

ELLIPSES

IDEA Opera Grants - 2021-2022

Working Title Playwrights

Mr David Quang Pham 1140 Alger St SW Wyoming, MI 49509

0: 616-818-5413

Mr David Quang Pham

1140 Alger St SW Wyoming, MI 49509

davidquangpham@outlook.com 0: 616-818-5413



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*

Printed On: 20 September 2021

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 the Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship in Atlanta and now the Playwrights Foundation Fellowship in San Francisco. Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including hymn, pop, tango, and Xiqu.

His subatomic opera, TOUR, is a 2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist. His work has 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 dramaturg and moderator at LMDA; the associate producer of Reach For It, Inc; a producing mentee of Jane Dubin and Jennifer Isaacson from TRU; a founding member of CreateTheater; and a member of $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild.

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

Printed On: 20 September 2021

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).

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



SAMPLE 2

Sample 2 title*

"Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles" · ELLIPSES

Sample 2 A/V link*

https://www.ellipsesplay.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 themself 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.ellipsesplay.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.



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.



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 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?



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, temporality to eternity, and humanities to galaxies need to be linked in ELLIPSES. It is strung together through the moon guitar's string theory. The story is expanded by entropy. The Big Bang is the result of when Singularity performs one last squillo. Let there be 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*

Printed On: 20 September 2021

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...



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 UMD School of Music and Theatre followed by a talkback. The talkback looks to be led by UMD doctoral dramaturg, Jordan Alexandria 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.

The grant covers the venue for a 3-day workshop: 2 rehearsals, 1 showcase. It compensates 18 team members (2 instrumentalists, 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

Printed On: 20 September 2021

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.



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 of ViOp Productions, a performing company that produces and films operas, concerts and recitals. He produced Crossing Paths, La bohème Act 3 by Leoncavallo, The Spirit of Christmas, and The CHESS Project. Jay also conceived 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. Described as "clownish perfection" (Jonathan Warman, DramaqueenNYC) and "highly entertaining throughout" (Logan Martell, Operawire), he has been a noticeable artist in NYC. In a recent return to live performance, Jay performed with Write Act Rep in A Good Day by off-Broadway composer Eric Sirota. Upcoming performances include the Spanish language short film Sin Fondo with Ripple Effect Artists and Silvio in Cav+Pag with New Camerata Opera. [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-resume.pdf

Jordan Alexandria Ealey (they/she) is a dramaturg, theatre artist, scholar, and cultural critic who divides their time between Atlanta, GA and the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area. As a dramaturg, their work has been seen at organizations such as Hush Harbor Lab, Synchronicity Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Working Title Playwrights, Working In DC, and Fells Point Corner Theatre. Jordan co-hosts and co-produces Daughters of Lorraine, a podcast on Black theatre from a Black feminist perspective, which is supported by HowlRound



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,



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 and 1 guitar 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/ellipsesset.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

Printed On: 20 September 2021

*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").

ACT II

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").

ACT III

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

Libretto (optional)

Printed On: 20 September 2021

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



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

Printed On: 20 September 2021

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 the University of Maryland School of Music and MUSE
- January 2022: Performative and technical team get assembled through auditions and interviews with members of the UMD School of Music and Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies; and MUSE
- o Early January 2022: Creative team meeting with author, stage director, music director, dramaturg, and facilitator
 - o Late January 2022: 1 Zoom reading is conducted, with revisions to the libretto afterwards
 - o TBA January 2022: New Works Forum 2022 Winter Meeting
- February 2022: 2 rehearsal workshops & 30-minute showcase workshop followed by a talkback (3 days), recorded by ViOp videographers for OPERA America (day 2/3), Washington, D.C.



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

- March—: Post-production of workshop recordings with author, facilitator, videographers
- o TBA March 2022: New Works Forum 2022 Spring Meeting
- o May 18-20: Opera Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- o Week of June 8: Virtual OA Concert
- o TBA June 2022: New Works Forum 2022 Summer Meeting
- Post-2022: Consideration of residency programs at theatres like Signature Theatre in Washington, D.C., HERE Arts Center in New York, and Wolf Trap Opera Company in Virginia, uplifted by operatic assets

Budget*

IDEA Opera Grants fund up to \$12,500 of your project. Please use the budget worksheet <u>here</u> 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. \$10,696.00

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

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.

David Quang Pham



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
- jordan_alexandria_ealey-resume.pdf
- ellipses.pdf
- idea-opera-grants-2021-2022-budget.xlsx

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

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics | Minor in Theatre

2014-18

 $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ Honors, Society of Physics Students – Vice President | OpenSpot Theatre | $\Phi K\Sigma$ – Historian

Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, Georgia

New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship

2020-21

Dramaturgy Master Intensive with Amber Bradshaw | Theatrical Outfit's Unexpected Play Festival

Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco, California

Literary Fellowship 2021-22

Assistant to Literary Manager Heather Helinksy | Bay Area Playwrights Festival

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 Apprenticeship

https://www.ellipsesplay.com

Readings: 4 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, dir. Aliyah Curry @ WTP | https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/2021-7-15

Showcase: Durban University of Technology, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa | 2021-10-19

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 NYPL Performing Arts Library program, Across a Crowded Room

*chosen by NYPL in partnership with Apples and Oranges Arts to be the musical tested in their inaugural VR workshop https://www.parallelmusical.com

Showcase: New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York, New York | 11/6/21

PISTIL QUIPS – one-act tragic operetta that centers on dialogues between a hummingbird, a flower, and a breeze *Showcase*: *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

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

"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

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

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan **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 New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship 2020-21 Dramaturgy Master Intensive with Amber Bradshaw | Theatrical Outfit's Unexpected Play Festival Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco, California Literary Fellowship 2021-22 Assistant to Literary Manager Heather Helinksy | Bay Area Playwrights Festival **ORGANIZATIONS** Member of $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ (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 2018 undergraduate class 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** [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)** [https://museonline.org/] 2021-ongoing An organization for musicians of color committed to creating diversity within the music departments Acting Mentor/Photographer/Videographer for **OpenSpot Theatre** [https://openspottheatre.com] 2014-18 A theatre program empowering kids with special needs to break through the fourth wall and shine Associative 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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EXPERIENCES

Chicago Dramatists Staging Science: Writing the Science Play	2020
Instructor: Kristin Idaszak	
May 2020	
HowlRound	
María Irene Fornés Playwriting Workshop	2021
Instructors: Migdalia Cruz, Anne García-Romero	
October 2021	
Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas	
<u>Dramaturging the Phoenix</u>	2020-ongoing
Planners: Jess Applebaum, Ken Cerniglia, David John Chávez, Russ Der	
Guzmán González, Heather Helinsky, Liana Irvine, Finn Lefevre, Linda	
Anne G. Morgan, Brenda Muñoz, David Pham, Lynde Rosario, Martha V	
The International Dramaturgy Lab	2020-21
Partners: Laurel Green, Pauliina Hulkko, Elizagrace Madrone, David Q	uang Pham,
Stefanie Schmitt, Hanna Slattne, Dimitar Uzunov	
Out of Hand Theatre	
Institute for Equity Activism	2021
Instructors: Cicely Garrett, Terra Gay, Dr. Dietra Hawkins, Adria Kitch	ens
August – December 2021	
The Proud Trust	
Queer Play Writing Workshop	2020
Instructor: Naomi Westerman	
August 2020	
114gust 2020	
Revoluton Arts	
Playwriting Workshop	2020
Instructor: James McDermott	
April – July 2020	
11p111	
Seattle Playwrights Salon	
Discovering the Play in Playwriting	2020
Instructor: Miriam BC Tobin	_0_0
March – April 2020	
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 Za	-
January 2021	G
Theatre Resources Unlimited	
TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program Master Class	2021-22
Instructors: Jane Dubin, Jennifer Isaacson	

Tested Out: 2021

TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program Foundations

September 2021 – January 2022

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

"IDL: Constellations"

Panelists: Laurel Green, Pauliina Hulkko, Elizagrace Madrone, David Quang Pham, Stefanie Schmitt, Hanna Slattne, Dimitar Uzunov

Key Volunteer.

June 19-20, 2020 on WebEx

2020

Volunteer.

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: \$2020

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.

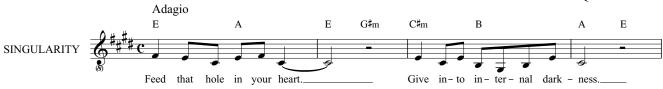
SONG PERFORMANCES			
Cabaret on the Couch Kami Visitsak performed "Valence" from TOUR on July 24, 2021 Footage News: BroadwayWorld			2020
SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS			
Durban University of <u>DigiFest</u> on October 19			2021
Michigan State University Season 2 of The Art of Ar	r sity <u>Adaptation</u> , College of Arts	& Letters	2021
The Story Collider Science Story Slam on January 22, 2021			2021
FEACHING EXPERIENCES			
Master Classes Musical Writing Harlem Neighbork CHEATRE EXPERIENCES	nood Writers on October 9,	2021	2021
<u>Production</u>	<u>Role</u>	Company	<u>Year</u>
Consultations and Dr Atoms by <u>Ioe Beck</u> Constellations The Giver	amaturgy New Play Dramaturgy Science Consultation Production Dramaturgy	Grand Rapids Community College Wyoming Theatre Company	2021 2019 2013
Crew 2016-17 Season Talent Shows The Giver	Key Crew Sound Engineer Sound Engineer	Summer Circle Theatre Wyoming Theatre Company Wyoming Theatre Company	2017 2012-14 2013
Curations AAPI Writing Contest Sing For Your Supper Unexpected Play Fest.	Selector Curator Selector	entertwine Reach For It Theatrical Outfit	2021 2020 2020
Orchestra Hair Carrie The Wiz	Trombonist Music Technologist Trombonist	Michigan State – Pasant Michigan State – Pasant Wyoming Theatre Company	2015 2014 2011

...

CRUNCH

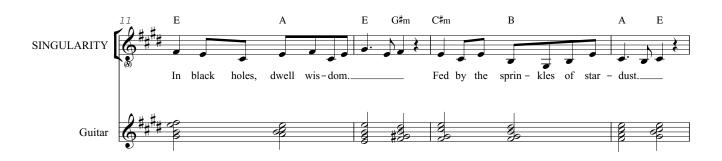
(Singularity, Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Triangulum, Andromeda, Milky Way)

DAVID QUANG PHAM



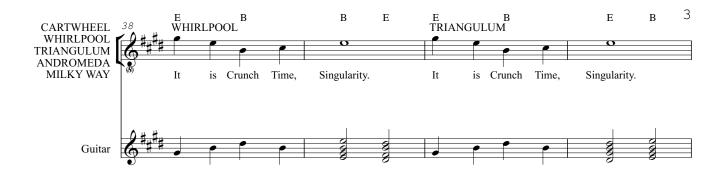


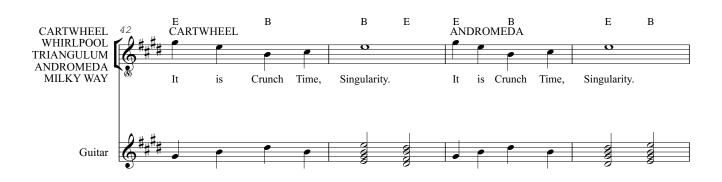


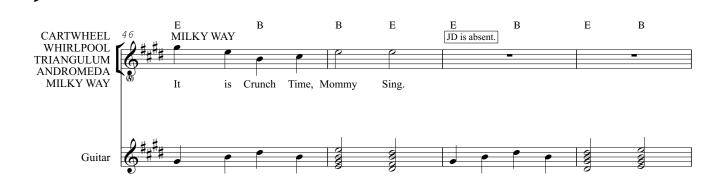


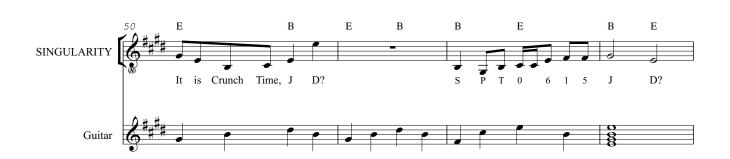




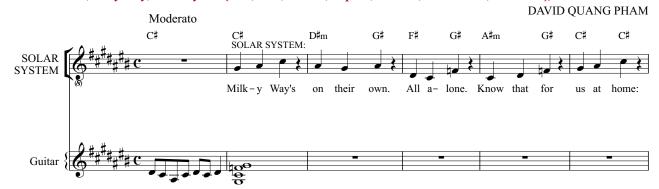




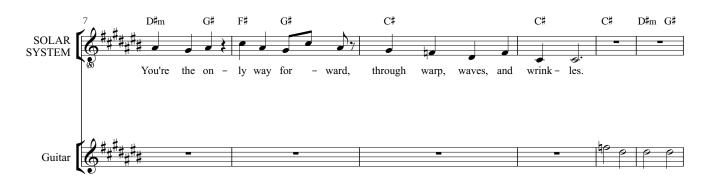




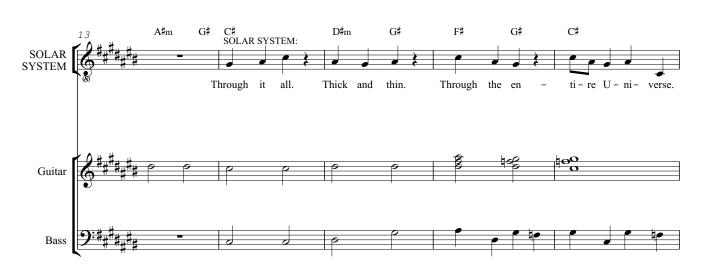
13 WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES (Milky Way, Solar System{Sun, Eris, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Oort Cloud, ensemble})

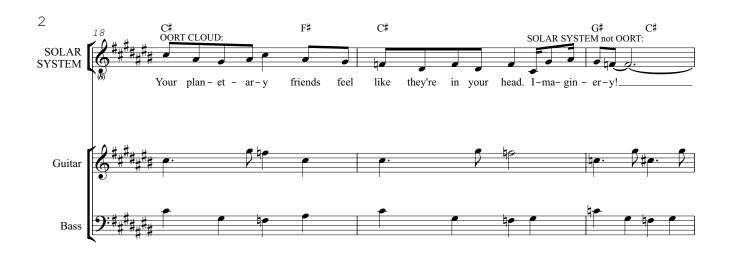




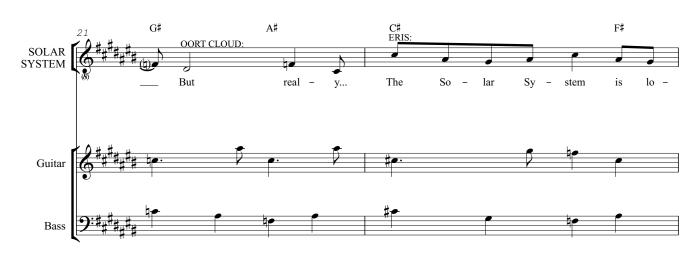




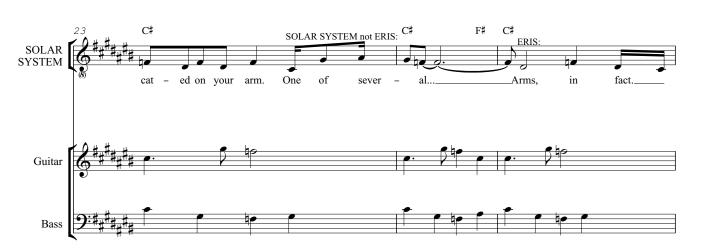




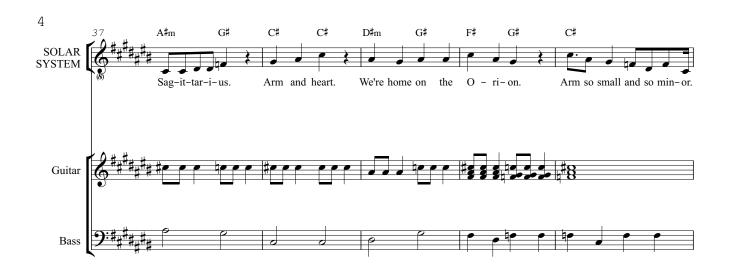




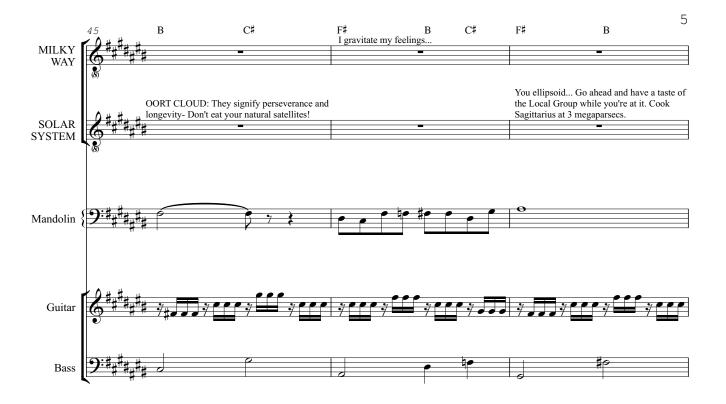




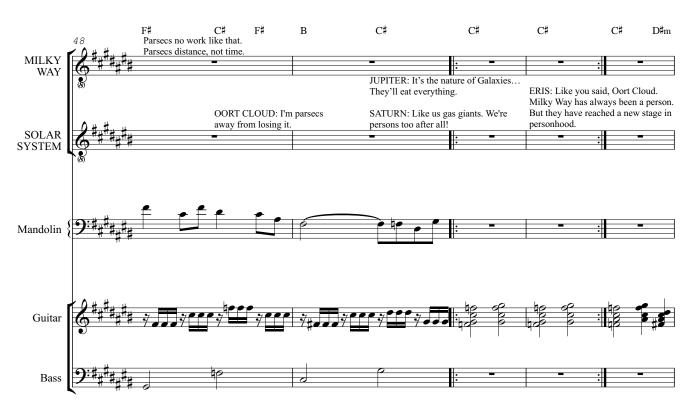


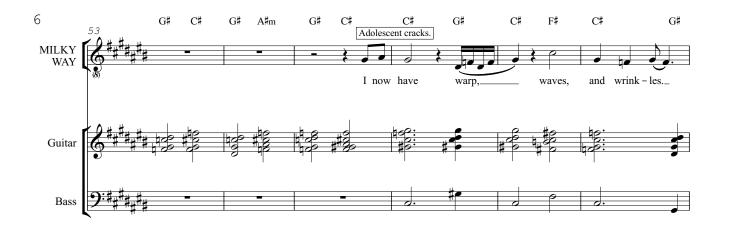








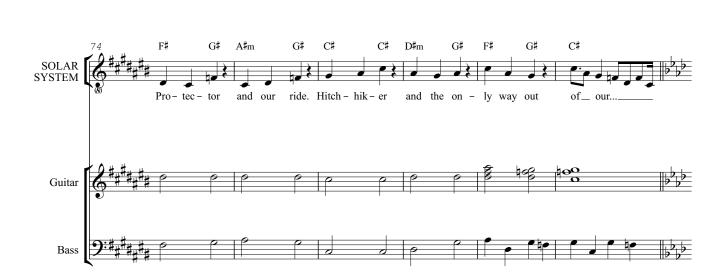




















JD

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, Bach 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

JD

Stop making light—

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. 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. They perform one last squillo.)

SINGULARITY

MISTAKEEEEE! 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!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALs

FALL! 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,				

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		• ,	• . 1	1	C	т .	
Save the	നവറ	Giant	with	COZENC	α	LOWISH	moone
Days uic	Zas	gram	willi	UUZCIIS	OI.	JUVIAII	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--- 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

19 Hart Street, Unit 1, Brooklyn NY 11206 | 917-743-2464 jaychacon@gmail.com | viopproductions@gmail.com www.jaylucaschacon.com | www.viopproductions.com

EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAMS	
Northern Arizona Univeristy, Flagstaff, AZ	
Bachelor of Arts in Music Minor in Religious Studies	2003-06
Shrine of the Ages Choir, opera theater assistant, choir historian	200) 00
Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ	
Vocal Music studies	2000-03
A Cappella choir, Chamber choir, musical theater workshop, section leader	2000 0)
Saint Petersburg Opera Company, Saint Petersburg, FL	2016
Emerging Artists Program	2010
Schaunard in <i>La Bohème</i> , Bella Voce Gala (selections from <i>Rent</i> , <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>),	
promotional performances and events.	
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Cedar Rapids, IA	2015
Resident Artist Program	
Inkeeper/Governor in <i>Man of La Mancha</i> , promotional performances and events.	
F F F III	
ORGANIZATIONS/ARTS ADMINISTRATION	
Theater Resources Unlimited, New York, NY	2018-presen
Staff administrator, membership relations, accounts payables/receivables, panel mode	erator,
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	201) 21
Bronx Opera Outreach, Bronx, NY	2018-20
Music Appreciation, Dance	2010 20
Camerata Piccola, New York, NY	2018-20
Performances of children's operas: <i>Peter Rabbit, Rumlestiltskin</i> followed by talkback	2010 20
On Site Opera, New York, NY	2020
Performances of children's opera: <i>The Tale of the Silly Baby Mouse</i> followed by talkback	
Prelude Opera, New York, NY	2019
Performances of children's Opera: <i>The Billy Goats Gruff</i> followed by talkback	/
Children's Philharmonia, Verona, NJ	2019

Performances of children's Opera: The Magic Flute (Papageno)

PUBLICATIONS

Modern Singer Magazine

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

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

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

CONCERT/ORATORIO

Featured Soloist Bach Der Herr denket an uns **Queens Consort** Brooklyn Philharmonia Chorus **Featured Soloist** Handel Messiah Brahms Ein Deutshces Requiem Brooklyn Philharmonia Chorus Featured Soloist New Camerata Opera Performer Black and White Gala Let's Just Sing Cornelia Street Café Recitalist Les belles et les beaux: Performer dell'Arte Opera Ensemble

A Beaumarchais Concert

Recitalist From Bach to Berg: Cornelia Street Café

A Tribute to Dietrich Fischer Dieskau

Recitalist American Composer: Jake Heggie Tavern of Fine Arts
Featured Soloist Vaughnn Williams Songs of Travel Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist Música Hispánica Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist Way Off Broadway Tavern of Fine Arts
Recitalist From Bach to Berg: Tavern of Fine Arts

A Tribute to Dietrich Fischer Dieskau

duBois Seven Last Words of Christ University Presbyterian Church **Featured Soloist** Faure Requiem University Presbyterian Church Featured Soloist Franco-American Vocal Academy **Featured Soloist** Bach A Christmas Oratorio **Featured Soloist** Ravel Don Quichotte à Dulcinée Franco-American Vocal Academy Duruflé Requiem University Presbyterian Church **Featured Soloist** Northern Arizona University **Baritone Soloist** Brahms Neue Liebeslieder Northern Arizona University **Featured Soloist** Handel Messiah Sun Valley Chorale **Featured Soloist** Handel Messiah Brahms Ein Deutshces Requiem **Baritone Soloist** Mesa Symphony

MUSICAL THEATER

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

STRAIGHT THEATER

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

FILM

Duc du DurfortJulie (George)CamerataWorksAnatolyThe CHESS ProjectViOp ProductionsRodolfo (Act 3)La Bohème (Leoncavallo)ViOp ProductionsPerformerCrossing PathsViOp ProductionsHostthe Spirit of Christmass a holiday specialViOp Productions

Host the Spirit of Christmas: a holiday special ViOp Productions
Recitalist Singing-in-Place Online Recital Series

EDUCATIONAL/COMMUNITY THEATER

Koko The Mikado Winter Opera St. Louis Spotlight on Opera Ford (cv) Falstaff Spotlight on Opera Zuniga Carmen Trouble in Tahiti Spotlight on Opera Sam Mr. Gobineau The Medium Spotlight on Opera Spotlight on Opera Alfio Cavalleria Rusticana Pirates of Penzance St. Edwards Symphony Samuel Gianni Schicchi Gianni Schicchi Spotlight on Opera Butler Opera Center Lindorf/Dr. Miracle Les contes d'Hoffmann Le nozze di Figaro **Butler Opera Center** Il Conte Gianni Schicchi Butler Opera Center Gianni Schicchi

Chris The Mother of us all
Dr. Falke Die Fledermaus Austrian American Mozart Academy
Figaro/Antonio Le nozze di Figaro Austrian American Mozart Academy
Orphée Orphée aux Enfer Franco American Vocal Academy
Orphée Di 7 de direction de la control de la con

Monostatos Die Zauberflöte Austrian American Mozart Academy Edwin Trial by Jury Flagstaff Light Opera Company Guglielmo Così fan tutte Austrian American Mozart Academy

Figaro Le nozze di Figaro NAU Opera

Jordan A. Ealey Curriculum Vitae | Fall 2021

<u>jealey@umd.edu</u> – 1801 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

EDUCATION

2022 PhD, Theatre and Performance Studies (expected) University of Maryland, College Park

Dissertation: "The Songs of Her Possibilities: Black Women-Authored Musicals

From the Nineteenth Century to the Present"

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Faedra Chatard Carpenter (Chair), Dr. Melissa Blanco Borelli, Dr. Caitlin Marshall, Dr. Michelle Rowley, and

Dr. Julius Fleming

2019 M.A., Theatre and Performance Studies

University of Maryland, College Park

2016 B.A., Theatre and English

Wesleyan College

Additional Academic Certificates

2022 Graduate Certificate, Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities

(expected) University of Maryland, College Park

2021 Graduate Certificate, Critical Theory (expected) University of Maryland, College Park

2019 Graduate Certificate, Women's Studies

University of Maryland, College Park

Teaching and Research Interests

black theatre and performance; black feminist theories and praxis; musical theatre history; popular music; black girlhood studies; dramaturgy; black critical theory; sound studies; digital humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

"crushed little stars: A Praxis-In-Process of Black Girlhood," *Girlhood Studies* 14.2 (2021): 16-28.

"Young, Bubbly, and Black: The Affective Performance of Black Girlhood in Kirsten Childs' *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*," *The Black Scholar* 50.4 (2020): 55-64.

Book and Performance Reviews

Review of *The Song Is You* by Bradley Rogers, *Theatre Topics*. (under revision)

Review of Black Is King, Studies in Musical Theatre 15.1 (2021): 65-67. (forthcoming)

Review of *Staging Black Fugitivity* by Stacie Selmon McCormick, *Frontiers: Augmented*.

Review of School Girls, or, The African Mean Girls Play, Theatre Journal 72.2 (2020): 232-233.

Book Chapters

"Rewriting the American West: Black Feminist (Re)vision in *Bella: An American Tall Tale*," in *Reflections On Gender, Sex, and Sexuality: He/She/They Could Have Danced All Night*, ed. Kelly Kessler. (forthcoming)

Public Practice and Media

Recurring Co-Host, *On TAP: A Theatre and Performance Studies Podcast*. Created and hosted by Pannill Camp, Sarah Bay-Cheng, and Harvey Young. http://www.ontappod.com/>, February 2021-Present.

Curator, RESET. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, March 2021.

Daughters of Lorraine. Created and hosted by Jordan Ealey and Leticia Ridley. HowlRound Theatre Commons Podcast. < https://howlround.com/series/daughters-lorraine-podcast>, October 2019-Present.

Criticism and Public Writing (selected)

"Review: A Protest in 8: Strategize, Organize, Mobilize from Theater Alliance," *DC Theatre Scene*. https://dctheatrescene.com/2020/12/16/review-a-protest-in-8-strategize-organize-mobilize-from-theater-alliance/> December 16, 2020.

"Black Theatre: Jennifer L Nelson reflects on African Continuum Theatre Company," *DC Theatre Scene*. https://dctheatrescene.com/2020/12/09/black-theatre-jennifer-l-nelson-reflects-on-african-continuum-theatre-company> December 9, 2020.

"Award-winning playwright Adrienne Kennedy finally gets her due, and debuts a new play in upcoming festival," *DC Theatre Scene*. https://dctheatrescene.com/2020/11/02/award-winning-playwright-adrienne-kennedy-finally-gets-her-due-and-debuts-a-new-play-in-upcoming-festival/> November 2, 2020.

"Is 'Twenties' Really A Win For Black Queer Representation?" *Bitch Media*. <https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/twenties-black-queer-representation-onscreen> June 10, 2020.

Exhibition Texts

"Performing the Interstices: Danielle Deadwyler's Will (to) Adorn," MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA, January 2021-February 2021.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships

2021 Helen Krich Chinoy Dissertation Fellowship, American Society For Theatre

Research

2020-Present Graduate Writing Fellowship, University of Maryland Graduate Writing Center

2021 Humanities Without Walls Career Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship

Sole doctoral student selected from University of Maryland, College Park through

limited submission

2019, 2021 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (honorable mentions)

2020 Podcasting the Humanities Winter Institute, National Humanities Center

One of two graduate students selected from the School of Theatre, Dance, and

Performance Studies

DC Arts Writing Fellowship, Day Eight

Katie G. Cannon Archival Fellowship, Womanist Working Collective

2018-2019 Mellon Foundation African American History, Culture, and Digital

Humanities Scholar

Awards

2019-2024 Dean's Fellowship Award, University of Maryland

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

2021 "Beyond Words: Interdisciplinary Reverberations of Daphne Brooks's *Bodies in*

Dissent." Music Theatre/Dance Pre-Conference, Association For Theatre in Higher

Education, Digital, August 4.

2020 "Staging Black Feminisms." Won't You Celebrate With Me?: A Black Feminist

Gathering, Women's Studies Graduate Student Association, College Park, MD, February

7.

Invited Panels

2021 "Black Studies Without Black People." Field Conversations, American Society For

Theatre Research. Digital. October 4. (forthcoming)

"Homecoming." Dramaturging the Phoenix Series, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of

the Americas. Digital. September 14.

2020

"Childhood and Youth Studies Caucus: Shaping and Reshaping Colonized, Racialized, and Criminalized Childhoods." American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 12-15. (accepted, postponed due to COVID-19)

"BIPOC Reflections in U.S. Regional Theatres." Dramaturging the Phoenix Series, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. Digital. August 4.

Closing Remarks. Telephone Hour: Musical Theatre Quarantine Colloquium. Digital. June 17.

2019

"Racist Notions." Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Maryland, College Park, October 24, 2019.

Papers Presented

2021

"Unraveling the Racial Imaginary: Performing Human in *Fairview*," for working group, "Repetition and the Human: Disavowals of 'Humanity' in Performance." American Society For Theatre Research, San Diego, CA, October 28-Nov 1. *(forthcoming)*

"Fugitive Dreams: Carcerality, Trauma, and the Illegibility of Black Girlhood in Danai Gurira's *Eclipsed*." Comparative Drama Conference, Digital. October 14-16. (forthcoming)

"Listening For the Sound(s) of Subjection: Matthew D. Morrison's Musicological Interventions." Association For Theatre in Higher Education, Digital, August 5-8.

"Performance Is Not A Luxury: Towards a Poetics and Praxis of Black Feminist Dramaturgy." Association For Theatre in Higher Education, Digital, August 5-8.

"Rocking and Reeling: Sounding Community in Zora Neale Hurston's *Polk County*." Song, Stage, and Screen, Salzburg, AT, June 30-July 3.

"A Dramaturgy in/of the Digital." Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, Digital, June 1.

"Choreographies and Compositions of the Jukebox in Black Musical Performance," for working group, "Race, Embodiment, and Historiography." Contact: Performing Proximity, University of California, Los Angeles. Digital. February 19-21.

"Digitally Archiving Black Women's Musical Theatre." Black Theatre and Dance Symposium, University of Maryland, College Park. Digital. February 12.

2020

"Young, Bubbly, and Black: The Affective Performance of Black Girlhood in Kirsten Childs's *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*." Telephone Hour: Musical Theatre Quarantine Colloquium. Digital. April 22.

"All the Musicals Are White, All the Composers Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: The Black Feminist Musical Theatre Aesthetic." Mid-America Theatre Conference, Chicago, IL. March 5-8.

2019

"Young, Bubbly, and Black: Performing Black Girlhood in Kirsten Childs's *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*." International Girls Studies Association, Notre Dame, IL. February 28-March 2.

2018

"Baby, I am shedding my chameleon skin': *Bubbly Black Girl* As a Black Feminist Intervention." National Women's Studies Association, Atlanta, GA. November 8-11.

INVITED ACADEMIC, PUBLIC, AND CLASSROOM TALKS

Academic and Public Talks

2021

"(Re)constructing Musical Theatre: The Power of Worldmaking in Theatre Production." University of Florida School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Digital. September 14.

"Black Female Playwrights," Public lecture and discussion, Shifting the Spotlight Drama Book Club, Theatre Prometheus and DC Public Library.

"Lorraine Hansberry: Pioneer and Playwright," Public lecture and discussion, Mosaic on the Move, Mosaic Theatre Company and DC Public Library.

Classroom Talks

2021

"The Musical Worlds of Kirsten Childs," Class discussion, Historically Informed Performance Practice, Adam White, Sheridan College, April 14.

"Podcasting As Decolonial Method," Class discussion, Decolonizing International Education, Nana Brantuo, George Washington University, April 13.

"Kirsten Childs, *Bubbly Black Girl*, and Black Girlhood," Class discussion, African American Theatre History, Adrienne Oehlers, The Ohio State University, April 7.

"Production Dramaturgy: *The Revolutionists*," Class discussion, Text and Context, Tara Demmy, University of Maryland, College Park, March 24.

"Black Feminist Podcasting," Class discussion, Dr. Michelle Gibbs, Illinois Wesleyan University, March 11.

2020

"Daughters of Lorraine and Podcasting For Theatre," Class discussion, Theatre & Identity, Dr. Laura MacDonald, Michigan State University, October 28.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

University of Maryland, College Park
Black Theatre and Performance I, Fall 2021
History of Theatre II, Spring 2021
History of Theatre I, Fall 2020
Black Theatre and Performance II, Spring 2020
Black Theatre and Performance I, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant:

University of Maryland, College Park

Introduction to Theatre, with Dr. Caitlin Marshall (Discussion section instructor and Lead Teaching Assistant), August 2017-May 2019

Syllabi Created: Black Performance Theory; Staging Black Feminisms; Black Musical Theatre; Blackness, Sound, and Performance; Performing Black Girlhood on Stage and Screen

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-Present Assistant Editor, Theatre Journal

PRODUCTIONS AND PRACTICE

New Play Dramaturgy

2021 Georgetown Racial Justice Institute, Washington, D.C.

Zora On My Mind by Anita Gonzalez and Diana Lawrence

321 Theatrical Management, New York, NY

We Won't Sleep by Lauren Gunderson and Ari Afsar

Association For Theatre in Higher Education, Austin, TX

On Robots and Raindrops by Monica Cross

Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, GA

IPHIGENIA IN QUARANTINE by Liz Dooley*

SheATL, Atlanta, GA

To Free a Mockingbird by Grace Aki

Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, GA

ELLIPSES by David Quang Pham*

Actor's Express, Atlanta, GA

Momma by Quinn Xavier Hernandez

Hush Harbor Lab, Atlanta, GA

Behind the Veil by Minka Wiltz*

Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA

We the Village by Dana Stringer

Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta, GA

Well-Intentioned White People by Imani Vaughn-Jones

2020 <u>University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD</u>

RAPunzel by Jasmine Mitchell

Synchronicity Theatre, Atlanta, GA

rip by Danielle Deadwyler*

Hush Harbor Lab, Atlanta, GA

Locked by Mia Smith*

Production Dramaturgy

2022 <u>Signature Theatre Company, Washington, D.C.</u>

We Won't Sleep by Lauren Gunderson and Ari Afsar, dir. Erin Ortman (forthcoming)

2021 <u>University of Florida, Gainesville, FL</u>

A Little Night Music by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler, dir. Tony

Mata

Fells Point Corner Theatre, Baltimore, MD

Wit by Margaret Edson, dir. Lindsey R. Barr*

Working in DC and Labor Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Working: A Musical by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso, dir. Shanara Gabrielle

University of Maryland, College Park

The Revolutionists by Lauren Gunderson, dir. Leigh Wilson Smiley*

2019 <u>University of Maryland, College Park</u>

Flyin' West by Pearl Cleage, dir. Scot Reese and Alvin Mayes

2018 <u>Dance Place, Washington, D.C.</u>

Wake Up! by MK Abadoo and Vaughn Ryan Midder, dir. Vaughn Ryan Midder

Playwriting

2021 *lift every voice*, directed by Lee Osorio (commission)

Equitable Dinners
Out of Hand Theatre

2019 I've Been A Woman, directed by Christen Mandracchia

2018-2019 Second Season

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

I Don't, directed by Brian MacDevitt

Fearless New Play Festival

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Self-Portrait With Dirty Hair, directed by Manna-Symone Middlebrooks

Womxn On Fire Festival

The Keegan Theatre, Washington, D.C.

2018 I've Been A Woman, directed by Leticia Ridley

Page to Stage Festival

The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

Self-Portrait With Dirty Hair, directed by Justin Kalin

Collection #1: Identity

Atlanta Alumni AppCo, Atlanta, GA

^{*}Indicates post-show facilitation

Stop and Smell the Rosé, directed by Margot HG Manburg

Live Art In A Day

LiveArt DC, Washington, D.C.

The Insignificants, directed by Jordan Friend

Klecksography: Collective Ink

Rorschach Theatre, Washington, D.C.

2017 In the Thick of It, directed by Suehyla El-Attar

One Act Play Festival

Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA

I Don't, directed by Rachel Parish Daughters, directed by Julie Skrzypek

First Look Play Festival

Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA

Assistant Directing

2017 Essential Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA

Another Mother by G.M. Lupo, directed by Peter Harding

Education Study Guide Content Writer

2019 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

Flyin' West by Pearl Cleage

Harlem 100 by Mwenso and the Shakes

Talkbacks & Post-Show Discussions

2020 "After the Cataclysm: A Les Black Out Community Conversation." Theater

Emory, Digital. November 13.

untitled [MARTYR] by Agyeiwaa Asante, NextNOW Fest, Clarice Smith Performing

Arts Center, Digital. September 9. (Moderator)

Script Reading

Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, GA Bay Area Playwrights Festival, San Francisco, CA Arena Stage Theatre Company, Washington, D.C. University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Professional Organization Member

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

American Studies Association (ASA)

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

Black Women's Studies Association (BWSA)

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Organizational Service

2021-2022	Junior Graduate Student Representative, Association For Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Music Theatre/Dance Focus Group.
2021-2022	Member, Association For Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) 2022 Conference Planning Committee.
2020	Member, Association For Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Music Theatre/Dance

Member, Association For Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Music Theatre/Dance CFP Committee.

University Service

2021	University of Maryland (UMD) School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS), Faculty Search Committee. (voting)
2020-2021	Graduate Student Representative, University of Maryland (UMD) School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS), Performance Production Committee.
2020-2021	Member, University of Maryland (UMD) Senate, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.
2019-2021	Member, University of Maryland (UMD) Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) Hate

Bias Response Team, Policies and Protocols Committee.

Other Service

2021 Reviewer, Girlhood Studies.

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2021-2023	Project Dramaturg , Mosaic Theatre Company and DC Public Library, Washington, D.C. (forthcoming)
2021	Associate Mentor/Dramaturg , Young Playwrights Festival, Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA
2018	Graduate Student Apprentice, The Kennedy Center's New Visions, New Voices Playwriting Festival, Washington, D.C.
2016-2017	Playwriting Apprentice, Horizon Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA

MENTORSHIP AND SERVICES (NON-ACADEMIC)

2019-Present Mentor, SisterMentors

A mentorship program, founded by Dr. Shireen Lewis, designed to guide girls and women of color through educational institutions. In the program, I serve as a mentor to young girls of color to assist them with their homework, their extracurricular activities, and general self-care advice. We also peer mentor each other as doctoral students.

DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



Book, Music, and Lyrics DAVID QUANG PHAM

Narrative Dramaturgy
JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY

www.ellipsesplay.com

f tumblr. Ellipsesplay

©2020 - 2021

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





ELLIPSES

The Multiverse

in a Light 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.



THANK YOU

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

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

DEVELOPMENT

- August 2020 July 2021: Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship
 - October 5, 2020: <u>Reading with Talkback</u> of the first 11 pages at the Monday Night Critique Sessions
 - o December 7, 2020: <u>Reading with Talkback</u> of the first 11 pages of the second act at the Monday Night Critique Sessions
 - February 1, 2021: <u>Reading with Talkback</u> of "Zilch" to "Big Bang" at the Monday Night Development Workshops
 - May 3, 2021: <u>Reading with Talkback</u> of "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles" at the Monday Night Development Workshops
 - o July 15, 2021: Concert Reading with Talkback directed by Aliyah Curry
- 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 light 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 ("<u>Heat Death</u>"). An eternity passes, and Gravity and JD hit a wall while looking for the Edge. Gravity believes that one can overcome it by relaxing ("<u>Parallax</u>"). In that spirit, the Edge unveils ("<u>Tangent</u>"). 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 ("<u>Apparent</u>"). In these millennia of grief, Milky Way jolts Singularity back to life ("<u>Spacetime</u>"). Singularity looks beyond the Edge to find JD shedding light in their Ellipse ("<u>Liminality</u>").

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?"





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 singularity wants to keep all the	O 1	k Hole Adult
GRAVITY A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground and free	Tidal Force e up the wide-open space.	Any
SPT0615- JD The prophetic galactic sibling. JD wants to shed light and be ap	Embryonic Galaxy parent to their lightless legacy.	Young Adult
CARTWHEEL The aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to earn their rin	Ring Galaxy ng.	Teen
WHIRLPOOL The anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to spiral into en	Grand-Design Spira	al Galaxy Teen
TRIANGULUM The jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role	Spiral Galaxy model.	Teen
ANDROMEDA The scenic galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find the pe	Spiral Galaxy arl in our oysterous Universe.	Teen
MILKY WAY The angelic galactic sibling. Milky Way wants their voice to	Barred Spiral Galax be all that it is cracked up to be.	xy Preteen
*	MULTIPLICITIEs* Invariant Fix	SOLAR SYSTEMs Sun (Singularity) Earth (ensemble) Jupiter (Whirlpool) Saturn (Cartwheel) Uranus (Triangulum) Eris (JD) Oort Cloud (Andromeda)
ABELL 2261	Elliptical Galaxy	Child

ABELL 2261 Elliptical Galaxy Child

An anomalous galactic sweetheart beyond the Edge of the Universe.

Abell is SPT0615-JD's timely loved one in the audience.



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>	Page	<u>Title</u>	$\underline{\textbf{Characters}} \circ \textit{Present/Unvocal} \circ \underline{\textbf{Vocal/Unpresent}}$		
1.	16	Bounce	SINGULARITY GALAXIES		
2.	22	Crunch	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES JD GRAVITY tidals		
3.	23	Cutting Edge	GALAXIES GRAVITY SINGULARITY		
4.	34	<u>Figure</u>	JD MILKY WAY		
5.	37	Zilch	JD GRAVITY tidals		
6.	41	Luminous	SINGULARITY GALAXIES		
7.	42	Big Bang	SINGULARITY GALAXIES GRAVITY tidals		
8.	45	<u>Verse</u>	JD GRAVITY <u>SINGULARITY</u>		
9.	47	<u>Rip</u>	TEEN GALAXIES SINGULARITY		
10.	52	Anomaly is Everything	TEEN GALAXIES		
11.	61	Time is Relative	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL		
12.	67	Big Rip	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL tidals SINGULARITY		
13.	73	Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles	MILKY WAY solar systems		
14.	78	Globular	ANDROMEDA TRIANGULUM		
15.	80	<u>Fabric</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals		
16.	86	Far-Fetched	GRAVITY JD tidals		
17.	90	<u>Point</u>	SINGULARITY tidals multiplicities		
18.	93	<u>Heat Death</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities		
19.	104	<u>Parallax</u>	GRAVITY JD		
20.	107	Tangent	JD GRAVITY <u>SINGULARITY</u>		
21.	110	<u></u>	GRAVITY tidals JD		
22.	113	Bounce Back	GALAXIES GRAVITY tidals		
23.	120	Everything	GALAXIES		
24.	128	Apparent (Shed Light)	GALAXIES SINGULARITY GRAVITY tidals		
25.	130	<u>Spacetime</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES		
26.	131	<u>Liminality</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities GALAXIES ABELL		
27.	132	(The Big Rip of) Zenith	GRAVITY SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES tidals		
28.	138	Big Crunch	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES tidals		
29.	141	Big Bounce	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 | Their nature is operatic. So, it is only suitable for opera performers to portray them. 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>	Page	Location	SET props
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
Ш	141	A Fresh Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE balls knapsack snow globe

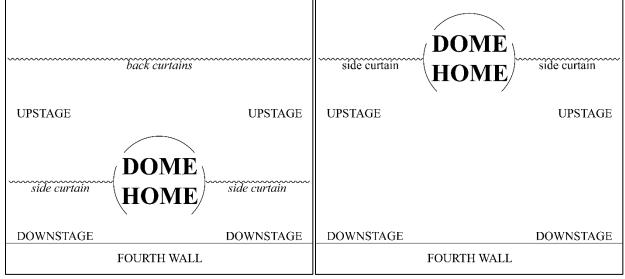


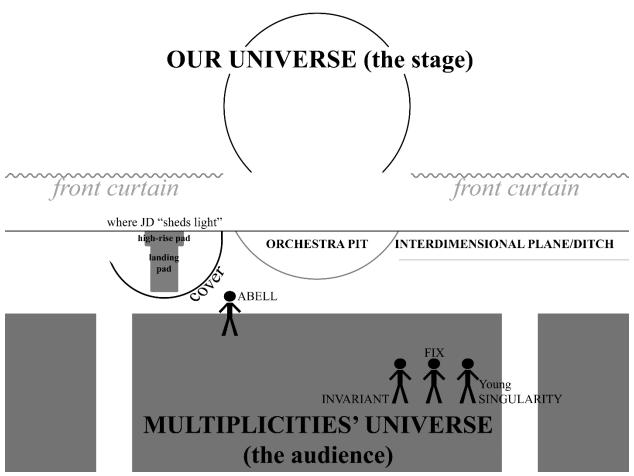
SETTINGS

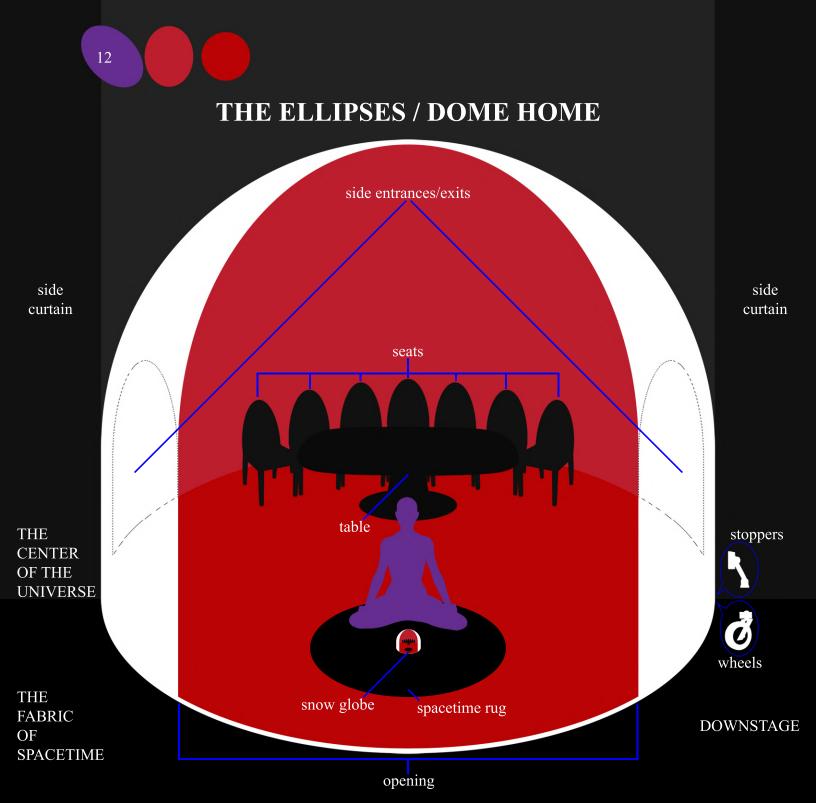
THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce

Post-Big Bang







THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT





ACTI



[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 looks out. They stow away the monocular.)

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

(MILKY WAY is disheveled. They stroll in.)

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

(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 Bach 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!

(SINGULARITY tries to get the TIDALs to sit.)

SINGULARITY

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."

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

JD

Force!

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.

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!

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

GRAVITY

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...

(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...

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

WHIRLPOOL

What is so special about the Edge?

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 Wbed.)

TRIANGULUM

	Last o	one to	bed is	s 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.)

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?

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...

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".]

JD

(GRAVITY shouts from offstage.)

GRAVITY

Pawn!

Gravity? That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY MILKY WAY

MILKY WAY

Free fall! Free me, JD! Quiet dog before Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake up.

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...?

5. ZILCH

GRAVITY

Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.

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

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.

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.



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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

There is *nothing* to them, Bach 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

JD

Stop making light—

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.

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. 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. They perform one last squillo.)

SINGULARITY

MISTAKEEEEE! 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!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALs

FALL! 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]

<u>9. RIP</u>

(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

WHIRLPOOL

Nothing matters.

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

WHIRLPOOL

Is your head a vacuum too, you square?

MILKY WAY

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

WHIRLPOOL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

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 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 THAT IS JUST FAMILIARITY.

ANOMALY IS THEIR THING, FROM THE WAY THEY *MOVED* TO THE WAY THEY UNDER*STOOD*. 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

CARTWHEEL

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

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

WHIRLPOOL

Whirl, you're a whirlpool in this sea.

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...*

CA	\mathbf{p}	LXX/	П	F	FΤ	
1 . A		·vv	_	η,	η, Ι	

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

WHIRLPOOL

I CAN'T FACE TIME.

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

(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...

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

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

ANDROMEDA

Milky Way! Declinations! We have found you!

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

Zi—Zi—It?

ANDROMEDA

Your voice has warped...

TRIANGULUM

It's a zit, we know... A zit is when after several billion years, a star grows into a red giant, swallows the planets near it, and enflames your galactic skin. We've been there.

ANDROMEDA

How long have ye been lying around?

MILKY WAY

Over four billi—Years?

ANDROMEDA

Lemme not spare another mill. Let's supernova it and get going.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

MILKY WAY

Plant friends?

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

ANDROMEDA

Pop it.

No.

Pop the red giant.

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! *Di*lations...?! 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!

(ANDROMEDA pops MILKY WAY's zit.)

MILKY WAY

Quasar⁷!

[The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.]

(The TIDALs get blinded and scatter away.)

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way. Don't go to the light!

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

(MILKY WAY stops emitting light.)

⁷Quasar is an extremely luminous active galactic nucleus. For more information, read NASA's <u>article</u>.

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.

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 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?

Abell is a name I gave "nothing."

GRAVITY

Why name it Abell?

.ID

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.

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 JD

WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.

WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.

FAR-FETCHED. FAR-FETCHED. FAR-FETCHED.

FRIENDS BEYOND THE EDGE.

FRIENDSHIP SAILED
FAR-FETCHED.

FARTHER AWAY. 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!

(SINGULARITY sits upright. They meditate.)

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

MULTIPLICITIEs

THERE IS NO POINT TO REVERSE. THERE IS NO US IN YOUR VERSE. THE POINT OF THIS UNIVERSE IS YOU...

SINGULARITY

THE POINT IN YOU IS A UNIVERSE. THE POINT IS YOU.

[The light dims to a singular point on SINGULARITY's inescapable heart.]

[End of "Point".]

End of Act



ACT 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 themself 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 relativitistically 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?

FIX

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

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.)

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!

(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.

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.

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.

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 ENTANGLED.
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.
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.

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.



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.)

21. ...(**Dot Dot Dot**)



(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 spaghettify 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.)

22. BOUNCE BACK

[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

WHIRLPOOL

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

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 ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

JD? 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

WHIRLPOOL

You ran out of our home... Ain't a goodbye...

TRIANGULUM

ANDROMEDA

You come crawling back to us. You're now a pearl in...

MILKY WAY

A smaller Ellipse!

JD

How is Singularity...?

(MILKY WAY weeps.)

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL

TRIANGULUM

How is the Edge...?

(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

WHIRLPOOL

JD! You have a bite wound!

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

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 VERBEL TO PHYSICAL TO SPIRITUAL.

FAMILY IS EVERY STRIKE,

TO OUR NOMY/MAMA/PAPA, TO OUR PARENT, TO OUR BACH HÔ.

(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

SINGULARITY

JD. ANOMALY. YOU'RE EVERYTHING. 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

X X 71 .	•	\sim	• . 0
What y	011 00111	na lir	O 171 f 17'
vv nat. v	ou savi	ng. Cn	aviiv
, ,,	000,1	,	

GRAVITY

(Howling.)

Free fall.

TIDALs

(Savagely and twistedly terrifyingly.)

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

TIDALs

Me pearl!

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".]

28. BIG CRUNCH

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

NUTHIN'!

(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 "PLATING TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF



Sense-Ability Ensemble (openspottheatre.com)



Daughters of Lorraine Podcast **HowlRound Theatre Commons**



The Cultural Workers Podcast (anchor.fm/minka-wiltz)



2941K



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



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 (\$300each) Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/performer	\$3,000.00		
Instrumentalist fees	Guitarist & Pianist (\$500each) Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_ope	\$1,000.00		
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	Options: St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C./Barney & Bea Rec. Center	\$200.00		
Stage manager	Resources: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/events/idea_opera/stage_director	\$500.00		
Lighting rental	ViOp has lighting equipment at their disposal			
Sound equipment rental	Quote: https://hartfordrents.com/locations/baltimore-md-audio-rental/	\$500.00		
Instrumental cartage	Continency fund for a baby grand piano if venue that JLC partners with has no piano	\$350.00		
Graphic design	Samples: https://www.ellipsesplay.com/graphics DQP is a freelance graphic designer	\$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 (DQP's experience with https://www.allegramarketingpri	\$180.00		
Child care	Accessibility: contingency funds for 6 personnel or daily occurrences (https://www.care.c	\$180.00		
Elder care				
Research materials	Inclusion: fashion illustrations (especially if costume design is not utilized)	\$90.00		
Transportation for creative personnel	NY<=>MD (\$79)(JLC) & MI<=>MD (\$227)(DQP) & UMD<=>DC (\$4)(8 members)(3 days) (ht	\$402.00		
Transportation for performers	College Park, MD<=>Washington, D.C. (\$4)(10 performers + 2 instrumentalists)(3 days)	\$144.00		
Housing for creative personnel	4 nights (\$125+/room) for JLC & DQP College Park Marriott (DQP stayed in 2017 & 2019	\$600.00		
Housing for performers	MD and DC-based Performers			
Videographer (ViOp affiliate)	Based on Musical Monument's budget (https://youtu.be/mj61UdV1cTs) by JLC's ViOp	\$500.00		
Filmographer (ViOp affiliate)	Based on Musical Monument's budget (https://youtu.be/mj61UdV1cTs) by JLC's ViOp	\$150.00		
Other 3				
Other 4	Consideration: UMD Observatory/Goddard Space Flight Center tour before the workshop			
Other 5				
Total		\$10,696.00		

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES			
Item	Notes	Cost	
Composer commissioning fee (DQP)			
Librettist commissioning fee (DQP)			
Living expenses	\$45 for 3 breakfasts, lunches, dinners for 20 personnel	\$900.00	
General administrative expenses	3 months payroll for administrator(s) (DQP-JLC) at \$17/hr	\$3,600.00	
Tuition expenses	DQP is in TRU Producer Development & Mentorship Program until January 2022	\$425.00	
Professional development fees	3 workshops (2 rehearsal workshop, 1 showcase workshop)	\$300.00	
Fundraising expenses	4 different crowdsourcing/fundraising platforms used by JLC's ViOp	\$232.00	
Ticket subsidies	Fees paid to ticketing platform based on 200 sales by JLC's ViOp	\$258.00	
Set, costume or properties construction	Props are necessary (\$300) and 10 celestial costumes (\$60each) are optional	\$900.00	
Total		\$6,615.00	

2021–2022 IDEA Opera Grants Budget Worksheet, Continued	
Composer [David Quang Pham]	
Librettist(s) [David Quang Pham]	

Eligible Expenses	\$10,696.00
Ineligible Expenses	\$6,615.00
Total	\$17,311.00

INCOME				
Item	Anticipated	Received		
OPERA America grant				
Ticket sales (if applicable)				
Other grant 1 (Yip Harburg Foundation)	Requested: \$3,100 (\$3,015 ineligible expenses minus admin.) Status: Pending			
Other grant 2				
Other grant 3				

Individual donation		
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$0.00

•	Total Expense	\$17,311.00
1	Total Income	\$0.00
	Net Profit/Loss	-\$17,311.00