

# DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



ELLIPSES

Book, Music, and Lyrics  
DAVID QUANG PHAM

[www.ellipsesmusical.com](http://www.ellipsesmusical.com)

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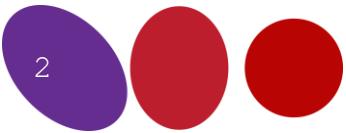




## ELLIPSES

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A Musical  
by  
David Quang Pham



# WORKING TITLE

# PLAYWRIGHTS



## THANK YOU

| Name                    | Role                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andrea Ghez             | Professors of Galaxies     |
| Ed Loh                  |                            |
| <u>Janelle Lawrence</u> | Operatic/Musical Mentor    |
| <u>Kristin Idaszak</u>  | Science Playwriting Mentor |
| Lau'rie Roach           | Originated Readers         |
| Bryan Montemayor        |                            |
| Imani Vaughn-Jones      |                            |
| Isake Akanke            |                            |
| Kate Jacoby             |                            |
| Laurel Anderson         | Observers                  |
| Barb Carboy             |                            |



## DEVELOPMENT

| Date          | Type                 | Site                         | Specifics  |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2017          | Idea                 | Michigan State               | AST 308 Galaxies and Cosmology by Ed Loh   |
| 2020<br>8-15  | Writing              | Working Title<br>Playwrights | Addae Moon's Master Class, "Generating Story Idea"   |
| 2020<br>10-5  | Reading<br>(Preview) | Working Title<br>Playwrights | Monday Night Critique Sessions   |
| 2020<br>11-13 | Reading<br>(Table)   | S.I.S.R!                     | Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily<br><a href="http://ellipsesmusical.com/events/2020-11-14">ellipsesmusical.com/events/2020-11-14</a> |

## SYNOPSIS

An astrophysics epic, ELLIPSES centers on a family of Galaxies trying to reverse the Big Bang, after a member sets it off. This musical follows a teenager and their dog running away from home. SPT0615-JD and Gravity, their tidal force, journey away from the center of the universe. The story explores Hubble's Law and the Big Crunch Theory. In astrophysics, Galaxies follow this law: to distance from the center. It is not unlike a human being. We want to get out and explore. The analogy is expressed through these personifications and clothed like astronomers. The set has a dome home to represent the center, the stage is space, and the fourth wall is the edge. The universe is told through the human experience.

The teenage Galaxies begin their routine by staring out with their monoculars ("[Bounce](#)"). They are called to supper by their parent. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at the table ("[Crunch](#)"). JD is still looking out. They just want to go to the edge of the universe ("[Cutting Edge](#)"). However, Singularity speaks of its perils and sends them to bed ("[Grounded](#)"). Letting JD out of bed, Triangulum outlines their family values ("[Anomaly is Everything](#)"). Eager for a voyage anyways, JD finds Singularity's BB Taser stashed under the family's rug. JD deems the fabric of spacetime to be just as sturdy ("[Sweep under the Rug](#)"). Later, Singularity assesses each of their child's black-hole hearts ("[Hinge](#)"). With this being the final straw, JD shoots their parent in the face with the BB Taser. In the chaos, Gravity discreetly picks up Singularity's dislodged eye. Then, JD flees with Gravity to the edge, but the edge keeps distancing from them. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away ("[Big Bang](#)").

Heartbroken, Singularity kicks out their children ("[Depth](#)") and has them spend eternity trying to roll back the edge. The siblings blame one another for kickstarting the universe ("[Apartment](#)"). In their isolation, Milky Way speaks to their Solar System ("[Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles](#)"). Elsewhere, JD and Gravity are on an adventure ("[Verse](#)"). Others try to quit and go home ("[Time is Relative](#)"). But they face Singularity's attack dogs, who ensure that no siblings merge ("[Working Tidal](#)"). Triangulum, Andromeda, and Milky Way band together but keep their distance ("[Bundle](#)"). Soon, the Solar System develops into



a swelling. Despite Triangulum's objections, Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. Before the dogs could pounce, Milky Way emits flares of light that scare them off ("[Fabric](#)").

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

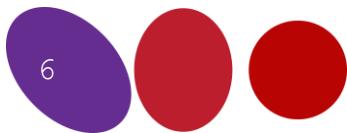
From the center, Singularity observes their children through a telescope ("[Wrong Space](#)"). The edge is on the cosmic horizon.

In the following act, most siblings have bundled together ("[Bounce Back](#)"). They reach JD and Gravity ("[Accretion](#)"), and take them in. As they rest together, Gravity reveals that they have been holding Singularity's eye. JD peeks through it to uncover the backstory of Singularity, who ran away from their own universe ("[In-Depth](#)"). JD decides to continue as their parent had ("[Eccentricity](#)"). Upset by their choice, Triangulum takes JD's monocular and traps JD. Gravity distracts them by signaling the dogs to their location. In the frenzy, JD and Gravity race to the edge ("[Cutting Off](#)"). Soon, Singularity calls off the dogs ("[Fabricate](#)"). The siblings make their way home ("[Spacetime](#)").

An eternity passes, and JD feels lost more than ever without their monocular. Gravity sites that the scope is within their black-hole heart ("[Scope](#)"). In that spirit, the edge comes to them. With the enduring love from their siblings, JD decides to head back, taking the edge with them ("[Edge](#)"). When they return, JD tries to give back Singularity's eye. They do not forgive JD. After giving Gravity one last hug, JD jumps off the edge ("[Dropout](#)"). In these millennia of grief, the siblings hold each other close ("[Center](#)"). Singularity chooses to take in their eye, restoring their depth perception. Singularity looks beyond. JD is amongst an audience. To the eye of the beholder, it is an ellipse full of Galaxies. JD has found their center ("[Hearts are in the Right Place](#)").

Gravity returns with a wolfpack in JD's honor. They surround the family. Singularity and their Galaxies sit at their table in their center, as the tidal forces consume them ("[Big Crunch](#)"). In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again ("[Big Bounce](#)").

Dispersal leads to roots. Family is everything.



## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Galaxy ○

| Character          | Vocal Tone & Range   | Identity       |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| <u>SPT0615-JD</u>  | Any<br>A distant galactic sibling.<br>JD wants to know what is beyond the edge of the universe.      | Teenager       |
| <u>SINGULARITY</u> | Any<br>The relativistically impossible guardian.<br>Singularity wants to keep their universe intact. | Adult          |
| <u>GRAVITY</u>     | Any<br>A tidal dog.<br>Gravity wants to ground JD on their voyage.                                   | Any            |
| <u>TRIANGULUM</u>  | Any<br>A jingoistic galactic sibling.<br>Triangulum wants to be the role model.                      | Teenager       |
| <u>ANDROMEDA</u>   | Any<br>A dreamy galactic sibling.<br>Andromeda wants to find resplendence in the chaos.              | Teenager       |
| <u>MILKY WAY</u>   | Any<br>An aimless galactic sibling.<br>Milky Way wants to make themself useful.                      | Teenager       |
| <u>WHIRLPOOL</u>   | Any<br>An anaerobic galactic sibling.<br>Whirlpool wants to be present for Cartwheel.                | Teenager       |
| <u>CARTWHEEL</u>   | Any<br>An aerobic galactic sibling.<br>Cartwheel wants to be present for Whirlpool.                  | Teenager       |
| <hr/>              |  |                |
| <b>Ensembles</b>   |  |                |
| TIDALS             | SOLAR SYSTEM   | MULTIVERSITIES |



## TIDALS

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

The barks and woofs of Tidals are uttered by barking: "Force." Their howls are uttered by howling: "Fall." Singularity and most Galaxies cannot converse with Tidals. Along JD's and Gravity's voyage to the edge of the universe, JD eventually understands the language of tidal forces.

## SOLAR SYSTEM

Solar System are astronomical bodies that speak to Milky Way when Milky Way wanders the universe alone. They are the voices inside Milky's Way head. They do not make an appearance. They speak for several billion years (several-minutes staging time) before the Sun becomes a red giant (swelling) in the first act.

## MULTIVERSITIES

Multiversities are Singularity's parental figures from their native universe. They are personified as universal law enforcers. In "In-Depth," they cry out for Singularity, after Singularity runs away from home (the center of their own universe). They do not make an appearance but may be represented as silhouettes when Singularity is in front of the stage. Each Multiversity are alphabetized to mean that at least two performers portray them, as long as they switch back and forth in the lines.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

| <b>#</b> | <b>Page</b> | <b>Title</b>              | <b>Character(s)</b>  | <i>○Present but unvocal</i> |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1.       | 13          | Bounce                    | JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL                               |                             |
| 2.       | 15          | Crunch                    | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL JD GRAVITY tidals    |                             |
| 3.       | 19          | Cutting Edge              | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA<br>MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL SINGULARITY           |                             |
| 4.       |             | Grounded                  | SINGULARITY JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA<br>MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL                   |                             |
| 5.       |             | Anomaly is Everything     | TRIANGULUM JD WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL  |                             |
| 6.       |             | Sweep Under the Rug       | JD GRAVITY tidals  |                             |
| 7.       |             | Hinge                     | SINGULARITY JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA<br>MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL GRAVITY<br>tidals |                             |
| 8.       |             | Big Bang                  | JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM<br>ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL<br>tidals |                             |
| 9.       |             | Depth                     | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals               |                             |
| 10.      |             | Apartment                 | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL<br>CARTWHEEL                                  |                             |
| 11.      |             | Verse                     | JD GRAVITY   |                             |
| 12.      |             | Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles | MILKY WAY solar system   |                             |
| 13.      |             | Time is Relative          | WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL  |                             |
| 14.      |             | Working Tidal             | SINGULARITY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals   |                             |
| 15.      |             | Bundle                    | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY   |                             |
| 16.      |             | Far-Fetched               | GRAVITY JD   |                             |
| 17.      |             | Fabric                    | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals<br>solar system                                  |                             |
| 18.      |             | Wrong Space               | SINGULARITY  |                             |
| 19.      |             | Bounce Back               | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL<br>CARTWHEEL                                  |                             |
| 20.      |             | Accretion                 | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL                       |                             |
| 21.      |             | In-Depth                  | SINGULARITY multiversities tidals  |                             |
| 22.      |             | Eccentricity              | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL                       |                             |



| <b>#</b> | <b>Page</b> | <b>Title</b>                  | <b>Character(s)</b>  | <b>oPresent but unvocal</b> |
|----------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 23.      |             | Cutting Off                   | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals                |                             |
| 24.      |             | Fabricate                     | SINGULARITY  |                             |
| 25.      |             | Scope (Cut It Close)          | GRAVITY JD   |                             |
| 26.      |             | Edge                          | JD GRAVITY   |                             |
| 27.      |             | Spacetime                     | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL                      |                             |
| 28.      |             | Dropout                       | JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM<br>ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL           |                             |
| 29.      |             | Center                        | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL<br>CARTWHEEL SINGULARITY                      |                             |
| 30.      |             | Hearts Are in the Right Place | JD SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA<br>MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL<br>multiversities |                             |
| 31.      |             | Big Crunch                    | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY<br>WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals               |                             |
| 32.      |             | Big Bounce                    | COMPANY  |                             |

## MUSICAL NOTES

JD:

"The edge of the universe" is always sung: The(D3-5) edge(B2-4) of(A2-4) the(F#2-4) u(G2-4) ni(F#2-4) verse(F#2-4→D2-4).

TRIANGULUM:

Associative Instruments: Triangle, Handbell

MILKY WAY:

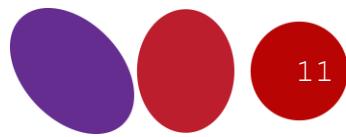
Associative Instrument: Cowbell (may be attached to Milky Way's physicality or personality)

CARTWHEEL:

Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine, Jingle Bell

## SCENES

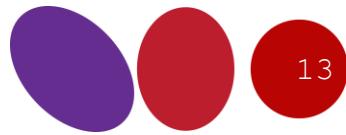
| Act   | Page | Location                      | SET props  |
|-------|------|-------------------------------|--|
| Ii    | 13   | The Center of<br>the Universe | DOME HOME VANTABLACK RUG TABLE SEATS<br>red whoopie cushion monoculars dishes snow globe |
| Iii   | -    | The Fabric of<br>Spacetime    |  |
| Iiii  | -    | The Center of<br>the Universe | telescope  |
| IIIi  | -    | The Fabric of<br>Spacetime    |  |
| IIIii | -    | The Center of<br>the Universe |  |



## SET DESIGNS



# ACT I

**1. BOUNCE**

[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*An observatory-like house is stationed in the center towards upstage. There is a table with seats and a vantablack rug within the dome home.*]

[*The light circularly dwells within the dome home. The stage outside remains dark. No one and nothing dwell outside the confines of the dome home.*]

(*JD arrives, carrying two monoculars. They position themselves at the edge of the home. They look out through both monoculars.*)

(*TRIANGULUM wanders out, looking for their monocular. They head to JD. They notice that JD is holding two monoculars. They snatch a monocular from JD. They look out through a monocular.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

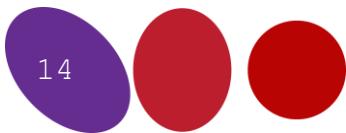
NOTHING.

(*WHIRLPOOL twirls out. They look out through a monocular.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

(*CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They look out through a monocular.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

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

(*ANDROMEDA accompanies MILKY WAY.*)

(*ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY look through their monoculars.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHING.

NOTHING...

(*GALAXIES, but JD, cluster together.*)

**GALAXIES but JD**

LET'S BOUNCE!

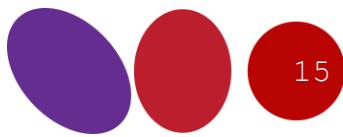
(*GALAXIES, but JD, choreographically move alongside the walls of the dome home. They are distinct in their dance. They stop and pose or slow down whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord. They are also distinct in their poses and suspensions. Through choreographic exposition, they detail themselves perfectly. Now, all they need are their names.*)

(*SINGULARITY remains absent.*)

**SINGULARITY**

MILKY WAY!

(*MILKY WAY lugs their way to a seat at the table.*)

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

ANDROMEDA!

(*ANDROMEDA heads to a seat at the table.*)

TRIANGULUM!

(*TRIANGULUM bounces off the walls of the home before landing at a seat at the table.*)

WHIRLPOOL!

(*WHIRLPOOL twirls into a seat at the table.*)

CARTWHEEL!

(*CARTWHEEL cartwheels into a seat at the table.*)

JD!

(*JD remains at the edge of the home, staring through their monocular.*)

(*SINGULARITY arrives, with empty dishes. They set the dishes on the table.*)

(*TIDALS prowl in. They surround the table.*)

[End of "Bounce."]

**SINGULARITY**

Ascension.

*(Twisting their torso left and right.)*

Declination.

*(Bowing.)*

It is that time.

*(Placing a dish on the ground.)*

*(TIDALS feast on the dish on the ground.)*

*(GALAXIES at the table sit themselves.)*

*(TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopie cushion.)*

Looks like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hold in their laughter.)*

*(MILKY WAYS snickers.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

**WHIRLPOOL**

What you got cooking up?

**CARTWHEEL**

What are we having...

**SINGULARITY**

I ask first... Has anyone of you got anything stellar cooked up?



*(Displaying one of the GALAXY's monoculars.)*

### **TRIANGULUM**

The usual. For the past googolplex days, nothing. But the red giants are new.

*(Tossing the whoopie cushion at WHIRLPOOL.)*

### **SINGULARITY**

Well, I cooked you all something special. Yellow star systems.

*(Handing out dishes to each GALAXY at the table.)*

Our meals are heated to almost 15 million degrees Kelvin and rotated within the prototype cosmic microwave background at the angular velocity of 14.713 minus 2.396 sine squared its solar latitude minus 1.787 sine to the fourth power of its solar latitude. A variety of nutrition from the crusts of rocky planets. Dismantle the mantle. But leave the core. I'd love to planet these.

*(MILKY WAY dives into their dish.)*

### **TRIANGULUM**

Again, Milky Way?

### **ANDROMEDA**

It's mostly photons, Triangulum.

### **CARTWHEEL**

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.

**WHIRLPOOL**

A simple nap lasts just as long, Cartwheel.

(*SINGULARITY addresses TRIANGULUM.*)

**SINGULARITY**

You want to go through accretion and be a grand design spiral galaxy, don't you?

**CARTWHEEL**

You all are morbidly spiral galaxies.

**ANDROMEDA**

Does it ring any bell, ring galaxy?

(*MILKY WAY sets down their dish.*)

**MILKY WAY**

All bark and no bite, just like our Tidals here. Your weight on us is sparse. I will not kau tau to you.

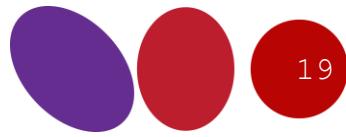
**CARTWHEEL**

Ring galaxies ring true. And truth is sparse...

(*Growing self-aware of their slimness.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Let us step in our truths.



## 2. CRUNCH

(*SINGULARITY places a hand on their chest. They shape that hand as though it is holding a heart. Their other hand sits flatly under this hand.*)

(*GALAXIES, but JD, emulate SINGULARITY.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

HOLD THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.  
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.  
HOLD OUR LIGHT FOR ALL TIME.  
FOR IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.  
  
IN BLACK HOLES, DWELL WISDOM.  
FED BY THE SPRINKLES OF STARDUST.  
HOLD THEIR DREAMS IN YOUR PALM.  
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, MY BABIES.

(*SINGULARITY and GALAXIES, but JD, chorally pray.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

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

### **GALAXIES but JD**

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

### **MILKY WAY**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**ANDROMEDA**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**TRIANGULUM**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**WHIRLPOOL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**CARTWHEEL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

(*SINGULARITY waits.*)

**SINGULARITY**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?  
SPT0615-JD?

**3. CUTTING EDGE**

(*GRAVITY splits from TIDALS. They stroll to JD, to be their canine companion.*)

**JD**

NOT THE TIME  
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...

(*GRAVITY adamantly places their paw on JD's monocular.*)

CUT INTO MY—  
PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE OF THE...



(*GRAVITY turns JD's head to the table.*)

**JD** (cont.)

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

(*Nearing the edge of the dome home.*)

YOU SEE.  
I'LL GO OFF ON A TANGENT.  
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE.  
WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS WHERE WHAT  
SAILS ARE KINSHIP.

(*GRAVITY grounds JD.*)

DROP OUT/OFF OF THIS ELLIPSE.

(*Rising.*)

WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF  
CHORAL REEFS.

(*At the table, GALAXIES harmonize.*)

SEE/SEA WITH OTHER ELLIPSES.

SEE BEYOND THESE GALAXIES

TO THE  
ENDS OF THE UNIVERSE.  
THAT'S THE START OF MY VERSE.  
CAN'T YOU SEE



**JD** (cont.)

I'M BUSY  
SEEING  
AN ENDLESS SEA  
WHERE WE NEED TO SINK.

WHERE'S THE TIME, GRAVITY?

GALA GALAXIES

(*JD puts down the monocular.*)

[These are the last verses of "Cutting Edge."]

**JD**

THIS PLACE IS CONFINED.  
THIS PLACE IS BIZARRE.  
THIS SPACE DOES NOT HEAR THE END OF MY VERSE.  
OUTER SPACE HAS A CALLING SIGN.  
WHAT SPEAKS TO MY HEART...  
IT SAYS TO REACH THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE!

(*GALAXIES at the table ironically hear JD.*)

**GALAXIES but JD**

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE?! (D5→B4→A4→F#4→G4→F#4→G4)

THE CUTTING EDGE? (B4→A4→F#4→G4)  
REALLY? (F#4→G4)

**JD**

CUTTING THE LINE BETWEEN  
DERIVATION AND INTEGRATION!



**GALAXIEs but JD**

JUST SEND US OFF A TANGENT WHY DON'T YA?

**JD**

CUTTING OFF MISCOMMUNICATION!

**GALAXIEs but JD**

YOU ARE LOSING US?!

**JD**

CUTTING OUR FINGERS ON...!

**GALAXIEs but JD**

WE GET IT NOW. YOU WANT THIS BADLY!

**JD**

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME-IME-IME!

**GALAXIEs but JD**

THAT'S US. ALL OF US.

**JD**

LET'S BE THE CUTTING EDGE.

**GALAXIEs but JD**

CUTTING EDGE? CUTTING EDGE?

**JD**

TO EDGE OUT WHAT IS  
DERIVATION AND INTEGRATION!

**GALAXIEs but JD**

WE'LL GO ABOUT IT ON A COTANGENT.

**JD**

TO EDGE OUT ALL COMMUNICATIONS!

**GALAXIEs but JD**

THAT MAKES NO SENSE!

**JD**

TO EDGE OUT THESE FINGERS WITH...!

**GALAXIEs but JD**

GO OFF. YOU WANT THIS BADLY!

**JD**

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME!  
LET'S BE THE CUTTING EDGE.

CUTTING-EDGE UNIVERSE.

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE... (D5 → B4 → A4 → F#4 → G4 → F#4F#4 → → D4)

**GRAVITY**

(*Barking.*)

FORCE!



(*JD hugs GRAVITY.*)

**JD**

Our verse is cutting edge. Grounded. I love my Gravity.

(*SINGULARITY accompanies JD and GRAVITY.*)

And Singularity... Mom/Dad?

**4. GROUNDED**

[This musical number is about Singularity protecting their children from the outside. The brief synopsis is that Singularity speaks of its perils and sends their children to bed. Skipping ahead...]

(*TRIANGULUM is often the strict sibling. But they let JD out to present this message...)*



(*TRIANGULUM brings out JD.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Do you have a millennium?

**JD**

I don't have the patience, anymore...

**TRIANGULUM**

We've been here for what? An eternity?

**JD**

Seems like it. Well, really it.

**TRIANGULUM**

And every morn, you are here.

**JD**

And every dawn, I am there.

(*Pointing to their offstage bedroom.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Not this dawn. I'm going to be chill as dark matter. As dark matter, I want you to never reach the edge of the universe.

(*JD silently mocks TRIANGULUM.*)

I'm just like you. Far out. But I am seen. While you, you need this, to feel seen.

(*Pulling out a monocular.*)

(*JD prepares to take the monocular from TRIANGULUM.*)

(*TRIANGULUM pockets the monocular.*)

**JD**

Triangulum, what do you need?

**TRIANGULUM**

I need you to need a family...

(*JD tries to comprehend.*)

In everything.

### 5. ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING

**TRIANGULUM**

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

(*JD grows saddened.*)

ANOMALY.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.  
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?  
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW  
NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.



**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

NO SUCH THING  
THAT IS JUST FAMILIARITY.

[*The spotlight lands on JD.*]

ANOMALY IS YOUR THING,  
FROM THE WAY YOU MOVED TO THE WAY YOU UNDERSTOOD.  
ANOMALY IS OUR THING,  
LIKE THIS DOME HOME YOU WANT TO LEAVE AND YET LIVED.

(*Bringing out a snow globe shaped like the dome home. They smirk at JD.*)

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

**JD**

WE KNOW.

**TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY'S UNIVERSAL. WE KNOW  
THAT YOU FEEL LIKE NOTHING.  
WELL, THE THING  
IS THAT WE'RE ALL HOMES TO FAMILIES.

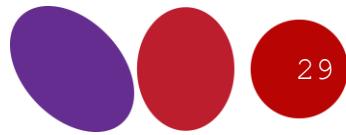
(*Shaking the snow globe. They set down the snow globe on the table.*)

[*A galaxy projects into their dome home.*]

(*TRIANGULUM brings out a ball.*)

ANOMALY IS EVERY CELL,  
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.

(*Stowing away the ball. They direct to the projected galaxy.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

ANOMALY IS EVERY VEIN,  
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.  
ANOMALY IS OUR HEARTS.  
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE YOURS JUST STEM.

*[The projected galaxy fades away.]*

*(Returning to the premise. They slowly and gloomily turn away from JD.)*

AGAIN, ANOMALY IN EVERY THOUGHT,  
FROM YOUR VIEWS THAT SHIFT TO YOUR POINTS WITH NO  
ROUNDTRIPS.  
ANOMALY IN EVERY SPACE,  
LIKE THIS CENTER YOU NEED TO FEEL, YET BELIEVED.

*(JD soberly sits at the table. They touch the snow globe.)*

ANOMALY'S IN EVERYONE,  
INCLUDING US BUT ESPECIALLY YOU YOU YOU.

*(Turning to JD.)*

JD?

*(Encouragingly joining JD at the table. They sit on the whoopie cushion.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL distantly laugh.)*

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

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!



(*TRIANGULUM stows away the whoopie cushion. They grab the snow globe. They take JD to the vantablack rug.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

ANOMALY IS SPACETIME!

(*Concernedly observing the outside of the dome home.*)

ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

(*Looking at JD.*)

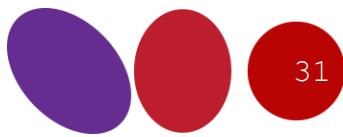
ANOMALY IS WHAT'S LEFT...

(*Earnestly holding JD.*)

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

(*Handing the snow globe to JD. They head off to bed with the monocular.*)

[End of "Anomaly is Everything."]



## 6. SWEEP UNDER THE RUG

(*JD stares out.*)

**JD**

Nothing? Nothing? Nothing? Nothing? Nothing...?

(*Bouncing backwards. They land on the vantablack rug.*)

Nothing's under my feet. But out there. There's no feet above nothing.

CAN'T SWEEP THAT FACT UNDER THE RUG.  
THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, OF COURSE.  
ITS THREAD ARE ROUGH.  
THE STRINGS THAT BIND IT, CUT.  
CUTTING EDGE...  
CAN'T SWEEP THAT FEELING UNDER THE RUG!

(*Kicking up the rug.*)

[*A BB Taser lies under the rug.*]

(*JD peculiarly picks up the BB Taser.*)

(*TIDALs remain absent.*)

**TIDAL**

(*Terrified.*)

Fall...

**JD**

Under the fabric of spacetime is... A BB Taser? What kind of energy is this?

**SINGULARITY**

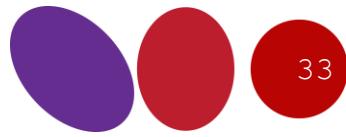
Shocking...

*(Arriving.)*

*(JD stows away the BB Taser in their clothes.)*

*(SINGULARITY is sarcastic.)*

*To see you first awake. JD. I wanted to see something out there as much as you.*



## 7. HINGE

(*SINGULARITY gathers GALAXIES and TIDALS.*)

### SINGULARITY

THE UNIVERSAL MAP HINGES ON YOU.  
AND YOU.  
AND YOU.  
AND YOU.  
AND YOU.  
AND YOU.  
I'LL NOT LOSE YOU.  
AT THE CENTER OF YOU ALL  
IS AN OPEN DOOR.  
THAT'S CALLED A BLACK HOLE.  
AND YOURS...

(*Focusing on JD.*)

YOURS IS SUPERMASSIVE.

[This musical number, "Hinge," is about SINGULARITY burdening their children. The brief synopsis is that Singularity assesses each of their child's black-hole hearts. Skipping ahead...]

**8. BIG BANG**

(*SINGULARITY faces JD.*)

**SINGULARITY**

YOU ARE A...  
BIG...

(*JD draws out the BB Taser. They shoot SINGULARITY in the face. They immediately drop the BB Taser. They regret this action.*)

*MISTAKE!*

(*Ceaselessly gets electrocuted. They increasingly inaudibly jerk in place.*)

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

**TIDALS**

(*Repeating.*)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG!

(*SINGULARITY abruptly slams their face onto the table.*)

(*TIDALS howl.*)

FALL!

[*The snow globe explodes.*]

[*The light suddenly fills the stage.*]

*[It is the beginning of the universe as we know it.]*

*(JD expresses grief. They look out and express wonder.)*

*(GRAVITY appears to pick up something by SINGULARITY's feet.)*

*(GALAXIES look upon SINGULARITY.)*

**GALAXIES but JD**

THIS IS SUCH A  
BIG MISTAKE YOU ARE!

BIT THE HAND THAT FEEDS.  
HEART THAT LOVES.

*(GRAVITY grabs JD and runs out.)*

*(GALAXIES, but JD, hesitantly step away from SINGULARITY to watch the universe unravel, and JD and GRAVITY departing.)*

*(JD and GRAVITY run in place.)*

*(JD stops in their tracks.)*

**JD**

Where is it?

*(GRAVITY rushes to JD's side.)*

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

It's further away?

(*Taking a step.*)

[*The light expands further out.*]

It's getting further away. The fabric of spacetime is a rug. And we're rolling it out.

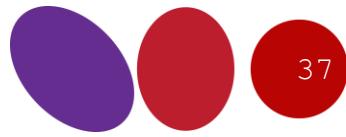
(*JD and GRAVITY dash off.*)

(*TRIANGULUM solely looks out as JD and GRAVITY run away from home.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

MUST YOU BE GOING  
OUT, WITH A  
BIG BANG?

(*Tearing up.*)



## 9. DEPTH

(*TRIANGULUM directs GALAXIES to place SINGULARITY on the table. They ensure that SINGULARITY's missing eye is not visible.*)

(*SINGULARITY swiftly grabs the neck of CARTWHEEL with their hand that corresponds to their missing eye.*)

(*SINGULARITY sits upright. Their missing eye remains unseen.*)

**SINGULARITY**

I'VE SEEN DEPTH.

I MISS DEPTH.

**SINGULARITY**

The universe is spread out too thin!

There is no resource left in the center of the universe.

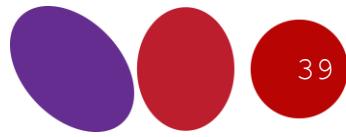
You need to fend for yourself and bring the edge back! Don't come back til you do!

Would you like to be buried six parsecs under?

[*This musical number, "Depth," is about SINGULARITY retaliating. Skipping ahead...*]

**10. APARTMENT**

*[This musical number is about the remaining siblings blaming one another and distancing from each other. The brief synopsis is that the siblings blame one another for kickstarting the universe. WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL heads in one direction. TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA split in another. MILKY WAY stays near the dome home. Skipping ahead...]*



**11. VERSE**

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*(JD and GRAVITY blissfully skip in.)*

*[Field equations scatter all over the space.]*

**JD**

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

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

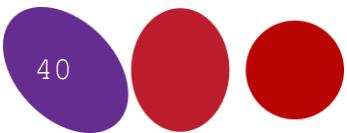
*[Music notation projects on the ground.]*

*(JD and GRAVITY thread the line.)*

MUSIC, DISCORDANCE, FAMILIAR.  
IT IS NO DOUBT DUE TO SCEPTICS:  
THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.  
THAT'S THE START OF REVERSE...

*(Missing their family.)*

*(GRAVITY gathers a V, an =, an H, a tiny 0,  
and a D. They put together  $v = H_0 D$ . They  
present Hubble's Law to JD.)*

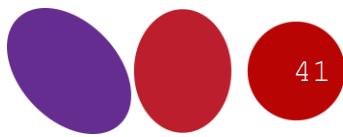
**JD (cont.)**

DISTANCE, VERSIFIES, VELOCITY.  
BREVITY OF HUBBLE'S CONSTANT.  
THIS IS THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.  
THAT'S THE END OF OUR VERSE!

**GRAVITY**

FORCE!

*(JD and GRAVITY skip out.)*



## 12. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

[This musical number is about MILKY WAY roaming alone. The brief synopsis is that in their isolation, MILKY WAY speaks to their SOLAR SYSTEM. Solar System are astronomical bodies that speak to Milky Way when Milky Way wanders the universe alone. They are the voices inside Milky's Way head. They do not make an appearance. They speak for several billion years (several-minutes staging time) before the Sun becomes a red giant (swelling) in the first act.]

(MILKY WAY drifts alone.)

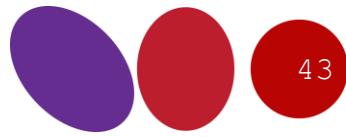
### MILKY WAY

I spilt myself on this trek. Warped, waved, and wrinkled myself.

[Skipping ahead...]

**13. TIME IS RELATIVE**

*[This musical number is about WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL not wasting time. The brief synopsis is that WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL turn around and heads home. Skipping ahead...]*



## 14. WORKING TIDAL

*[This musical number is about SINGULARITY remaining vengeful. The brief synopsis is that WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL face Singularity's attack dogs, who ensure that no siblings unite. Also, SINGULARITY has an eye patch...]*

### SINGULARITY

I was not born yester-millennium.

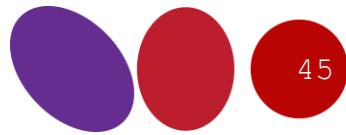
I didn't calmly domesticate tidal forces. They are at bay due to my electromagnetic forces, that is the BB Taser.

Now go along and behave yourselves. Play outside. Don't come back until you have the edge of the universe!

*[Skipping ahead...]*

**15. BUNDLE**

*[This musical number is about TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY bonding. The brief synopsis is that TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY band together but keep their distance. Skipping ahead...]*



## 16. FAR-FETCHED

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*(JD and GRAVITY wander.)*

**JD**

A trillion years...

*(Grabbing a ball.)*

Fetch, Gravity.

*(Tossing the ball.)*

Fetch the star!

**GRAVITY**

Force!

*(Retrieving the ball.)*

*(JD pets GRAVITY.)*

**JD**

Who's a good tidal force? You are. You are. You shaved a couple hundred thousand years from that retrieval.

*(Tossing the ball.)*

**GRAVITY**

Refresh?

**JD**

*(Woofing.)*

...Force?

**GRAVITY**

We have this one flare like these, every million years then we continue threading along the fabric of spacetime. Don't stall on this now. The edge of the universe is just beyond the horizon.

**JD**

We keep rolling away the horizon.

**GRAVITY**

This fabric of spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite.

**JD**

You would know. You tidal forces are fifteen times my age...? As a galaxy, I'm getting too old for this.

**GRAVITY**

You're blowing it out of proportion.

**JD**

2.327 terameters per year per megaparsec... The universe is expanding. The light can't even see the end of the tunnel.

**GRAVITY**

I don't know how to convert that. I'm a Tidal dog.

**JD**

But on this voyage, you learnt to speak galactic being... Or I learnt how to speak Tidal dog... Whether or not, I have grown in the worst ways possible.

*(GRAVITY retrieves the ball.)*

**GRAVITY**

You are part of my accretion, and I thank you. Grow up but don't grow up.

**JD**

...Give up and give up?

**GRAVITY**

Your Tidal dog whispering is a bit low in escape velocity... So, your voice will carry far...

*(JD exhaustedly looks out.)*

**JD**

Far, far away...

**GRAVITY**

LONG TIME AGO  
YOU WERE REAL CLOSE  
TO THE CENTER  
WHERE YOUR SIBLINGS,  
WHERE YOUR BROTHERS,  
WHERE YOUR SISTERS,  
WHERE YOUR PARENT...

**JD**

SINGULARITY.

**GRAVITY**

APPARENTLY  
WILL NOT FORGET.  
WILL NOT FORGIVE.  
CAN I FORETELL?

**GRAVITY (cont.)**

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

*(Snatching the ball. They toss it in the direction of the center of the universe.)*

GO FETCH THE STAR...

*(JD heads to the ball. They cramp up.)*

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

**JD**

ALL'S A STRETCH!

**GRAVITY**

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.  
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXIES NEED TO FETCH.  
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

*(Heading to JD's side. They point to the ball.)*

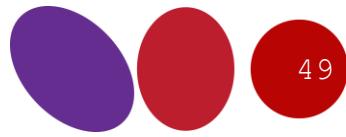
WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.  
YOU'RE SPEAKING TIDAL FORCE NOW.  
THAT ONCE SEEMED AS THOUGH FAR-FETCHED.

**JD**

IT GIVES ME PAUSE.

**GRAVITY**

IMPLAUSIBLE.  
DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE WITH ALL OF YOUR ACCRETE  
THINKING?



### **GRAVITY (cont.)**

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE THAT THE STRINGS WE WALK ON ARE STRUMMED?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE WHENEVER YOU BE SHOOTING STARS?

*(Snatching another ball. They toss it in the direction of the edge of the universe.)*

IMPLAUSIBLE.

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE THAT YOU ARE FULL OF LIVING THINGS?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE ALL OF YOUR CELLS ARE STAR SYSTEMS?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE, YOU HAVE A BLACK HOLE FOR A HEART?

### **JD**

IT'S PLAUSIBLE!

*(Dropping numerous balls. They tearfully hold their heart.)*

### **GRAVITY**

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

*(Nearing JD.)*

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

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

*(TIDALs loom in the distance.)*

### **TIDALs**

SUPERMASSIVE HEART!

*[The atmosphere fills with flaring black holes.]*



50

**GRAVITY**

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

**TIDALs**

NEAR AND WELL-KEPT!

**GRAVITY**

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

**TIDALs**

FAR!

**GRAVITY**

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXIES NEED TO FETCH.

**TIDALs**

FETCH!

**GRAVITY**

POINT OF RETURN IS...

**JD**

FAR-FETCHED!

*(JD and GRAVITY reach out to each black hole.)*

**JD**

**GRAVITY**

APPARENTLY,  
WE'LL NOT FORGET.



**JD** (cont.)

WE'LL NOT FORGIVE.  
CAN WE FORETELL?  
CAN'T WE FORESEE?  
WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.

**GRAVITY** (cont.)

(*TIDALS vanish.*)

**JD**

These supermassive black holes came out of a vacuum...?

(*Observing closer. They recognize one of their siblings.*)

It's Milky Way. The other Galaxies will be near. We got to hubble!

[*The flaring black holes fade away.*]

(*JD and GRAVITY pick up the balls.*)

(*MILKY WAY stumbles in. They fall flat on their face.*)

(*JD and GRAVITY dash off.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in. They keep their distance.*)

**17. FABRIC**

[This musical number is about ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY uniting against an obstacle. The brief synopsis is that SOLAR SYSTEM develops into a swelling. Despite TRIANGULUM's objections, ANDROMEDA comes to the aid of Milky Way. Before the dogs could pounce, MILKY WAY emits flares of light that scare them off.]

(ANDROMEDA is stationary. They worriedly look upon MILKY WAY.)

(TRIANGULUM is stationary.)

**TRIANGULUM**

Your heart's in the wrong space.

(ANDROMEDA looks through the monocular in the direction of the center of the universe.)

You're facing the wrong way.

(ANDROMEDA ignores.)

Do you see the edge...?

(ANDROMEDA breathes in.)

Of the universe?

(ANDROMEDA nods.)

Your eye's in the wrong place?



(*ANDROMEDA puts their hand over their unused eye.*)

(*TRIANGULUM nervously concentrates to where ANDROMEDA observes.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Right...

**ANDROMEDA**

Mom... / Dad...

(*Tenderly putting down the monocular.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA almost dash off.*)

(*ANDROMEDA stops and watches over MILKY WAY.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Singularity's Tidals will hunt us down if we don't get a move on!

**ANDROMEDA**

The Solar System is cancer to Milky Way's head!

**TRIANGULUM**

And the tidal forces will cancel us all.

(*ANDROMEDA goes to the aid of MILKY WAY.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

A crime against Hubble!

*(ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up. They link arms with MILKY WAY.)*

Stay six parsecs away from me...

*(Tearing up.)*

*[The fabric of spacetime rips around ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY, and eventually, TRIANGULUM.]*

*(TIDALS surround ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY. They pounce.)*

*(ANDROMEDA holds MILKY WAY close.)*

*(Lights erupt from MILKY WAY's mouth, like a dragon. MILKY WAY is now a Quasar.)*

*(TIDALS get blinded and scatter away.)*

*(TRIANGULUM nears ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.)*

*(ANDROMEDA holds up five fingers.)*

*(TRIANGULUM stops in their tracks.)*



*(ANDROMEDA holds up an index finger from their unused hand. They motion for TRIANGULUM to join in with MILKY WAY.)*

*(TRIANGULUM huddles with ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.)*

*[Blackout.]*

**18. WRONG SPACE**

*[This musical number is about SINGULARITY regretting their children's dismissal. The brief synopsis is that SINGULARITY observes their children through a telescope. The edge is on the cosmic horizon. Skipping ahead...]*

*End of Act*

LIP

ACT II

**19. BOUNCE BACK**

*[This entr'acte is about the remaining siblings playing again. The brief synopsis is that most siblings have bundled together and flashing TIDALs that are in their way. Skipping ahead...]*



## 20. ACCRETION

*[This musical number is about the siblings pleading to JD to come home. The brief synopsis is that the GALAXIES reach JD and GRAVITY and take them in. Skipping ahead...]*

*[As they rest together, Gravity reveals that they have been holding Singularity's eye.]*



(GRAVITY hands SINGULARITY's eye to JD.)

**JD**

Singularity's eye...?!

(GRAVITY whimpers.)

(JD's curiosity overrides their disappointment. They peek through Singularity's eye.)

[The light shifts away from JD, GRAVITY, and GALAXIES to in front of the stage.]

## **21. IN-DEPTH**

(SINGULARITY has their eyes intact. They appear youthful and resplendent as a Galaxy. They hold a vantablack fabric, shielding the BB Taser. In front of the stage, they run alongside it. They find a spot to collapse against.)

(MULTIVERSITIES never physically appear. They may be casted as shadows or projections of silhouettes searching on stage.)

### **MULTIVERSITY 1/A**

Singularity! We love you. We gravitate to you. We need you. We balance time for you. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?! Please don't go... File a report! Our Galaxy ran away from the center of our universe. Our child ran away from home. Our baby is missing!



## MULTIVERSITY 2/B

Singularity! We're a part of the force... We raised them without forcing a problem on them. But you just had to go and tell them about their supermassive disorder. Now, we know supermassive disorder. I authorized you to keep that a secret!

## 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...

## MULTIVERSITY 1/F

Singularity! What? That they have a black hole for a heart? Do you not see the problem of stars orbiting that chasm of theirs? What would cells want to do circulating a heart? Why can't they be content like we are. I would regret as a mother/father if I spaghettiified the truth.

## MULTIVERSITY 2/Δ

Singularity! You ripped a worm hole in them. You broke their heart. You dug into the dark energy. You've always regretted their heart and that the spirit and soul that came with it. I can't comprehend how that is mathematically possible, but your supermassive ego did it.

## MULTIVERSITY 1/E

Singularity! Our little nebula shall not lie down and go quiet into the dark matters... As they continue to mutate and deform. Agony. Ionized gas. They have to empirically know. Some millennium.

## MULTIVERSITY 2/Z

Singularity! We won't get another millennium with them. They didn't have to know who they truly are inside. They could have

**MULTIVERSITY 2/Z (cont.)**

experimented with their own internal theories. You took the light out of our little cluster of stars!

**MULTIVERSITY 1/H**

Singularity! You believe that the heart is where the lights are trapped inside... Their heart sucked energy out of the space. They should have had enough of it...?

*(SINGULARITY tries to reach for the stage.)*

**SINGULARITY**

I DON'T HAVE THE... ENERGY TO...  
I DON'T HAVE A REACH...

**MULTIVERSITY 2/Θ**

Singularity! Declination!

**MULTIVERSITY 1/I**

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

**MULTIVERSITY 2/K**

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

**MULTIVERSITY 1/Λ**

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

*(Realizing.)*

**MULTIVERSITY 2/M**

Singularity fell off the edge of the universe!

*(Weeping.)*

### MULTIVERSITY 1/N

Singularity... Our Galaxy! They are in the courtyard of another plane! They are within the walls of another stage. They have to be. Or not. They broke the fourth dimension!

*(SINGULARITY extends their arm in all directions.)*

### SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THIS... DEPTH PERCEPTION...  
I DON'T HAVE IN-DEPTH...

### MULTIVERSITY 2/E

Singularity... At least, no longer our laws. We know that they can't break our universal laws.

### MULTIVERSITY 1/O

Singularity... The laws of physics are different in other universal jurisdictions! They don't know if they'll break the other's!

### MULTIVERSITY 2/Π

Singularity... Either way, they'll break...

*(SINGULARITY breaks down.)*

### MULTIVERSITY 1/P

Singularity... They'll get eaten alive by unknown forces...

### MULTIVERSITY 2/Σ

Singularity... Just a crunch...



(*On stage, TIDALs approach SINGULARITY.*)

(*SINGULARITY senses TIDALs.*)

**SINGULARITY**

I'm dead!

**MULTIVERSITY 1/T**

Multiversity... Where did we put the electricity? The Big Bang Taser?!

(*SINGULARITY pulls out the BB Taser.*)

**SINGULARITY**

What kind of forces are—?

**TIDAL(s)**

Force!

**SINGULARITY**

Like to echo, huh?

**TIDALs**

Force force force...!

**SINGULARITY**

Is that all you can bark?

**TIDALs**

Fall!



## MULTIVERSITY 2/Y

Singularity may take our force and energy along with them, for their safety. But they may have a hard time making use of our current... Our language...

### SINGULARITY

What are you howling about?

*(Turning on the BB Taser. They point the BB Taser towards TIDALS.)*

### TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

*(Repeating.)*

*(SINGULARITY stows away the BB Taser inside the fabric. They accept their fate.)*

*(TIDALS grab ahold of SINGULARITY.)*

*[The light shifts to the stage, but not to JD, GRAVITY, and GALAXIES.]*

## MULTIVERSITY 1/ $\Phi$

Singularity! We take it all back!

## MULTIVERSITY 2/X

Singularity! Your heart is not just a black hole...

## MULTIVERSITY 1/ $\Psi$

It is singularity.

**MULTIVERSITY 2/Ω**

Your heart is in the right space.

*(TIDALs lift SINGULARITY onto the stage.)*

*[The dome home does not contain a vantablack rug at this time.]*

*(TIDALs carry SINGULARITY into the dome home. They set down SINGULARITY. They grow tame.)*

**SINGULARITY**

In-debt...

*(Timidly interacting with TIDALs.)*

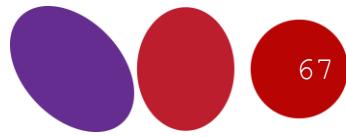
**TIDALs**

Fall!

*[End of "In-Depth."]*

*[The light shifts away from the dome home and returns to JD.]*

*(JD stows away SINGULARITY's eye. They think and scheme. They intently look back at their resting siblings.)*



## 22. ECCENTRICITY

*[This musical number is about JD fulfilling SINGULARITY's legacy by continuing to run away from home like they did, and perhaps to find GALAXIES out there. The brief synopsis is that JD encircles their siblings and conflicts with themself on whether to spend another trillion years without them again. Skipping ahead...]*

**23. CUTTING OFF**

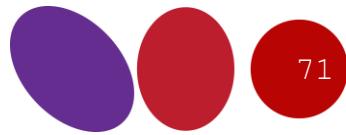
[This musical number is about TRIANGULUM still being a jingoistic sibling and having little care for JD's purpose. The brief synopsis is that Triangulum takes JD's monocular and traps JD. Gravity distracts them by signaling the dogs to their location. In the frenzy, JD and Gravity escape to the edge. Skipping ahead...]

**24. FABRICATE**

*[This musical number is about SINGULARITY pleading for their children to return home. The brief synopsis is that SINGULARITY calls off their dogs. Skipping ahead...]*

**25. SCOPE (CUT IT CLOSE)**

*[This musical number is about JD and GRAVITY continuing their journey. The brief synopsis is that an eternity passes, and JD feels lost more than ever without their monocular. Gravity sites that the scope is within their black-hole heart. Skipping ahead...]*



## 26. EDGE

*[The horizon fills with ellipses. Six ellipses stand out.]*

*(JD stands at the edge of the stage.)*

**JD**

LET'S BE GROUNDED, GRAVITY.

*[This musical number, "Edge," is about JD and Gravity reaching their destination. The brief synopsis is that in that spirit of a scope inside their hearts, the edge comes to them. With the enduring love from their siblings, JD decides to head back, taking the edge with them. Skipping ahead...]*

**27. SPACETIME**

*[This musical number is about the family reuniting. The brief synopsis is that the siblings make their way home. Skipping ahead...]*



## 28. DROPOUT

[This musical number is about SINGULARITY dismissing JD and JD disappearing. The brief synopsis is that when JD returns, they try to give back SINGULARITY's eye. SINGULARITY does not forgive JD. JD drops the eye. After giving GRAVITY one last hug, JD jumps off the edge.]

(JD returns the monocular to TRIANGULUM.)

**JD**

I AM AN ELLIPTICAL DROPOUT.

ELLIPSE is everything.

ELLIPSES are everything.

EVERYTHING IS FAMILY.

AND SO, ANOMALY.

(TRIANGULUM shows joy.)

I, AM NOTHING.

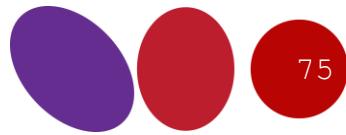
(Leaping off the stage.)

(GRAVITY weeps and dashes off.)

(The remaining GALAXIES collapse.)

**29. CENTER**

*[This musical number is about the remaining siblings grieving. The brief synopsis is that in these millennia of grief, the siblings hold each other close. Skipping ahead...]*



### 30. HEARTS ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

(*SINGULARITY picks up their eye. They discreetly place their eye into their eye patch. They rip off their eye patch. They see through both eyes, once again. They cautiously head to the edge of the stage. They look out.*)

[*The spotlight lands on JD.*]

(*The performer playing JD is amongst their actual friends and family. Bonus points: The performer playing JD is embracing or holding their child{ren}/cluster of stars.*)

(*Tears roll down SINGULARITY's resettled eye.*)

[*The spotlight shifts to SINGULARITY.*]

(*MULTIVERSITIES remain absent.*)

#### **MULTIVERSITY 1/A**

Our precious universe, you have found yourself!

#### **MULTIVERSITY 2/B**

You have your own clusters of stars!

[*The spotlight shifts to the remaining GALAXIES.*]

**MULTIVERSITY 1/Γ**

I told you that you'd break the fourth dimension!

**MULTIVERSITY 2/Δ**

Your hearts are in the right place.

(*SINGULARITY could not be more sentimental. They accept JD's newfound family, center, and universe. They look back at their five remaining GALAXIES.*)

[End of "Hearts Are in the Right Place."]

(*GRAVITY suddenly marches out of the shadows, with a tidal wolf pack.*)

(*TIDALS follow GRAVITY's lead.*)

**GRAVITY**

As JD has... You will fall! You all will fall!

**TIDALS**

(*Savagely.*)

Force! Force! Force!

(*SINGULARITY runs into the dome home. They kick up the vantablack rug. They look down to find nothing.*)

(*GRAVITY reveals the BB Taser.*)



(*TRIANGULUM stands between GRAVITY and their remaining GALACTIC SIBLINGS.*)

(*GRAVITY knocks down and tases TRIANGULUM.*)

(*TRIANGULUM covers their eyes while tossing and turning in pain.*)

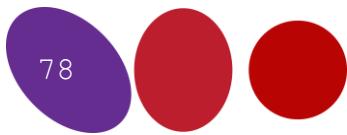
(*GRAVITY regrets this action. They toss away the BB Taser. They jump off the stage.*)

(*TIDALS grow angrier.*)

(*SINGULARITY fights through TIDALS to save TRIANGULUM from a beat down with what is left of their parental love. They gather the remaining GALAXIES into the dome home. They ponder at the table in the dome home. They come to terms of the Big Crunch Theory. They direct their GALAXIES to the table.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL grab the rug and wrap it around TRIANGULUM. They lead TRIANGULUM to a seat at the table.*)

(*TRIANGULUM looks at the seat. They look at WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL. They smile. They sit on the whoopie cushion.*)



### 31. BIG CRUNCH

(*SINGULARITY and the remaining GALAXIES sit at the table in the dome home.*)

(*SINGULARITY places a hand on their chest. They shape that hand as though it is holding a heart. Their other hand sits flatly under this hand.*)

(*The remaining GALAXIES emulate SINGULARITY.*)

(*SINGULARITY changes their mind. They take and hold GALAXIES' hands next to them.*)

(*The remaining GALAXIES hold each other's hands.*)

#### **SINGULARITY**

HOLD THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.  
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.  
HOLD OUR LIGHT FOR ALL TIME.  
FOR IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.  
IN BLACK HOLES, DWELL WISDOM.  
FED BY THE SPRINKLES OF STARDUST.  
HOLD THEIR DREAMS IN YOUR PALM.  
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, ELLIPSES.

[*The darkness swallows the stage, outside the dome home.*]

(*SINGULARITY and the remaining GALAXIES chorally pray.*)

**SINGULARITY****GALAXIES**

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

*(TIDALs creep into the dome home.)*

*[The darkness seeps into the dome home.]*

**SINGULARITY****GALAXIES**

STRING BY STRING IN THEORY.  
AND FABRIC BY SPACETIME FABRIC.  
HOLD OUR LOVE            IN OUR HOLES / AS A WHOLE.  
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, FAMILY.

**TRIANGULUM**

ANOMALY.

*(TIDALs pounce on SINGULARITY and GALAXIES.)*

*[Blackout.]*

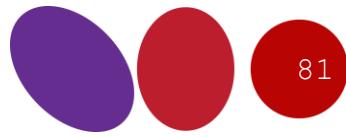
*[It is the end of the universe as we know it.]*

*End of Act -No Intermission-*

A large, bright red nebula dominates the center of the image, set against a dark, speckled background of stars and distant galaxies. The nebula has a textured, glowing appearance with some darker regions and a central bright core.

SF

ACT III



## 32. BIG BOUNCE

[A particle of light rests on a snow globe.]

### **TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING!

[A light briefly flashes.]

### **WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

[Another light briefly flashes.]

### **CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

[Another light briefly flashes.]

### **ANDROMEDA**

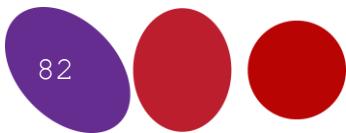
NOTHING!

[Another light briefly flashes.]

### **MILKY WAY**

NOTHING!

[Another light briefly flashes.]



(*JD shouts from the audience.*)

**JD**

NOTHING!

(*SINGULARITY and GALAXIES, but JD, cluster together in the dome home.*)

(*GALAXIES lower the torso and head to bow.*)

[*The lights wholly fill the dome home and illuminate SINGULARITY and GALAXIES.*]

**GALAXIES**

BIG BOUNCE!

(*GALAXIES, but JD, choreographically move alongside the walls of the dome home. They are distinct in their dances.*)

(*SINGULARITY stands in the center of the dome home, amused by their GALAXIES.*)

(*CARTWHEEL bows whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL bows whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord.*)

(*MILKY WAY bows whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord.*)

(*ANDROMEDA bows whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord.*)

(*TRIANGULUM bows whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord.*)

(*SINGULARITY may take the snow globe and toss it. They bow.*)

[*The lights suddenly fill the stage.*]

[*It is the rebeginning of the universe as we don't know it.*]

(*TIDALS, but GRAVITY, prowl out. They bow.*)

(*GRAVITY emerges from in the audience. They run up to, jump on, and embrace JD.*)

(*JD pulls out a ball for old time's sake. They toss a ball onto the stage.*)

(*GRAVITY confusingly heads to ORCHESTRA. They spotlight ORCHESTRA. They point to SOUND DESIGNERS. They return to JD.*)

(*JD toss balls onto the stage.*)

(*CREW rush in. They pick up as many balls as they could. They cluster together. They bow.*)

(*COMPANY bow. They dance in spacetime.*)

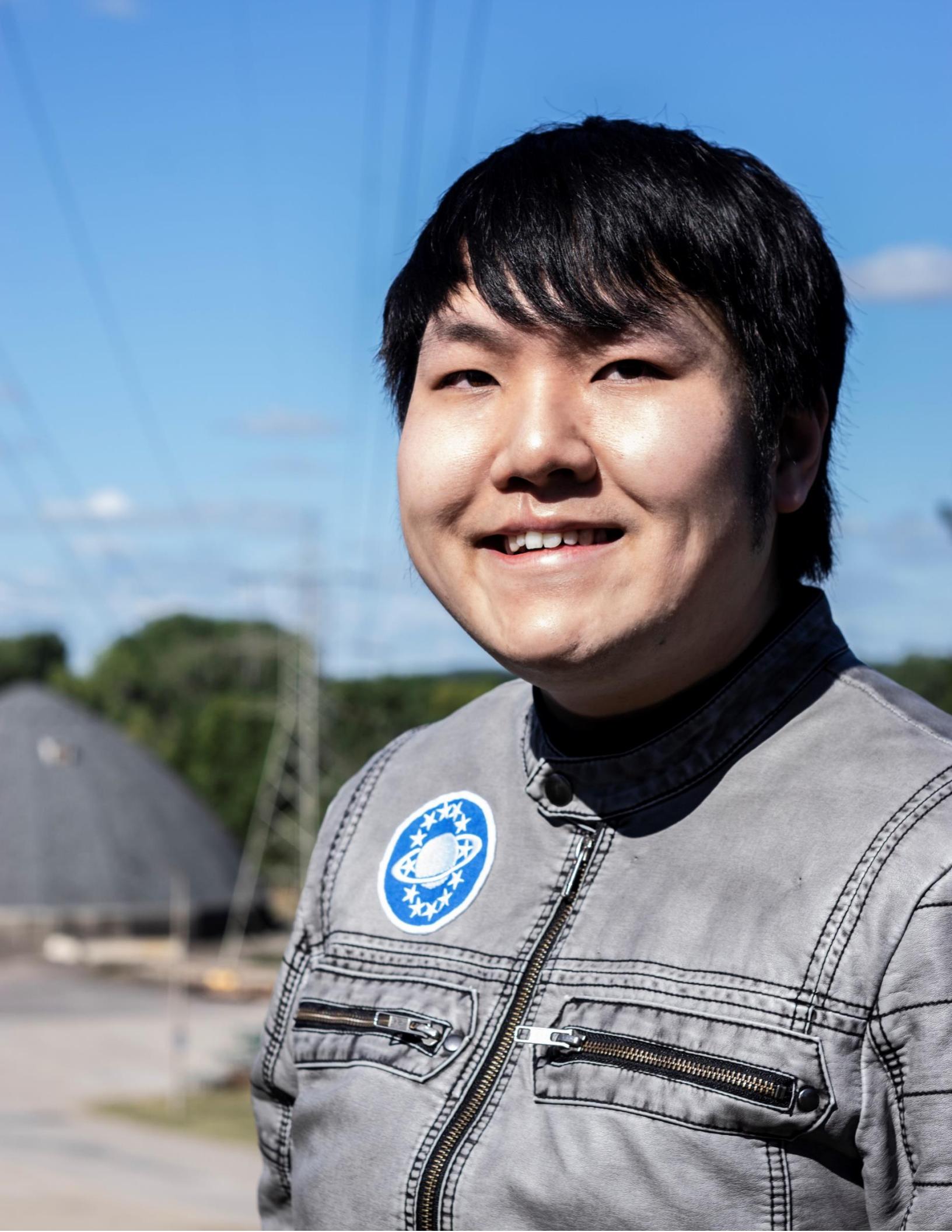
*Close circuit*

## **DAVID QUANG PHAM**

David Quang Pham is a science-based musical writer and dramaturg from Wyoming, Michigan. He is the recipient of the 2020-2021 New Play Development and Pre-Production Apprenticeship for Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He practices professional new development dramaturgy under their Dramaturgy Master Intensive with Amber Bradshaw and the International Dramaturgy Lab with fellow members of LMDA. As a musical writer, he wrote the opera titled TOUR. This physics fable revolves around particles in college in a nuclear reactor and is a frequent concerted feature under Musical Theatre Factory, a finalist for 2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival, and granted several readings. A member of ΣΠΣ, Theater Resources Unlimited, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild, he attained an astrophysics degree with a minor in theatre at Michigan State University.

His theatrical and astronomical interests manifested as a child, with trips to operas and space camp. In middle and high school, he delved into music theory and played the trombone. The nerdy persona remained, and the artistic talents dwelled into his college years. As he was finishing his bachelor's thesis, his sister informed him that his high school calculus teacher had been annually sharing his musical. During his junior year of high school, he wrote MATHLAND for their winter project. He returned to musical writing on the side of thesis writing. Soon, he uncovered his niche: the world of physics being told through the human experience.

As an artistic scientist, he theorizes that science and art are not two sides of the same coin. Science and art make the coin. He spins it.









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