

OPERA AMERICA

Working Title Playwrights
David Quang Pham

ELLIPSES

IDEA Opera Grants - 2021-2022

Working Title Playwrights

Mr David Quang Pham
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Wyoming, MI 49509 O: 616-818-5413

Mr David Quang Pham

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Application Form

IDEA Opera Grants

Supported by the Charles and Cerise Jacobs Charitable Foundation

August 11, 2021: Intent to apply deadline

September 22, 2021: Application deadline

October 2021: Adjudication

November 2021: Notification

For more information, please refer to the grant guidelines [here](#).

Contact Diana Hossack, grantmaking associate, at DHossack@operaamerica.org for questions.

Applicant Information

Lead Applicant First Name*

David Quang

Lead Applicant Last Name*

Pham

Lead applicant team role*

Composer

Lead applicant bio*

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

david_quang_pham-resume.pdf

David Quang Pham (he/him) is the musical theatre science communicator. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science and devises stories from its branches. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State, he studied under Working Title Playwrights' apprenticeship in Atlanta. Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping his music span a broad range of styles including gospel, pop, tango, and Xiqu.

His subatomic opera, TOUR, is a 2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist. His collaborative piece, PARALLEL UNIVERSITY, is chosen by NYPL Performing Arts Library and THEatre ACCELERATOR to be the

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musical tested in their inaugural VR workshop. His songs have been showcased at the Durban University of Technology, Musical Theatre Factory, and Berkeley's Play Café. He is also a trained trombonist. He is a moderator at LMDA; a producing mentee of Jane Dubin from TRU; a founding member of CreateTheater; and a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and DG.

Teammate First Name, if applicable

[Unanswered]

Teammate Last Name, if applicable

[Unanswered]

Teammate role

[Unanswered]

Teammate bio

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

Teammate Email

[Unanswered]

Work Samples

Work samples are one of the most important parts of this application. Your work samples represent the artistic merit of your work and the work of your collaborators.

If available, you are encouraged to submit excerpts from the work for which you are requesting support. If you do not have samples from that work, please provide samples that demonstrate your ability to write in the genre/style of the proposed work.

Composer

Please provide two work samples for the composer that reflect the best work of the artists involved (audio, video, and/or score or chart samples). Media samples can be Vimeo, YouTube, or SoundCloud links.

Although no previous experience with opera is required, we are interested in hearing any vocal music you might have written and if possible, would like to get some sense of your notational skills (e.g., scores, chord charts, or other graphic representation of your music).

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The total timing of the musical selections should not exceed 20 minutes. Trim samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be reviewed. If you are not trimming the samples as suggested above, clearly mark the timings in the notes (e.g., Play from 3'22"-7'49").

MIDI recordings are permitted but not recommended. For any questions about work samples, please contact Diana Hossack, grantmaking associate, at DHossack@operaamerica.org.

SAMPLE 1

Sample 1 title*

"Crunch" · ELLIPSES

Sample 1 A/V link*

<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch>

Sample 1 A/V password (if necessary)

Sample 1 composer*

David Quang Pham

Sample 1 librettist (if applicable)

David Quang Pham

Sample 1 description/annotation*

Please include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please include timings for guided listening.

Performing Artists: mezzo-soprano Minka Wiltz (Singularity), tenor Jason-Jamal Ligon (Cartwheel), bass Skye Passmore (Whirlpool), soprano Abby Holland (Triangulum), baritone Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel (Andromeda), tenor Evan Hill Phillips (Milky Way).

Context: "Crunch" is a song about family gatherings and galaxy clustering. After the Galaxy children bicker, Singularity brings them together to say grace by saving space with their black-hole hearts.

Sample 1 score or chart (optional)

Upload the score/chart below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

ellipses-crunch.pdf

<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch.pdf>

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SAMPLE 2

Sample 2 title*

"Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles" · ELLIPSES

Sample 2 A/V link*

https://www.ellipsisplay.com/music/13-warp_waves_and_wrinkles

Sample 2 A/V password (if necessary)

Sample 2 composer*

David Quang Pham

Sample 2 librettist (if applicable)

David Quang Pham

Sample 2 description/annotation*

Please include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please include timings for guided listening.

Performing Artists: tenor Evan Hill Phillips (Milky Way), baritone Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel (Oort Cloud), contralto Daniela Cobb (Eris), soprano Abby Holland (Uranus), tenor Jason-Jamal Ligon (Saturn), bass Skye Passmore (Jupiter), mezzo-soprano Minka Wiltz (Sun).

Context: "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles" is a song about self-love and adolescence. Left behind by their family, Milky Way roams the Universe alone. While going through puberty, Milky Way learns to love themselves through their imaginary/planetary friends. Disclaimer: Milky Way is going through puberty throughout the story, so Evan Hill Phillips purposely sings and speaks with trills and voice cracks.

Sample 2 score or chart (optional)

Upload the score/chart below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

ellipses-warp_waves_and_wrinkles.pdf
https://www.ellipsisplay.com/music/13-warp_waves_and_wrinkles.pdf

Disclaimer: Milky Way is going through puberty throughout the story, so Milky Way's part is purposely full of trills and vibratos.

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Librettist

Please attach two writing samples (in PDF format only), limited to 20 pages in total (e.g., you may include one 8-page sample and one 12-page sample). Although no previous experience with opera is required, we are especially interested in seeing any lyrics, poetry, or theater work you may have written.

SAMPLE 3

Sample 3 title*

"Big Bang" · ELLIPSES

Sample 3 A/V link

https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/sample_3

Sample 3 A/V password (if necessary)

Sample 3 composer

David Quang Pham

Sample 3 librettist (if applicable)

David Quang Pham

Sample 3 description/annotation

Please include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please provide timings for guided listening.

ellipses-38-44-big_bang.pdf

Performing Artists: mezzo-soprano Minka Wiltz (Singularity), mezzo-soprano Vallea E. Woodbury (Gravity), contralto Daniela Cobb (SPT0615-JD), tenor Jason-Jamal Ligon (Cartwheel), bass Skye Passmore (Whirlpool), soprano Abby Holland (Triangulum), baritone Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel (Andromeda), tenor Evan Hill Phillips (Milky Way), soprano Kait Rivas (Tidals).

Timing: 1:10:08—1:20:23

Context: The inciting incident. Gravity and SPT0615-JD initiates the Big Bang when they strike down Singularity.

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SAMPLE 4

Sample 4 title

"Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles" · ELLIPSES

Sample 4 AV Link

https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/sample_4

Sample 4 A/V passwork (if necessary)

Sample 4 composer

David Quang Pham

Sample 4 librettist (if applicable)

David Quang Pham

Sample 4 upload

Please include roles, voicing, and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please include timings for guided listening.

ellipses-68-77-warp_waves_and_wrinkles.pdf

Performing Artists: tenor Evan Hill Phillips (Milky Way), baritone Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel (Oort Cloud), contralto Daniela Cobb (Eris), soprano Abby Holland (Uranus), tenor Jason-Jamal Ligon (Saturn), bass Skye Passmore (Jupiter), soprano Kait Rivas (Earth/Solar System), mezzo-soprano Minka Wiltz (Sun).

Timing: 1:42:55—1:52:10

Context: Milky Way's adolescent arc. The puppetry and graceful dancing of the celestial bodies are reminiscent of Chinese Kunqu opera.

Personal Statement

Personal statement*

What inspires you creatively? Why have you chosen this subject matter? Why did you choose to tell this story as an opera?

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I grew up in an Asian household. The only things my parents ever watched were Kunqu-like operas and Kabuki-esque theatre. Naturally, I compose on a pentatonic scale. Six notes are simple, yet when the instruments are primitive and folksy, the opera is suddenly elaborate. Our Universe may be minimal and plain, but the universal plane is made up of mostly dark matter after all. That nature provides complexity. It is difficult to unravel this traditional fabric of spacetime, but it is a challenge I accept. As a Vietnamese American, I aspire to connect the Eastern and Western art forms.

As an artful scientist, science spins my creative process. I look for connections in my research. I traverse science communication through the human condition. In a Cyclotron, I felt that the quarks are also trying to attain a higher degree. At an Observatory, I noticed that the galaxies also felt aimlessly lost in our field. These personifications are amplified by my culture's inherent devotion to humanizing nature. For example, we like to personify wind as ghosts. My mind is astrophysical and astral spiritual. These aspects grant me the spirit of a science writer for musicals and operas.

Family to relativity, humanities to galaxies, and temporality to eternity need to be linked in ELLIPSES. The story is expanded by entropy. The Big Bang must be personified through the universal power of opera. Let there be light through light opera.

Overview

Work title*

Title or working title of the opera in development

ELLIPSES

Please update these fields if anything has changed since you submitted the intent to apply.

Work summary*

Submit a plot summary of the work associated with the application.

ELLIPSES is the epic cosmology mythology about family, child development, and adulthood. ELLIPSES stars Singularity and their teenage Galaxies and follows their quest to undo the Big Bang, after their family dog Gravity sets it off.

Every character is named after a celestial object. Singularity is the single parent who locked their kids in the house. Milky Way is the baby sibling who is going through galactic puberty. SPT0615-JD is the rebellious young adult who wants to leave home to go explore the Universe. JD is sick and tired of being stuck in the house with their family.

In a violent altercation, JD shoots Singularity to run away from home with Gravity (aka the Big Bang). Without their parent, the younger siblings are left to fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos. These Galaxies spend the rest of time looking for their missing oldest sibling. The supermassive heart of this coming-of-age story is self-discovery in isolation...

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Project activity type*

Workshop

If "Other," describe here.

Project description*

Describe the specific activities for which funding will be used.

ELLIPSES will have its first live workshop. We strive to preview the first half hour leading up to the Big Bang, shown to an invited audience which includes the University of Maryland School of Music followed by a talkback. The talkback looks to be led by UMD postgraduate dramaturg, Jordan Ealey.

In February 2021, ViOp Productions filmed Musical Monuments: the African American Concert Tradition in collaboration with St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (<https://youtu.be/mj61UdV1cTs>). In partnership with ViOp, we look to hold our workshop in Washington, DC on a weekend in February 2022, coinciding with Black History Month and Lunar New Year. Jay Chacon of ViOp is our facilitator and general manager who streamlines the fundraising and promotional assets.

An IDEA Opera Grant covers the venue for a 3-day workshop: 2 rehearsals, 1 showcase. It compensates 17 team members (pianist, MD, dramaturg, director, vocal coach, sound designer, SM, and 10 performers; plus 2 ViOp videographers for OA).

Proposed project start date*

Funding may not be applied to expenses incurred before December 1, 2021.

12/06/2021

Proposed project end date*

Grant-funded activities must be completed by December 31, 2022.

03/06/2022

Creative Team

Please name any other creative or performing artists associated with this project, if known at this time (e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg).

You are not required to have a full creative team in place at this time.

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Creator name

Jay Lucas Chacon

Creator role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

Facilitator, General Manager



Creator bio

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

[jay_lucas_chacon-resume.pdf](#)

Jay Lucas Chacon (he/him) is the founder/director of ViOp Productions, a virtual performing company producing work and opportunities through virtual medium, creating opera on film, filmed concerts and online recitals, and virtual readings. He produced and performed with tenor John Riesen in a duet recital Crossing Paths, Rodolfo in a socially distanced film version of La bohème Act 3 by Leoncavallo, The Spirit of Christmas; a holiday special. and as Anatoly in The CHESS Project. Jay also conceived and produced An American's Journey; a monodrama of Aaron Copland' Old American Songs, directed a film of Mascagni' Zanetto, and a recital of African American music featuring soprano Stephanie Ball on location in Washington DC. Upcoming productions with ViOp are The Strong Ones, a series of music videos focusing on mental and emotional health, and ViOp's annual Christmas Special. [<https://www.jaylucaschacon.com>]

[<https://www.viopproductions.com/>]

Creator 2 name

Jordan Alexandria Ealey

Creator 2 role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

Dramaturg

Creator 2 bio

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

Jordan Alexandria Ealey (they/she) is a dramaturg, theatre artist, and scholar who divides their time between Atlanta, GA and the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area. As a dramaturg, Jordan specializes in new play and musical development; her work has been seen with places such as Synchronicity Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Working Title Playwrights, and Hush Harbor Lab. Jordan co-hosts and co-produces Daughters of Lorraine, a podcast on black theatre from a black feminist perspective, which is supported by HowlRound

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Theatre Commons. A proud artist-scholar, Jordan is pursuing a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, where they research black women-authored musicals from the nineteenth century to the present. Jordan is most passionate about advocating for marginalized theatre artists and hopes to continue to do so in their career. [<https://www.jordanealey.com/>]

Creator 3 name

[Unanswered]

Creator 3 role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

[Unanswered]

Creator 3 bio

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

[Unanswered]

Creator 4 name

Creator 4 role

(e.g., stage director, music director, lighting designer, dramaturg)

Creator 4 bio

You may choose to upload your teammate's resume in PDF format, provide a brief bio (1,000 characters or less), and/or share a link to their website here.

Work Information

Roles*

For example, in an opera adaptation of The Avengers, a cast list might look like this: Captain Marvel, Soprano; Black Widow, Mezzo-Soprano; Spiderman, Tenor; Black Panther, Baritone; The Hulk, Bass. For a list of common voice types in opera, please click [here](#). You are welcome to include non-traditional/alternate voice types, and may explain those choices below.

Singularity, Mezzo-Soprano; Gravity, Mezzo-Soprano; SPT0615-JD, Contralto; Cartwheel, Tenor; Whirlpool, Bass; Triangulum, Soprano; Andromeda, Baritone; Milky Way, Tenor.

The vocal range for each character is based on ELLIPSES's latest team. Due to the open-ended and androgynous nature of each character in the actual book, there are no specified vocal ranges. In the scores,

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the treble clefs of the vocals are parenthesized with (8). Adjustments and distinctions are made right after casting with the music director.

Chorus*

If applicable, indicate the number of singers in the chorus by voice type (e.g., Soprano: 4, Alto: 2, Tenor: 6, Bass: 1).

Mezzo-Soprano—Soprano: 1, Baritone—Tenor: 1

Instrumentation*

Please list the instruments you will utilize in your work (e.g., "I will write for 1 piano, 1 violin, 1 viola, 1 cello, and 1 Iranian santur").

I will write for 1 piano, 1 mandolin, 1 guitar, 1 bass, and 1 drum set. I will utilize 1 piano during the prospective workshop.

Provide a scenic breakdown of the opera*

You may use either a character/scene breakdown, storyboard, or dramaturgical outline that narrates the theatrical arc of the work. Please refer to [this link](#) for examples.

Set Design of The Ellipse and The Continuum Checkpoint: <https://www.ellipsesplay.com/about/ellipses-set.pdf>

Song-by-Song Through Narrative

Overview: The structure of ELLIPSES is based on the Big Crunch Theory. This is a theory of the end of our Universe, where its expansion eventually reverses and collapses into a singularity.

{Legend: ("Musical Number") | The plot between * * will be the focus of the workshop}

ACT I

*The Galaxies begin their routine by scoping out towards the Edge ("Bounce"). Their parent calls them up for supper. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at this family gathering ("Crunch"). JD remains looking out, tangentially wanting to go to the Edge ("Cutting Edge"). They see their legacy as apparent. However, Singularity speaks of its perils. In retaliation, Gravity fights Singularity to go outside but ends up getting grounded in the doghouse. As the siblings head off to bed, JD and Milky Way discuss growing up ("Figure").

After Milky Way goes to bed, JD hears Gravity persuading them to search the rug. JD finds Singularity's Big Bang Taser stashed underneath and deems the Fabric of Spacetime to be just as sturdy ("Zilch"). Later, Singularity assesses their children's black-hole hearts ("Luminous"). With this being the final straw, JD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. Singularity goes lifeless. In the chaos, JD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing away. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away ("Big Bang").* At this start of the Universe, Gravity and JD enjoy themselves ("Verse").

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Meanwhile, the teen Galaxies mourn ("Rip"). They realize that they must get a move on and undo the Big Bang. Because there is no longer Crunch Time, they may starve without Singularity's care and with the Universe thinning itself out. Triangulum manages to convince the family to bring JD home ("Anomaly is Everything"). Triangulum decides to journey out to the Edge with Andromeda. They instruct Cartwheel and Whirlpool to babysit Milky Way. However, they leave Milky Way behind. Eventually, they decide to return home to be present for their baby sibling ("Time is Relative"). But they find that Milky Way has left to wander the Universe alone ("Big Rip").

Isolated and alone, Milky Way talks to their planetary friends about physically growing up ("Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles"). Eventually, Triangulum and Andromeda find Milky Way in an exhausted state of adolescence ("Globular"). The Solar System has developed into a swelling. Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. As a result, Milky Way becomes a Quasar, leading the teen Galaxies to be reunited ("Fabric").

A trillion years pass, and Gravity and JD are still traversing space. They find time to play fetch, and Gravity catches on JD's fugue. Through a stellar speech, Gravity explains that the point of return is far-fetched ("Far-Fetched").

From the cosmic beyond, Singularity sings ("Point").

ACT II

In the following act, Singularity's backstory is presented. Apparently, they themselves ran away from their own Universe ("Heat Death"). An eternity passes, and Gravity and JD hit a wall while looking for the Edge. Gravity believes that one can overcome it by relaxing ("Parallax"). In that spirit, the Edge unveils ("Tangent"). Surrounded by spectacles that reminds them of family, JD decides to head back and take the Edge with them. Gravity feels betrayed as they fought hard for the wide-open space, only for it to be a singularity again. Gravity wounds JD and JD is left to return home alone, unrolling the Edge ("...").

JD stumbles upon their siblings' campsite. The teen Galaxies have been caging tidal dogs. JD releases them but is caught ("Bounce Back"). JD blames Gravity for the Big Bang. The Galaxies believe JD and returns home to heal them ("Everything").

JD tries to adjust to life as a caretaker but ends up being a dropout ("Apparent"). In these millennia of grief, Milky Way jolts Singularity back to life ("Spacetime"). Singularity looks beyond the Edge to find JD shedding light in their Ellipse ("Liminality").

All of a sudden in JD's honor, Gravity returns with a wolfpack. The Galaxies and the tidal forces end time in this epic showdown ("The Big Rip of Zenith"). When all is lost, Singularity and their Galaxies pray at their table in the Center of our Universe as the tidal forces consume them ("Big Crunch").

ACT III

In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again ("Big Bounce").

Libretto (optional)

Please upload as much of the libretto as is available. A partial or libretto outline is acceptable.

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ellipses.pdf
Libretto: <https://www.ellipsesplay.com/script>

Recording: <https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/2021-7-15>

Intellectual property*

"Existing work" includes items such as a novel, short story, film, or life story. Please select the appropriate choice from the drop down menu below.

This is my own original work.

Rights documentation

If the work is based on an existing work protected by copyright, please attach rights documentation or outline the timeline and process for securing the rights. Rights must be secured by the adjudication of applications. If rights documentation is not available now, please email it to Diana Hossack, grantmaking associate, by October 1, 2021. Otherwise, your application will be deemed incomplete and unable to proceed to the adjudication phase.

Project Information

Timeline*

Provide a timeline for the development of the work, including the activities for which you are requesting funding. An example of a timeline is included below for your reference.

January 2021: Creative team meeting with composer, librettist, and dramaturg

March 2021: Libretto reading

April – October 2021: Revisions to the libretto, completion of excerpts or full piano/vocal score for workshop

Late October 2021: Piano/vocal workshop (5 days), recorded by OPERA America videographers (day 6)

Post-workshop: Creative design meeting with the stage director, librettist, composer, and media designer

This is an example. Your timeline may include other activities.

- December 2021: Creative team gets assembled through interviews with members of University of Maryland School of Music and MUSE

- January 2022: Performative and technical team get assembled through auditions and interviews with members of University of Maryland School of Music and MUSE

- Early January 2022: Creative team meeting with author, stage director, music director, dramaturg, and facilitator

- Late January 2022: 1 cold Zoom reading is conducted, with revisions to the libretto afterwards

- TBA January 2022: New Works Forum 2022 Winter Meeting

- February 2022: 2 rehearsal workshops & 30-minute presentational workshop followed by a talkback (3 days), recorded by ViOp videographers for OPERA America (day 2/3)



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o Post-workshop: Creative design meeting with author, stage director, music director, dramaturg, and facilitator

- March 2022—TBA [Opera Conference]: Post-production of workshop recordings with author, facilitator, videographers
 - o TBA March 2022: New Works Forum 2022 Spring Meeting
 - o TBA June 2022: New Works Forum 2022 Summer Meeting

Budget*

IDEA Opera Grants fund up to \$12,500 of your project. Please use the budget worksheet [here](#) to provide your budget. Upload it as an Excel document.

This budget worksheet covers many possible expenses and you do not need to complete every line. There are five "Other" lines in each budgetary section to add other expenses.

[idea-opera-grants-2021-2022-budget.xlsx](#)

Total requested funding*

Please indicate your total request below. You may request up to \$12,500.

\$9,518.00

Other

Is this your first time applying to an OPERA America grant program?*

Yes

From which organization did you hear about this grant opportunity?*

OPERA America

If Other, please specify.

Through which channel?*

Please select all that apply.

Website
Other



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If Other, please specify.

IDEA was discovered in 2020 before the application deadline and after the LOI deadline through Kristal Pacific.

Confirmation

Lead applicant signature*

By typing your name below, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application and its attachments is accurate and complete.



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File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- david_quang_pham-resume.pdf
- ellipses-crunch.pdf
- ellipses-warp_waves_and_wrinkles.pdf
- ellipses-38-44-big_bang.pdf
- ellipses-68-77-warp_waves_and_wrinkles.pdf
- jay_lucas_chacon-resume.pdf
- ellipses.pdf
- idea-opera-grants-2021-2022-budget.xlsx

David Quang Pham (he★him)

1140 Alger St SW Wyoming, MI 49509 | (616) 818-5413 | davidquangpham@outlook.com | @WorkingTidal

Michigan State University

Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics | Minor in Theatre

2014-18

ΣΠΣ Honors, Society of Physics Students – Vice President | OpenSpot Theatre | ΦΚΣ – Historian

Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, Georgia

Apprenticeship | New Play Dramaturgy

2020-21

New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship, Dramaturgy Master Intensive with Amber Bradshaw

MUSICALS & OPERAS

ELLIPSES – astrophysics epic that centers on the Galaxy family and their quest to undo the Big Bang

*incubated under the Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship

<https://www.ellipsesplay.com>

Readings: Developmental @ WTP's Monday Night Development Workshops | 10/5/20 | 12/7/20 | 2/1/21 | 5/3/21

Table @ Socially Isolated Script Readings! | 11/14/20

Concert Reading @ Working Title Playwrights | <https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/2021-7-15>

Workshop: How to Write a Musical That Works @ Theater Resources Unlimited, New York, New York | 6/13/21

PARALLEL UNIVERSITY (coauthors: Malina Detcheva-Rossa, Marie Incontrera) – science comedy about finding a space

*incubating under the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts summer program, Across a Crowded Room

<https://www.parallelmusical.com>

Showcase: New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York, New York | November 2021

PISTIL QUIPS – one-act tragic operatic play that centers on dialogues between a hummingbird, a flower, and the breeze

Production: *ten-minute variant titled *Humin Meat Glass* @ The Comedy Project, Grand Rapids, Michigan | 12/2/19

TOUR – physics fable that focuses on Quark, Lepton, Boson, and Atom as they collide in the academic Accelerator

<https://www.tourmusical.com>

Concert: Emerging Artist Representative of Musical Theatre Factory @ Cabaret on the Couch | 7/24/20

Readings: Developmental @ Dramatists Guild's End of Play & The 24 Hour Plays | 4/24/20

Table @ Socially Isolated Script Readings! | 5/16/20

Developmental @ CreateTheater Experts Theater Community | 7/17/20

Table @ Socially Isolated Script Readings! | 8/29/20

Workshop: *Finalist @ Downtown Urban Arts Festival – Signature Theatre, New York, New York | 2019-20

PLAYS | New Play Exchange: <https://newplayexchange.org/users/34416/david-quang-pham>

Where the Sun Don't Shine – an interaction between a dark matter particle and a light particle within the solar corona

Reading: Stage @ The One-Minute Play Festival | 4/15/20

REVIEWS

ELLIPSES

"I love stories about families and yours is truly the most unique I've seen."

- John Mabey, Award-Winning Playwright | 7/16/21

"The humor and sibling rivalry/politics is a strength of the piece overall. Overall the strengths of this piece are 100% the sibling/family dynamics and the desire for self-actualization as major thematic statements."

- Emily McClain, Award-Winning Playwright | 3/23/21

"The play got me thinking about my / our place in the Universe - you can't get more epic than that.
Graphics and animation... Wow!

- Henry W. Kimmel, President of Working Title Playwrights & Alliance for Jewish Theatre | 2/26/21

David Quang Pham (he★him)

1140 Alger St SW Wyoming, MI 49509 | (616) 818-5413 | davidquangpham@outlook.com | @WorkingTidal

Michigan State University

Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics | Minor in Theatre

2014-18

ΣΠΣ Honors, Society of Physics Students – Vice President | OpenSpot Theatre | ΦΚΣ – Historian

Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, Georgia

Apprenticeship | New Play Dramaturgy

2020-21

New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship, Dramaturgy Master Intensive with Amber Bradshaw

ORGANIZATIONS

Member of **ΣΠΣ (Sigma Pi Sigma - The National Physics Honor Society)**

2018-ongoing

The top one-third of Michigan State University's Department of Physics and Astronomy's undergraduate class of 2018

Member of **The American Physical Society**

2018-ongoing

A non-profit membership organization working to advance and diffuse the knowledge of physics

Writer and Publisher for **ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)**

2019-ongoing

Writer for **The Comedy Project's NewsFlash** [<https://thecomedyproject.com>]

2018-19

A theatre featuring improvisation, sketch comedy shows, a training center, and private event hosting

Founding Member of **CreateTheater Experts Theater Community** [<https://createtheater.com>]

2020-ongoing

A select number of writers, producers and theatermakers ready to redesign and reinvent new play development

Member of **The Dramatists Guild of America**

2019-ongoing

Music Therapy Volunteer for **Kindred Hospice**

2020-ongoing

Moderator and Planner for **LMDA (Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas)**

2020-ongoing

The volunteer membership organization for the professions of literary management and dramaturgy

Member of **MUSE (Musicians United for Social Equity)**

2021-ongoing

An organization for musicians of color committed to creating diversity within the music departments

Acting Mentor/Photographer/Videographer for **OpenSpot Theatre** in East Lansing, Michigan

2014-18

A theatre program empowering kids with special needs to break through the fourth wall and shine

Member of **Opera America**

2021-ongoing

Associate Producer of **Reach For It** [<https://www.reachforit.net>]

2020-ongoing

A nonprofit organization that is built to help the individual prosper in their artistry by elevating their talents

Member of **Theater Resources Unlimited**

2020-ongoing

The leading network for developing theater professionals

MNDW Committee Member and the second Apprentice of **Working Title Playwrights**

2020-ongoing

The leading development community and new play incubator in the Southeast

David Quang Pham (he★him)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chicago Dramatists

Staging Science: Writing the Science Play

2020

Instructor: Kristin Idaszak

May 2020

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas

The International Dramaturgy Lab

2020-21

Partners: Laurel Green, Pauliina Hulkko, Elizagrace Madrone, David Quang Pham,

Stefanie Schmitt, Hanna Slattne, Dimitar Uzunov

November 2020 – June 2021

Revoluton Arts

Playwriting Workshop

2020

Instructor: James McDermott

April – July 2020

Seattle Playwrights Salon

Discovering the Play in Playwriting

2020

Instructor: Miriam BC Tobin

March – April 2020

The Story Collider

Facilitating Storytelling in the Classroom and the Field

2021

Instructor: Nisse Greenberg

August – September 2021

Introductory Storytelling Workshop

2021

Instructors: Paula Croxso, Nakeysha Roberts Washington, Maryam Zaringhalam

January 2021

Theatre Resources Unlimited

TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program Master Class

2021-22

Instructors: Jane Dubin, Jennifer Isaacson

September 2021 – January 2022

TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program Foundations

Tested Out: **2021**

Virtual LGBT+ Centre

Queer Play Writing Workshop

2020

Instructor: Naomi Westerman

August 2020

David Quang Pham (he★him)

CONFERENCES

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

July 29 – August 2, 2020 in Detroit, MI

2020

"Test the Waters: Playwriting Opportunities in Michigan"

Panelists: Rachel Keown Burke, Micealaya Moses, David Quang Pham, Emilio Rodriguez

Accepted. The panel was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas

June 1–29, 2021 on WebEx and in Ciudad de México, México

2021

Key Volunteer.

June 19–20, 2020 on WebEx

2020

Volunteer.

ESSAYS & PUBLICATIONS

HowlRound

"Sign of Relief: Apprentice Shipment"

2021

Accepted pitch. The article is edited by the content editor, May Antaki.

FESTIVALS

Downtown Urban Arts Festival

Signature Theatre, 480 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036

2019-20

2020 Playwriting Finalist with TOUR

News: [BroadwayWorld](#)

PRODUCTIONS

Concert: Sing For Your Supper

[Reach For It](#)

2020-21

Associate Producer of the monthly concert series

[March | July](#)

Musical: ELLIPSES

[Working Title Playwrights](#)

2021

Self-Producer of animated demos and the concert reading on July 15, 2021

[Playbill](#) | [Poster](#) | [Trailer](#)

[Budget](#): \$3057.50 | Fundraised & Granted: \$1020

RESIDENCIES

The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences

Rabun Gap, Georgia

Spring 2021

2021

Accepted. The residency was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

David Quang Pham (he★him)

RESIDENCIES (cont.)

Sundress Academy for the Arts

Knoxville, Tennessee

January 25 – February 14, 2021

2021

Accepted. The residency was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SONG PERFORMANCES

Cabaret on the Couch

Kami Visitsak performed “Valence” from TOUR on July 24, 2021

2020

[Footage](#) | News: [BroadwayWorld](#)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Durban University of Technology

[DigiFest](#) on October 19-21, 2021

2021

Michigan State University

Season 2 of [The Art of Adaptation](#), College of Arts & Letters

2021

The Story Collider

[Science Story Slam](#) on January 22, 2021

2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Master Classes

Musical Writing

[Harlem Neighborhood Writers](#) on October 9, 2021

2021

THEATRE EXPERIENCES

<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Year</u>
Acting			
<i>Oedipus Rex</i>	Oedipus Tyrannus	Michigan State – Arena	2018
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Mr. Edward Gardiner	Michigan State – Fairchild	2016
<i>Good Kids</i> by N. Iizuka	Ty	Michigan State – Auditorium	2015
<i>Spamalot</i>	King Arthur	Wyoming Theatre Company	2013
Consultations and Dramaturgy			
<i>Atoms</i> by Joe Beck	New Play Dramaturgy		2021
<i>Constellations</i>	Science Consultation	Grand Rapids Community College	2019
<i>Constellations</i>	Science Consultation	Michigan State University	2015
<i>The Giver</i>	Production Dramaturgy	Wyoming Theatre Company	2013

David Quang Pham (he★him)

THEATRE EXPERIENCES

Crew

<i>2016-17 Season</i>	Key Crew	Summer Circle Theatre	2017
<i>Talent Shows</i>	Sound Engineer	Wyoming Theatre Company	2012-14
<i>Trunks 2</i>	Sound Engineer	Wyoming Theatre Company	2014
<i>The Giver</i>	Sound Engineer	Wyoming Theatre Company	2013

Curations

Bay Area Playwrights F.	Reader	Playwrights Foundation	2021
AAPI Writing Contest	Selector	entertwine	2021
Sing For Your Supper	Curator	Reach For It	2020
Unexpected Play Fest.	Selector	Theatrical Outfit	2020

Orchestra

<i>Hair</i>	Trombonist	Michigan State – Pasant	2015
<i>Carrie</i>	Music Technologist	Michigan State – Pasant	2014
<i>On the Town</i>	Trombonist	Wyoming Theatre Company	2012
<i>The Wiz</i>	Trombonist	Wyoming Theatre Company	2011

...

CRUNCH

(Singularity, Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Triangulum, Andromeda, Milky Way)

DAVID QUANG PHAM

Adagio

E A E G#m C#m B A E

SINGULARITY

Feed that hole in your heart. _____ Give in-to in-ter-nal dark - ness. _____

SINGULARITY

Shed our light for no one. _____ As it's Crunch Time, Ga-lax- ies.

Guitar

SINGULARITY

In black holes, dwell wis-dom. _____ Fed by the sprin-kles of star - dust. _____

Guitar

SINGULARITY

Crush their dreams in your palm. _____ It is Crunch Time, my ba-bies. _____

Guitar

19 A E B E E E B C# G#

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

Con-sume star sy stems. Con-sume worlds

Guitar

24 C#m G#m E E B C# G# C# E

SINGULARITY

String

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

that teem. Con-sumed by thoughts of fam-i-ly. Fam-i - ly....

Guitar

29 E C#m E E C#m C#m E

SINGULARITY

by string in theor-y. And fa-bric by space-time fa bric. Hold

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

Guitar

33

SINGULARITY

A B F#m A B E E A

our love as a whole. It is Crunch Time, we_be_lieve.

Guitar

38

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

E WHIRLPOOL B B E E TRIANGULUM B E B

It is Crunch Time, Singularity. It is Crunch Time, Singularity.

Guitar

42

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

E CARTWHEEL B B E E ANDROMEDA B E B

It is Crunch Time, Singularity. It is Crunch Time, Singularity.

Guitar

46

CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

E MILKY WAY B B E E B E B

It is Crunch Time, Mommy Sing.

JD is absent.

Guitar

50

SINGULARITY

E B E B B E B E

It is Crunch Time, J D?

S P T 0 6 1 5 J D?

Guitar

... 13 WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

(Milky Way, Solar System{Sun, Eris, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Oort Cloud, ensemble})

DAVID QUANG PHAM

Moderato

C# C# D#m G# F# G# A#m G# C# C#

SOLAR SYSTEM:

SOLAR SYSTEM {

Milk-y Way's on their own. All a-lone. Know that for us at home:

Guitar {



SOLAR SYSTEM {

You're the on - ly way for - ward, through warp, waves, and wrinkle-s.

Guitar {



SOLAR SYSTEM {

12 D#m G# A#m G# C# SOLAR SYSTEM: D#m G# F# G# C#

Through it all. Thick and thin. Through the en - ti-re U-ni-verse.

Guitar {

Bass {

2

18

SOLAR SYSTEM: C# OORT CLOUD: F# C# G# C# SOLAR SYSTEM not OORT:
 Your plan- et - ar- y friends feel like they're in your head. I-ma-gin- er-y!

Guitar

Bass



21

SOLAR SYSTEM: G# OORT CLOUD: A# C# ERIS: F#
 — But real - y... The So - lar Sy - stem is lo -

Guitar

Bass



23

SOLAR SYSTEM: C# SOLAR SYSTEM not ERIS: C# F# C# ERIS:
 cat - ed on your arm. One of sever - al... Arms, in fact..

Guitar

Bass

26 C# F# G# C# F# C# G# C# F# G# C# F# G# C# F#
MILKY WAY What's mirror? I never know what I look like...
URANUS: Check a mirror! URANUS: It's the thing to check what you look like! SATURN: Neither do we. But take it from us, we know you're beautiful on the inside!
SOLAR SYSTEM
Guitar {
Mandolin {
Guitar {
Bass {

This musical score page contains five staves. The top staff is for the MILKY WAY, featuring lyrics in a vocal style. The second staff is for the SOLAR SYSTEM, also with lyrics. The third staff is for the Guitar. The fourth staff is for the Mandolin, showing a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth-note groups. The bottom staff is for the Bass. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats), and the time signature is common time (indicated by 'C'). Measure numbers 26 and 27 are present above the staves. The vocal parts include lyrics such as 'What's mirror?', 'I never know what I look like...', 'Check a mirror!', 'It's the thing to check what you look like!', and 'Neither do we. But take it from us, we know you're beautiful on the inside!'.

32

MILKY WAY

SOLAR SYSTEM:

Guitar

Mandolin

Guitar

Bass

Scu-tum-Crux arm. Per-se-us arm. Nor-ma, Cyg-nus.



37

MILKY WAY

SOLAR SYSTEM:

Guitar

Bass

Sag-it-tar-i-us. Arm and heart. We're home on the O - ri-on.

41

MILKY WAY C# - F# - B C# F# B

SOLAR SYSTEM (8) They're not planets and you don't need to imagine. We hid a present in your waves.

OORT CLOUD: You are Magellanic.

Arm so small and so min- or.

Mandolin {

Guitar {

Bass {



44

MILKY WAY F# C# F# B C# F# B C# I gravitate my feelings...

SOLAR SYSTEM (8) OORT CLOUD: Like you, they have existed from the beginning of time. They signify perseverance and longevity- Don't eat your natural satellites!

Mandolin {

Guitar {

Bass {

F# B C# F# B C# C#

Parsecs no work like that.
Parsecs distance, not time.

MILKY WAY

47

SOLAR SYSTEM

You ellipsoid... Go ahead and have a taste
of the Local Group while you're at it. Cook
Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs.I'm parsecs away
from losing it.JUPITER: It's the nature of Galaxies...
They'll eat everything.
SATURN: Like us gas giants. We're
persons too after all!

Mandolin

Guitar

Bass



C# C# D#m G# C# G# A#m G# C# C# G# C# F#

Adolescent cracks.

MILKY WAY

51

ERIS: Like you said, Oort Cloud: Milky Way
has always been a person. But they have
reached a new stage in personhood.

I now have warp, waves,

SOLAR SYSTEM

Guitar

Bass

58

MILKY WAY

C# G# C# F# A# C# F# G# F#

and wrinkle-s. I live with it. Warp, ____ waves, and wrinkle-s.

Guitar

Bass

==

63

MILKY WAY

F# G# C# C# C# C#

A clean adult.

I love my-self.

Guitar

Mandolin

Guitar

Bass

67

Guitar { C# C# D#m G# C# G# A#m

Mandolin {

Guitar {

Bass {



71

SOLAR SYSTEM { G# C# C# SOLAR SYSTEM D#m G# F# G# A#m G#

SOLAR SYSTEM { 8 Ha-lo friend and our home. Pro-tec-tor and our ride.

Guitar {

Mandolin {

Guitar {

Bass {

76

SOLAR SYSTEM

C# C# D#m G# F# G# C# F A♭ D♭

Hitch-hik-er and the on - ly way out of our... Warp, waves,

Guitar

Guitar

Bass

9

≡

82

SOLAR SYSTEM

E♭ D♭ D♭ E♭ A♭ C♯ C♯

and wrink-les! We love it all!

Guitar

Mandolin

Guitar

Bass

10

86

Guitar { C# C# C# C# D#m G# C#

Mandolin { C# C# C# C# C# C# C#

Guitar { [C#] [C#] [C#] [C#] [C#] [C#] [C#]

Bass { C# C# C# C# C# C# C#

==

91

MILKY WAY { G# A#m C#

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

SOLAR SYSTEM { Our warp, waves, and

SOLAR SYSTEM { Our warp, waves, and

Guitar { C# C# C# C# C# C# C#

Mandolin { C# C# C# C# C# C# C#

94 C# Lightly G# A#m G# C# 11

MILKY WAY

SOLAR SYSTEM

Guitar

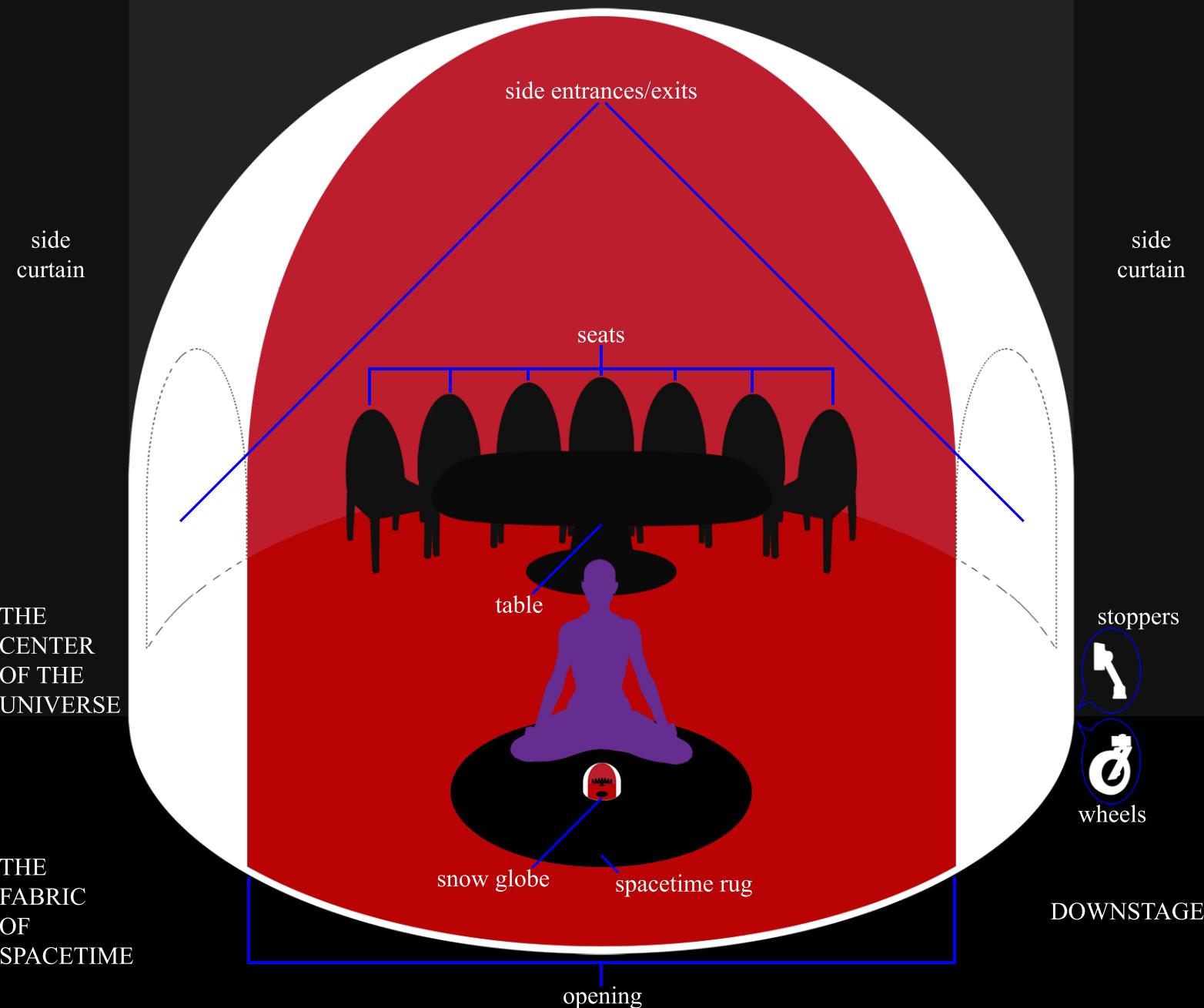
Mandolin

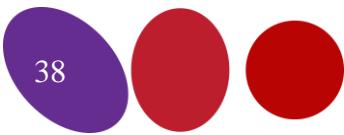
Guitar

Bass

This musical score page contains five staves. The top two staves are vocal parts: 'MILKY WAY' and 'SOLAR SYSTEM'. The vocal parts sing 'wrink-les!' in a melodic line. The third staff is for 'Guitar', which provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The fourth staff is for 'Mandolin', showing a more melodic line with sixteenth-note patterns. The fifth staff is for 'Guitar' and 'Bass', where the bass part provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The vocal parts sing 'wrink-les!' in a melodic line. The vocal parts sing 'wrink-les!' in a melodic line.

THE ELLIPSES / DOME HOME



**JD**

Zilch— Big Bang Taser...?

(The TIDALs remain offstage. They are scared.)

TIDALs

Fall...

GRAVITY

Stun your nomy/mommy/daddy! Free me! No longer bound by family. Make *nothing* your legacy! End Singularity!

(ABELL briefly stands up from their seat.)

[End of “Zilch”.]

(SINGULARITY yells and slaps offstage.)

SINGULARITY

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

(JD hides the Big Bang Taser under the rug.)

(SINGULARITY enters.)

SINGULARITY

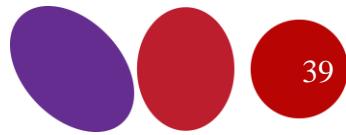
Something wrong, my Capricorn? Tardigrades and Elevators? I remember making this for you, twenty-something eternities ago. I guess, *nothing* really changes. Declinations, JD.

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

JD...

Why...?

SINGULARITY

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

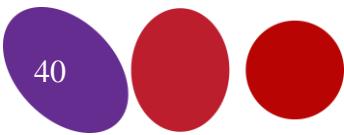
JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

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



JD

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

SINGULARITY

Fine. I’ll... I’ll answer *why*. So long as I pass over what you sai—

JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It became *apparent* that I had to leave my parents.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

There is *nothing* to them, Bạch Hổ. 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

Stop making light—

JD

I need to shed my light.

JD

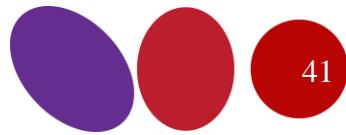
Light isn’t made. It’s passed down. And I’m not. There’s not enough space. That’s why I’m shedding.

SINGULARITY

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

(Handing the monocular to JD. They point out.)

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

**JD**

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

SINGULARITY

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

(JD scopes out the Edge, longing for ABELL.)

JD

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

6. LUMINOUS

(SINGULARITY takes back the monocular.)

SINGULARITY

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

(The TEEN GALAXIES enter in alignment.)

SINGULARITY

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.
LUMINOUS.
TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.
I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.
LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.
WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

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

[End of "Luminous".]



(*GRAVITY rushes in. They scatter the TEEN GALAXIES. They scratch up the rug.*)

(*SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.*)

SINGULARITY

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're destroying the family rug! Its spacetime fabric is passed down from my parents...

Gravity... For the last time, you've let down this family. You entitled dog... I'm putting you down for eternity.

(*JD grabs the Big Bang Taser from the rug.*)

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

JD

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

7. BIG BANG

SINGULARITY

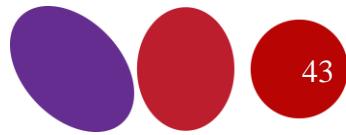
YOU ARE A BIG...

(*JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.*)

(*SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek and jerk in place.*)

SINGULARITY

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.



[The light fluctuates within the home. Appliances may short circuit and spark.]

(The TIDALs bark from offstage. They repeat.)

TIDALs

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALs

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

(The TIDALs freely rush out. They make JD turn to what is outside.)

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

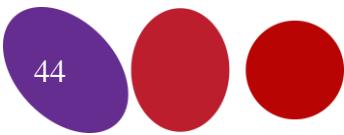
[It's the beginning of the Universe as we know it.]

(JD gently walks to the edge of the home to look out, shifting from grief to wonder. They extend the Big Bang Taser through the opening of the home. They stow it away. They are surprised to step out onto the stage. They look back at their petrified siblings.)

JD

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

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



JD

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

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

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

(The TIDALs anxiously step out of the home. They suddenly unleash and scatter away.)

GRAVITY

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

(JD stands, grateful to have a travel buddy.)

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

(Most of the TEEN GALAXIEs step away from SINGULARITY to watch the Universe unravel, while MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themself around the lifeless SINGULARITY.)

TEEN GALAXIEs

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE
OUT WITH THE
BIG BANG...

[End of “Big Bang”.]

(GRAVITY and JD run in place.)

[The home moves upstage, out of view.]



[*The Fabric of Spacetime*]

(*MILKY WAY exhaustively drifts in.*)

MILKY WAY

My tummy hurts... Need Crunch Time with family. Milky Way for...

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's head.*)

EARTH

Forgotten?

MILKY WAY

Imaginary friends?

ERIS

No, we're your planetary friends.

EARTH

I'm not.

PLANETs not EARTH

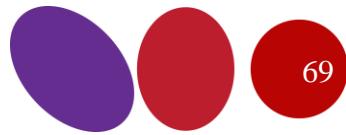
No one is asking you, Earth.

ERIS

Don't give up. You're not the only one forgotten. Everyone knows Pluto. But I'm cooler, literally. I'm Eris and I should be the heiress/heir-no-less of the dwarf planets. You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are larger than many.

JUPITER

You most certainly are a massive spiral Galaxy.



SATURN

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER

Go play with your ring.

SATURN

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

URANUS

Two. In fact.

JUPITER

SATURN

You are a two.

(Laughing.)

SUN

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

URANUS

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the butt of the joke!

MILKY WAY

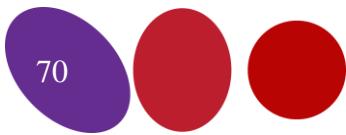
You have a son?

URANUS

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

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

**EARTH**

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

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

ERIS

Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. But you're not in the inner circle like Earth is. Trust me as I make my way around the Kuiper Belt. I hate my elliptical orbit. One decade, you're with your family. The next centuries, you're a rogue planet.

MILKY WAY

Patience. Only a millennium.

EARTH

Oh yeah, you're a Galaxy. The frame of time is dilated for you. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last time you were in your family's orbit was... 13.81 billion years ago. As a Galaxy, do you hate being an oval?

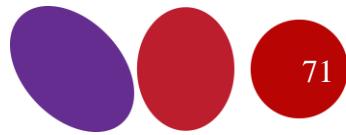
SUN

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

EARTH

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

(MILKY WAY feels their body and face.)



ERIS

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. They may be the perfect 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. Just like Oort Cloud, who I want you to meet.

OORT CLOUD

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

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

*(MILKY WAY gracelessly and half-melodically bellows with cracks.
They suddenly hiccup.)*

EARTH

Milky Way warped themself!

(The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts into laughter.)

(MILKY WAY bursts into tears.)

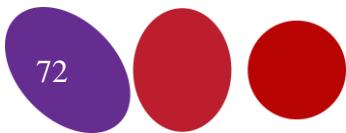
MILKY WAY

I hate myself...

OORT CLOUD

All the use crying, Milky Way. Let it out. Melk of celestial kindness. There is a pattern here. You show a huge quality.

(MILKY WAY examines their physical self.)



OORT CLOUD (cont.)

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

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

There are people in me.

PLANETs not EARTH

Cut your hubris, Earth!

OORT CLOUD

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

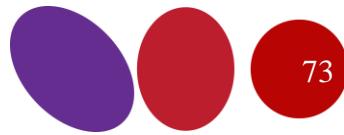
MILKY WAY

Sing it.

OORT CLOUD

You must first, own it.

(MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM puppets.)



13. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

SOLAR SYSTEM

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

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

SOLAR SYSTEM

IMAGINARY!

OORT CLOUD

BUT REALLY...

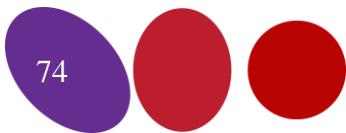
ERIS

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM

ONE OF SEVERAL...

(Extra arms extend out behind MILKY WAY. They are unaware of these arms.)

**ERIS**

ARMS, IN FACT.

URANUS

Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY

What's mirror?

URANUS

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

MILKY WAY

I never know what I look like...

(The extra arms shake MILKY WAY's hands.)

PLANETs not EARTH

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

(The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake each hand.)

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.

PERSEUS ARM.

NORMA, CYGNUS.

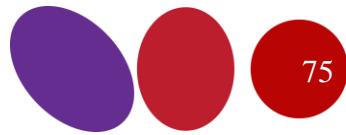
SAGITTARIUS,

ARM AND HEART.

WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.

ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

[A tiny arm pops out.]



OORT CLOUD

You are Magellanic.

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

(MILKY WAY digs into their dress. They pull out two magnolia flowers.)

OORT CLOUD

Like you, they have existed from the beginning of time. They signify perseverance and longevity—

(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)

OORT CLOUD

Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds.)

I gravitate my feelings...

OORT CLOUD

You ellipsoid... Go ahead and have a taste of the Local Group while you're at it. Cook Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs.

MILKY WAY

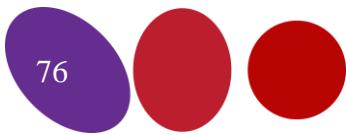
Parsecs no work like that. Parsecs distance, not time.

OORT CLOUD

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

JUPITER

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



SATURN

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

ERIS

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

(MILKY WAY sings with cracks and flaws.)

MILKY WAY

I NOW HAVE
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.
I LIVE WITH IT.

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Deepening voice.)

I LOVE MYSELF.

(The extra arms⁶ may hug MILKY WAY.)

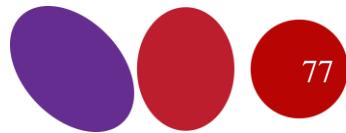
(Many SOLAR SYSTEMs spiral in. These dancers resemble known and unknown stars and planets, while EARTH drags their feet. They orbit MILKY WAY like the spiral arms around a supermassive black hole of a Galaxy. One dancer places a halo on MILKY WAY's head.)

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!

⁶ Avalokiteshvara, the multi-armed Buddhist deity who embodies compassion. Religious imageries make this song.

**SUN**

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

(*MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMs lower a bit in distress.
They confidently resume.*)

MILKY WAY

SOLAR SYSTEMs

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

[End of “Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles”.]

[*The stage goes red as though the Sun has become a red giant and
is 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 suddenly feels a headache. They touch their
forehead. They take their hand off to reveal a zit on their forehead.*)

MILKY WAY

W— W— N— Wr—

OORT CLOUD

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

(*MILKY WAY passes out on the ground.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)

Jay Lucas Chacon

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EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAMS

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Bachelor of Arts in Music | Minor in Religious Studies 2003-06
Shrine of the Ages Choir, opera theater assistant, choir historian

Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ

Vocal Music studies 2000-03
A Cappella choir, Chamber choir, musical theater workshop, section leader

Saint Petersburg Opera Company, Saint Petersburg, FL 2016

Emerging Artists Program
Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Bella Voce Gala (selections from *Rent*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*), promotional performances and events.

Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Cedar Rapids, IA 2015

Resident Artist Program
Inkeeper/Governor in *Man of La Mancha*, promotional performances and events.

ORGANIZATIONS/ARTS ADMINISTRATION

Theater Resources Unlimited, New York, NY 2018-present
Staff administrator, membership relations, accounts payables/receivables, panel moderator, board monitor

Modern Singer Magazine, remote 2018-2020
Staff writer

Spotlight on Opera, Austin, TX 2009-II
Production assistant, stagehand, event coordinator

Austrian American Mozart Academy, Salzburg, AT 2007
Singer, resident liaison, event coordinator

ARTS EDUCATION

The Leadership Program, New York, NY 2019-21
Drama club, vocal instruction

Bronx Opera Outreach, Bronx, NY 2018-20
Music Appreciation, Dance

Camerata Piccola, New York, NY 2018-20
Performances of children's operas: *Peter Rabbit*, *Rumplestiltskin* followed by talkback

On Site Opera, New York, NY 2020
Performances of children's opera: *The Tale of the Silly Baby Mouse* followed by talkback

Prelude Opera, New York, NY 2019
Performances of children's Opera: *The Billy Goats Gruff* followed by talkback

Children's Philharmonia, Verona, NJ 2019
Performances of children's Opera: *The Magic Flute* (Papageno)

PUBLICATIONS

Modern Singer Magazine

<i>The 10 People You Will Inevitably Meet At A Summer Program</i>	06/2018
<i>New Camerata Opera: A Company Serving The Community</i>	09/2018
<i>Where to Find Studio Space in New York City</i>	11/2018
<i>Three Pieces of Advice for Times of Struggle</i>	12/2018
<i>How To Enjoy NYC During Audition Season</i>	12/2018
<i>Application Advice From the Other Side of the Screen</i>	07/2019
<i>Should Your Sing For Free?</i>	07/2020

PROFESSIONAL CHOIR

Fort Washington Choir, New York, NY	2018-20
Professional singer, section leader	
Union Church Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY	2018-present
Bass section leader, soloist	
Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO	2011-14
Bass section leader, soloist	
University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX	2006-11
Bass section leader, soloist	
Winter Opera St. Louis	2012-13
Chorister: Ballad of Baby Doe, Tosca, La Bohème	
Austin (Lyric) Opera	2007-II
Chorister, Carmen, Die Fledermaus, La Cenerentola, Rigoletto, Dialogues des Carmelites, La Bohème, L'etoile, La Traviata, L'Italiana in Algeri.	

PERFORMANCES

OPERA

Svegliato/Notaio	<i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia (Paisiello)</i>	Caramoor Festival(COVID)
Brently	<i>Story of an Hour (Valenti)</i>	Gramercy Opera
Benito	<i>El Barbero de Sevilla</i>	New Camerata Opera
Rodolfo	<i>La Bohème (Leoncavallo)</i>	Canadian Vocal Arts Institute
Alfio	<i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>	Brooklyn Philharmonia Chorus
Richard	<i>La Farranucci (Chesky)</i>	Operavocateur Productions
Sandrino	<i>La Cifra (Salieri)</i>	dell'Arte Opera Ensemble
Soldier	<i>Sorrows of Frederick (Wheeler)</i>	Center for Contemporary Opera
Schaunard	<i>La Bohème</i>	Long Island Opera Company
Marco/ Schicchi (cv)	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	City Lyric Opera
Marullo	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Teatro Lirico d'Europa
Marchese d'Obigny	<i>La Traviata</i>	MidAtlantic Opera Company
Figaro	<i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>	Manhattan Opera Studio
The Count	<i>Capriccio</i>	Apotheosis Opera
Barone Duphol	<i>La Traviata</i>	Adelphi Orchestra
George Page	<i>Sir John in Love</i>	Bronx Opera
King Melchior	<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>	Brooklyn Philharmonia

Handsome	<i>La Fanciulla del West</i>	Apotheosis Opera
Schaunard (cv)	<i>La Bohème</i>	St. Petersburg Opera Company
Figaro	<i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i> (Paisiello)	dell'Arte Opera Ensemble
L'Horloge Comtiose	<i>L'enfant et les Sortilèges</i>	Utopia Opera
Il Registro	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Union Avenue Opera
Albert/Footman	<i>The Ballad of Baby Doe</i>	Winter Opera St. Louis

CONCERT/ORATORIO

Featured Soloist	<i>Bach Der Herr denket an uns</i>	Queens Consort
Featured Soloist	<i>Handel Messiah</i>	Brooklyn Philharmonia Chorus
Featured Soloist	<i>Brahms Ein Deutshces Requiem</i>	Brooklyn Philharmonia Chorus
Performer	<i>Black and White Gala</i>	New Camerata Opera
Recitalist	<i>Let's Just Sing</i>	Cornelia Street Café
Performer	<i>Les belles et les beaux:</i>	dell'Arte Opera Ensemble
Recitalist	<i>A Beaumarchais Concert</i>	
	<i>From Bach to Berg:</i>	Cornelia Street Café
Recitalist	<i>A Tribute to Dietrich Fischer Dieskau</i>	
Featured Soloist	<i>American Composer: Jake Heggie</i>	Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist	<i>Vaughn Williams Songs of Travel</i>	Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist	<i>Música Hispánica</i>	Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist	<i>Way Off Broadway</i>	Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist	<i>From Bach to Berg:</i>	Tavern of Fine Arts
Featured Soloist	<i>A Tribute to Dietrich Fischer Dieskau</i>	
Featured Soloist	<i>duBois Seven Last Words of Christ</i>	University Presbyterian Church
Featured Soloist	<i>Faure Requiem</i>	University Presbyterian Church
Featured Soloist	<i>Bach A Christmas Oratorio</i>	Franco-American Vocal Academy
Featured Soloist	<i>Ravel Don Quichotte à Dulcinée</i>	Franco-American Vocal Academy
Featured Soloist	<i>Duruflé Requiem</i>	University Presbyterian Church
Baritone Soloist	<i>Brahms Neue Liebeslieder</i>	Northern Arizona University
Featured Soloist	<i>Handel Messiah</i>	Northern Arizona University
Featured Soloist	<i>Handel Messiah</i>	Sun Valley Chorale
Baritone Soloist	<i>Brahms Ein Deutshces Requiem</i>	Mesa Symphony

MUSICAL THEATER

Innkeeper/Governor	<i>Man of La Mancha</i>	Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre
Swing	<i>Parade</i>	TheaterWorks
Enoch Snow	<i>Carousel</i>	Act I Productions
Man 2	<i>Closer Than Ever</i>	Act I Productions
Plant Patron	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Act I Productions
Harry the Horse	<i>Guys n Dolls</i>	Act I Productions

STRAIGHT THEATER

Judge Gaffney	<i>Harvey</i>	NAU Theater
Buddhist Priest	<i>The Water Children</i>	Theater Outback
Jerry	<i>Zoo Story</i>	Theater Outback
Robert	<i>The Blind Date</i>	Theater Outback

FILM

Duc du Durfort	<i>Julie</i> (George)
Anatoly	<i>The CHESS Project</i>
Rodolfo (Act 3)	<i>La Bohème</i> (Leoncavallo)
Performer	<i>Crossing Paths</i>
Host	<i>the Spirit of Christmas: a holiday special</i>
Recitalist	<i>Singing-in-Place</i>

CamerataWorks
ViOp Productions
ViOp Productions
ViOp Productions
ViOp Productions
ViOp Productions
Online Recital Series

EDUCATIONAL/COMMUNITY THEATER

Koko	<i>The Mikado</i>
Ford (cv)	<i>Falstaff</i>
Zuniga	<i>Carmen</i>
Sam	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>
Mr. Gobineau	<i>The Medium</i>
Alfio	<i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>
Samuel	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>
Gianni Schicchi	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>
Lindorf/Dr. Miracle	<i>Les contes d'Hoffmann</i>
Il Conte	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>
Gianni Schicchi	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>
Chris	<i>The Mother of us all</i>
Dr. Falke	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>
Figaro/Antonio	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>
Orphée	<i>Orphée aux Enfer</i>
Orphée	<i>Orphée aux Enfer</i>
Monostatos	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>
Edwin	<i>Trial by Jury</i>
Guglielmo	<i>Così fan tutte</i>
Figaro	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>

Winter Opera St. Louis
Spotlight on Opera
St. Edwards Symphony
Spotlight on Opera
Butler Opera Center
Butler Opera Center
Butler Opera Center
Butler Opera Center
Austrian American Mozart Academy
Austrian American Mozart Academy
Franco American Vocal Academy
Butler Opera Center
Austrian American Mozart Academy
Flagstaff Light Opera Company
Austrian American Mozart Academy
NAU Opera

DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



EL LIP SES

Book, Music, and Lyrics
DAVID QUANG PHAM

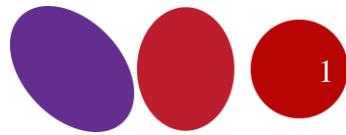
Narrative Dramaturgy
JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY

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  [tumblr.](#) @EllipsesPlay

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For Dr. Edwin Din Loh
The Author's Longtime Instructor
Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Michigan State University

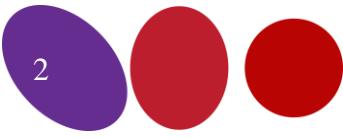




ELLIPSES

The Multiverse
in an Opera
by
David Quang Pham

ELLIPSES developed under the 2020-2021 Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship. At the time, Amber Bradshaw was the Managing Artistic Director, Aliyah Curry was the Rosalind-Ayres Williams Memorial Scholarship recipient, and David Quang Pham was the second apprentice. This play was conceived in their first class: Addae Moon's "Generating Story Ideas." The initial characters were Singularity, Milky Way, Andromeda, Triangulum, Whirlpool, Mice, and JD. The working title was WORKING TIDAL in the spirit of WTP and tidal forces. ELLIPSES was uncovered in Pham's geometric theme in all their work. The elliptical colors are celestially inspired by their alma mater's (Wyoming High) purple, WTP's red, and their favorite color. Jordan Alexandria Ealey is the dramaturg, Curry is the initial director, and Alexis 'Lexi' McKay is the initial stage manager.



WORKING TITLE



THANK YOU

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Edward Brown, Danny Caballero, Dionne O'Dell, Denise Troutman	Professors of Physics and Astronomy Professors of Theatre or Writing
<u>Janelle Lawrence</u>	Musical Theatre Mentor
<u>Amber Bradshaw</u>	Apprenticeship Facilitator
<u>Emily McClain</u>	First Reader
<u>Alexis McKay</u>	Fireworks/Stage Manager
<u>Jordan Alexandria Ealey</u>	Hat/Dramaturg
<u>Aliyah Curry</u>	Butterfly/Director
<u>Parris Sarter*</u>, <u>Minka Wiltz*</u>	Singularity
<u>Vallea E. Woodbury</u>	Gravity
<u>Daniela Cobb*</u>	SPT0615-JD
<u>Jason-Jamal Ligon</u>	Cartwheel
<u>Skye Passmore</u>	Whirlpool
<u>Abby Holland</u>	Triangulum
<u>Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel</u>	Andromeda
<u>Evan Phillips</u>	Milky Way
<u>Kait Rivas</u>	Tidals
<u>Sofia Palmero*</u>	Narrator
<u>Kate Leanne Jacoby*</u>	Understudy
Isake Akanke, Robert Bryan Davis, Jeff Hathcoat ² , Ebony Jerry, Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor ² , Lee Osorio ² , Mary Lynn Owen, Lau'rie Roach, Imani Vaughn-Jones ²	Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*



DEVELOPMENT

- August 2020 — July 2021: Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship
 - October 5, 2020: Reading with Talkback of the first 11 pages at the Monday Night Critique Sessions
 - December 7, 2020: Reading with Talkback of the first 11 pages of the second act at the Monday Night Critique Sessions
 - February 1, 2021: Reading with Talkback of “Zilch” to “Big Bang” at the Monday Night Development Workshops
 - May 3, 2021: Reading with Talkback of “Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles” at the Monday Night Development Workshops
 - July 15, 2021: Concert Reading with Talkback backed by WTP
- June 2021 — ongoing: Theater Resources Unlimited Workshops
 - June 13, 2021: How to Write a Musical That Works – Part One: The World and the Want Workshop with Talkback



PLOT SUMMARY

An epic science mythology, ELLIPSES centers on the Galaxy family and their quest to undo the Big Bang, after Gravity sets it off. This coming-of-age opera follows a young adult and their dog running away from home. SPT0615-JD and Gravity, a tidal force, journey to the Edge of our Universe. The story explores the Big Crunch Theory and Hubble's Law, which states that Galaxies must distance from the Center. They are human, as we want to get out. The analogy is expressed through these cosmic personifications. A dome represents the Center, the stage is space, and the fourth wall is the Edge. Our Universe is truly a family drama in play.

The Galaxies begin their routine by scoping out towards the Edge ("[Bounce](#)"). Their parent calls them up for supper. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at this family gathering ("[Crunch](#)"). JD remains looking out, tangentially wanting to go to the Edge ("[Cutting Edge](#)"). They see their legacy as apparent. However, Singularity speaks of its perils. In retaliation, Gravity fights Singularity to go outside but ends up getting grounded in the doghouse. As the siblings head off to bed, JD and Milky Way discuss growing up ("[Figure](#)").

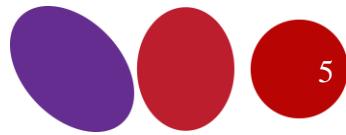
After Milky Way goes to bed, JD hears Gravity persuading them to search the rug. JD finds Singularity's Big Bang Taser stashed underneath and deems the Fabric of Spacetime to be just as sturdy ("[Zilch](#)"). Later, Singularity assesses their children's black-hole hearts ("[Luminous](#)"). With this being the final straw, JD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. Singularity goes lifeless. In the chaos, JD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing away. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away ("[Big Bang](#)"). At this start of the Universe, Gravity and JD enjoy themselves ("[Verse](#)").

Meanwhile, the teen Galaxies mourn ("[Rip](#)"). They realize that they must get a move on and undo the Big Bang. Because there is no longer Crunch Time, they may starve without Singularity's care and with the Universe thinning itself out. Triangulum manages to convince the family to bring JD home ("[Anomaly is Everything](#)"). Triangulum decides to journey out to the Edge with Andromeda. They instruct Cartwheel and Whirlpool to babysit Milky Way. However, they leave Milky Way behind. Eventually, they decide to return home to be present for their baby sibling ("[Time is Relative](#)"). But they find that Milky Way has left to wander the Universe alone ("[Big Rip](#)").

Isolated and alone, Milky Way talks to their planetary friends about physically growing up ("[Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles](#)"). Eventually, Triangulum and Andromeda find Milky Way in an exhausted state of adolescence ("[Globular](#)"). The Solar System has developed into a swelling. Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. As a result, Milky Way becomes a Quasar, leading the teen Galaxies to be reunited ("[Fabric](#)").

A trillion years pass, and Gravity and JD are still traversing space. They find time to play fetch, and Gravity catches on JD's fugue. Through a stellar speech, Gravity explains that the point of return is far-fetched ("[Far-Fetched](#)").

From the cosmic beyond, Singularity sings ("[Point](#)").



In the following act, Singularity's backstory is presented. Apparently, they themself ran away from their own Universe ("Heat Death"). An eternity passes, and Gravity and JD hit a wall while looking for the Edge. Gravity believes that one can overcome it by relaxing ("Parallax"). In that spirit, the Edge unveils ("Tangent"). Surrounded by spectacles that reminds them of family, JD decides to head back and take the Edge with them. Gravity feels betrayed as they fought hard for the wide-open space, only for it to be a singularity again. Gravity wounds JD and JD is left to return home alone, unrolling the Edge ("...").

JD stumbles upon their siblings' campsite. The teen Galaxies have been caging tidal dogs. JD releases them but is caught ("Bounce Back"). JD blames Gravity for the Big Bang. The Galaxies believe JD and returns home to heal them ("Everything").

JD tries to adjust to life as a caretaker but ends up being a dropout ("Apparent"). In these millennia of grief, Milky Way jolts Singularity back to life ("Spacetime"). Singularity looks beyond the Edge to find JD shedding light in their Ellipse ("Liminality").

All of a sudden in JD's honor, Gravity returns with a wolfpack. The Galaxies and the tidal forces end time in this epic showdown ("The Big Rip of Zenith"). When all is lost, Singularity and their Galaxies pray at their table in the Center of our Universe as the tidal forces consume them ("Big Crunch"). In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again ("Big Bounce").

The supermassive heart of the story is the Big Bang Theory and finding oneself in the nothingness, as an anomaly and a family. ELLIPSES answers: "What is family? What is growing up?"

Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship presents
a concert reading of a science musical about family

ELLIPSES

Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM
Dramaturgy by JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY

Directed by ALIYAH CURRY
Managed by ALEXIS MCKAY
Moderated by AMBER BRADSHAW
Narrated by SOFIA PALMERO
Performed by the Star-Studded Cast

ONLINE VIA ZOOM
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021
SHOW · 6:30PM ET | TALKBACK · 9PM ET
ELLIPSESPLAY.COM



PARRIS SARTER VALLEA E. WOODBURY
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
Tidals

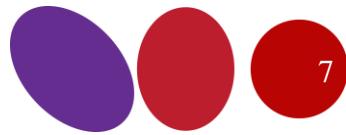
CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Astronomy ○ ○ Casting from historically excluded racial minorities is recommended ○

<u>Character</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Identity</u>
SINGULARITY The relativistically impossible single parent. Singularity wants to keep all the luminosity within the liminality.	Super Infinite Black Hole	Adult
GRAVITY A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground and free up the wide-open space.	Tidal Force	Any
SPT0615-JD The prophetic galactic sibling. JD wants to shed light and be apparent to their lightless legacy.	Embryonic Galaxy	Young Adult
CARTWHEEL The aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to earn their ring.	Ring Galaxy	Teen
WHIRLPOOL The anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to spiral into enlightenment.	Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy	Teen
TRIANGULUM The jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role model.	Spiral Galaxy	Teen
ANDROMEDA The scenic galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find the pearl in our oysterous Universe.	Spiral Galaxy	Teen
MILKY WAY The angelic galactic sibling. Milky Way wants their voice to be all that it is cracked up to be.	Barred Spiral Galaxy	Preteen

<u>Ensembles</u>	<u>MULTPLICITIES*</u>	<u>SOLAR SYSTEMs</u>
TIDALs	Invariant Fix	Sun (Singularity) Earth (ensemble) Jupiter (Whirlpool) Saturn (Cartwheel) Uranus (Triangulum) Eris (JD) Oort Cloud (Andromeda)
ABELL 2261 An anomalous galactic sweetheart beyond the Edge of the Universe. Abell is SPT0615-JD's timely loved one in the audience.	Elliptical Galaxy	Child

*



TIDALS

Tidals are tidal forces personified as canines. Over the course of the story, the dogs evolve into wolves.

The barks and woofs of Tidals are uttered by barking: "Force." Their howls are uttered by howling: "Fall." Singularity and most Galaxies cannot converse with the Tidals. JD can understand the tidal language through Gravity.

MULTIPLICITIES

Multiplicities are coupled Galaxies seated in the audience of the theatre. Invariant and Fix are Singularity's parents. Singularity was born and raised by them in another universe. In that universe, Galaxies do not have a heart and are constantly shedding light. Singularity was an anomaly there, as they hold light within their inescapable heart. Big Bang Tasers are produced by these Multiplicities, as they are laws of physics enforcers in a universe made up entirely of electricity. In "Heat Death," the Multiplicities cry out for Singularity, after Singularity runs away to our Universe.

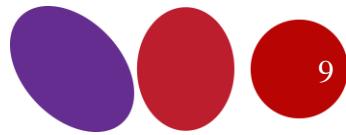
SOLAR SYSTEMS

Solar Systems are celestial bodies that speak to Milky Way when they wander the Universe alone. They are like imaginary friends, before these planetary friends physically come to life as puppets and dancers. During the first act, they speak for several billion years (quarter-hour staging time) before the Sun becomes a red giant (zit). Any set of cast members may voice the general Solar System. The principal casts are marked in parentheses for convenient doubling.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

<u>#</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Characters</u>	<input type="radio"/> Present/Unvocal <input type="radio"/> Vocal/Unpresent
1.	16	<u>Bounce</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES	
2.	22	<u>Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES JD GRAVITY <i>tidals</i>	
3.	23	<u>Cutting Edge</u>	GALAXIES GRAVITY SINGULARITY	
4.	34	<u>Figure</u>	JD MILKY WAY	
5.	37	<u>Zilch</u>	JD GRAVITY <i>tidals</i>	
6.	41	<u>Luminous</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES	
7.	42	<u>Big Bang</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES GRAVITY <i>tidals</i>	
8.	45	<u>Verse</u>	JD GRAVITY SINGULARITY	
9.	47	<u>Rip</u>	TEEN GALAXIES SINGULARITY	
10.	52	<u>Anomaly is Everything</u>	TEEN GALAXIES	
11.	61	<u>Time is Relative</u>	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL	
12.	67	<u>Big Rip</u>	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL <i>tidals</i> SINGULARITY	
13.	73	<u>Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</u>	MILKY WAY solar systems	
14.	78	<u>Globular</u>	ANDROMEDA TRIANGULUM	
15.	80	<u>Fabric</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY <i>tidals</i>	
16.	86	<u>Far-Fetched</u>	GRAVITY JD <i>tidals</i>	
17.	90	<u>Point</u>	SINGULARITY <i>tidals</i> multiplicities	
18.	93	<u>Heat Death</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities	
19.	104	<u>Parallax</u>	GRAVITY JD	
20.	107	<u>Tangent</u>	JD GRAVITY SINGULARITY	
21.	110	<u>...</u>	GRAVITY <i>tidals</i> JD	
22.	113	<u>Bounce Back</u>	GALAXIES GRAVITY <i>tidals</i>	
23.	120	<u>Everything</u>	GALAXIES	
24.	128	<u>Apparent (Shed Light)</u>	GALAXIES SINGULARITY GRAVITY <i>tidals</i>	
25.	130	<u>Spacetime</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES	
26.	131	<u>Liminality</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities GALAXIES ABELL	
27.	132	<u>(The Big Rip of) Zenith</u>	GRAVITY SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES <i>tidals</i>	
28.	138	<u>Big Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES <i>tidals</i>	
29.	141	<u>Big Bounce</u>	COMPANY	

Legend: Recorded | Scored | Not Yet Scored



MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS

*Due to the open-ended and androgynous nature of each character, there are no specified vocal ranges. In the scores, the treble clefs of the vocals are parenthesized with (8). It is up to the music director to adjust the octaves to fit the casting of each character.

SINGULARITY | The hums are the longing melodies in “Heat Death”: D3-5 B2-4 C#3-5 G#2-4 E2-4 F#2-4 G#2-4 F#2-4

TRIANGULUM | Associative Instruments: Triangle, Handbell

ANDROMEDA | Their Galaxy shanty has a default phrase of chord progressions. But they may be interpreted in any way the performer sees fit as recitative. They may scat sing “Globular.”

MILKY WAY | Associative Instrument: Cowbell (may be attached to Milky Way’s physicality or personality)

Diet: Eat or drink as many dairy products before the performance as one pleases. Disregard this if one is lactose intolerant.

CARTWHEEL | Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine, Jingle Bell

ABELL | Associative Instruments: Chimes

Leitmotif from “Able” whenever Abell is focused upon. “Able” is in any phrase in “Liminality”.

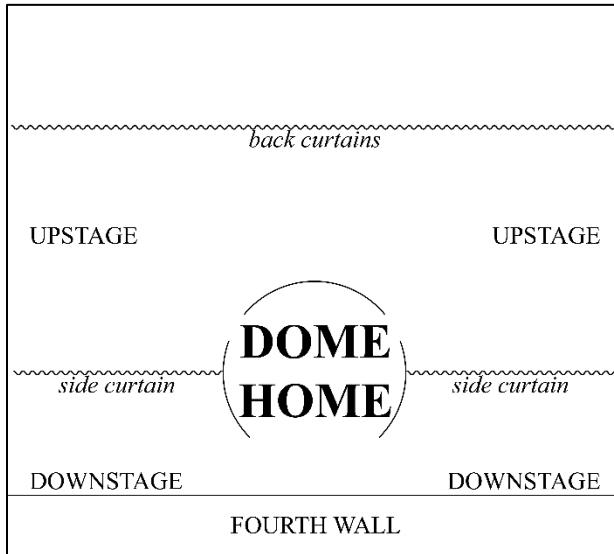
SCENES

<u>Act</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>SET props</u>
Ii	15	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME FIELD EQUATIONS RUG SEATS(7) TABLE Big Bang Taser dishes knapsack monocular snow globe whoopie cushion
Iii	45	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $f=ma$, $v=H_0*D$) knapsack
Iiii	47	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE Singularity's body
Iiv	56	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$) magnolia flowers(2) monocular
Iv	67	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE Singularity's body
Ivi	68	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS balls knapsack
Ivii	90	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE
IIi	93	Singularity's Past Universe	DOME HOME Big Bang Taser black fabric
IIii	101	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $d = 1/p$) knapsack
IIiii	107	The Edge of the Universe	ENCHANTED AND SOFT UNIVERSE knapsack
IIiv	113	The Continuum Checkpoint	3 DOMES [left: doghouse, central: sleeping quarters, right: command post] knapsack snow globe
IIv	122	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS(6) TABLE Big Bang Taser dishes mirror snow globe whoopie cushion
III	141	A Fresh Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE balls knapsack snow globe

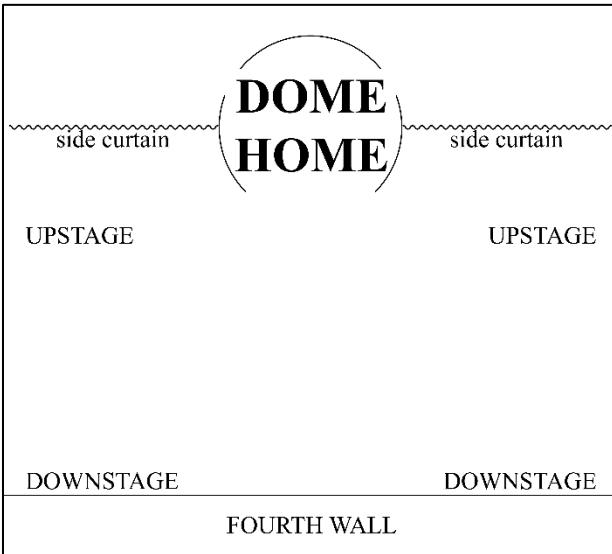
SETTINGS

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

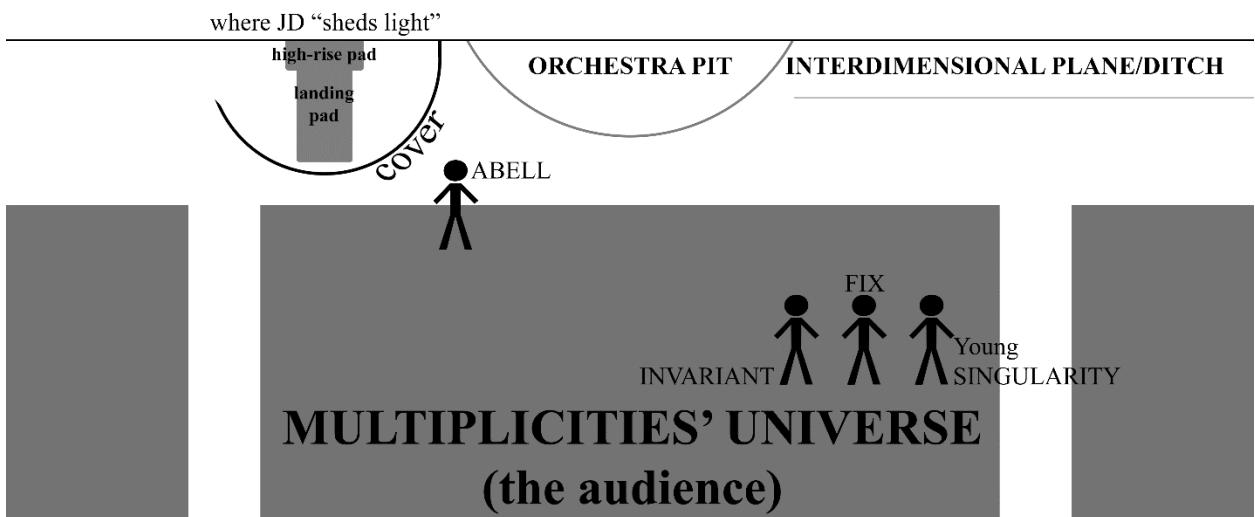
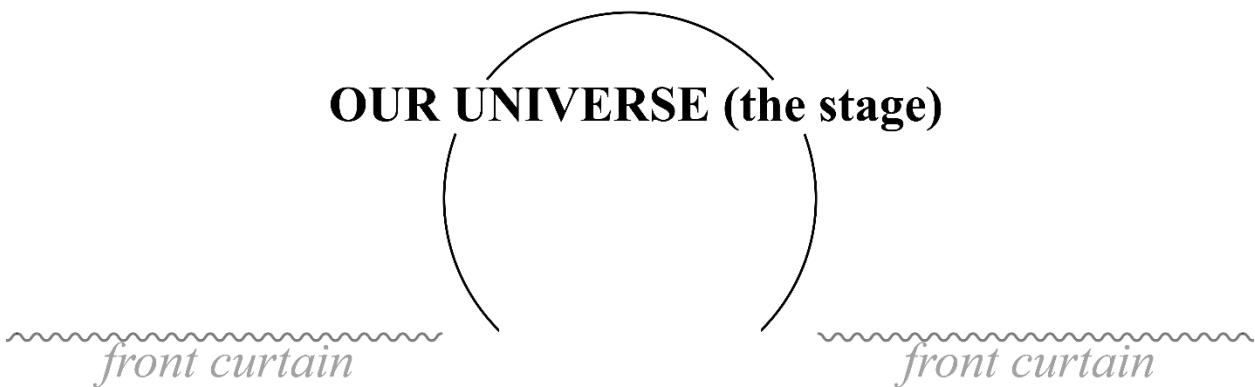
Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce



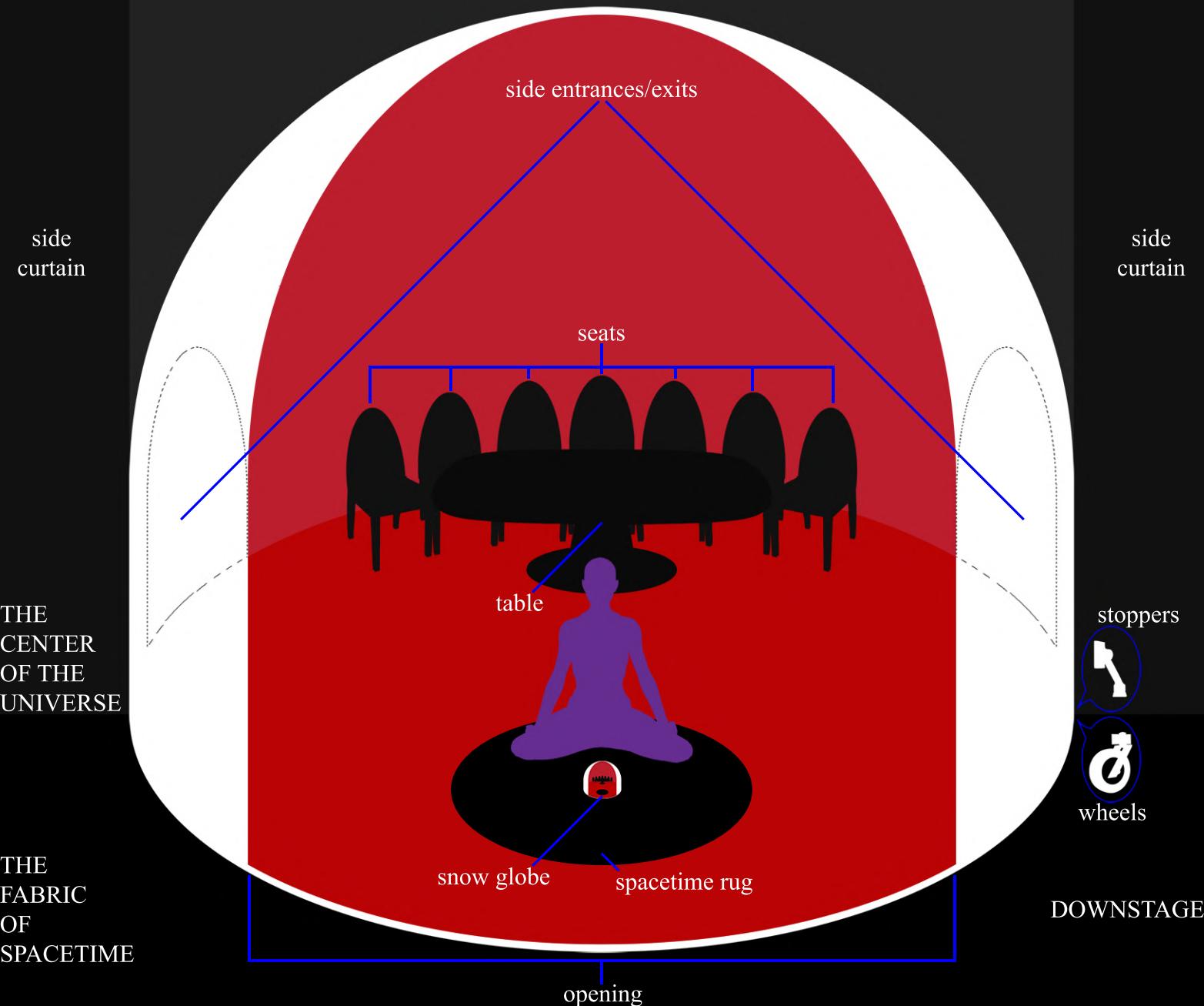
Post-Big Bang



OUR UNIVERSE (the stage)

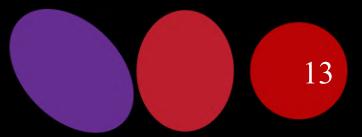


THE ELLIPSES / DOME HOME



THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

FOURTH WALL



13

THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

Doghouse



Sleeping Quarters

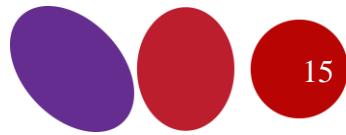


Command Post





ACT I



[The Center of the Universe]

[The Ellipse is positioned downstage center. There is a table with seats and a rug inside. Lights dwell solely within the Dome. Outside, the stage is mainly off limits. Everything upstage is concealed by the side curtains. Equations are teeming flowers in the space.]

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

(The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.)

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

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

(The TIDALS distantly whimper.)

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

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

(SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug, reversing the Universe. They look upon ABELL. They pound their chest.)

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

(Leaving through a side exit of the home.)

1. BOUNCE

(*JD enters, holding a monocular. They position themself 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!

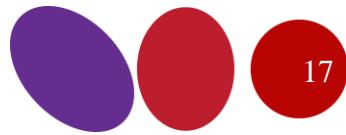
(*ANDROMEDA pops out.*)

(*CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.*)

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

(*MILKY WAY is disheveled. They stroll in.*)

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'...

(The TEEN GALAXIEs cluster towards the center.)

TEEN GALAXIEs

LET'S BOUNCE!

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

(SINGULARITY shouts from offstage.)

SINGULARITY

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

(MILKY WAY lugs their way to the table. ANDROMEDA heads to the table. TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They set the snow globe on the table. WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table. CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.)

SINGULARITY

JD!

(JD remains staring out at the Edge. They extend their arm out to ABELL.)

JD

ABELL...

(ABELL reaches out to JD.)

[End of “Bounce”.]

(*All TIDALs prowl in and surround the table.*)

(*SINGULARITY arrives with dishes. They bow.*)

SINGULARITY

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

(*Placing the dishes around the table.*)

(*GRAVITY narrates.*)

GRAVITY

Nothing comes close to family... Except “pets.” I’m Gravity. I’ve been in here for infinite dog years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family. We’ve long lived in this Ellipse. Singularity has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. This Dome is all they’ve ever known. Most kids aren’t much older than a dozen eternities, but one is nearing two. I like this one. This Ellipse is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy.

JD is on the edge. While their siblings see “nothing” out there, JD sees their future Ellipse in the nothingness. Beyond the Edge of the Universe. I sense that their dream is to have their own Ellipse. JD deserves a life of their own. What adult doesn’t want to leave the safety of their home to 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’s bark. They place a dish on the ground.*)

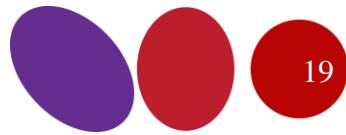
(*The TIDALs feast on the grounded dish.*)

(*MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.*)

(*The TEEN GALAXIES bow.*)

TEEN GALAXIES

Declinations, Singularity.



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

SINGULARITY

Sounds like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

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

(Touching the snow globe.)

ANDROMEDA

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

SINGULARITY

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

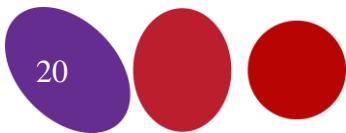
CARTWHEEL

Special for the trillionth millennium, you Bạch Hổ¹...

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.

¹ Bạch Hổ is Vietnamese for “white tiger,” sounds like “black hole,” and implies tiger parenting.



(*GRAVITY tries to grab TRIANGULUM's dish.*)

(*TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY.*)

TRIANGULUM

That is not for you to gravitate to. Stupid tidal force... Getting behind the ear because there's a vacuum in your head.

(*Unnervingly scratching GRAVITY's ear.*)

MILKY WAY

Throw dog a meteor. If tidal force wants swig, they can have spaghettification. Fix...? Who are good tidal forces? You all are!

(*Tossing invisible spaghetti at GRAVITY.*)

TIDALS

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

(*SINGULARITY tries to get the TIDALS to sit.*)

SINGULARITY

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

(*MILKY WAY dives into their dish.*)

TRIANGULUM

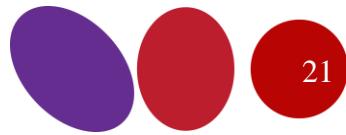
Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.



WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

Most of you went through a phase where you ate megatons. You want to accrete and be a Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy, don't you? Like Whirlpool?

(CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's physique.)

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

(TRIANGULUM tosses the whoopie cushion at CARTWHEEL.)

(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the defense.)

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta.)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids².

² In geometry, an ellipsoid is a three-dimensional ellipse. In ELLIPSES, this is like calling someone “fat.”

**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.

(Lovingly pinching MILKY WAY's cheek.)

Always, full of grace. Let us save space.

2. CRUNCH

(SINGULARITY prays.)

SINGULARITY

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

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

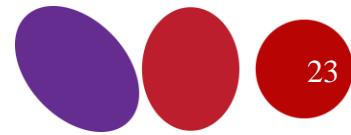
(The TEEN GALAXIES pray with SINGULARITY.)

TEEN GALAXIES

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

SINGULARITY

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

MILKY WAY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, NOMY/MOMMY/DADDY SING.

SINGULARITY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?

SPT0615-JD?

[End of “Crunch”.]

3. CUTTING EDGE

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

JD

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

(GRAVITY turns JD’s head to what’s outside.)

JD (cont.)

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

(Nearing the edge of the home.)

YOU SEE.
 I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.
 WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS LEADING INTO
 KINSHIP.
 SAIL OUT OF THIS ELLIPSE.

WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF
 CHORAL REEFS.
 SEA WITH OTHER *ELLIPSES*³.

WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL?
 STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.

WHY ARE THESE OVALS⁴ BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
 LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

TEEN GALAXIEs

CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

JD

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

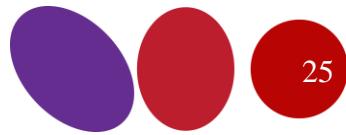
(In JD's head, the TEEN GALAXIEs seem to be droning on.)

TEEN GALAXIEs

SPT0615-JD.

³ In geometry, ellipses are ovals. In linguistics, ellipses indicate omissions. In ELLIPSES, this is a divisive term.

⁴ Being called an “oval” is like being called “slow” while being called an “ellipse” is akin to a curse word.

**TEEN GALAXIEs (cont.)**

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 YOU⁵...
AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A LIGHTLESS GALAXY.
MY HEART TELLS ME THERE'S A PROMISING FAMILY, OFF—
END OF THIS TANGENT.

TEEN GALAXIEs

SPT0615. CHILD.

NO NEED TO BE APPARENT— (*Droning on in JD's head.*)
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

JD

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

(*JD lets GRAVITY ground them.*)

JD**TEEN GALAXIEs**

JD...

SPT0615-JADED—

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...

⁵ Singularity.



JD (cont.)

YOU'LL KNOW.
I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

[End of "Cutting Edge".]

(GRAVITY and JD embrace.)

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

Grounded. You're my tidal force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

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

JD

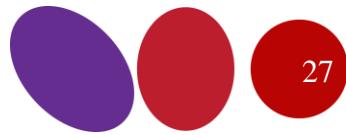
You Singularity, raised me physically. Gravity raised my spirit.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Abell... There is something ringing in mine.



SINGULARITY

A bell? Your astronomical clock must be malfunctioning.

JD

My biological clock remains malnourished.

SINGULARITY

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

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

JD

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

MILKY WAY

JD, *who* is Abell?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

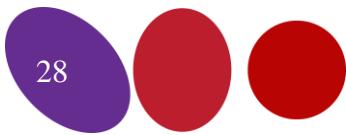
Even a grownup Galaxy needs to accrete. My babies need to grow. There's *nothing* out there for you.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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



JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY

JD

No means *no*.

Can I play with *nothing*? Please?

JD

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

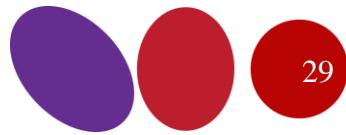
(*SINGULARITY reaches for JD.*)

(*GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl with SINGULARITY.*)

TIDALs

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

(*GRAVITY grounds SINGULARITY on the rug. They try to corral the TIDALs.*)



GRAVITY

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

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

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

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

SINGULARITY

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

(The TIDALs tremble and bow out. They leave.)

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

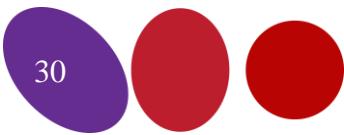
And let them treat the Fabric of Spacetime like the springs of a trampoline? No dog bites or rips on my spacetime fabric.

JD

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY

Oh now you want to consider my center...

**JD**

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

SINGULARITY

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

(SINGULARITY exits, dragging GRAVITY out.)

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby.

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity went berserk. Brought down Singularity.

JD

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

ANDROMEDA

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

CARTWHEEL

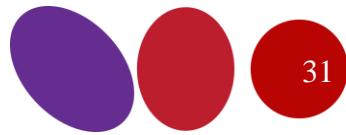
What is so special about the Edge?

WHIRLPOOL

Nothing ain't relative to us there.

JD

You'll understand in no time...

**MILKY WAY**

We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

JD

Exactly... Why you're a baby, Milky Way. Crunch Time is all that you look forward to. And this Universe is the only one you see.

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

ANDROMEDA

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

(*ANROMEDA heads off to bed.*)

CARTWHEEL**WHIRLPOOL**

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

TRIANGULUM

Oh no, you're not.

(*Trying to drag away CARTWHEEL or WHIRLPOOL.*)

CARTWHEEL**WHIRLPOOL**

You're such a square, Triangulum.

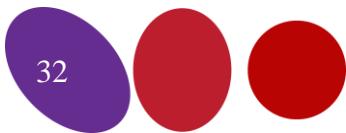
MILKY WAY

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 sets the snow globe on the rug.*)

JD

I can't even with this family...

MILKY WAY

Odd... You cannot be with me?

JD

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

MILKY WAY

In what way?

(*JD sits at the table.*)

JD

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

(*MILKY WAY joyfully brings out a board game.*)

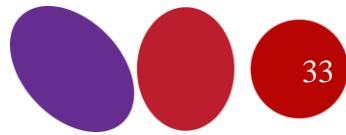
MILKY WAY

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

(*JD holds up a miniature figure.*)

JD

No... I'm a wat— Land bear.

**MILKY WAY**

Oh... That means... I the water—

JD

You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY

Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusing.

JD

I'm the adult around here...

MILKY WAY

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

JD

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

MILKY WAY

To you... What is between Ellipse?

JD

A liminal space...?

(MILKY WAY tries to repeat the word.)

JD

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



(MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on the board.)

(JD holds figures with various heights.)

JD

You'll soon not fit in your Ellipse... I stopped fitting in yours ten eternities ago. I don't fit in mine anymore. You're going to fill my Ellipse. Your body will be a *teeny* bit different. Anyone who's not a toddler needs to *figure that out* on their own.

MILKY WAY

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

4. FIGURE

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

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

JD

LIFE HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS.

MILKY WAY

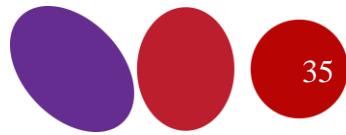
GO FIG— UH.

JD

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

MILKY WAY

TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?



JD

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

MILKY WAY

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

JD

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

MILKY WAY

I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

JD

LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

MILKY WAY

I'LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

JD

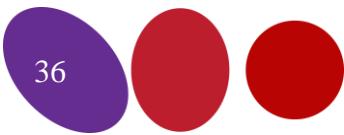
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT OUT OUT...

MILKY WAY

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

JD

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



MILKY WAY

(Intensely cracking their voice.)

I no want to go far in this game, called— Uh, life. I hate my figure. I hate myself.

(JD puts their figure in a winning position.)

JD

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

(MILKY WAY slaps JD's figure off the board.)

JD

LOST MY FIGURE...

(MILKY WAY hands their figure to JD.)

MILKY WAY

KEEP THE FIGURE.

[End of “Figure”.]

(GRAVITY shouts from offstage.)

GRAVITY

Pawn!

JD

Gravity?

MILKY WAY

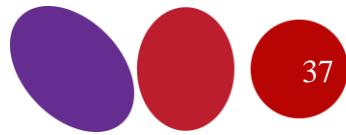
That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Free me, JD!

MILKY WAY

Quiet dog before Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing
wake up.

**JD**

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.

(*Bowing.*)

(*MILKY WAY bows. They head off to bed.*)

GRAVITY**JD**

Nothing is free!

You always understand me...

GRAVITY

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

JD

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

GRAVITY

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 Ellipse. Zilch is underneath. You'll know in spacetime.

(*JD unrolls the rug. They discover the Big Bang Taser.*)

JD

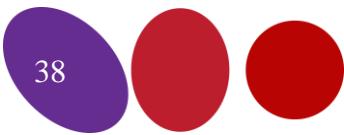
Our rug of spacetime...?

<u>5. ZILCH</u>

GRAVITY

Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.

(*JD ignites the Big Bang Taser. They accidentally shock themselves. They read it.*)

**JD**

Zilch— Big Bang Taser...?

(The TIDALs remain offstage. They are scared.)

TIDALs

Fall...

GRAVITY

Stun your nomy/mommy/daddy! Free me! No longer bound by family. Make *nothing* your legacy! End Singularity!

(ABELL briefly stands up from their seat.)

[End of “Zilch”.]

(SINGULARITY yells and slaps offstage.)

SINGULARITY

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

(JD hides the Big Bang Taser under the rug.)

(SINGULARITY enters.)

SINGULARITY

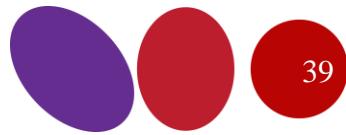
Something wrong, my Capricorn? Tardigrades and Elevators? I remember making this for you, twenty-something eternities ago. I guess, *nothing* really changes. Declinations, JD.

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

JD...

Why...?

SINGULARITY

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

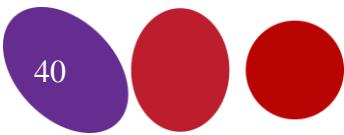
JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

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



JD

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

SINGULARITY

Fine. I’ll... I’ll answer *why*. So long as I pass over what you sai—

JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It became *apparent* that I had to leave my parents.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

There is *nothing* to them, Bạch Hổ. 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

Stop making light—

JD

I need to shed my light.

JD

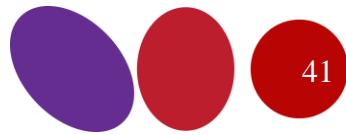
Light isn’t made. It’s passed down. And I’m not. There’s not enough space. That’s why I’m shedding.

SINGULARITY

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

(Handing the monocular to JD. They point out.)

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

**JD**

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

SINGULARITY

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

(JD scopes out the Edge, longing for ABELL.)

JD

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

6. LUMINOUS

(SINGULARITY takes back the monocular.)

SINGULARITY

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

(The TEEN GALAXIES enter in alignment.)

SINGULARITY

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.
LUMINOUS.
TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.
I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.
LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.
WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

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

[End of "Luminous".]



(*GRAVITY rushes in. They scatter the TEEN GALAXIES. They scratch up the rug.*)

(*SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.*)

SINGULARITY

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're destroying the family rug! Its spacetime fabric is passed down from my parents...

Gravity... For the last time, you've let down this family. You entitled dog... I'm putting you down for eternity.

(*JD grabs the Big Bang Taser from the rug.*)

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

JD

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

7. BIG BANG

SINGULARITY

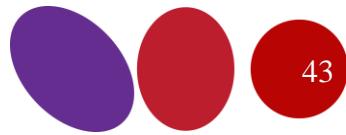
YOU ARE A BIG...

(*JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.*)

(*SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek and jerk in place.*)

SINGULARITY

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.



[The light fluctuates within the home. Appliances may short circuit and spark.]

(The TIDALs bark from offstage. They repeat.)

TIDALs

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALs

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

(The TIDALs freely rush out. They make JD turn to what is outside.)

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

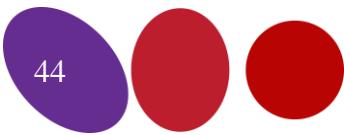
[It's the beginning of the Universe as we know it.]

(JD gently walks to the edge of the home to look out, shifting from grief to wonder. They extend the Big Bang Taser through the opening of the home. They stow it away. They are surprised to step out onto the stage. They look back at their petrified siblings.)

JD

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

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



JD

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

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

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

(The TIDALs anxiously step out of the home. They suddenly unleash and scatter away.)

GRAVITY

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

(JD stands, grateful to have a travel buddy.)

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

(Most of the TEEN GALAXIEs step away from SINGULARITY to watch the Universe unravel, while MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themself around the lifeless SINGULARITY.)

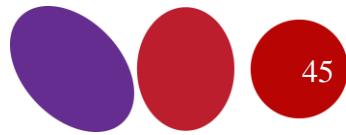
TEEN GALAXIEs

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE
OUT WITH THE
BIG BANG...

[End of “Big Bang”.]

(GRAVITY and JD run in place.)

[The home moves upstage, out of view.]



[The Fabric of Spacetime]

[Field equations scatter all over the space.]

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!

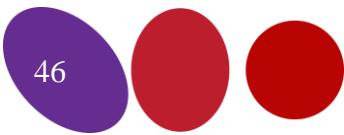
(GRAVITY puts together $F = A M.$)

(SINGULARITY echoes from another plane.)

SINGULARITY

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: $v = H_0D$.)

JD

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

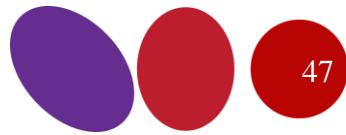
[End of "Verse".]

GRAVITY

Force!

(GRAVITY and JD skip out, faster than ever.)

[The home returns, wheeled downstage.]



[The Center of the Universe]

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 want us to do.

ANDROMEDA

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

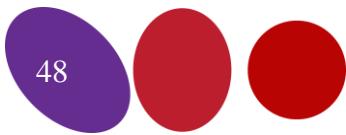
Ain’t anything holding mass.

ANDROMEDA

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

MILKY WAY

Is... Is Crunch Time make-able?

**CARTWHEEL**

We don't have time to grieve! We're about to lose mass as there's no longer such a break as Crunch Time.

WHIRLPOOL

We must make of what is left of our Universe before we break.

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

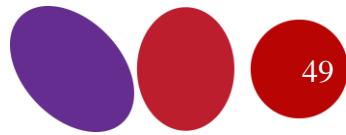
We're also going to be dog catchers now?

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

We're now 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. Not think. Be Singularities.

CARTWHEEL

Is your head a vacuum too, you square?

WHIRLPOOL

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing lightened up, for reals.

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

I blame Big Bang thingy.

WHIRLPOOL

It ain't just a thingy.

CARTWHEEL

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

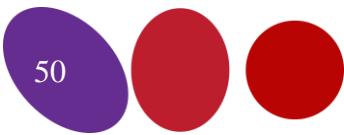
ANDROMEDA

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

(WHIRLPOOL sits on the rug.)

WHIRLPOOL

Maybe it was passed down by the wisest being in the Universe?

**CARTWHEEL**

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Where is the power...?

TRIANGULUM

Where's it not? In this Ellipse. Listen to me. Let's unravel JD.

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL turn away.*)

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

MILKY WAY

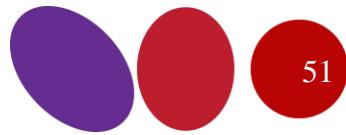
You all mistaken... Gravity ravel JD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

MILKY WAY

Gravity, cute. JD talk to dog all the time. JD gone mad.



TRIANGULUM

You're right, Milky Way. It's the dog's fault. Gravity caused the Big Bang. And it's on us Galaxies to start the Big Crunch. For Singularity.

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. You're babysitting Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

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

TRIANGULUM

You two will make sure that our baby barred sibling doesn't get in the way. *Andromeda and I* are going to find JD. Disarm the anomalous. Any anomaly is powerless without their family...

CARTWHEEL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Relatively, family stays family.

TRIANGULUM

Let's not let JD face their destiny but their family.

ANDROMEDA

Everything is a... What is family?

MILKY WAY

What is anomaly?

10. ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL**ANDROMEDA****TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW
 NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.
 NO SUCH THING THAT IS JUST 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.

(Bringing out the shattered snow globe.)

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

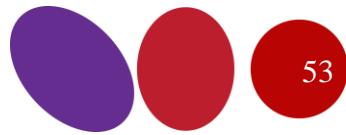
TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM

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**

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS ALL WE'VE EVER KNOWN...

(Sitting on a whoopie cushion at the table.)

(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly laugh.)

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

TRIANGULUM

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

(Hiding away the whoopie cushion.)

ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!

ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

(Grabbing ANDROMEDA. They both exit.)

[End of "Anomaly is Everything".]

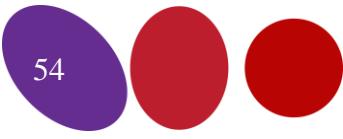
(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL stop laughing. They realize that they have been bamboozled.)

MILKY WAY

Do you wanna play Tardigrades and Elevators with me?

CARTWHEEL

Look! Nomy/Mommy/Daddy has a warm plate of nuclear pasta!



(MILKY WAY does not turn around.)

MILKY WAY

Yeah... Nomy/Mommy/Daddy cooks shooting stars in my heart...

(CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs off.)

WHIRLPOOL

We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling at home for your sporty ego? Triangulum tries too hard. But you take it to the next level. In general, this is specially unrelativistic what we are 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's and Andromeda's face that we're the galactic duos! We'll undo the Big Bang before them and save the Universe! We'll be home in Crunch Time.

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.)

(The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's mind.)

SOLAR SYSTEM

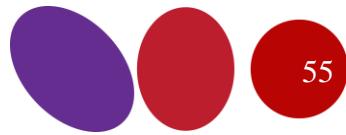
You are now the adult in the house.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM

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

**MILKY WAY**

I'm no baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM

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

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM

We're another sense. We're adole—

MILKY WAY

Sounds like peer pressure...

SOLAR SYSTEM

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

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM

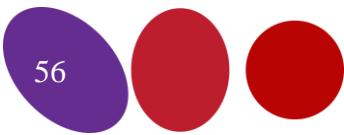
Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

(*MILKY WAY departs away from the safety of the Ellipse.*)

MILKY WAY

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

[*The home moves upstage, out of view.*]



[*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 be coming. 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

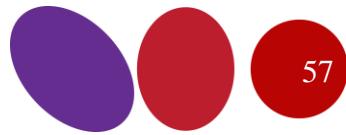
'Scuse me?

ANDROMEDA

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

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

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

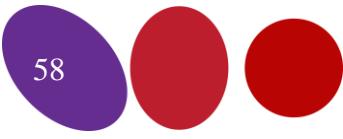
Ope. I take it back. They're not waiting. The Universe is their oyster. They're living the dream. Let's find Melky Way. For our pearl, Singularity. Then we'll go back and warsh the Fabric of Spacetime of their filth and see what this sea offers us.

TRIANGULUM

Oh to let Singularity's favorite child get in harm's way... Cart and Whirl are going to meet my spiral arms.

My 30,000-light-year radius packs a punch, okay? Anyways, if their attention spans are this short for Milky Way, their attention spans will also be short on their way. I hope the Fabric of Spacetime tells them there's family time to be saved.

(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA head back.)



(*WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.*)

(*CARTWHEEL clumsily lands their cartwheel.*)

CARTWHEEL

My time is... Up.

WHIRLPOOL

In the air?

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

Why're you full of uncertainty?

CARTWHEEL

Time is so slow. And it gets slower. Are we ever going to reach the Edge of the Universe? I'm uncertain of where we're going.

WHIRLPOOL

You're certain 'nough that time is closer to the end than the start. Me too. Time's gonna end. So is this game we're playing. We ain't gonna reach the Edge before Andromeda and Triangulum.

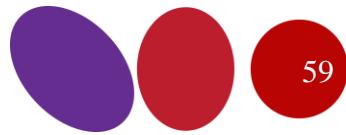
(*Sitting and preparing to meditate.*)

CARTWHEEL

Give me a millennium to consider your input.

WHIRLPOOL

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



CARTWHEEL

Gal... For the billionth time, we're not going home. And home is not home without Crunch Time. We're running out of food.

WHIRLPOOL

Well, the Ellipse certainly had a roof. And now we have a billion less time with no shelter over our heads. A billion less time without our family.

CARTWHEEL

We need to spend billions of more years to find the Edge of our Universe and roll it back. Can you do that?

WHIRLPOOL

We ain't gonna reach the Edge before the other galactic duo. But we can be at the Center for our remote baby sibling. They're on the brink of leaping onto another Ellipse at this point in their life. I ain't spending another millennium without Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

I get it. Milky Way is showing signs of waves and wrinkles. Well, let's not sit around all year as I stand here plotting our next move. I say, we face the waves ahead.

CARTWHEEL

Whirl, you're a whirlpool in this sea.

WHIRLPOOL

Cart, you be the steering wheel of this ship.

WHIRLPOOL

We're anchoring and making up lingos like Andromeda... Well, I'm just sitting here tryna make us turn this ship around.

CARTWHEEL

No turning back. Our scallywag's preoccupied with our dead captain.



WHIRLPOOL

Singularity wouldn't be disappointed if we considered our own safety, ring sibling.

CARTWHEEL

Whatever's left of my ring. I'm not worried if we'd disappoint them... I'm worried that we let *Triangulum and Andromeda ditch us*. It's time to prove that I, Cartwheel, am more well-rounded than Triangulum would ever be.

WHIRLPOOL

Forget our own egos. Let's consider Milky Way's safety. We can at least say that we're better babysitters than Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

I'm not playing another Tardigrades and Elevators board game or reading another *Journey to the Cosmic* bedtime story to them...

WHIRLPOOL

Can you calm down and listen to your own supermassive heart? We are missing out on watching our baby sibling's development. Time ain't have bonus points. Time runs out... Time passes. *Dilation...*

CARTWHEEL

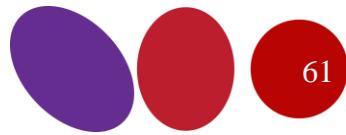
Can you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL

Dilation means to expand.

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?



WHIRLPOOL

Our Bạch Hổ would eat us alive if we let Milky Way go through the nuclear leftovers in the fridge.

I know what I just said was heavy. And weights on your shoulders make time go even slower. Just enjoy the time we have together. Help me piece the time dilation equation. Give time a whirl...

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

CARTWHEEL

SO, FAMILY COMES FIRST IN MIND?

(*WHIRLPOOL meditates.*)

WHIRLPOOL

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

(*Tapping the ground.*)

Live with me in the millennium.

(*CARTWHEEL sits and poorly meditates.*)

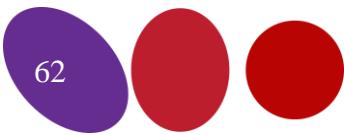
CARTWHEEL

You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL

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

The focal point is to think about our relatives.

**CARTWHEEL**

Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm slow as time... 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

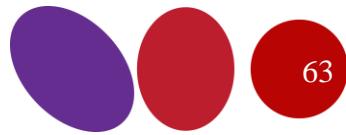
FAMILY'S NOT IN THE EQUATION.

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's strike.)

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 gets up and walks away. They rotate
counterclockwise.)*

CARTWHEEL

DOWNTIME.

(WHIRLPOOL spirals clockwise in place.)

CARTWHEEL

I CAN'T FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL

PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL

Time goes slower the further you move into one's gravity. So, your black-hole heart is younger than how you look. Really, you're naïve and scared on the 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 will miss their stages of 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 near WHIRLPOOL while light stops near CARTWHEEL.]

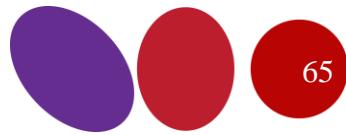
CARTWHEEL

T. Time... Over. Time has an influence on us 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.)

Time is more special than it is relative... Because unlike light, time is not passed down. Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. Triangulum may be obtuse. Milky Way may be cute. Whirlpool and I left home at the age of thirteen or so eternities near the speed of light. Milky Way was twelve eternities old. If we come back eternities later, we'll only be a few eternities older while Milky Way may be rightfully old. Time dilation... We may forever be 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 will pass 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 returns and lends a hand to WHIRLPOOL.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL accepts their hand. They stand with CARTWHEEL.*)

[*Their lights gradually balance one another.*]

(*Through a training montage, CARTWHEEL assembles the time dilation equation: $\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$. They share it with WHIRLPOOL.*)

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

(*CARTWHEEL eventually earns their ring. They can perfectly 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?



CARTWHEEL

TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE'S LIGHTER.

[Light forms a box like a picture frame around CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.]

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.]

[*The Center of the Universe*]

12. BIG RIP

(*The TIDALS dance around SINGULARITY's body. They are celebratory at SINGULARITY's demise. The Big Bang is a holiday to them.*)

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 we'd miss out on Milky Way going through an appetite. I didn't think we missed them because they're now appetite.

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL

Give us back our little sibling, you savage tidal forces! Once we're through with the Big Bang, we're putting you back in the doghouse!

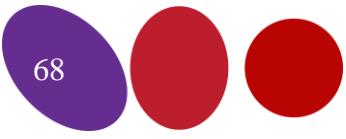
(*The TIDALS surround CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL. They growl, bark, howl, and chase them out.*)

TIDALS

Force! Force! Fall!

[*The home moves upstage, out of view.*]

[*End of "Big Rip".*]



[*The Fabric of Spacetime*]

(*MILKY WAY exhaustively drifts in.*)

MILKY WAY

My tummy hurts... Need Crunch Time with family. Milky Way for...

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's head.*)

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

Forgotten?

MILKY WAY

Imaginary friends?

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

No, we're your planetary friends.

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

I'm not.

SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETs not EARTH

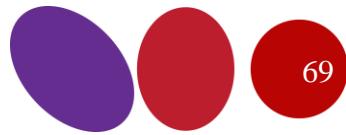
No one is asking you, Earth.

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

Don't give up. You're not the only one forgotten. Everyone knows Pluto. But I'm cooler, literally. I'm Eris and I should be the heiress/heir-no-less of the dwarf planets. You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are larger than many.

SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER (Whirlpool)

You most certainly are a massive spiral Galaxy.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN (Cartwheel)**

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER (Whirlpool)

Go play with your ring.

SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN (Cartwheel)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)

Two. In fact.

JUPITER (Whirlpool)**SATURN (Cartwheel)**

You are a two.

(Laughing.)

SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the butt of the joke!

MILKY WAY

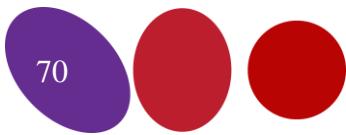
You have a son?

SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)

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

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?



SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

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?

SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. But you're not in the inner circle like Earth is. Trust me as I make my way around the Kuiper Belt. I hate my elliptical orbit. One decade, you're with your family. The next centuries, you're a rogue planet.

MILKY WAY

Patience. Only a millennium.

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

Oh yeah, you're a Galaxy. The frame of time is dilated for you. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last time you were in your family's orbit was... 13.81 billion years ago. As a Galaxy, do you hate being an oval?

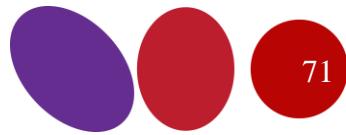
SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

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

(MILKY WAY feels their body and face.)



SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. They may be the perfect 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. Just like Oort Cloud, who I want you to meet.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

*(MILKY WAY gracelessly and half-melodically bellows with cracks.
They suddenly hiccup.)*

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

Milky Way warped themself!

(The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts into laughter.)

(MILKY WAY bursts into tears.)

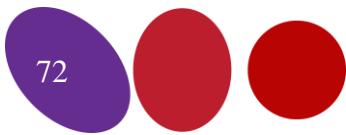
MILKY WAY

I hate myself...

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

All the use crying, Milky Way. Let it out. Melk of celestial kindness. There is a pattern here. You show a huge quality.

(MILKY WAY examines their physical self.)



SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda) (cont.)

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.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

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.

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)

There are people in me.

SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETs not EARTH

Cut your hubris, Earth!

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

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

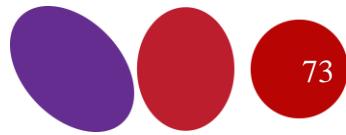
MILKY WAY

Sing it.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

You must first, own it.

(MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM puppets.)



13. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

SOLAR SYSTEM

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.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM

IMAGINARY!

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

BUT REALLY...

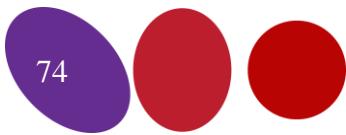
SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM

ONE OF SEVERAL...

(Extra arms extend out behind MILKY WAY. They are unaware of these arms.)



SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

ARMS, IN FACT.

SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)

Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY

What's mirror?

SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)

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

MILKY WAY

I never know what I look like...

(The extra arms shake MILKY WAY's hands.)

SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETs not EARTH

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

(The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake each hand.)

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.

PERSEUS ARM.

NORMA, CYGNUS.

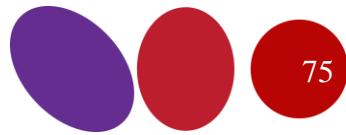
SAGITTARIUS,

ARM AND HEART.

WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.

ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

[A tiny arm pops out.]

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

You are Magellanic.

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

(MILKY WAY digs into their dress. They pull out two magnolia flowers.)

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

Like you, they have existed from the beginning of time. They signify perseverance and longevity—

(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds.)

I gravitate my feelings...

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

You ellipsoid... Go ahead and have a taste of the Local Group while you're at it. Cook Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs.

MILKY WAY

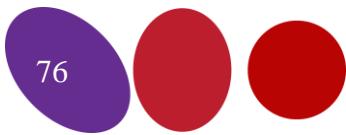
Parsecs no work like that. Parsecs distance, not time.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER (Whirlpool)

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



SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN (Cartwheel)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)

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

(MILKY WAY sings with cracks and flaws.)

MILKY WAY

I NOW HAVE
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.
I LIVE WITH IT.

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Deepening voice.)

I LOVE MYSELF.

(The extra arms⁶ may hug MILKY WAY.)

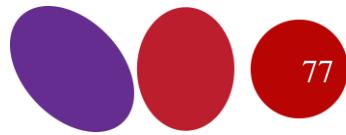
(Many SOLAR SYSTEMs spiral in. These dancers resemble known and unknown stars and planets, while EARTH drags their feet. They orbit MILKY WAY like the spiral arms around a supermassive black hole of a Galaxy. One dancer places a halo on MILKY WAY's head.)

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!

⁶ Avalokiteshvara, the multi-armed Buddhist deity who embodies compassion. Religious imageries make this song.



SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)

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

(*MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMs lower a bit in distress.
They confidently resume.*)

MILKY WAY

SOLAR SYSTEMs

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

[End of “Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles”.]

[*The stage goes red as though the Sun has become a red giant and
is 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 suddenly feels a headache. They touch their
forehead. They take their hand off to reveal a zit on their forehead.*)

MILKY WAY

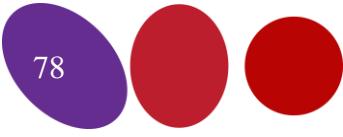
W— W— N— Wr—

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)

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

(*MILKY WAY passes out on the ground.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)



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

Milky Way! Declinations! We have found you!

ANDROMEDA

Did we lose you? Are they in the temple of the cosmic beyond?

ANDROMEDA

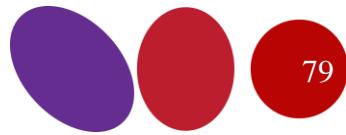
Oh. No. They're going through puber— There's a zit on their temple. A pimple. They certainly found themself before we did...

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. Let's supernova it and get going.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY

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.

(Smirking at ANDROMEDA.)

ANDROMEDA

Ope, what?

TRIANGULUM

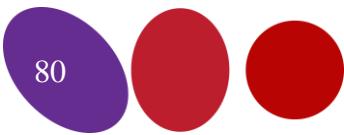
Pop it.

Pop the red giant.

ANDROMEDA

No.

I'm not touching that thing.



TRIANGULUM

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

(The TIDALS howl from offstage.)

TIDALS

Fall!

(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL run in. They crash into TRIANGULUM.)

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way! Dilations! You're still alive!

TRIANGULUM

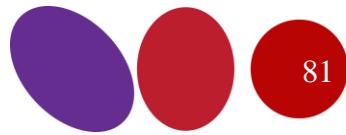
And you babysitters are dead! *Dilations...?!* I'll rip the gas and dust out of you two for letting Milky Way roam out in the Universe alone.

(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! A cosmic bone to pick with you.

(The TIDALs almost bite and growl.)

TRIANGULUM

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

But they have been used to the righteous doghouse for eternities. They have been nothing but well fed.

ANDROMEDA

And once JD gave them a taste of the Fabric of Spacetime... Of freedom... This "nothingness." Once Singularity lost control of the Universe and the Tidals. They won't let go of this cosmic dog park without a fight.

WHIRLPOOL

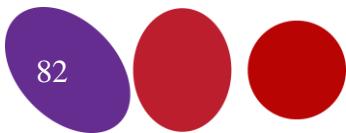
When did you start understanding their plight?

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 briefly. They recircle the TEEN GALAXIES, ready to pounce.)

TIDALs

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

(ANDROMEDA pops MILKY WAY's zit.)

MILKY WAY

Quasar⁷!

[The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.]

(The TIDALs get blinded and scatter away.)

CARTWHEEL

Milky Way. Don't go to the light!

WHIRLPOOL

ANDROMEDA

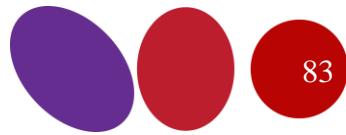
Ope... The light is actually coming from Melky Way.

TRIANGULUM

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

(MILKY WAY stops emitting light.)

⁷Quasar is an extremely luminous active galactic nucleus. For more information, read NASA's [article](#).

**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

Only way's forward...

(TRIANGULUM clusters with ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.)

TRIANGULUM

Milkomeda⁸ forward, Milky Way. Milkomeda forward...

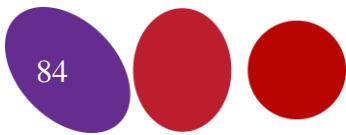
(TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY walk it off, while CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly exit with them.)

[End of "Fabric".]

(GRAVITY, now huskier, and JD wander in.)

(JD ponders.)

⁸ In 4.5 billion years, Milky Way and Andromeda will collide to form the elliptical galaxy: Milkomeda. Eventually, Triangulum will merge as well.

**JD**

A trillion years...

(Grabbing a ball and tossing it.)

Fetch, Gravity. Fetch the star!

(GRAVITY retrieves the ball.)

GRAVITY

Force!

[A Quasar looms in the distance.]

(JD pets GRAVITY.)

JD

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

(Tossing the ball. They notice the Quasar.)

Milky Way...

GRAVITY

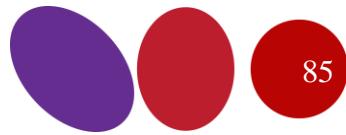
Abell?

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

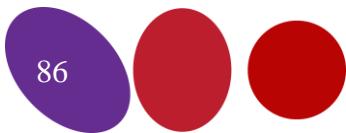
We keep rolling away that horizon... The Universe expands at 2.327 terameters per year per megaparsec... The light can’t even see the end of the tunnel.

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. You had your way. The world you know is over. There's no turning back.

(*JD examines one of the balls.*)

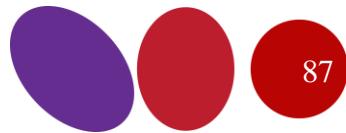
JD

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

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.

(Snatching the ball. They toss it towards the Center of the Universe.)

GO FETCH THE STAR...

(JD retrieves the ball. They cramp up.)

GRAVITY

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

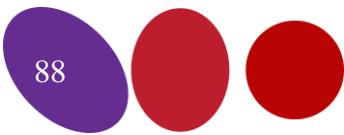
JD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY

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.
CAN I FORETELL?
CAN'T YOU FORESEE?
THIS IS FAR-FETCHED.



(*JD woefully tugs at their heart.*)

GRAVITY (cont.)

You are part of my accretion, and I thank your...

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

(*Jumping on and embracing JD like a dog.*)

SPT0615-JD, YOU ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

(*JD drops numerous balls.*)

(*The TIDALs rush in like a tidal wave. They increasingly form lines like sled dogs.*)

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

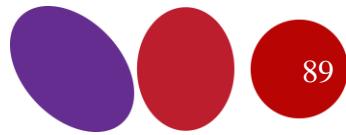
FAR!

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 their tidal sled dogs.)

GRAVITY

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

JD

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.]

[The Center of the Universe]

[A Quasar looms in the distance.]

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 OR 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?

(The TIDALS remain offstage. They echo.)

TIDALS

Single! Singularity! 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 physically demonstrated via puppets in the distance.]

TIDALs

(*Echoing and repeating.*)

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

(*SINGULARITY sits upright. They meditate.*)

[*The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY. It progressively grows elliptical and eventually becomes the only light.*]

MULTPLICITIES

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 II

[*SINGULARITY's Backstory and Past Universe*]

[*Wonders fill the theatre. The front of the stage is solely lit. The stage is dark.*]

(*GRAVITY remains absent. They narrate.*)

GRAVITY

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

Many eternities ago in a Universe unlike any other that we could ever fathom, these supernatural beings, called Multiplicities, gave birth to a very special Galaxy. They named their baby, Singularity. And 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 who their child already was. And Singularity was better at raising... Hell. Wherever they went, so did the space. They literally sucked the energy out of the room, too. They were bent on bending light. But 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

(*In the audience, SINGULARITY stands up. They are youthful and resplendent as a Galaxy. They shoot FIX in the face with the Big Bang Taser. They run away from INVARIANT and FIX, their parents. They slide towards the stage and grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre. They hold on for dear life.*)

[*The fabric of spacetime stretches and eventually rips.*]

(*SINGULARITY tumbles in front of the stage. They hold a torn chunk of dark fabric, shielding the Big Bang Taser. They limp alongside the front of the stage. They find a spot to collapse against. They shiver as they feel lost in an interdimensional plane between Universes. They grow aware that they can never return home and will never be with their parents ever again for all eternity.*)

SINGULARITY

HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

(INVARIANT and FIX get up from the audience. They resemble laws of physics enforcers. They look about. In a pattern, they shout SINGULARITY's name in the hopes of finding them, then grieve with one another.)

INVARIANT

Singularity! 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 did you grab my Big Bang taser?!

Multiplicity. We're the laws of physics enforcers. We're a part of the force... We raised them 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? Don't ya see the problem of stars orbiting that chasm of theirs? *Right...* *Your eyes are swollen.* Anywho, what would cells want to do circulating a heart? Why can't their stars be fixed like ours? I'd regret as a nomy/mother/father 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's functional. Still, you broke it. You dug into this dark energy. You've regretted their supermassive heart and the spirit that came with it. I can't comprehend how that is mathematically possible, but your quantized ego did it.

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. 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, our home 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.

(Fighting their despondence.)

We're heartless. Children will lose their hearts as did their parents eventually... They will shed light, the moment 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.

(A TIDAL barks from offstage.)

TIDAL

Force!

FIX

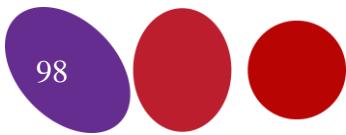
Singularity... I have a hunch, that singleness crunches...

(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 pulls out their Big Bang Taser. They ignite and aim it towards the TIDALs.*)

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...!

(*SINGULARITY feels the tidal force.*)

SINGULARITY

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. Bang!

(*SINGULARITY catches their breath. They decide to stow away the Big Bang Taser inside the fabric. They accept 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 grab ahold of SINGULARITY. They lift them onto the stage. They 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 will presently be.*)

SINGULARITY

You accept my black-hole heart?

GRAVITY

(*Adorably like a puppy.*)

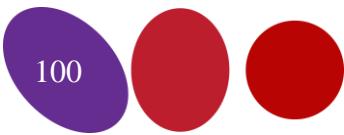
Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

(*SINGULARITY gently takes ahold of baby GRAVITY. They feel a sudden weight.*)

SINGULARITY

A puppet—Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

(*Bonding with puppy GRAVITY.*)



(*INVARIANT and FIX return to their seats in the audience. They pray together.*)

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 timidly interacts with the TIDALS.*)

SINGULARITY

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

TIDALS

(*Gratefully howling.*)

Fall!

[*The home stows away in the distance.*]

[*The front curtains partially close or some front curtains get lowered.*]

[*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—

(*Running into the cosmic front curtain. They fall backwards.*)

GRAVITY

We hit a wall. At quadrillion parsecs. 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 our Ellipse, billions of times?

GRAVITY

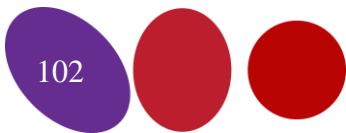
The trillionth time worked.

JD

I did the work.

GRAVITY

I loosened up Singularity for you.

**JD**

Hmm... How did my siblings and I come to be?

GRAVITY

Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and stardust and watered you with dark matter... At least, that's what my parents told me.

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 blindness⁹.

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.)

⁹ Dogs do not see congruent colors as humans. Dogs have more rods than cones in their retina, whereas humans have more cones, and this makes the difference in color perception.

JD

I miss their *stunning looks and presence*.

GRAVITY

Put away that shock colla— Taser! I'll tell you what I saw...

(Forcing JD to stow away the Big Bang Taser.)

My family 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 pack taught them how to cluster nuclear pasta from our hunts for neutron stars. Singularity ascended to being 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, they became their parents: these Multiplicities; they hurt those who are different, like us, tidal forces. Stowing away their past manifested into matters darker than their black-hole heart. Rolling back the cosmos into that Dome you lived in made us locked in. But all resources of the entire Universe were packed into a singularity. That made your nomy/mother/father feel security.

JD

Singularity has always been uptight... But they're usually right.

GRAVITY

What has gotten into you?

JD

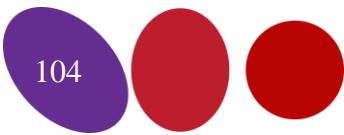
Time away. From family. The warmth of this Fabric of Spacetime is thinning out. This space is empty. It's unclear-er. *Nothing*...

(GRAVITY leans their head against JD.)

GRAVITY

You are *apparent* to me...

That rings a bell. My parents told me that if you wanted to see something 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

(*GRAVITY builds the parallax formula: $d = \frac{1}{p}$.*)

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.

(Discarding the distance formula.)

PARASITIC MINDS
GOT “NOWHERE” TO BURDEN YOU UNDER AND ENTANLED.
MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM’S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY...
TO TILT YOUR HEAD.
FIND PARALLELS.

JD

PARADOX.

GRAVITY

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

(JD tilts their head onto GRAVITY’s shoulder.)

JD

PARAGON...

GRAVITY

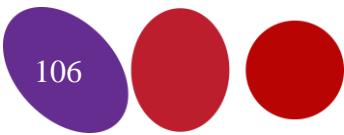
PLEASE RELAX. SEE THE STARS?
REMAIN LAX. SEE THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.
RELAX.

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.]

(GRAVITY feels disappointed.)

JD

I SEE *NOTHING*.

(Smiling.)

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 curtain rises or moves away.]

[End of “Parallax”.]

[The Edge of the Universe]

[The horizon is painted with unseen colors. The air is scented with unscented aroma. The theatre constellates with ellipses, whether the geometric shape or the three dots. Six ellipses stand out, perhaps by appearance or they are clustered together.]

20. TANGENT

JD

WE HAVE GONE OFF ON A... TANGENT.

(Looking around for ABELL.)

(ABELL is not in the audience.)

(JD looks on, heartbroken.)

(GRAVITY enjoys the scent. They are proud, believing that JD is living the dream.)

GRAVITY

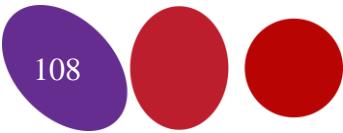
THIS TANGENT YOU HOWL FOR... I'M SPECTRAL BLIND.
WHAT DO YOU SEE BEYOND THE STARS? WHO DO YOU KNOW?

[The music drowns out JD's answers, leaving the Edge of the Universe unanswered.]

(SINGULARITY echoes from another plane.)

SINGULARITY

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.

[*End of “Tangent”.*]

GRAVITY

After all this time together... After the stars we felt, the gas we expelled, the Universe that 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.)

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

How?

GRAVITY

Feeding that hole in your heart always works on you Gals.

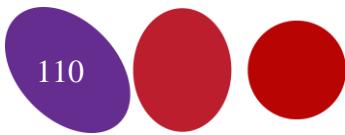
JD

So... Crunch Ti— Since when was the last time you saw field equations...? Exactly. The Universe has spread itself out too thin. The natural order of things is that I am going to, too.

Nature says you're no longer just a dog. My orders are that you are no longer mine. Get going...

GRAVITY

SPT0615-JD.

**JD**

I am not apparent to you. It is clear that we need to take steps back to move forward. *Let's bounce.*

GRAVITY

You haven't outgrown your siblings. They saw nothing. But I, I believed in nothing.

Ever since Singularity birthed you... 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 that. Go grow with your family. You're *nothing* to your kin. Be their leader. Form your pack.

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

There is only ever one person who can be Singularity... With you or with them, I'm going to be apparent.

GRAVITY**JD**

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

(GRAVITY sadly looks upon JD. They run off.)

<u>21. ...<u>Dot Dot Dot</u></u>

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

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

(Eventually, there is a gathering of the TIDALs. They are brawling amongst themselves sto claim the role as the alpha of the pack.)

TIDALs

(Repeating.)

DOT DOT DOT...

(GRAVITY comes out victorious.)

(The TIDALs celebrate. They become aware of JD's presence.)

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

TIDAL

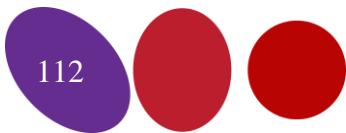
That Galaxy is rolling back the Fabric of Spacetime.

TIDAL

That Galaxy is shutting down our cosmic dog park.

TIDALs

Let's spaghettiify them!

**GRAVITY**

If any tidal force lays a paw on this Galaxy, you will be buried six parsecs under.

TIDAL

That 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.

(Directing the TIDALS out. They exit.)

(JD goes into hiding when the Continuum Checkpoint is near.)

[End of “...”.]

[The Continuum Checkpoint]

[There are three huts or tents that resemble the home. The Left Ellipse is the doghouse, the Central Ellipse is the sleeping quarters, and the Right Ellipse is the command post. The Left Ellipse houses some TIDALS, the Central Ellipse houses a sleeping WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY. The Right Ellipse houses an active CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM.]

(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.)

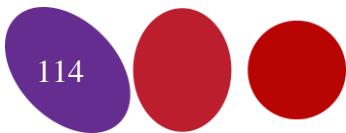
(JD discreetly heads to the Left Ellipse.)

JD

Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

(Reaching into the opening of the Ellipse. They gravitationally pull out each TIDAL.)

(Once all the TIDALS are freed, they shove JD into the Left Ellipse. They wreak havoc upon the campsite. Some enter the Right Ellipse, disgruntling CARTWHEEL and scaring TRIANGULUM. They break the snow globe in the process. Some enter the Central Ellipse. Some run amok on the campgrounds.)



[The Central Ellipse intensely lights up.]

(The TIDALs run out of the Central Ellipse.)

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

(TRIANGULUM sobs at the sight of the broken snow globe.)

(The TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM cluster together.)

TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM

BOUNCE BACK!

(The TEEN GALAXIES not 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 against the TIDALs.)

(The TIDALs run off.)

MILKY WAY

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

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

MILKY WAY

Andromeda, we never 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

We're each becoming anomalies with each passing millennium...

(CARTWHEEL finds JD in the Left Ellipse.)

CARTWHEEL

Speaking of anomaly... JD?

WHIRLPOOL

JD?

ANDROMEDA

JD.

MILKY WAY

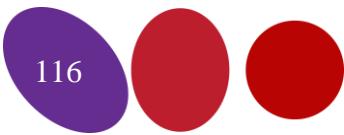
JD!

(TRIANGULUM comes out of the Right Ellipse.)

TRIANGULUM

SPT0615-JD.

[End of “Bounce Back”.]



JD

It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIEs

A million to the millionth power.

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 Ellipse!

JD

How is Singularity...?

(*MILKY WAY weeps.*)

CARTWHEEL

How is the Edge...?

WHIRLPOOL

TRIANGULUM

(*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

There is no one out there for us... Much like there is no one here for us.

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 everything. Everything I've got.

TRIANGULUM

You brought anything but family. Where's Gravity?

JD

Gravity... Fell off the face of the Universe.

ANDROMEDA

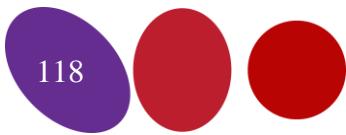
You sure you didn't toss them overboard...?

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

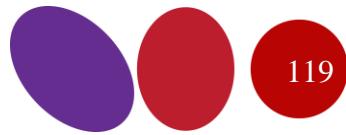
Gravity lost themself. I did throw Gravity over the Edge... Gravity got to my head. Gravity attracted me to *nothing*. But I fought against the tidal dog's attractive force with the Big Bang Taser. Then I chucked it off the face of the Universe.

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 our body stronger.

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 are all 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

I'm certainly apparent as Singularity. It is all clear to me.

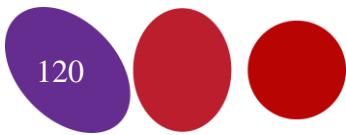
TRIANGULUM

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

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go to the edge of the stage.
They demonstrably have trouble.)*

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. I will give my all.

TEEN GALAXIEs not TRIANGULUM

You gave your all to *nothing*.

23. EVERYTHING**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY...

FAMILY IS FORGIVING.

TEEN GALAXIEs not TRIANGULUM

OH NO.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY SHARES A HEARTBEAT.

TEEN GALAXIEs not TRIANGULUM

TAKE IT SLOW.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIEs not 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

WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH ALL SIBLINGS.

(Assisting and guilt tripping JD.)

FAMILY IS EVERY PINCH,
FROM CURRENCY TO OUR THICK SKIN MADE OF STARDUST.
FAMILY IS EVERY FIGHT,
FROM VERBAL TO PHYSICAL TO SPIRITUAL.
FAMILY IS EVERY STRIKE,
TO OUR NOMEY/MAMA/PAPA, TO OUR PARENT, TO OUR BẠCH HỒ.



(*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 the horizon.*]

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 “Everything”.*]

[*The Center of the Universe*]

(*SINGULARITY remains lifeless under the rug.*)

(*JD returns to the Ellipse. They look upon SINGULARITY. 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.

(*The TEEN GALAXIEs bow.*)

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

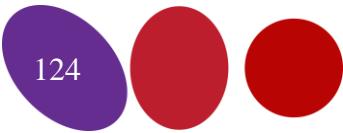
Quit the sass, Milky Way.

(*MILKY WAY dives into their dish.*)

GALAXIEs not 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 eight 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 not 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

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

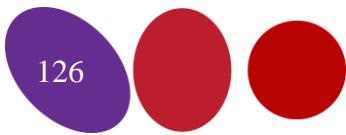
Baby, are you hurt?

JD

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy, are you hurting?

SINGULARITY

JD, who did you see beyond our Ellipse?

**JD**

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

SINGULARITY

SPT0615-JD, are you apparent yet?

JD

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

SINGULARITY

When a Galaxy takes in enough light from their singularity, it's their time to be the single source of light for the lightless. Every being is born lightless. It is upon us to shed this light. It is upon us to save space. It is upon us to feed our photons in Crunch Time. You are 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 Ellipse 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 didn't wish for you to die... I wished our time together did...

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)

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

JD.
 ANOMALY.
 YOU'RE EVERYTHING.

SINGULARITY

SHED LIGHTLY...
 SHED LIGHTLY...
 TREAD LIGHTLY.

TEEN GALAXIEs

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

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

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

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

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

[End of "Apparent".]

(GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake they have instinctively done. They whimper.)

GRAVITY

Forc— Fall...!

(Running off.)

(TRIANGULUM's 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, like a defibrillator.)

(The other TEEN GALAXIES are caught unaware.)

25. SPACETIME

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

SINGULARITY

IT'S ABOUT...

IT'S ABOUT...

IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME.

[End of "Spacetime."]

26. LIMINALITY

(*SINGULARITY walks away from their family. They head to the Edge and look out.*)

[*The elliptical light lands on JD and ABELL.*]

(*JD is now embracing their child, ABELL.*)

JD

A bell. 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... It is 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... The 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 Ellipse/Universe. They return to their family.*)

[End of "Liminality".]

27. (THE BIG RIP OF ZENITH)

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

(*GRAVITY now embodies an outlawed Lupus. They march out of the shadows.*)

GRAVITY

Dogfight at Zenith... *Singularity*?! Let's kill time.

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

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the defense.*)

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 terrifyingly.*)

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

ANDROMEDA

Ope. All the energies of the Universe have been compressed to this place... 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 and implode ANDROMEDA. They take away ANDROMEDA's 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.*)

TIDALS

Fall!

(*EARTH lives in MILKY WAY's head.*)

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

You got this, water bear.

MILKY WAY

My heart, no longer primordial. I no nebula anymore, mortals!

(*MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.*)

(*Some TIDALS get wiped out. The TIDALS drastically bring out a mirror, blinding MILKY WAY and causing them to collapse.*)

MILKY WAY

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

(*GRAVITY faces the home.*)

(*SINGULARITY bows. They kick up the rug to find that underneath, there is zilch.*)

(*GRAVITY unveils the Big Bang Taser.*)

GRAVITY

Zilch?

SINGULARITY

The force...? Opposable thumbs?!

(*The TIDALS dogpile on SINGULARITY.*)

(*CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY crawl in front of SINGULARITY.*)

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up.

CARTWHEEL

Gal, it's downtime.

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL

They took time away from us.

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! My friend. My family. Without your oldest Galaxy... *I am nothing*: a lone wolf. What's left of the Galaxy family... You are a pack of Omegas. Heat death is what you spineless piles of dusts deserve and what a fair universe would serve. No matter how fast light goes, darkness awaits at the end. We'll crunch you up with the force of Gravity, you know?

(TRIANGULUM rushes in to stand in 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 space illuminates field equations made up of Newton's second law of motion: $F = MA$. They are spelt out as FAM.]

(GRAVITY notices the familial field equations. They stop tasing.)

GRAVITY

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

(The TIDALs stop focusing on SINGULARITY.)

TRIANGULUM

I feel... Nothing. I am the anomaly. Everything is family...

(*GRAVITY grows remorseful. They narrate.*)

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.

(*Tossing the Big Bang Taser off the stage.*)

No Ellipse is perfect. In Zenith, I'll spend eternity... Free!

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

GALAXIES not 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

A closed space is our destiny. My all is in this singularity!

(*SINGULARITY gathers the GALAXIES towards the table. They ponder and come to terms that they cannot handle the tidal forces any longer. They feel the Big Crunch Theory¹⁰.*)

It is Crunch Time... Singularity...

(*Outside, the TIDALS are wildly scattering.*)

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

¹⁰ The Big Crunch Theory is a theory of the end of our Universe, where its expansion eventually reverses and collapses into a singularity.

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.

(SINGULARITY places a hand on their chest, with the remaining GALAXIEs doing the same. SINGULARITY changes their mind. They take and hold each GALAXY's hands next to them. In turn, the GALAXIEs hold each other's hands.)

[End of “The Big Rip of Zenith”.]

<u>28. BIG CRUNCH</u>

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

...

[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



ACT III

[A Fresh Universe]

[A particle of light rests on the Big Bang Taser which is lying in front of the stage, near the audience.]

(From the audience, ABELL heads to the Big Bang Taser and picks it up.)

(JD approaches ABELL.)

(ABELL slowly points the Big Bang Taser towards JD's face. Instead of traditionally shooting them, they actually want to hand it over to JD.)

(JD gently takes the Big Bang Taser from ABELL. They sentimentally smile and chuckle.)

JD

Nothing...

(Aiming the Big Bang Taser towards the stage. They fire. They return it to ABELL.)

29. BIG BOUNCE

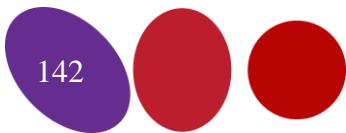
[The home seeps back out of the curtains, as it initially did before the Big Bang. It is still notably dark.]

[Different lights briefly flash after each GALAXY speaks.]

(TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.)

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING!

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY

NOTHIN'!

(SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster together in the home.)

(The TEEN GALAXIES lower their torso to bow.)

[The lights completely fill the home.]

TEEN GALAXIES

NOTHING!

(Bouncing away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home.)

(SINGULARITY remains at the center of the home, amused by their GALAXIES.)

(The TEEN GALAXIES bow at the respective tone of their signature songs.)

(*SINGULARITY bows when this song plays 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 freely play about in the wide-open space upstage. They bow.*)

(*The MULTIPLICITIES separate from the audience and bow.*)

[*The spotlight unveils GRAVITY in the audience.*]

(*GRAVITY runs up to, jumps on, 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. They spotlight the ORCHESTRA. They point to the SOUND DESIGNERS. They return to JD.*)

(*JD tosses all the balls 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.*)

Close circuit



<https://workingtitleplaywrights.com>



Sense-Ability Ensemble (openspottheatre.com)



Daughters of Lorraine Podcast
HowlRound Theatre Commons



The Cultural Workers Podcast
(anchor.fm/minka-wiltz)



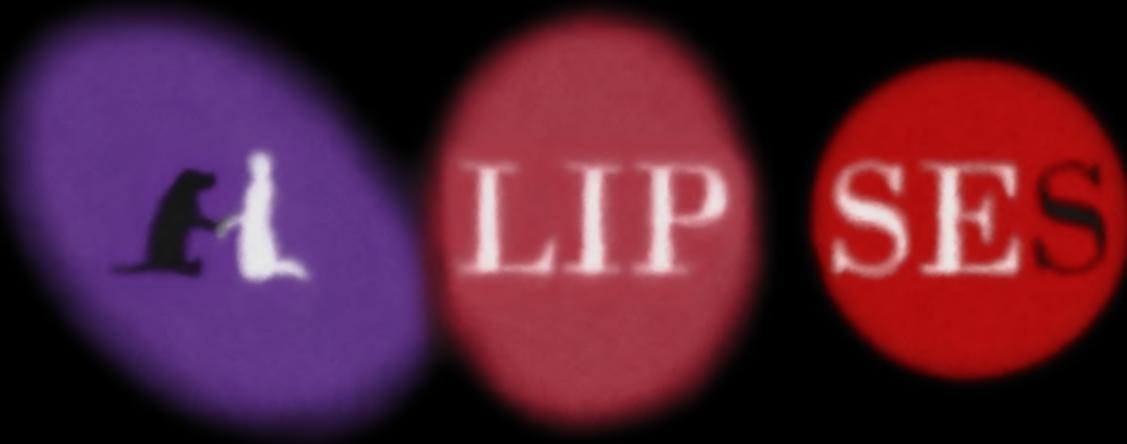
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Inside My Box Podcast (anchor.fm/insidemybox)



Working Title Playwrights New Play Development Apprenticeship features
a concert reading of a brand-new science musical about the Galaxy family



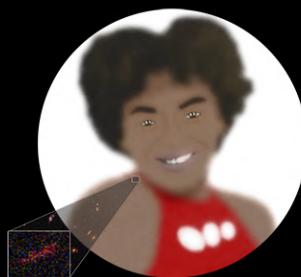
Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM | Directed by ALIYAH CURRY
Dramaturgy by JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY | Managed by ALEXIS MCKAY
Narrated by SOFIA PALMERO | Performed by the Star-Studded Cast



PARRIS SARTER



VALLEA E. WOODBURY



DANIELA COBB



JASON-JAMAL LIGON



SKYE PASSMORE



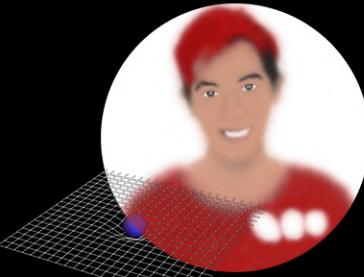
ABBY HOLLAND



DANIEL SAKAMOTO-WENGEL



EVAN PHILLIPS



KAIT RIVAS

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 · 6:30PM ET | TALKBACK · 9PM ET
ELLIPSESPLAY.COM

2021–2022 IDEA Opera Grants Budget Worksheet		
Composer [David Quang Pham]		
Librettist(s) [David Quang Pham]		
Legend: DQP = author JLC = facilitator, general manager JAE = dramaturg		
ELIGIBLE EXPENSES		
Item	Notes	Cost
Vocalist fees	10 (\$300 each) Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/performer	\$3,000.00
Instrumentalist fees	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/instrumentalist	\$500.00
Music director	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/music_director	\$500.00
Conductor (Music Director)		
Dramaturg	JAE	\$500.00
Stage director	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/stage_director	\$500.00
Vocal coach	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/vocal_coach	\$500.00
Sound designer	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/sound_designer	\$500.00
Rehearsal venue fees	Venue cost based on OA's concert hall at the rate of \$200/day (JLC's experience)	\$400.00
Performance venue fees	Prospective: St. Augustine Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.	\$200.00
Stage manager	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/stage_director	\$500.00
Lighting rental		
Sound equipment rental	Quote: https://hartfordrents.com/locations/baltimore-md-audio-rental/	\$500.00
Instrumental cartage		
Graphic design	Samples: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/graphics	\$0.00
Web design	https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera DQP has a UI/UX background	\$0.00
Printed programs	125 prints of 12-page programs (playbillder.com/pub/print_service_pricing)	\$182.00
Child care	Accessibility: contingency funds for 6 personnel or daily occurrences	\$180.00
Elder care	https://www.care.com/c/how-much-does-child-care-cost	
Research materials		
Transportation for creative personnel	JLC: NY <=> MD (\$79) & DQP: MI <=> MD (\$227) (fueleconomy.gov/trip/)	\$306.00
Transportation for performers		
Housing for creative personnel	4 nights (\$125+/two-bed room) for JLC & DQP	\$600.00
Housing for performers	College Park Marriott Hotel (DQP stayed in 2017 & 2019)	
Videographer	Based on Musical Monument's budget (https://youtu.be/mj61UdV1cTs)	\$500.00
Filmographer	Based on Musical Monument's budget (https://youtu.be/mj61UdV1cTs)	\$150.00
Other-3		
Other-4		
Other-5		
Total		\$9,518.00

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES		
Item	Notes	Cost
Composer commissioning fee (DQP)		
Librettist commissioning fee (DQP)		
Living expenses	\$45 for 3 breakfasts, lunches, dinners for 19 personnel	\$945.00
General administrative expenses	3 months payroll for administrator (DQP-JLC) at \$17/hr	\$3,600.00
Tuition expenses	DQP is in TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program until January 2022	\$520.00
Professional development fees	3 workshops (2 rehearsal workshop, 1 showcase workshop)	\$300.00
Fundraising expenses	4 different crowdsourcing/fundraising platforms used by JLC	\$232.00
Ticket subsidies	Fees paid to ticketing platform based on 200 sales by JLC	\$258.00
Set, costume or properties construction	Props are necessary and 10 celestial costumes are optional	\$1,700.00
Total		\$7,555.00

2021–2022 IDEA Opera Grants Budget Worksheet, Continued		
Composer [David Quang Pham]		
Librettist(s) [David Quang Pham]		
Eligible Expenses		\$9,518.00
Ineligible Expenses		\$7,555.00
Total		\$17,073.00

INCOME		
Item	Anticipated	Received
OPERA America grant		
Ticket sales (if applicable)		
Other grant 1 (Yip Harburg Foundation)	Requested: \$4,000 (\$3,955 ineligible expenses minus admin.) Status: Pending	
Other grant 2		
Other grant 3		

Individual donation		
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$0.00

Total Expense	\$17,073.00
Total Income	\$0.00
Net Profit/Loss	-\$17,073.00