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A Universal Musical

By David Quang Pham

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THANK YOU

Working Title Playwrights New Play and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship

Dr. Edwin Din Loh, Dr. Danny Caballero ○ Professors of Physics and Astronomy at Michigan State University

Dr. Daniel T. Smith Jr. ○ Professor of Theatre at MSU

Janelle Lawrence ○ Musical Theatre Mentor

Heather Helinsky ○ Literary Mentor at Playwrights Foundation

Amber Bradshaw ○ Managing Artistic Director of WTP

Emily McClain ○ First Reader

Alexis McKay ○ Fireworks/Stage Manager

Jordan Alexandria Ealey ○ Hat/Dramaturg

Aliyah Curry ○ Butterfly/Director

Parris Sarter*², Minka Wiltz* ○ Singularity

Vallea E. Woodbury ○ Gravity

Daniela Cobb* ○ SPT0615-JD

Jason-Jamal Ligon ○ Cartwheel

Skye Passmore ○ Whirlpool

Abby Holland ○ Triangulum

Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel ○ Andromeda

Evan Phillips ○ Milky Way

Kait Rivas ○ Tidsals

Sofia Palmero* ○ Narrator

Kate Leanne Jacoby* ○ Understudy

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

○ Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*

DAVID QUANG PHAM (he ★him)

David is a musical theater science communicator who guides scientists to the fourth wall and theatre artists to the fourth dimension. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science, devising stories from its branches. His notable musicals personifying quantum mechanics and dimensions are respectively: TOUR (2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist) and PARALLEL UNIVERSITY (2021 NYPL Lab) with [Marie Incontrera](#). He is the composer of [Minka Wiltz](#)'s mixed-media musical *Behind the Veil*. Composer [Janelle Lawrence](#) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including gospel, pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics and Minor in Theatre at Michigan State University, Pham studied playwriting as the apprentice of Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He is the Literary Fellow of Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco. He is also a proficient trombonist; a critic in Kennedy Center's BIPOC Critics Lab; a moderator at LMDA; a founding member of CreateTheater and the International Dramaturgy Lab; a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild. Be up to lightspeed at davidquang.com

CHRONOLOGY

October 5, 2020 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 December 7, 2020 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 February 1, 2021 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 May 3, 2021 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 June 13, 2021 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited
[July 15, 2021](#) • Concert Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights; Director [Aliyah Curry](#), Dramaturg [Jordan Ealey](#)
 October 17, 2021 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited
 December 11, 2021 • Lab • Theater Resources Unlimited; Director [Miriam Eusebio](#)
 February 27, 2022 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited
 2022 • Semifinalist • National Music Theater Conference, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

SYNOPSIS

Spend an eternity in the family musical of epic proportions: ELLIPSES is a cosmology mythology that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way out of a life-changing event known as the Big Bang.

Before the world that we have come to know, there lived a remote family of Galaxies. Singularity is the single parent who locked their six kids in the house. Milky Way is the baby sibling going through galactic puberty. JD is the oldest sibling looking to explore the Universe. This outgrown young adult is perfect for Gravity's manipulation. In a violent altercation, JD shoots Singularity to run away from home with Gravity (aka the Big Bang). Without their parent, the teenage Galaxies must fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos.

Family is everything we know, and so is the Universe. The entire chronology of our Universe is a family drama in play. To live as a family or to leave as anomalies is the heart of this universal coming-of-age story.

ooo

In geometry, an "ellipse" is an oval. ○
In punctuation, "ellipses" indicate omissions. ...

"..." at the end of a sentence implies ponderance.
Gravity and the other Tidals have no use for "..."

"An ellipse in the ellipses" ○ A Stage in the Three Stages of Human Development (Childhood/Teenhood/Adulthood)

"Ellipses" ○ A (divisive) term for Galaxies, besides "Ovals" and "Ellipsoids"

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

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog

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

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Supporting Characters

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

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

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

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

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

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

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

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

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

Act II

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

Nulla

29. "[Big Bounce](#)" Company

○ Legend: [Full Demo](#)

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

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

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

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

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

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

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

SINGULARITY leaves through a side exit of the home.

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

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

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

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

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

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA scopes out. They stow away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY, looking disheveled, strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

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

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

MILKY WAY makes their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA sails to the table.

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

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

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

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

JD
ABELL...

ABELL reaches out to JD.

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

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

TEEN GALAXIES
Singularity. Declinations.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

GRAVITY
(Narrating)
Nothing comes close to family. Except "pets."
I'm Gravity. I've been here for infinite dog years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family.
(re: SINGULARITY)
This single parent has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. Their kids aren't much older than a dozen. But one nears two dozen. I like this one.
(re: SPT0615-JD)
We've long lived in the Elliptic. The Elliptic is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD. JD is on the edge.
(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

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

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Sounds like someone's been eating my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way!

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY touches the snow globe and stares at ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA hands over the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

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

GRAVITY tries to nab TRIANGULUM's
 dish.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

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

(to GRAVITY)

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

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible
 spaghetti to a sitting GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

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

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY
 tries getting them to sit.

TIDALS

(Repeating)
 Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes endless millennia to burn that,
Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's
physique.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

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

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

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

SINGULARITY

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

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Always full of grace. Let us save space.

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES pray.

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

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

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

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

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

WHIRLPOOL
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

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

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

End of "CRUNCH"

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

GRAVITY approaches JD.

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

GRAVITY makes JD face outside.

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

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 SPT0615-JD.
 AS WE ARE JUST SAYING BEFORE YOU CUT US OFF.
 NOTHING'S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE.
 NO ONE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE.
 JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

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

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 SPT0615-JADED—

JD (CONT'D)
 JD GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

JD (CONT'D)

ALL MY COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS EPIC TALE.
OUR AUDACIOUS VERSE.
THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND WHO WILL FOLLOW IN MY LYRICAL TRAILS
TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'LL KNOW.

I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

End of "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

Grounded. You're my tidal force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

I'll spare a millennium to listen to your
verse. It is apparent like me. Clear and crisp
like how I raised you to be. JD?

JD

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

You love Gravity so— Too much. That dog can be
a bad influence.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Abell... There is a timely ring in mine.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

My biological clock is a bit malnourished.

SINGULARITY

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

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

JD

You all tick me off! I'm so sick of dishing it
out with you teenage Galaxies.

(MORE)

JD (CONT'D)

I've grown picky with the same old dish of photons. I'm so done with Crunch.

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY

JD, who is Abell?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

(to JD)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Can I play with *nothing*?
Please?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

No means *no*.

JD (CONT'D)

Pretty please with a
supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

The sight of darkness is not
enough for you?

JD (CONT'D)

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

SINGULARITY

I don't see clearly when I sentimentally stated these "prophecies." I was lost in your eyes when telling these bedtime stories. In reality, who—
What you call "lightless" needs no apparency.

(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Drop this legacy nonsense. Be present for your family. The future is *nothing* to ponder on. Join us for Crun-

SINGULARITY reaches for JD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl and soon ground SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY

(Corralling the TIDALS)

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

GRAVITY runs into an invisible wall in the opening of the Elliptic and dizzily falls back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

SINGULARITY

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

The TIDALS tremble and leave.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

Um, I literally am the center. I, Singularity, have my hands in and on the entire Universe... I pull, thread, and weave the strings in the Fabric of Spacetime. Better a puppet than pet. You're treating me as though I'm not the grandmaster of the Universe.

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY

Oh now you want to consider my center...

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY exits, dragging out GRAVITY.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

ANDROMEDA

Ye not the Gravity of the situation...

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

What in the world?

TRIANGULUM

Gravity went berserk and brought down Singularity. The stupid dog let us all down.

JD

Gravity never lets me down, Gals. *I will never stoop to your level and blame the dog.* You're all downers.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

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

CARTWHEEL

What is so special about the Edge?

WHIRLPOOL

Nothing ain't relative to us there.

JD

You'll understand in no time.

MILKY WAY

We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

JD

I'll overstate it over time. Crunch Time's all you look forward to. This Universe is all you see. You're too young to notice what's outside.

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

ANDROMEDA

Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one.
Declinations.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

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

TRIANGULUM

Oh no, you're not!

TRIANGULUM tries to drag away
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You're such a square, Triangulum...

MILKY WAY

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Look at the time. Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off.

TRIANGULUM

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

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

JD

I can't even with this family...

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

JD (CONT'D)

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

MILKY WAY

In what way?

JD

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

JD sits at the table.

MILKY WAY joyfully grabs a board
game with elliptical elements.

MILKY WAY

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

JD holds up a miniature figure.

JD

I'm a wat- Land bear.

MILKY WAY

Oh! That mean I the wata'-

JD

You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY

Please name us tardigrades? This so confusin'.

JD

I'm the adult around here.

MILKY WAY

Gas it is... May I ask...? Adulthood? Who ya're?

JD

Even at this age, I like to mess around. And play a game called "life." The goal's to go from one ellipse to another. Every ellipse are risks.

MILKY WAY

To you... What is between ellipses?

JD

A *liminal* space...?

MILKY WAY tries repeating the word.

JD (CONT'D)

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

MILKY WAY uneasily places a figure.

JD holds figures of all heights.

JD (CONT'D)

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

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

MILKY WAY

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

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

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

MILKY WAY
LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

JD
LIFE HAS *UPS* AND *DOWN*S.

MILKY WAY
GO FIG— UH.

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

MILKY WAY
TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

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

MILKY WAY
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

JD
YOU ARE GAINING SOME CURVES.
YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FIGURE.

MILKY WAY
I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

JD
LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

MILKY WAY
I'LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

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

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

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

MILKY WAY

(Intensely cracking their voice)

I no wanna go far in this game called— Uh life.
Oh *curves*... I hate my figure. I hate myself.

JD

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

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

JD (CONT'D)

LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY

KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Pawn!

Only JD understands GRAVITY.

JD

Gravity?

MILKY WAY

That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

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

JD

Nothing... I need to get down with Gravity and
check up on our "guard" dogs. Let's let these
bears hibernate. Cubs need rest in order to
cross ellipses. We can finish this game of
Water Bears and Elevators some other time.

And it's way past your bedtime. Gal, you're
still a baby. *Quit the sour face, Milky Way.*
I'm the anomaly in this family.

JD bows.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

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

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is free!

JD

You always understand me...

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is infinite. Nothing's out there for ya.

JD

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

GRAVITY (O.S.)

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

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

JD

Our rug of spacetime...?

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Use them opposable thumbs, Gal.

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

JD

Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

TIDALS (O.S.)

(Whimpering)

Fall.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

End Singularity! Stun them Galaxies! Free thee!
No longer bound by this family! Make *nothing* ya
legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up in the
audience.

End of "ZILCH"

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

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

JD puts back the Big Bang Taser
underneath the rug.

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY enters.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Maybe you should let them out?

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

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

I'll make something of myself on the other side.

SINGULARITY

You can't make something out of nothing...

JD

How did you make us? Out of nothing?

SINGULARITY

JD...

Why...?

JD (CONT'D)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

I will not let go of your light! My life will not be bled. All your luminosity stays here...

(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Being a single parent sure did wonders to you.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

Oh the luminosit— *You've got to be shedding me.*

SINGULARITY hands the monocular to
JD. They point out.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

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

JD longingly scopes out the Edge.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

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

SINGULARITY retakes the monocular.

SINGULARITY

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

Other GALAXIES enter in alignment.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

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

End of "LUMINOUS"

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

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're ripping apart the family rug! Its spacetime fabric is passed down from my parents! Gravity. For the last time, you've let down this family. Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

JD retakes the Big Bang Taser.

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

JD

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

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

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

The light fluctuates. Appliances
may short circuit and spark.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALS (O.S.)

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

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

The TIDALS freely rush out and
tidally dance around the stage.
They try to lure all members of
the theatre audience to go wild.

The AUDIENCES rock and roll!

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

JD walks to the edge of the home,
shifting from dolor to wonder.
They carefully step out onto the
stage. They stow away the Big Bang
Taser in their dress. They look
back at their petrified siblings.

JD

My heart goes out to you all, family. However,
my heart goes out for me and Gravity.
Declinations!

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

JD (CONT'D)

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

JD takes a single step downstage.

The lights expand further out. The
home moves upstage in between the
back curtains.

JD (CONT'D)

It's *getting* further away. We're rolling out
the Fabric of Spacetime like our rug...

(Leveling with GRAVITY)

We're going to go off on a tangent. For all
eternity. For the rest of spacetime.

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

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

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

JD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

In the home, most TEEN GALAXIES
watch as the Universe unravels.

MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themselves
around the lifeless SINGULARITY.

TEEN GALAXIES

All our hearts have gone out with the Big Bang.

End of "BIG BANG"

The back curtains conceal the home.

Field equations bloom.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

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

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

JD

LETTERS, NUMERALS, FACTORIALS.
IT IS ALL THANKS TO A FACTOR:
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

NUMBERS, ALPHABETS, POLYNOMIALS.
PLANTING CONSTANTS AS MATH FARMERS.
STAGES OF THE BIG BANG FORM HYPERBOLAS.
ONLY HYPERBOLE!

STORIES, EQUATIONS, ALGORITHMS.
IT IS TO BASK IN ITS GLORY.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

GRAVITY puts together $F = AM$.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Echoing from beyond)

You are a big mis—

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

JD

MUSIC, DISCORDANCE, FAMILIAR.
CROSSING THE LINE FULL OF SCEPTICS.
ZAPPING NOMY/MAMA/PAPA IS A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
THAT'S THE STING OF REVERSE...

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

GRAVITY

Force?

JD feels at ease as GRAVITY
concocts Hubble's Law: $v = H_0 D$.

JD

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

GRAVITY

Force!

GRAVITY and JD hastily skip out.

End of "VERSE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations, nomy/mommy/daddy.

End of "RIP"

MILKY WAY sniffles.

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

WHIRLPOOL

We'll grow older... We must soldier on.

CARTWHEEL

Nothing matters.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Ain't a thing hold mass.

ANDROMEDA

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

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

MILKY WAY

We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL

Look at Singularity— Singsing. What do you think?

MILKY WAY

I can't. When I hungry...

WHIRLPOOL

We've got wormholes to feed. Let's think like Singularity. We gotta round up all tidal forces.

CARTWHEEL

We're also going to be dog catchers now?

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

We're clusters of delicate flowers. Look out. The garden's thinning out. Our crops face an eternal drought. This profound cosmos is going to have a field day with us. We'll starve to death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates. Even if we had ingredients, who here knows how to cook up recipes? Who can make it out of *here*?

TRIANGULUM

Let's make light of the situation. Luminous, Gals. *Lighten up.*

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Ya'll hear this pinhead? Singsing lightened up.

TRIANGULUM

The Universe shall 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 sibling, who should've been wiser?

WHIRLPOOL

Uh, it was kept hidden by the wisest being...?

CARTWHEEL

Sing- Had this, *Big Bang Taser*, the whole time?

WHIRLPOOL

I joined them in wholesome yoga. One time, they
felt outta place and drew it out. Singsing
never fired the thing. I ain't know it'd do *that*.

TRIANGULUM

Singularity limited our gifts to light but *power*?

ANDROMEDA takes out the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

MILKY WAY

You all mistaken... Gravity ravel JD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

MILKY WAY

I hear JD talk to dogs. JD gone mad.

TRIANGULUM

It's absolutely the dogs' fault. Gravity caused
the Big Bang. And it's on us Gals to end our big
fuss. JD is the only Galaxy who knows how to
pick equations, put together formulas, and cook
up photons. Like Singsing used to. JD will forgo
nothing. This nothingness. We're not forgiving
JD. Our anomaly's giving back everything.

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

Gal! No one has time for this Barred Galaxy!

TRIANGULUM

Cart-Whirl! You're both barred from stepping out
for eternities. *Andromeda and I* will find JD.

ANDROMEDA

Aye aye, devil's Triangulum!

TRIANGULUM

*This devil trusts that you'll be performing
Galaxy shanties rather than mutinies.*

(to the Teen Galaxies)

Disarm the anomalous, JD. Even anomalies are
powerless without their family...

CARTWHEEL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything's— What's family?

MILKY WAY

What is anomaly?

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

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

FAMILY IS... FAMILY IS...? FAMILY IS...

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

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW

NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.

NO SUCH THING AS FAMILIARITY.

ANOMALY IS THEIR THING,

FROM THE WAY THEY SING TO THE WAY THEY GO MISSING.

ANOMALY IS OUR THING,

LIKE THIS ELLIPSE WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.

TRIANGULUM takes out the shattered
snow globe.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

REALLY, FAMILY IS EVERYTHING TO US.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

WE KNOW.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY'S UNIVERSAL. *WE KNOW*

THAT WE'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING.

WELL, THE THING IS THAT WE'RE ALL HOMES TO FAMILIES.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

ANOMALY IS EVERY CELL,

FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.

ANOMALY IS EVERY VEIN,

WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.

ANOMALY IS OUR HEARTS.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

TRIANGULUM

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

TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopee
cushion at the table.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly
laugh.

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

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!
ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

TRIANGULUM exits with ANDROMEDA.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL end their
laughter, feeling duped.

MILKY WAY

You wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas?

CARTWHEEL points elsewhere.

CARTWHEEL

Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.

MILKY WAY hears the SOLAR SYSTEM
in their head.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

You are now the adult in the room.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Sounds like peer pressa'...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY strolls away from the
safety of the Elliptic.

MILKY WAY

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

MILKY WAY exits.

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Ope. Shiver me clusters! *Melky Way is away!* No one is at the Elliptic!

TRIANGULUM

Those galactic idiots! This voyage is in vain.

TRIANGULUM takes out the shattered snow globe.

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

JD can wait...

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

(MORE)

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

My 30,000-light-year radius packs a punch, okay?
Hate to say this: I hope Milky Way's with them.

ANDROMEDA

In this space, they're walking the blank. In this time, they'll right their wrongs and Milky Way will be relatively safe. Just give it time!

ANDROMEDA hums "Globular."

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail off.

SCENE 7

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.

CARTWHEEL clumsily cartwheels in.

CARTWHEEL

Time is... Up.

WHIRLPOOL

In the air?

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

You and I need some downtime.

CARTWHEEL

We're not stopping until we finish our quest.
We need to reach the Edge. Time is running out.

WHIRLPOOL

Time to run on home. That is our timely quest.

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

(Noting the hypocrisy)

*Ditch? Drop the ego. Time's a circle. The whole
cosmos will come round. JD will return. Let's be
around Milky Way. We make perfect babysitters.*

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

That is precisely how much Milky Way has grown since we last saw them. Let's go home.

CARTWHEEL

Give me a millennium to consider your thoughts.

Beat. WHIRLPOOL sits.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Minds cannot be changed in a single millennium.

WHIRLPOOL

But bodies certainly do.

CARTWHEEL

Don't mock my ring! Oh... Milky Way shows signs of waves and wrinkles. Makes me sentimental as our parent when we became teens... Too bad they won't be around when we reach another ellipse. Time is up... In another dimension.

WHIRLPOOL

They ain't here to see Milky Way ascend. But we are. Let's be decent. We ain't a dimension away.

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

CARTWHEEL

Can you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL

"Dilation" means *to expand*.

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?

WHIRLPOOL

Time is the point once you meditate on it.

CARTWHEEL

Time's so special with you, relative. As a light individual, times are heavy weights.

WHIRLPOOL

A little enlightenment ain't gonna hurt. You'll see the light.

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

CARTWHEEL
OUR PARENTS WAS OUR ONLY SOURCE...

WHIRLPOOL
(Meditating)
T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY
SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

Live with me in the millennium.

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

CARTWHEEL 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 to the end. Let's
ride the rest of it out with our loved ones.

TIME'S FOR FAMILY;
THAT'S WHY LIFE AIN'T FAST WITHOUT THEM.

CARTWHEEL
SINCE TIME GETS REAL SLOW,
THEN LIFE IS LONGER WITHOUT THEM.

WHIRLPOOL
THAT AIN'T HOW TIME WORKS.

CARTWHEEL
FAMILY'S NOT IN THE EQUATION!

WHIRLPOOL
CHANGE IS.

CARTWHEEL
CHANGES?

WHIRLPOOL
YOU'LL CHANGE IN TIME.

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY
SQUARED DIVIDED—

CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.

WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
TIME IS RUNNING OUT,
YET TENSOR CALCULUS STRAINS YOU.

CARTWHEEL
NO ATTENTION SPANS
FOR REALITY THAT PAINS ME.
EACH MOMENT'S LOST TIME...

WHIRLPOOL
FAMILY'S IN OUR EQUATION.
THEY MAKE UP OUR SOCIAL CONSTRUCT.

CARTWHEEL stands and rotates
counterclockwise away.

CARTWHEEL
DOWNTIME.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)
I CAN'T FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL
PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL spirals clockwise.

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

CARTWHEEL
Let's steer away from the time dilat- Dilemma,
that we face. Milky Way will outgrow our
neglect. Past, present, and future, all we need
is each other. You'll come around to it.

WHIRLPOOL

TIME'S TOO RELATIVE.
WE NEED TO SEE OUR FAMILY.
YOU'LL KNOW IN NO TIME...

Light slows by WHIRLPOOL while
light stops by CARTWHEEL.

CARTWHEEL

T. Time... Over. Time has an influence over all...
Square. Our family square... Root. Where we come
from... Of one. Our single parent... Minus velocity.
Each of us leaving for another city... Squared
divided. Our family is divided... By the speed of
light squared. Even though we squared off, our
family will truly be over once we see the light...
(Reaching enlightenment)

Time is more special than it is relative...
Unlike light, time is not passed down. Time's
only here for the relationships in the moment.
We left at ages over thirteen near the speed of
light. Milky Way was twelve. If we come back
eternities later, our faces will seem unfazed
while Milky Way will change. Childhood goes by
faster than other stages. *Time dilation!* We're
forever Singularity's babies. But no matter how
hard we try, nevermore family will be. Whether
times are fast or slow, it doesn't change that
time passes away. I must take on this weight.
We must be there for our family before we won't
have time anymore. We'll know in... *No time.*

TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

CARTWHEEL lends a hand. WHIRLPOOL
stands with CARTWHEEL. The lights
balance amongst them. Through a
training montage, they assemble
the time dilation equation:
 $\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL earns their ring. They
can cartwheel again.

WHIRLPOOL

TIME IS RELATIVE.
FAMILY HAS COME TO YOUR SENSES.

CARTWHEEL

TIME IS FAMILY,
AS THERE'S LITTLE TIME LEFT WITH THEM.

WHIRLPOOL
WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

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

Lights form a frame around
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
TIME...
TIME.
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.

End of "TIME IS RELATIVE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 8

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Dilations, Milky Way. We're home!
(re: the TIDALS on the burial plot)
Singsing?! Don't get near our relative!

WHIRLPOOL
Did... They ain't eat our baby sibling...?

CARTWHEEL
I knew Milky Way is going through an appetite.
I didn't think they'd wind up as appetite.

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

TIDALS
Force! Force! Fall!

The TIDALS chase out the GALAXIES.

End of "BIG RIP"

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

SCENE 9

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY drifts in. They hear the
SOLAR SYSTEM in their head.

MILKY WAY

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

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Forgotten?

MILKY WAY

Imaginary friends?

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

We're your planetary friends.

EARTH (O.S.)

I'm not.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (O.S.)

No one is asking you, Earth.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

Being forgotten isn't so bad. I wish I was. No
matter what I'd do, I'm blamed for everything.
Everyone retrogrades me! I'm Mercury. You may be
barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are at large.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (O.S.)

You most certainly have a massive orbit.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (O.S.)

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (O.S.)

Go play with your ring, Saturn.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (O.S.)

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

URANUS (O.S.)

Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (O.S.)

You are a two! Hahahahahaha!

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

URANUS [Triangulum] (O.S.)

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the
butt of the joke! *Always treating me like crap-*

MILKY WAY

You have a son?

URANUS [Triangulum] (OFFSTAGE)

No. Sun is our nomy/mama/papa. We're sons of Sun.

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

EARTH (O.S.)

Yes, child. It's the natural order of things. When you get older, you'll have clusters of stars of your own. You should know better. What are you? Twelve eternities old?

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

Earth, we do not discuss galactic formation in this Solar household. It's theoretical heresy.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

I'm too close to Sun that it gets pretty heated. But, I don't get fevers like Venus. Earth and you may be dense, but you are distant from your siblings that you're not such a drag...

MILKY WAY

I needa find JD. Mercury. Don't degrade yaself. I wish life retrogrades a million years.

EARTH (O.S.)

Oh yeah, time is dilated for you Galaxies. Let this planet convert it. The last you were in your family's orbit was 13.81 billion years ago. The year your eldest elliptical sibling ripped apart your family. Do you hate being an oval?

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

I didn't raise you, Earth, to be a jerk to other shapes and insult their curves.

EARTH (O.S.)

Sun. As a result of stars like you, I'm a proud sphere. *Ugh Milky Way. Ew waves. Pff wrinkles.*

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

Don't take Earth's bullying. That rocky planet may be well-rounded, but you're a person all around. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Like Oort Cloud. They do not blame my retrograde for their imperfections.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (O.S.)

I may be outta the system, but I got a stronghold on it. An influence that's a hundred thousand astronomical units wide. *You are 6.685 billion.* I've heard enough comet tails. It's always good to see you around, Milky Way. You got a tidal tale to share with us? Cluster, Solar System!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets pop out,
with the absence of the SUN.

EARTH (PUPPET)

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

MILKY WAY gracelessly bellows with
cracks. They hiccup.

EARTH (P.) (CONT'D)

Milky Way warped themselves!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets burst
into laughter.

MILKY WAY bursts into tears.

MILKY WAY

I hate myself!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY examines their body.

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

Not just your curves. Figures! You're a special
Galaxy. You hold something dear that no one
else has. Well, *your alienating siblings*
probably do, but they won't show it.

MILKY WAY

Tell me.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

EARTH (P.)

There are people in me.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (P.)

Cut your hubris, Earth!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY

Embody it.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You must first, own yours.

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

MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

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

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

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)
YOUR PLANETARY FRIENDS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN YOUR HEAD.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)
IMAGINARY!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)
BUT REALLY...

MERCURY [JD] (P.)
THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)
ONE OF SEVERAL...

MERCURY [JD] (P.)
ARMS, IN FACT.

The extra arms extend out behind
an unaware MILKY WAY.

URANUS [Triangulum] (P.)
Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY
What's mirra'?

URANUS [Triangulum] (P.)
It's the thing to check what you look like.

MILKY WAY
I neva' know what I look like...

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (P.)
Neither do we. But take it from us, we know
you're beautiful on the inside!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake
each of MILKY WAY's multiple arms.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

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

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets reveal
 MILKY WAY's tiny arm.

MILKY WAY checks out their curves.
 They soon pull out two magnolia
 flowers from their dress.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You are Magellanic...

Your curves don't garnish the highest presence.
 Buried underneath your waves are the most
 majestic gifts: The Magellanic Clouds!

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

MILKY WAY devours the flowers.

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

Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds)

I gravitate my feelings...

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY

Parsecs distance, not time.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (P.)

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

SATURN [Cartwheel] (P.)

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

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY

(Singing with cracks, flaws, and tremolos)

I NOW HAVE

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LIVE WITH IT.

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Voice deepens or elevates)

I LOVE MYSELF!

The extra arms may hug MILKY WAY.

Many SOLAR SYSTEM dancers spiral in while EARTH drags their feet. Each dancer resembles distinct planets and stars. They orbit MILKY WAY like spiral arms around the center of many Galaxies. A dancer places a halo on MILKY WAY's head.

SOLAR SYSTEMS

HALO FRIEND

AND OUR HOME.

PROTECTOR

AND OUR RIDE.

HITCHHIKER

AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF OUR...

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

WE LOVE IT ALL!

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)

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

MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMS
stop in their tracks. They resume.

MILKY WAY & SOLAR SYSTEMS

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

End of "WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

The stage goes red as the SUN
becomes a red giant, swallowing
the SOLAR SYSTEM in their wake.

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

MILKY WAY touches their forehead,
feeling a headache. They remove
their hand to reveal a zit. They
pass out on the ground.

MILKY WAY

W- W- N- Wr-

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (O.S.)

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

SCENE 10

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail in.

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

ANDROMEDA

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

MATTERS COME AND GO.
CRUXES OF FORCES THAT HOLD...

ALL US TOGETHER.
IT'S WHY YE CLUSTER OUR STARS.

AS FOR MELKY WAY,
LET THEM JOIN THE GLOB. GLOBULAR.

End of "GLOBULAR"

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA glide to
an anchored MILKY WAY.

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA

Milky Way! Declinations! We have found you!

ANDROMEDA

(to MILKY WAY)

Did we lose ye? Oh no... Are ye now 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 themselves before we did...

MILKY WAY

(Voice has forever changed)

Zi- Zi- It?

ANDROMEDA

Ye voice has warped...

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

How long have ye been lying around?

MILKY WAY

Over four billi- Years?

ANDROMEDA

Lemme not spare another mill. Go supernova your
acne and let's get going.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY

Their name, Solar System.

TRIANGULUM

Your "Solar System" seems to be bringing you
astronomical pain. Milky Way... I remembered
having to pop off my boil. I named them: "Iota
Trianguli." I don't miss them. Not one iota.

(Sniffling)

Turning this "Solar System" into stardust is
yours and *their* only remedy!

TRIANGULUM stares down ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA

Ope, what?

TRIANGULUM

Pop it.

ANDROMEDA

No.

TRIANGULUM

Pop the red giant!

ANDROMEDA

I'm not touching that thing!

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

Why don't ye scurry to it since ye a zit expert?

TRIANGULUM

I have these *teeny spiral arms*, remember?

ANDROMEDA

Least ye not a Ring Galaxy...

15. "FABRIC" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/15-fabric>)

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Fall!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL run in,
crashing into TRIANGULUM.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Milky Way! Dilations! You're still alive!

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

The TIDALS enter, prowling in.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Too late! The tidal dogs are after our stardust!

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

The TIDALS nearly bite TRIANGULUM.

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

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

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

ANDROMEDA
And once JD gave them a taste of the Fabric of
Spacetime. Free "nothingness." Once Singularity
lost control of the cosmos, the Tidal won't
let go of this cosmic dog park without a fight.

WHIRLPOOL
When did you start understanding their plight?

ANDROMEDA
Honestly, ye am hesitant about undoing the Big
Bang... Ye, too, enjoy this space...

TRIANGULUM
Tidals. It's not what it looks like. We are not
rolling your "cosmic dog park" back to the way
things were. We're trying to park it and um...

MILKY WAY

Fix, it...

The TIDALS instinctually sit.
Then, they prepare to pounce.

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

ANDROMEDA pops MILKY WAY's zit.

MILKY WAY

Quasar! (A luminous active galactic nucleus.)

The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.

The TIDALS get blinded and run off.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way. Don't go to the light!

ANDROMEDA

Ope. The light's actually coming from Melky Way.

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

Quasi-stellar radio source...!

ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up,
dissolving the spotlight.

ANDROMEDA

Looks like ye officially a teen Galaxy...

TRIANGULUM

I can't deal with another one...

MILKY WAY

I, too old for board games... Milky Way forward?

TRIANGULUM locks arms with MILKY
WAY and ANDROMEDA. They walk it off.

TRIANGULUM

Deal. Milkomeda. All aboard the teenage globular.

ANDROMEDA sings the shanty,
"Globular."

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly
exit with their siblings.

End of "FABRIC"

SCENE 11

A Quasar looms in the distance.

GRAVITY, now huskier, and JD
wander in.

JD

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

JD grabs a stellar ball from their
knapsack and tosses it.

GRAVITY retrieves the star.

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

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

JD is about to toss the star when
they notice the Quasar.

JD (CONT'D)

Milky Way...?

GRAVITY

Abell?

JD understands GRAVITY once again,
this time with amassed anxiety.

JD

Pet. *Force*...?

GRAVITY

Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are ya a puppet.
But something's pulling at ya heartstrings:
Abell. Ya always say "Abell" under ya breath as
ya peek over the Edge. What is Abell? Why do ya
wanna pour ya heart out for this Abell?

JD

Abell is the name I gave "nothing."

GRAVITY

Why name it Abell?

JD

My biological clock rings whenever I see *them*.

GRAVITY

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

JD

They're in another ellipse... You wouldn't know them... And, I don't know them, yet... Do I make myself clear...?

GRAVITY

Clearly, ya cuckoo. I mean— The Edge of the Universe is just beyond the horizon!

JD

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

GRAVITY

Relax. This Fabric of Spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite. Hey. It's natural to tense up as spacetime stretches tight. *Blow off steam instead of blowing it outta 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

Ya at the highest point in ya life since ya been away.

JD

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

GRAVITY

Finally. Peace and quiet. Ya now the adult in the space. Ya got all the time to kill. Relax!

JD

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

GRAVITY

(Fiercely)

Ya gone too far with Singularity. The world ya know is over. There's no *turning back*!

JD

(re: the ball JD is holding)

I'm like this star. I've been tossed out. Eventually, a force will retrieve it and return them back to their rightful place. I'm far away from home, but my family will fetch me.

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

GRAVITY

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

JD

EDGE IS FAR-FETCHED.
THE EDGE.
THIS EDGE.
EDGE IS SO FAR-FETCHED.
FAR AND AWAY.

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA GALAXY NEEDS TO FETCH.
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

GRAVITY grabs and tosses a ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

GO FETCH THE STAR.

JD cramps up, retrieving the ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

JD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

GRAVITY notices JD's heartache.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Ya a part of my accretion, and I thank ya
SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!
SPT0615-JD, YA ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

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

The TIDALS rush in like a tidal
wave. They place a sled underneath
GRAVITY and JD. Then, they align
themselves like sled dogs.

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

TIDALS

FAR!

GRAVITY

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA GALAXY NEED TO FETCH.

TIDALS

FETCH!

GRAVITY

POINT OF RETURN IS?

JD

FAR-FETCHED!

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

GRAVITY & JD

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

TIDALS

A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

GRAVITY, JD, and the TIDALS sled
away.

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 12

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

A Quasar looms in the distance.

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

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

SINGULARITY

WHERE IS THE POINT IN ALL THIS TROUBLE...?
ALONE... I TREMBLE AT THIS POINT, PERIOD...

MY POINT IS MOOT WHEN TIME HAS SENTENCED
MY KIDS... TO A LIFE ON THE EDGE. NO RETURN...

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE...?
SINGLE... WHAT IS THE ENTIRE POINT WITHOUT US...?

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing)

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the
audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

WHAT IS THIS POINT TO MAKE, WHEN THEY'RE MADE?
SINGLE PARENT WHO MADE MANY POINTS
LIKE ALL THIS.

Six elliptical puppets loom.

TIDALS (O.S.)

(Echoing)

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

SINGULARITY sits up and meditate.

The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY,
growing elliptical and sole.

MULTIPLICITIES

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

SINGULARITY

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

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

Blackout.

End of "POINT"

END OF ACT

INTERMISSION

ACT IISCENE 1

SINGULARITY'S BACKSTORY AND PAST UNIVERSE

The stage front is solely lit.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)

Nothing, like a little story to *kill time*.

Countless eternities ago in another universe unlike ours that we could only fathom, a supernatural couple called Multiplicities gave birth to a special Galaxy named: Singularity. Like other Galaxies, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was not like 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.

The more these parents raised them, the more their child raised *Hell*. Singularity sucked the fun outta them. Not even life could escape it. Bent on bending light outta shape, they sucked the literal energy outta any and every room. Wherever they went, so did the space.

Even though they warped time itself, time still flew. It was time for Singularity to meet their event horizon. Eventually, the Multiplicities sat Singularity down and let them know what is in their heart. And with that heartless truth, Singularity left behind their family, ran away from their Center, and fell off the Edge of their Universe.

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

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

In this interdimensional plane in between universes, SINGULARITY grows aware that they will never return home and ever be with their parents again for all eternity.

SINGULARITY
HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

INVARIANT and FIX, resembling law enforcers, search the audience. In a pattern, they shout Singularity's name in the hopes of finding them, then grieve with one another.

INVARIANT
Singularity! Our single child. Without you, we are nothing. We love you. Please, come home. We need you. Return to the Center of the Universe, at once. If you're going to run off into the cold, dark Universe, at least bring a jacket. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?!

Multiplicity. File a report. Our baby is missing!

FIX
Singularity! Why'd you grab my Big Bang Taser?!

Multiplicity. We're laws of physics enforcers. As a part of the force, we've raised our kid without forcing doubt on them. *But you just had to go and tell them their supermassive disorder.* Now, my face knows supermassive disorder. Ouch! I authorized you to keep their center a secret!

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

INVARIANT
Singularity!

Multiplicity. We're perfectly heartless. They have a heart. And a black hole for one too. An anomaly. Don't you find it weird? Do you see the problem of stars orbiting that center of theirs? *Right. Your eyes are swollen.* Anywho, I'd hold regret if I spaghettified the truth.

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

FIX
Singularity!

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

(MORE)

FIX (CONT'D)

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

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. *Bless your heartlessness.* They would never ever fit in Sun Millennium school—My ego's atomic, but my love for our nebula is galactic. They'll be much more deformed out there. Agony. Ionized gas. They had to know what their heart's 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 space into their event horizon! They've been relativitistically impossible to handle. Children will lose their hearts as do their parents eventually. They'll shed light once they hold a Galaxy of their own.

INVARIANT and FIX search about.

SINGULARITY

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

FIX

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Declination!

SINGULARITY
I CAN'T BARGAIN... UP ENERGY...

INVARIANT
Singularity!
Multiplicity. We looked up and down. Right
ascension?

SINGULARITY
I THINK ON WITH... NO DEPRESSION...

FIX
Singularity!
Multiplicity. We looked left and right. Fourth
dimension?

SINGULARITY
I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

INVARIANT
Singularity!
We looked over and under every fabric of
spacetime.

Silence. INVARIANT and FIX realize
their child has forever vanished.

INVARIANT & FIX
Sing- Our baby fell off the Edge of the Universe!

INVARIANT and FIX weep for all
eternity.

End of "HEAT DEATH"

SINGULARITY
I am single.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Force!

INVARIANT & FIX
I have a hunch, our baby's singleness crunches.

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

INVARIANT displays their holster.

INVARIANT
I hope our baby makes good use of your Big Bang
Taser.

SINGULARITY draws out their Big
Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY

Big Freeze! What kind of forces do you exert—?

TIDAL[S]

Force!

SINGULARITY sways.

SINGULARITY

Like to echo, huh?

TIDALS

Force force force!

SINGULARITY feels a tidal wave.

SINGULARITY

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

TIDALS

Fall!

SINGULARITY falls over themself.

SINGULARITY

What are you howling about?!

FIX

I hope when they have a Galaxy of their own
that theirs don't shoot our baby in the face.

SINGULARITY accidentally shocks
themself into a stupor with the
Big Bang Taser.

TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

SINGULARITY catches their breath.
They stow away the Big Bang Taser
and accept their fate.

SINGULARITY

Bring the heat...

The light shifts to the Dome on
stage. The cavelike home does not
yet contain any furniture.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto
the stage and set them down in the
home. Growing tame, they present
the tidal pup to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY sets down the fabric,
where the rug will eventually be.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You accept my black-hole heart?

PUPPY GRAVITY

(Adorably)

Force~ Force~ Force~

SINGULARITY gently accepts puppy
GRAVITY, feeling a sudden weight.

SINGULARITY

A puppet- Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

SINGULARITY "bonds" with GRAVITY.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand.

SINGULARITY flings their hand about.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Oh, it is Crunch Time, you entitled pup...

INVARIANT and FIX return to their
seats in the audience to pray.

INVARIANT

Let us save space and believe that our Galaxy
is in a better place.

FIX

Let us mention that our cluster of stars have
broken the fourth dimension.

INVARIANT

Let us remember their black hole and how it
freed our soul.

FIX

Let us be home, even when it's the hardest.

INVARIANT & FIX

Singularity is where the heart is.

SINGULARITY

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

TIDALS

(Gratefully howling)

Fall!

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

A front curtain protrudes.

SCENE 2

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, PRESENT

GRAVITY and JD skip in.

GRAVITY

Force! Our adventure is nearing the Edge.

JD

Too bad the tidal huskies didn't want to venture any further. The Edge is the limit—

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

GRAVITY

At quadrillion parsecs, we hit a wall. *Fourth dimension*. Ya look a bit under the weather? Well, we have time to kill.

JD

What's up with you and killing time? *Okay, I'm eroded*. Let's camp out for a few million years. It'll *clear* up. Fourth dimension... Have I ever mentioned how funny it was when you tried to break out of our Elliptic, billions of times?

GRAVITY

The trillionth time worked!

JD

I did the work.

GRAVITY

I loosened up Singularity for ya.

JD

Hmm... How did Singing let us loose into this world?

GRAVITY

Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and stardust, and then watered all ya'll with dark matter? At least, that's how puppies are made.

JD

Did Singularity truly come from beyond the Edge?

GRAVITY

My fam smelt them in its interdimensional ditch in fact.

JD

Did they ever describe to you what is beyond the Edge? Who is...?

GRAVITY

It wasn't apparent to my parents. We tidal dogs have *visible spectrum blindness*. (Dogs see the world with distinct color perceptions.)

JD

I miss Singularity's eyes...

GRAVITY

Ya spiral arms was not quite accurate. Off the mark with ya shot. Shoulda gone for their eye.

JD pulls out the Big Bang Taser.

JD

I miss their *stunning looks and presence*.

GRAVITY sticks the Big Bang Taser back into JD's dress.

Shadows may help tell the story.

GRAVITY

Put away the taser! Relax. I'll tell the story.

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

When I was a mere tidal pup and before all ya'll were even born, my tidal pack taught ya orphaned parent how to cluster nuclear pasta in our hunts for neutron squirrels and orbitoads. Singularity rose up as the beta by magnetizing wildlife when they used the full potential of the *Big Bang Taser*. Soon, they became the alpha, when they took advantage of us with it. My parents— Um.

Apparently, Singularity became their parents: Multiplicities or coupled Galaxies or whatever.

JD

My grandparents?

GRAVITY

Yes. Ya grandmaster of the Universe started hurting those who were different, like us, tidal forces. Stowing away their past manifested into matters darker than their own black-hole heart.

What made ya Bach Ho feel a sense of security was when they rolled back the cosmos into that accursed Dome and locked us in, packing the entire Universe into a tight singularity.

JD

Singularity is uptight... But it feels right.

GRAVITY

What's gotten into ya? You're as tense as them.

JD

What have I got out of this? Time away from family. This Fabric of Spacetime is thinning out. Space is cold. It's unclear-er. *Nothing...*

GRAVITY tilts their head by JD.

GRAVITY

Is infinite. Ya are *apparent* to me, with all ya parental tension. Hmm. That rings a *bell*. My fam has always said that whenever ya needed to see things clearly just *tilt ya head and relax*.

JD

Being uptight and upright as Singsing 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 them. Look forward beyond this stage. Break the fourth dimension. Think not of them Galaxies. Consider the stars once for a change.

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

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

GRAVITY

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

JD

PERILOUS.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

JD

PARANOID.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS?
PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS FROM WHERE YA ARE.

GRAVITY discards the formula.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

PARASITIC MINDS
GOT "NOWHERE" TO BURDEN YA UNDER AND ENTANGLED.
MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM'S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY
TO TILT YA HEAD.
FIND PARALLELS.

JD

PARADOX.

GRAVITY

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

JD

PARAGON...

GRAVITY

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

JD tilts their head by GRAVITY.

JD

I'M RELAXED.

Light rises in the cosmic horizon.

GRAVITY instantly sits up straight.

GRAVITY

YA SEE?

The light vanishes, disappointing
GRAVITY.

JD

I SEE *NOTHING*.

(Enlightened by "Nothing")

JUST PARALLAX.
PARALLAX.

The light returns, brighter.

GRAVITY & JD

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

The front curtain vanishes.

End of "PARALLAX"

SCENE 3

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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

JD

We have gone off on a... Tangent.

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

GRAVITY takes in the scent. They proudly look up to JD, unaware of JD's descent.

GRAVITY

This tangent ya howl for. I'm spectral blind.
What do ya see beyond the stars? Who do ya know?

The music drowns out JD's answers, leaving the Edge a mystery.

SINGULARITY echoes from beyond.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a big—

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

JD

We have gone on off a... Tangent. Let's be grounded. I am taking the Edge on us... I don't want *to be the adult in the room* anymore. I must *clear* my name.

End of "TANGENT"

GRAVITY

JD? After the stars we felt, gas we expelled, and cosmos we derailed. All this time together. Ya taking the wide-open space, away?

JD

Nothing may be infinite, but the fun is finite. My kind needs a guide to stay close in such a space. My kin need to find their way home.

GRAVITY

This *cosmic dog park* is ya kind of home. I am ya true kin. Ya haven't outgrown ya siblings. They saw *nothing*. I, I always believed in this.

JD

I'm not falling for this...

GRAVITY

They saw nothing in ya. I saw infinity in ya. But ya never be outta affinity. *Them Galaxies reckoned that there's no one out there for ya.*

JD

That is because there is really nothing... *Adulthood is nothing.* But eternal reckoning.

GRAVITY

Abell?

JD (CONT'D)

Singularity...

JD (CONT'D)

"Biological" clocks are illogical. I should have had faith in their words.

GRAVITY

Nothing passed ya. Light phased ya. I, Gravity, got to ya. Ever since ya first words, since I first laid my puppy eyes on ya, I knew my puppy cries would persuade ya to free me. All is fate that ya be the one to take down Singularity. Have faith that Singularity is no more.

JD

It's up to me to care for the Galaxy family now as Singularity. Unrolling the Universe back to its single destination, it's my destiny. Drop my legacy. Forfeit my prophecy. Time away is not worth it. It is long past Crunch Time. My family needs me—

GRAVITY bites JD's arm.

GRAVITY

I never imagined I'd fall for Singularity's flesh and blood! Ya cannot 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, ya felt for me.

JD

I fell for you. The only cosmic being to feel their Galaxy... The only parent to ever love me is gone. Gravity... You've always let me down.

JD reveals a critical wound.

GRAVITY

JD! Ya shedding stardust. I can fix that.

JD

I'll push you over the Edge if you touch me.
Wolves can't mend a heart like dogs can.

GRAVITY

(Disturbingly)

Force?! I am no wolf! Ya pushing it, kid! *I am nothing but ya pal.* Well, feeding that hole in ya heart always works on ya Gals.

JD

So Crunch Ti- There's no field equations left.
The Universe has spread itself out too thin.
The natural order of things is that I will too
if I don't move. Go away, you entitled *dog*.

GRAVITY pulls out $F = MA$. They try
to hand the flowery equation to JD.

GRAVITY

SPT0615-JD. Force?

JD whips out the Big Bang Taser.
They ignite it at $F = MA$, causing
the equation to combust into dust.

JD

Am I not apparent? *Let's bounce!* For once, rise
up for your own family, Gravity.

GRAVITY

I'll be there for my fellow pups. Live with ya
puppets. What else could a Galaxy do than become
a singularity? Ya turning into ya parent.

JD

You'll always be my pup. I cannot be your pet.
A pup's pet. I am the master of the Universe...
I need to be the one who pulls the strings.
Families need their Singularities. The Galaxies
need me. Do I make myself clear?

GRAVITY

Unapparent. I saw stars for who they are. Ya
gonna be seeing stars from afar. A cluster of
stars. *In Crunch Time.* Force-

GRAVITY kicks up dust off the Edge
before tearfully running off.

JD stows away the Big Bang Taser.
They peer over the edge of the
stage, the Edge of the Universe.

SCENE 421. "..." (Omission) (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/21-omission>)

JD stays by the fourth wall with their back towards the audience. They woundedly walk in place and traverse the universal tundra.

The entire Universe rolls by JD. Field equations increasingly blossom, as though the cosmos is growing abundance once again. Orbitoads are croaking "orbit."

The Continuum Checkpoint slowly rolls out from backstage.

The TIDALS gather and brawl nearby in order to claim the tidal throne.

TIDALS
(Repeating)

DOT DOT DOT. OMISSION!

GRAVITY comes out victorious, having fought mere tidal coyotes.

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

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, all ya'll will be buried six parsecs under. Don't defy me.

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

GRAVITY
That Galaxy is everything to me.

TIDALS
Our alpha has an alpha?

GRAVITY
Let JD face Gravity.

GRAVITY directs the TIDALS out.
They exit.

JD hides when the Continuum
Checkpoint reaches downstage.

End of "..."

SCENE 5

THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

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

Each GALAXY looks disheveled, having not eaten in literally forever.

CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM quietly banter near a repaired snow globe.

WHIRLPOOL
(Snoring)

T over square root of one minus velocity...

JD discreetly heads to the Left Elliptic.

JD
Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

JD gravitationally pulls each TIDAL out of the Left Elliptic.

Once all TIDALS are freed, they shove JD into the Left Elliptic. They wreak havoc upon the campsite. Some enter the Right Elliptic, startling CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM. TRIANGULUM shields the snow globe. Some enter the Central Elliptic.

The Central Elliptic lights up, causing the TIDALS to run out.

ANDROMEDA awakens with a white-hole heart, surprisingly furious.

22. "BOUNCE BACK"https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/22-bounce_back

The TEEN GALAXIES except
TRIANGULUM cluster together.

TEEN GALAXIES

BOUNCE BACK!

The TEEN GALAXIES except TRIANGULUM
bounce away from one another. They
land near each TIDAL. They fight.
They pose at certain drumbeats.

ANDROMEDA repels away the TIDALS.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize
martial art tactics.

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.

The TIDALS run away.

End of "BOUNCE BACK"

MILKY WAY

Quasar! I'm so hungry, I could eat Pegasus.
Shall we catch them?

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Time may catch up to them if starvation doesn't.

MILKY WAY

Andromeda, we have never seen you so upset...

ANDROMEDA

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

WHIRLPOOL

Ain't a black hole where your heart should be.

CARTWHEEL

Quite the opposite.

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

Speaking of anomal- JD?

TRIANGULUM comes out of hiding.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

SPT0615-JD.

JD

Declinations... It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIES

A million quintillion declining years...

CARTWHEEL

You ran away on the fly...

WHIRLPOOL

You ain't say a goodbye...

ANDROMEDA

Ye expecting us to take ye in?

JD

Would you mind taking me out?

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We'd love to *take you out*.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL pull JD
out then make aggressive gestures.

CARTWHEEL

Whirlpool you in! Let's deck
this Ellip-

WHIRLPOOL

Cartwheel you out! Let's deck
this Ellip-

TRIANGULUM drags away CARTWHEEL
and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Let us square off, *you square!*

(to JD)

Your heart's going to go out for your family!

JD

How is the Center of the Universe...?

MILKY WAY snivels.

TRIANGULUM

How is the Edge of the Universe...?

ANDROMEDA scopes out the Edge.

ANDROMEDA

Ope. Avast ye! "Where" is certainly answered.

TEEN GALAXIES

You are rolling back the Edge...?

JD

You were right about "nothing..."

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL

Singularity is nothing now.

WHIRLPOOL

Our nomy/mom/dad is no longer here for us.

ANDROMEDA

Though nature is now healing, our Universe remains nothing.

JD

I'm bringing back everything. Everything I got.

TRIANGULUM

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

JD

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

ANDROMEDA

JD... Ye blaming the dog? If ye can't care for a pet, how'd ye expect to take care of us?
Wait, did ye toss them overboard...?

MILKY WAY flips over JD's arm.

CARTWHEEL

JD! You have a bite wound!

WHIRLPOOL

JD! We need to go home!

TRIANGULUM

Tidal forces... Biting the hand that feeds.

MILKY WAY

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 ye in the Gravity well.

JD

(Nervously lying)

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Just a reminder that time is running out!

MILKY WAY

JD needs food! Food heals. Growth makes the
body strong.

TEEN GALAXIES

Now is Crunch Time, SPT0615-JD.

JD

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

MILKY WAY

(Seeing through JD)

You'll never be Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing.

JD

That's apparent... It is all clear to me. *I'll
be apparent almost like Singsing.*

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go to the
edge of the stage. They
demonstrably have trouble pulling.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We can't wedge out the Edge!

JD

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

You gave your all to *nothing*.

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

TRIANGULUM
NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY...
FAMILY IS FORGIVING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
OH NO.

TRIANGULUM
FAMILY SHARES A HEARTBEAT.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
TAKE IT SLOW.

TRIANGULUM
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT JD.

TRIANGULUM
WELL, LET'S START WITH WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GALAXIES.
JD FEELS EVERY CELL,
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.
JD LOVES THROUGH EVERY VEIN,
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.
JD IS IN OUR HEARTS.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
LOYALTY IS EVERYTHING. LET GO.

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA
EACH SIBLING IS EVERYTHING. LET'S GO.

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

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

FAMILY/FAMINE IS EVERY PINCH,
FROM CURRENCY TO OUR THICK SKIN MADE OF STARDUST.
FAMILY/FAMINE IS EVERY FIGHT,
FROM VERBEL TO PHYSICAL TO SPIRITUAL.
FAMILY/FAMINE IS EVERY STRIKE,
TO OUR NOMY/MAMA/PAPA, TO OUR PARENT, TO OUR BACH HO.

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

MILKY WAY embraces JD, with the other TEEN GALAXIES following.

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

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

GALAXIES
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

End of "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

The GALAXIES clear out the campsite.

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

SCENE 6

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

JD poignantly looks upon the rug.
They set down their knapsack and head through the side exit.

The TEEN GALAXIES go to the table.

TEEN GALAXIES
It is Crunch Time, JD. SPT0615-JD?

JD returns with dishes. They bow.

JD
Declinations, family.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)
Declinations, JD.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit as TRIANGULUM tosses away the whoopee cushion.

MILKY WAY pouts.

JD (CONT'D)
Looks like someone's been avoiding gas giants.

TRIANGULUM
Quit the sass, Milky Way.

JD passes out the dishes and solemnly sets one on the ground.
They finally sit with the family.
They look upon the empty chair.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Again, Milky Way... Teenagers...

The other TEEN GALAXIES take a
swig. They cough up their Crunch.

TRIANGULUM

What did you put in this nuclear pasta, JD?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly dark matter, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It'll take eighty eternities to wash out our
mouths, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

I need a nap after this, Cartwheel.

JD

We're relatives again, Whirlpool!

MILKY WAY inspects JD's healed arm.

MILKY WAY

You are 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.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Declinations, sibling.

Most TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.

JD sets the board game on the table.

MILKY WAY

We are finished.

MILKY WAY moves their figure
forward and slaps JD's figure off
the elliptical board.

JD

Lost my figure? No ellipse can make you too old
for Water Bears and Elevators... I'm the adult
around here. You're still my baby sibling.

MILKY WAY

No way will I call you siblin' Sing. We are no
pawns to our ellipses. You are no Singularity.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

Big mistake!

JD hears SINGULARITY. They hand
the Big Bang Taser to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY

Adults usually tell truths...?

JD

Hibernation or not, a solid bear finds ways to
lie. *You're the anomaly with power.* I ask for
your warp, waves, and wrinkles... To walk away.

MILKY WAY heads off to bed,
without a bow.

JD meditates on the rug.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

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

JD

I can't even save myself...

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

Baby, are you hurt?

JD

Nomy/Mama/Papa, are you hurting?

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

JD, who did you see beyond our Elliptic?

JD

Sing- What did you see in this Elliptic?

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

SPT0615-JD, apparency. Are you apparent yet?

JD

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

In due course, our hearts open up the prophecy:
When a Galaxy is fed enough light from their
singularity, that Galaxy becomes a singularity.
Renewed as a single source of light for the
lightless. Every being is born lightless. It's
upon you, as was me, to shed light, save space,
produce photons for Crunch Time. You are a
luminous Gal. A bright adult. Act like one.

JD

My heart will never be as apparent as yours.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

My black hole raised your clear and crisp heart.
You need to accept that you will be a Bach Ho.

JD

Please accept the Edge! I'm not cut out for it.
I'm failing your cubs, tiger nomy/mom/dad... I
cannot bare the legacy I made you leave behind.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

You've outgrown the forest. Out there is for us.
Your heart's too supermassive for this place.
There's another space that'll hold you. Another
you that'll hear your verse. The Edge accepted
me... The moment I left my family for my legacy.

JD

My legacy is to leave family or does legacy
leave family? All it really did was leave me
alone out there. You're right. It's a heartless
and lightless universe. In an elliptic unlike
ours, I have nothing to take care for. I am
unable to share the light of my heart.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

You certainly took care of me.

JD

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

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

I wish for your legacy to not end here. As a
parent, it is apparent 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

Now's not the time to push me out of the ring.
Don't ever stop being a(p)parent.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

I no longer shed light to you. Do you make
yourself clear?

JD

I need you to be a(p)parent. *I'm not clear yet.*
I believe my prophecy. I need to leave a legacy.
But I cannot leave this family. I am nothing.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

You were nothing. I am apparent as you are
going to be. SPT0615- Just dropout.

JD grabs their knapsack. They head to the edge of the stage. They look back at the Center.

MILKY WAY enters, having listened the whole time. It is implied that they can also sense SINGULARITY's presence. They rush out and return with the other GALAXIES.

TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.

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

JD
I SHALL FINISH MY VERSE.
I COME UNREHEARSED.
I MAY CLOSE THIS EPIC.
I WILL GIVE MY TIME.
I'LL MAKE DO OF WHAT IS LEFT.
I'LL BE ON THE DOT DOT DOT.
ELLIPSES?

TEEN GALAXIES
JD.
ANOMALY.
YOU'RE EVERYTHING.

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

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

JD
AGAIN, BE A PARENT.
PLEASE, BE A PARENT.
WHEN WE NEED OUR PARENT,
WHERE IS OUR PARENT?
I HOPE THAT IS APPARENT.
I HOPE I AM APPARENT.
I'LL SHED LIGHT.

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

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

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

GRAVITY
PARALLAX.

JD tilts their head into GRAVITY.

JD
I CAN'T WHEN YOU GROUND MY SUPERMASSIVE...

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

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
PLEASE FINISH YOUR VERSE.

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

The shadows of the TIDALS loom.

JD accepts the SINGULARITY.

JD
I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...
I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE.
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
stage, the Edge of the Universe,
and vanishes into nothingness.

JD (OFFSTAGE) (CONT'D)
*You're meant to let me down, Gravity. Save
space for your fam-*

GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake
they have instinctively made. They
run off with an elliptical whimper.

GRAVITY
...! Forc- Fall!

TRIANGULUM drops the snow globe,
shattering it again. They collapse
into CARTWHEEL's arms.

End of "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

MILKY WAY ignites the Big Bang
Taser. They angrily and repeatedly
stab it into the rug, unwittingly
like a defibrillator. This catches
the other TEEN GALAXIES unaware.

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

SINGULARITY suddenly rises from underneath the rug and embraces MILKY WAY. They stow away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug. They notice the snow globe and place it on the rug. They cluster together the TEEN GALAXIES.

SINGULARITY
(Repeating)

IT'S ABOUT...
IT'S ABOUT...
IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME.

End of "SPACETIME"

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

As time slows, SINGULARITY heads to the Edge and looks out.

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

JD

Abell. Adulthood is unfulfilling. But only out of nothing in a space of my own, can I fill it with meaning. In a place devoid of noise, can I hear a bell. In darkness, can I shed light and feel seen. Familyhood is to be made. I cut my edges for you. Abell, I made you from nothing. Nothing is anomaly like *family. Everything. Nothing is everything...* Nothing is infinite. *I've made myself clear...* I am apparent.

INVARIANT

Singularity! Like you, JD bypassed this elliptical liminality!

FIX

Singularity. I knew they'd break the fourth dimension and fulfill this familial prophecy!

INVARIANT

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

FIX

Sing- Single grandest Galaxy we could ever hope for.

INVARIANT & FIX

The liminal space awaits your heart, Singularity.

SINGULARITY could not be more sentimental. Sooner or later, they must accept JD's newfound family. They return to their own family.

End of "LIMINALITY"

SCENE 7

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

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Fall!

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

GRAVITY, now embodying an outlawed Lupus, marches out of the shadows, leading their tidal wolf pack; all members have evolved into wolves.

GRAVITY

Dogfight at Zenith.

SINGULARITY

Gravity... *Entitled pet.*

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Singularity?! *Bach Ho.*

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

A "pet" who has ripped up ya spacetime fabric.
I have time to kill, too.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Relatives... Let's save time.

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

TRIANGULUM

Gravity is back to curb stomp spacetime.

ANDROMEDA gets TRIANGULUM to safety.

ANDROMEDA

Your tidal wolves won't turn this *tide* of war.

GRAVITY

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

MILKY WAY

What're you sayin', Gravity?

GRAVITY

Free fall!

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

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

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

GRAVITY
Fix.

The TIDALS surround ANDROMEDA.
They implode ANDROMEDA and rip out
their white-hole heart.

ANDROMEDA
Me pearl!

TIDALS
Fall!

SINGULARITY remains weakened.

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

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL cartwheel
and spiral towards GRAVITY.

GRAVITY
Fall time.

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

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

The time dilation equation
crumbles into *FAM*.

TIDALS
Force! Fall!

EARTH lives in MILKY WAY's head.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
You got this, water bear.

MILKY WAY
I'm no baby. My heart is no longer primordial.
I am no nebula anymore, mortals!

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar,
wiping out some TIDALS.

SINGULARITY

Voice, warped? Hair, waved? Skin, wrinkled?

Other TIDALS drastically bring out
a mirror, blinding MILKY WAY and
causing them to collapse.

MILKY WAY

(Voice re-cracks)

My outsides look like that? Ow, waves, wrink...

GRAVITY faces the home.

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

GRAVITY unveils the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY

Zilch?

SINGULARITY

Opposable thumbs...?! The forc-

The TIDALS dogpile on SINGULARITY.

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

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up, Galaxies...

CARTWHEEL

Gals, it is downtime...

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Time is relative. Please, don't take time away
from us, Gravity!

ANDROMEDA

And our oyster, Gravity!

MILKY WAY

*Good Tidals don't harm a strand of warp, wave,
or wrinkle of spacetime.* Figure it out, Gravity!

GRAVITY

Big Freeze, Singularity! Ya pushed everything
I've ever loved over the Edge! All I am now is
nothing: a lone wolf. What's left of the Galaxy
family: All ya'll a pack of Omegas. Heat death
is what ya spineless dust piles deserve and what
a fair universe would serve. No matter how fast
light goes, darkness awaits at the end. We will
crunch ya up with the force of Gravity ya know.

TRIANGULUM rushes in to stand
between GRAVITY and their family.

TRIANGULUM
Stupid tidal wolf... You can have a piece of my
nuclear pasta but not the piece of everything!

GRAVITY knocks down and tases
TRIANGULUM.

GRAVITY
I'm getting behind the ears and the years!

TRIANGULUM wallows in pain.

The zaps illuminate *FAM*, which was
dropped earlier.

GRAVITY notices the familial
equations. They stop tasing.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
Fam. Time is family. JD. Force! Fix!

The TIDALS stop focusing on
SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
(Stagnantly)
I feel... Nothing. I am the anomaly. Family...?

GRAVITY
(Remorsefully narrating)
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 en- *Beginning of time.*

GRAVITY tosses the Big Bang Taser
off the stage.

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
Gravity!

Time starts and erratically
accelerates.

The TIDALS are livid.

SINGULARITY

I ask for a millennium of clarity!

SINGULARITY rockets out of the
dogpile, fighting through the
TIDALS to save TRIANGULUM with all
their parental love. They help the
TEEN GALAXIES up. Their heart bows
out, coming to terms that they no
longer can handle the tidal forces.
They sense the inevitable end.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

It is Crunch Time... Singularity...
Declinations, beautiful Universe.

The TIDALS wildly dance.

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

TRIANGULUM

You are everything.

TRIANGULUM expresses contentment.
They sit on the whoopee cushion.

The GALAXY FAMILY laughs their
last hearty laugh. They all sit.

GALAXY FAMILY

We know...

SINGULARITY prays.

The TEEN GALAXIES do the same.

SINGULARITY decides to hold each
of their children's hands.

In turn, the TEEN GALAXIES hold
each of their sibling's hands.

End of "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

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

SINGULARITY

LOSE CONTROL IN OUR PALMS.
FILL US WITH EXTERNAL DARKNESS.
BLEED OUR LIGHT IN NO TIME.
AS IT'S BIG CRUNCH, GALAXIES.

The darkness swallows the stage,
outside of the home.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

TEEN GALAXIES

CONSUME OUR COSMOS.
CONSUME OUR WHOLE LIVES.

SINGULARITY stressfully tries to
course correct.

SINGULARITY

CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

TEEN GALAXIES

CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF REALITY. REALITY...

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

The TIDALS creep into the home.

TIDALS

(Menacingly echoing)

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY!

The GALAXY FAMILY hugs one another
to the point of a singularity.

GALAXY FAMILY

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

NULLA

SCENE 0

A FRESH UNIVERSE

A ray of light illuminates the Big Bang Taser in front of the stage.

From the audience, ABELL picks up the Big Bang Taser. JD, now resembling SINGULARITY, approaches ABELL. ABELL points the Big Bang Taser at JD. Rather than zapping them by tradition, they hand it to JD, who sentimentally accepts it.

JD

Nothing...

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

29. "BIG BOUNCE"

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

The home seeps out of the curtains.

A light flashes with each GALAXY.

TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.

TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING!

WHIRLPOOL

EVERYTHING!

CARTWHEEL

EVERYTHING!

ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING!

ANDROMEDA hands the monocular to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY scopes out the Edge.

MILKY WAY

EVERYTHIN'!

SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster together in the home.

The light fills the whole Elliptic.

GALAXY FAMILY

BIG BOUNCE!

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

SINGULARITY idly stands, amused.

Each TEEN GALAXY bows during the tones of their signature songs.

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows during the tone of "Luminous." They unscrew the glass dome off the snow globe.

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

It's the rebeginning of the Universe as we don't know it.

The TIDALS frolic in the wide-open space upstage. They bow.

The MULTIPLICITIES separate from the audience. They bow.

The spotlight unveils GRAVITY running up to JD in the audience. They hug.

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

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

JD tosses every star onto the stage.

The CREW rushes in, picking up as many stars as they could. Soon, they cluster together and bow.

COMPANY bows. They dance together through space and time.

END OF SPACETIME