. "SPACETIME" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/25-spacetime>)

SINGULARITY suddenly embraces MILKY WAY. They stow the Big Bang Taser under the rug. They pick up the snow globe. They walk back and place it on the rug. They cluster together the TEEN GALAXIES.

SINGULARITY

IT'S ABOUT...

IT'S ABOUT...

IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME.

End of "SPACETIME"

Time slows for SINGULARITY.

26. "LIMINALITY" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/26-liminality>)

SINGULARITY heads to the Edge and looks out.

The elliptical light lands on JD and ABELL within the audience. JD is now embracing their child, ABELL.

JD

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. *I've made myself clear...* I am apparent.

INVARIANT

Singularity! Like you, JD bypassed this elliptical liminality!

FIX

Singularity. I was right that they'd break the fourth dimension and fulfill this familiar prophecy!

INVARIANT

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

FIX

Sing- Single grandest Galaxy we could ever hope for... Another...

INVARIANT & FIX

Liminal space awaits your heart, Singularity.

SINGULARITY could not be more sentimental. Sooner or later, they have to accept JD's newfound family in a new Elliptic/Universe. They return to their family.

End of "LIMINALITY"

SCENE 727. "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/27-zenith>)

TIDALS

Fall!

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

GRAVITY, now embodying an outlawed
Lupus, marches out of the shadows.

The TIDALS have evolved into wolves.
As a tidal wolf pack, they follow
GRAVITY's lead.

GRAVITY
Dogfight at Zenith... *Singularity?!*

SINGULARITY
Gravity...

GRAVITY
Let's *kill time*.

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Let's save time.

TRIANGULUM
Gravity is back to curb stomp spacetime.

ANDROMEDA pushes TRIANGULUM to
safety.

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

MILKY WAY
What you saying, Gravity?

GRAVITY
(Howling)
Free fall.

TIDALS
(Savagely and twistedly)
Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

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

GRAVITY recognizes the galactic
weak spots. They strategize the
TIDALS to ANDROMEDA.

GRAVITY

Fix.

The TIDALS surround ANDROMEDA,
imploding them and take away their
white-hole heart.

ANDROMEDA

Me pearl!

TIDALS

Fall!

SINGULARITY remains weakened.

SINGULARITY

You Tidals are not entitled to any of my
children's heart. And you sure aren't entitled
to our fourth dimension: time.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL cartwheel
and spiral at GRAVITY.

GRAVITY

Fall time.

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

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

The time dilation equation
crumbles into $F = A M$.

TIDALS

Force! Fall!

EARTH lives in MILKY WAY's head.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

You got this, water bear.

MILKY WAY

My heart, no longer primordial. I 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)

Outsides look like that? Ow, waves, and wrink...

GRAVITY faces the home.

SINGULARITY bows. They kick up the rug to find zilch underneath.

GRAVITY unveils the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY

Zilch?

SINGULARITY

Opposable thumbs...?! The forc—

The TIDALS dogpile on SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA,
and MILKY WAY crawl towards
SINGULARITY.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up.

CARTWHEEL

Gal, it's downtime.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

They took time away from us. We won't have time
anymore...

ANDROMEDA

And our oyster.

MILKY WAY

Gravity... *Good tidal forces don't kill time.*

GRAVITY ignites the Big Bang
Taser.

GRAVITY

Big Freeze Singularity! You've pushed everything
I've ever loved over the Edge! All I am now is
nothing: a lone wolf. What's left of the Galaxy
family: You're just a pack of Omegas. Heat death
is what you 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 you up with the force of Gravity you know.

TRIANGULUM rushes in to stand
between GRAVITY and their family.

TRIANGULUM

Stupid tidal wolf... You can have a piece of my
nuclear pasta, but you can't have a piece of
everything!

GRAVITY knocks down and tases
TRIANGULUM.

GRAVITY

I'm getting behind the ears and the years!

TRIANGULUM tosses and turns in pain.

The zaps illuminate Newton's second law, spelt out as *FAM*, that was dropped earlier.

GRAVITY notices the familial equations. They stop tasing.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Fam... JD... Force! Fix!

The TIDALS stop focusing on SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM

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

GRAVITY shows remorse and narrates.

GRAVITY

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 end of time.

GRAVITY tosses the Big Bang Taser off the stage.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

No elliptic is perfect. In Zenith, I save space for my fam. I'll spend eternity... *Free fal-*

GRAVITY jumps off the stage from where JD fell off the Edge of the Universe.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

Gravity!

Time starts and erratically accelerates.

The TIDALS are livid.

SINGULARITY rockets out of the dogpile. They fight through the TIDALS to save TRIANGULUM with all their parental love.

SINGULARITY

I ask for a millennium of clarity!

SINGULARITY helps the TEEN GALAXIES up. They come to terms that they cannot handle the tidal forces any longer. They feel the Big Crunch Theory. The deepening feeling of the inevitable end of the Universe crushes their supermassive heart.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
It is Crunch Time... Singularity...
Declinations, beautiful Universe.

The TIDALS wildly dance outside.

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

TRIANGULUM
You are everything.

TRIANGULUM smiles. They sit on the
whoopie cushion.

The Galaxy family laughs their
last hearty laugh. They all sit.

SINGULARITY & TEEN GALAXIES
We know.

End of "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

28. "BIG CRUNCH" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/28-big_crunch)

SINGULARITY pray and the GALAXIES
do the same. They change their
mind, holding each of their
children's hands. In turn, the
GALAXIES hold each others' hands.

SINGULARITY
LOSE CONTROL IN OUR PALMS.
FILL US WITH EXTERNAL DARKNESS.
BLEED OUR LIGHT IN NO TIME.
BIG CRUNCH THEORY, GALAXIES.

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

The darkness swallows the stage,
outside the home.

TEEN GALAXIES
CONSUME OUR COSMOS. / DOOMED BY THE SYSTEM.
CONSUME OUR WHOLE LIVES. / ENTOMB ALL OUR DREAMS.

SINGULARITY
CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

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

The TIDALS creep into the home.

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

SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES
hug each other to the point of a
singularity.

SINGULARITY & TEEN GALAXIES
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
(Echoing)
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, FAMILY!
...

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.

From the audience, ABELL goes to pick up the Big Bang Taser with JD following. ABELL points the Big Bang Taser at JD. Rather than zapping them by tradition, they want to hand it over to JD, who sentimentally accepts it.

JD

Nothing...

JD fires the Big Bang Taser at the stage. They return it to ABELL.

29. "BIG BOUNCE" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/29-big_bounce)

The home seeps out of the curtains.

A light flashes with each GALAXY.

TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.

TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING!

WHIRLPOOL

EVERYTHING!

CARTWHEEL

EVERYTHING!

ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING!

ANDROMEDA hands the monocular to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY scopes out the Edge.

MILKY WAY

EVERYTHIN'!

SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster together in the home.

The light fills the whole Elliptic.

BIG BOUNCE!

TEEN GALAXIES

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

SINGULARITY idly stands, amused.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow at respective tones of their signature songs.

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows at the tone of "Luminous". 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 in the audience.

GRAVITY runs up to and hugs JD.

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

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

JD tosses stars onto the stage.

The CREW rushes in. They pick up as many stars as they could. They cluster together. They bow.

COMPANY bows. They dance in spacetime.

END OF SPACETIME