

ACT ISCENE 1

## THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

1. "BOUNCE"

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

GRAVITY sits in The Circle, clawing at the invisible wall separating them from the stage/space outside. The TIDALS, or celestial canines, roam outside. They approach the caged GRAVITY. The TIDALS run off.

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

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

SPECIAL & GENERAL

NOTHING...

Alert, SINGULARITY wipes out the Big Bang Taser and ignites it. Lights flicker. Curtains ripple. The space exposes many ellipses. Far from the stage, a *bell*-shaped light shines. HD's shadow in a shooting stance protrudes. HD enters, holding a pestle. SINGULARITY hides the taser under the rug, returning the cosmos to stasis. They hand the bowl to HD. They disappear into the home.

SINGULARITY

NOTHING...

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

OOOHHHHHH.

HD unveils a scope in the pestle and scope outs. TRIANGULUM soon enters. They nab HD's scope and toss it behind.

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL  
NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL  
NOTHING.

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

ANDROMEDA  
NOTHING!

MILKY WAY strolls in.

MILKY WAY  
NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES  
LET'S BOUNCE!

HD  
HERE GOES NOTHING!

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

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.  
MILKY WAY skips to the table.  
ANDROMEDA sails to the table.  
TRIANGULUM triangulates the table.  
WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.  
CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.  
HD joins the table with the bowl.  
GRAVITY marches in, doglike.

HD  
ABELL...

End of "BOUNCE"

SINGULARITY  
Declinations, family.

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES bow.  
HD hands the bowl to SINGULARITY  
and helps set the table.

GRAVITY  
(Narrating)  
Nothing comes close to family, except "pets."  
I'm Gravity. I've been here for infinite dog  
years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family.

SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY.

GALAXIES GRAVITY (CONT'D)  
Declinations, Singularity. *Singularity.*

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

This single parent cannot stand me. They barely understand their babies. This power-hungry tyrant sits on the stardust throne, having closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities in fact. However, the kids stay kids. Milky Way is the baby sibling.

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY. The GALAXIES sit. TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopee cushion. CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL laugh and high five. ANDROMEDA plays with their food.

SINGULARITY

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

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

*The dog did it!*

GRAVITY

*When ya get in trouble, ya blame the dog. When ya take the fall, ya frame Gravity.* Cartwheel and Whirlpool are the most relative. Not even time can separate them. Andromeda is?

ANDROMEDA

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

GRAVITY

Triangulum is such a square.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

HD sets a dish on the ground.

GRAVITY

I can do no wrong with this one. I'm never blamed by this one. I love this one. The Circle's bearable with the fairest Galaxy: HD1.

## SINGULARITY

Quit dogging my firstborn!

## GRAVITY

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

## MILKY WAY

Why is that dog always staring out into space?

## HD

The dog sees something.

## TEEN GALAXIES

The dog speaks to no one.

## GRAVITY &amp; HD

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

## SINGULARITY

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

## TEEN GALAXIES

Rip up the Fabric of Spacetime...

## SINGULARITY

You never ever want this grandmaster of the Universe to worry. Anywho, we've got all the cosmic formulas right here in our Circle. With my black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae something special: nuclear pasta and meteors!

## CARTWHEEL

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

## SINGULARITY

*Unlike your oldest sibling, y'all don't know how to cook stardust. You'd die without us. Your tiger nom/mom/dad heated our meal over ten million degrees Kelvin in our cosmic microwave background. It's the healthiest material in the cosmos, a variety of nutrition from the crusts of neutron stars. Dismantle the mantle, but leave the core. I'd love to planet these!*

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

## TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

## ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

## CARTWHEEL

Calories take millennia to burn, Andromeda.

## WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

It's the overeating phase. Y'all want to be a  
Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy, like Whirlpool?

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's body.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

Least ye not a square, *like this Galaxy*.

TRIANGULUM

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

TRIANGULUM throws the cushion.

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, *ellipsoids*.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

Wash your wormhole with soap, you quasi-baby!

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY lovingly pinches MILKY  
WAY's cheek. They all stand and pray.  
GRAVITY inches towards HD.

2. "CRUNCH"

SINGULARITY

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES

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