

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog

SPT0615-**JD**, young adult, Singularity's oldest child

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Supporting Characters

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

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

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

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

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

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

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

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

Outside of the home, SINGULARITY hums as they pick equations and place them on a dish. They then head to the rug to meditate.

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

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

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

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

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

SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug, returning the Universe back to its void stasis. They look upon ABELL.

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

SINGULARITY leaves through a side exit of the home.

JD enters, carrying a monocular. They position themselves at the edge of the home. They scope out.

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

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

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

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

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA scopes out. They stow away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY, looking disheveled, strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

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

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

MILKY WAY makes their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA sails to the table.

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

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

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

JD!

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

JD

ABELL...

ABELL reaches out to JD.

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

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

GRAVITY

(Narrating)

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

This single parent has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. Their kids aren't much older than a dozen eternities. But one nears two. I like this one.

(re: SPT0615-JD)

We've long lived in the Elliptic. The Elliptic is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD. JD is on the edge.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

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

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Sounds like someone's been eating my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY touches the snow globe
and stares at ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA hands over the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

Everything here is a cluster flux. It wouldn't
hurt to look out-

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

Your oldest sibling usually helps with the meal
preps... Well, your tiger nomy/mom/dad is rather
pleased that our meal is as special as our very
first. This food is heated to over ten million
degrees Kelvin and spun in the cosmic microwave
background at the angular velocity of a dozen
sine squared its solar latitude minus one sine
to its fourth power. Strongest material in the
cosmos. A variety of nutrition from the crusts
of neutron stars. Dismantle the mantle. But
leave the core. I'd love to planet these.

GRAVITY tries to nab TRIANGULUM's
dish.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Ye such a downer to Gravity. Throw the tidal
dog a meteor. A swig.

(to GRAVITY)

Fix. Want nomy's/mom's/dad's spaghettification?

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible
spaghetti to a sitting GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

Ope, there goes Gravity. Who's a good tidal
force? Ye all are!

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY
tries getting them to sit.

TIDALS

(Repeating)
Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

(Repeating)
Fix... Fix... Fix... Fix...

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes endless millennia to burn that,
Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's
physique.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

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

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

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

SINGULARITY

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

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Always full of grace. Let us save space.

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES pray.

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

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

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

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

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

WHIRLPOOL
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

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

SINGULARITY
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?
 SPT0615-JD?

End of "CRUNCH"

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

GRAVITY approaches JD.

JD
 NOT THE TIME
 TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...
 IT IS CLEAR CUT...
 I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR IN THE...

GRAVITY makes JD face outside.

JD (CONT'D)
 CENTER WITH OUR RELATIVES...
 OUR TIDAL DOGS.
 GRAVITY, ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.
 (Nearing the edge of the home)
 YOU SEE.
 I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.
 WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS LEADING INTO KINSHIP.
 SAIL OUT OF THIS ELLIPSE.
 WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF CHORAL REEFS.
 SEA WITH OTHER ELLIPSES.

(Taking a jab at their siblings)
 WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL?
 STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.
 WHY ARE THESE OVALS BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
 LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

TEEN GALAXIES
 CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

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—

TEEN GALAXIES
 (Droning on in JD's mind)
 SPT0615-JD.

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 SPT0615. CHILD.
 NO NEED TO BE APPARENT— (Droning on)
 JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 SPT0615-JADED—

JD

JD GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

ALL MY COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS EPIC TALE.
OUR AUDACIOUS VERSE.

THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND WHO WILL FOLLOW IN MY LYRICAL TRAILS
TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'LL KNOW.

I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

End of "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

Grounded. You're my tidal force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

I'll spare a millennium to listen to your
verse, JD. It is apparent like 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 can be a
bad influence.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

Your soul will be dragged down if you keep this
up... Grounded? What's *grounding* your heart?

JD

Abell... There is something ringing in mine.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

My biological clock is a bit malnourished.

SINGULARITY

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

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

JD

I'm done with Crunch. I'm picky with the same old dish of photons. I'm sick of dishing it out with these teenage Galaxies. They tick me off!

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY

JD, who is Abell?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

(to JD)

Baby... I'll answer your curiosity. There is nothing out there for us, adults...

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Can I play with *nothing*? Please?

SINGULARITY

No means *no*.

JD

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

I don't see clearly when I sentimentally stated these "prophecies." I was lost in your eyes when telling these bedtime stories. In reality, who— *What* you call "lightless" does not need apparency. Drop this legacy nonsense. Be present for your family. The future is *nothing* to ponder on. Join us for Crun—

SINGULARITY reaches for JD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl and soon ground SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY

(Corralling the TIDALS)

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

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

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

SINGULARITY

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

The TIDALS tremble and 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... I pull, thread, and weave the strings in the Fabric of Spacetime. Better a puppet than pet. You're treating me as though I'm not the grandmaster of the Universe.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

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. Do I make myself clear?

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY exits, dragging
GRAVITY out.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

TRIANGULUM

The Gravity of the situation is that we're focused on the doggy, who is too dumb to sit.

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity went berserk. Brought down Singularity.

JD

Gravity never lets me down, Gals. *I won't stoop to your level and blame the dog.* You're all downers.

ANDROMEDA

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

CARTWHEEL

What is so special about the Edge?

WHIRLPOOL

Nothing ain't relative to us there.

JD

You'll understand in no time.

MILKY WAY

We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

JD

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

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

ANDROMEDA

Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one.
Declinations.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

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

TRIANGULUM

Oh no, you're not.

TRIANGULUM tries to drag away
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You're such a square, Triangulum.

MILKY WAY

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Look at the time... Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off.

TRIANGULUM

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

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

JD

I can't even with this family...

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

JD (CONT'D)

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

MILKY WAY

In what way?

JD

*I've been waiting on a partner to play Water
Bears and Elevators with.*

JD sits at the table.

MILKY WAY joyfully grabs a board game with elliptical elements.

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 wata'-

JD

You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY

Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusin'.

JD

I'm the adult around here.

MILKY WAY

Gas it is... May I ask what's like? Bein' 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 ellipses?

JD

A *liminal* space...?

MILKY WAY tries repeating the word.

JD (CONT'D)

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

MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on the board.

JD holds figures of all heights.

JD (CONT'D)

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

(MORE)

JD (CONT'D)

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

MILKY WAY

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

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

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

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

JD

LIFE HAS *UPS* AND *DOWN*S.

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

YOU ARE GAINING SOME CURVES.
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 wanna go far in this game called- Uh life.
Oh *curves*... I hate my figure. I hate myself.

JD

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

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

JD (CONT'D)

LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY

KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Pawn!

Only JD understands GRAVITY.

JD

Gravity?

MILKY WAY

That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

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

JD

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

JD bows.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

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

GRAVITY (O.S.)
Nothing is free!

JD
 You always understand me...

GRAVITY (O.S.)
Nothing is infinite. Nothing's out there for ya.

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

GRAVITY (O.S.)
*Nothing is waiting for us. A wide-open space.
 Save space for us dogs. For me! A space without
 Singularity. Zilch is not out of our Elliptic.
 It's below ya. Relax. Ya'll know in spacetime.*

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

JD
 Our rug of spacetime...?

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

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

JD
Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

TIDALS (O.S.)
 (Whimpering)
 Fall.

GRAVITY (O.S.)
 End Singularity! Free thee. No longer bound by
 this family. Make *nothing* ya legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up in the
 audience.

End of "ZILCH"

SINGULARITY (O.S.)
 My babies are sleeping! Shut your wormhole, you
 entitled dog.

JD hides the Big Bang Taser
 underneath the rug.

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY enters.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Maybe you should let them out?

SINGULARITY

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

JD

I'm passed that. I'm an adult. I'm not going out to play.

(re: to settle down in a fresh space beyond the fourth wall and to *start a family*)

I'll 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

How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light to you all, the lightless. *Nothi-* I fed you the finest photons from the field equations I picked. Now, my oldest cluster of stars... Your heart is too massive for this Elliptic?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

I know your urge to jump to another elliptic. You're in a liminal space. It's also mine. You step out of this place and you're dead to me.

JD

You old Galaxy... This space is dead to me. "Crunch Time" no longer bears fruit for me. It is time I planted my own garden around my own elliptic. I'm dying to know what's out there!

SINGULARITY

Arguing is fruitless... I'll answer *why*. JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It alerted me to end my old relationships. It became *apparent* that I had to leave my parents.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Being a single parent sure did wonders to you.

SINGULARITY

Quit the antics. Speak physics, SPT0615-JD. Stop making light-

JD

I'll make light of myself. I need to shed my light. Light isn't made. It's passed down. I need to pass down. There's no longer enough space. That's why I'm shedding.

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY hands the monocular to JD. They point out.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

The point of my hearty outpouring is for you to
forever lighten up. Do I make myself clear? You
are never getting passed me.

JD longingly scopes out the Edge.

JD

Our purpose is to pour out our hearts to those
with less heart. I can only see light if another
life lightens up. I want to make myself clear. I
need to be apparent as you. Singularity...
Nothing gets passed you... Not even light.

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

SINGULARITY takes the monocular.

SINGULARITY

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

Other GALAXIES enter in alignment.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

Us. And us. And us. And us. And us. At the center
of us all is heavy. What looms in us is light.
Take it in. Our black holes. And you.
(re: SPT0615-JD)
At the center of yours is supermassive.

End of "LUMINOUS"

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

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're
ripping apart the family rug! Its spacetime
fabric is passed down from my parents! Gravity.
(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD grabs the Big Bang Taser.

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

JD

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

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

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

The light fluctuates. Appliances
may short circuit and spark.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALS (O.S.)

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

The TIDALS freely rush out.

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

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

JD walks to the edge of the home,
shifting from dolor to wonder.

JD carefully steps out onto the stage. They stow away the Big Bang Taser in their dress. They look back at their petrified siblings.

JD

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

GRAVITY gets a knapsack filled with stars. They grab JD and run out of the home. They run in place on stage. They soon stop when they notice their lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground.

JD (CONT'D)

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

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

JD (CONT'D)

It's *getting* further away. We're rolling out the Fabric of Spacetime like our rug... We're going to go off on a tangent for all eternity. For the rest of spacetime.

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. Destination's a gift. Destiny's Zenith.
(to JD, who did not hear the soliloquy)
Force!

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

JD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

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

TEEN GALAXIES

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

End of "BIG BANG"

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

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

Field equations bloom.

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

JD

LETTERS, NUMERALS, FACTORIALS.
IT IS ALL THANKS TO A FACTOR:
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!NUMBERS, ALPHABETS, POLYNOMIALS.
PLANTING CONSTANTS AS MATH FARMERS.
STAGES OF THE BIG BANG FORM HYPERBOLAS.
ONLY HYPERBOLE!STORIES, EQUATIONS, ALGORITHMS.
IT IS TO BASK IN ITS GLORY.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!GRAVITY puts together $F = AM$.

SINGULARITY echoes from beyond.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a big mis—

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

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

GRAVITY

Force?

JD expresses contentment.

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

JD

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

GRAVITY

Force!

GRAVITY and JD hastily skip out.

End of "VERSE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

SINGULARITY may be lowered into the
 ground. The TEEN GALAXIES drape the
 rug over the burial plot. They bow.

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations, nomy/mommy/daddy.

End of "RIP"

MILKY WAY sniffles.

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Nothing matters.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Ain't anything holding mass.

ANDROMEDA

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

CARTWHEEL

We can't make time to grieve! We're about to
 lose mass. Famine will tear apart this family.

WHIRLPOOL

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

MILKY WAY

We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL

Look at Singularity. What do you think?

MILKY WAY

I can't. When I hungry...

WHIRLPOOL

Let's at least think like Singularity. We're gonna round up all the tidal forces.

CARTWHEEL

We're also going to be dog catchers now?

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

We're clusters of delicate flowers. Look out. The garden's thinning out. Our crops face an eternal drought. This profound cosmos is going to have a field day with us. We'll starve to death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates.

TRIANGULUM

Luminous, Gals. Let's lighten up.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

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

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

I blame Big Bang thingy.

WHIRLPOOL

It ain't just a thingy.

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

WHIRLPOOL sits by the rug.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

TRIANGULUM

Singularity limited our gifts to light but *power*?

ANDROMEDA

Where is the power...? Who has the power...?

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

MILKY WAY

You all mistaken... Gravity ravel JD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

MILKY WAY

I hear JD talk to dogs. JD gone mad.

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

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

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything's— What's family?

MILKY WAY

What is anomaly?

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

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

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

TRIANGULUM brings out the
shattered snow globe.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

WE KNOW.

TRIANGULUM

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

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

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

TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopee
cushion at the table.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly
laugh.

TRIANGULUM appears flustered. They
shift to delight. They pull out
the cushion then toss it away.

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

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

TRIANGULUM exits with ANDROMEDA.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL end their
laughter, realizing that they have
been duped.

MILKY WAY
You wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas?

CARTWHEEL points elsewhere.

CARTWHEEL
Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs
out of the Elliptic with them.

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

CARTWHEEL
What do you know about special relativity? Our
special little relative will be especially fine.
We may have very few games or distractions
around, but *kids have their imaginations*. Now
imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum and
Andromeda's face that we're the galactic duos!
We'll undo the Big Bang before them and save
the Universe! We'll be home in Crunch Time.

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.

MILKY WAY hears the SOLAR SYSTEM
in their head.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

You are now the adult in the room.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Sounds like peer pressa'...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY strolls away from the
safety of the Elliptic.

MILKY WAY

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

MILKY WAY exits.

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

ANDROMEDA mumbles the Galaxy shanty, "Globular." They take out their monocular and scope upstage.

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Ope. There's nothing. *Eh, Melky Way is away!* No one is at the Elliptic!

TRIANGULUM

Those galactic idiots! This voyage is in vain.

TRIANGULUM takes out the broken snow globe.

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

JD can wait...

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

To let the favorite child get in harm's way... Cart-Whirl are going to meet my spiral arms.

(MORE)