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A Universal Musical

By David Quang Pham

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THANK YOU

Working Title Playwrights Dramaturgy Apprenticeship 2020-2021

Amber Bradshaw WTP Managing Artistic Director ○ Emily McClain First Reader
 Alexis McKay Fireworks/Stage Manager ○ Jordan Alexandria Ealey Hat/Dramaturg
 Aliyah Curry Butterfly/Director ○ Vallea E. Woodbury Gravity
 Parris Sarter*²/Minka Wiltz* Singularity ○ Daniela Cobb* SPT0615-JD
 Jason-Jamal Ligon Cartwheel ○ Skye Passmore Whirlpool
 Abby Holland Triangulum ○ Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel Andromeda
 Evan Phillips Milky Way ○ Kait Rivas Tidals ○ Sofia Palmero Narrator
 Kate Leanne Jacoby* Understudy ○ Isake Akanke, Robert Bryan Davis,
 Jeff Hathcoat², Ebony Jerry, Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor²,
 Lee Osorio², Mary Lynn Owen, Lau'rie Roach, Imani Vaughn-Jones²
 WTP Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*

Colorado New Musical Festival 2022

Preston Adams, Kelly Bidstrup Graham, Mary Wilkie Backstory Theatre
 Emma Day Magellan/Music Director & Saturn ○ Lucia Graves Milky Way
 Jack Tyler Oort Cloud ○ Nicole Meredith Uranus Riley Krull Sun
 Elicia Hesselgrave Earth & Jupiter ○ Amanda M. Edwards Mercury

MilkyWay Theatre Company 2022-2023

Jamiel T Burkhart MilkyWay Producing Artistic Director ○ Jay Michaels Director
 Si Boudoin Assistant Director/Dramaturg ○ Simon Broucke Music Director/Orchestrator
 Dominika Zawada Stage Manager ○ Maria Noriko Cabral Gravity
 Joseph Lee Singularity ○ Isaac Williams HD1
 Karina Ordóñez Cartwheel ○ Kristen Amanda Vargas Smith Whirlpool
 Carla Angeline Mongado Triangulum ○ Yoosep Im Andromeda
 Yasmin Ranz-Lind Milky Way ○ Oscar Chicaiza Special ○ Flynn Byun General
 Kenedi Chriske, Leigh Dillon, Chyna Jackson, Chris King,
 Sabrina López, Caitlyn Somerville, Eli Wassertzug Tidals

Life ~~~

Edwin Din Loh, Danny Caballero Professors of Physics at Michigan State University
 Daniel Smith Professor of Theatre at MSU ○ Kaliyah Jetton Copyeditor
 Christina Hemphill, Marty Jagodzinski, Madeline Stone CreateTheater
 Janelle Lawrence Mentor ○ Hue Nguyen, Trung Pham, Linda Pham Family

DAVID QUANG PHAM (he★him)

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator. He writes science musicals and consults on stories that explore STEM. His notable musicals personifying astrophysics, quantum mechanics, and botany are respectively: ELLIPSES, TOUR (2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist), and TURNOVER: A NEW LEAF. Queer Theatre Kalamazoo is producing TURNOVER to close out their tenth season from May 9-19, 2024.

After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as a Working Title Playwrights apprentice in Atlanta and Playwrights Foundation fellow in San Francisco. Composer Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and quan họ. Harriet Tubman Effect Institute commissioned his music. His interviews with composers for Kennedy Center and The Public Theater's BIPOC Critics Lab are published in The Public and TheaterMania. His recent dramaturgical credits are *Millennials are Killing Musicals* by Nico Juber (2022 29-hour reading, Open Jar Studios) and Allies by Michael McGoldrick (2022 PPADC Hamilton Arts Festival). He is a moderator at LMDA; founding member of CreateTheater and the International Dramaturgy Lab; member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild. He plays trombone in the Queer Big Apple Corps. His moonbase is in Washington Heights. His earth is Wyoming, MI. Be up to lightspeed at davidquang.com and @scientetheatre.

CHRONOLOGY OF ELLIPSES

October 5, 2020; December 7, 2020; February 1, 2021; May 3, 2021

• Table Readings w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights (WTP)

June 13, 2021; October 17, 2021; February 27, 2022 • Workshops • December 11, 2021 • Lab • Theater Resources Unlimited

July 15, 2021 • Public Read w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights; Aliyah Curry Director, Jordan Alexandria Ealey Dramaturg

2022 • Semifinalist • Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

July 21, 2022 • Concert Reading • Colorado New Musical Festival

October 2022 - January 2023 • MilkyWay Theatre Company's New Works Festival; January 26, 2023 • Industry Reading • Theatre 71

2023 • Semifinalist • CreateTheater SUNY Cortland Partnership

November 2023 • Presentation • Theatre About Science in Portugal

SYNOPSIS

ELLIPSES is a universal musical that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way out of a family tragedy, known as the Big Bang.

Before the world we have come to know, there once lived Singularity, their children, and their unruly dog named Gravity. Their universe turns upside down when their firstborn HD strikes their parent. HD escapes with Gravity to explore The Edge of the Universe. The Big Bang kills Singularity, unleashes Gravity, and dooms everyone else. To restore order, the living family members organize a search party to locate their oldest sibling HD. They encounter beasts, fight famine, and settle sibling rivalries on this cosmic journey. In the chaos, their baby sibling Milky Way gets separated. Alone, Milky Way must confront the Universe's most powerful foe: puberty.

Adapting the origin of the cosmos into an epic family drama, astronomer-songwriter David Quang Pham celebrates family and science with this universal musical, ELLIPSES. Our Universe is a coming-of-age story that answers the 13.8-billion-year-old question: What is family and how is it everything?

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 Period in the Three Periods of Human Development (Childhood/Teenhood/Adulthood)

"Ellipses" ◊ A (divisive) term for the Galaxies, alongside definite obscenities like "Ovals" and "Ellipsoids"

"The Circle" ◊ The Dome Home in The Center of the Universe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

GRAVITY, a dog, the Galaxy family's pet
 Abused, Dogmatic, Rambunctious

SINGULARITY, adult, single parent of the six Galaxies
 Beloved, Strict, Compunctious

HD1, young adult, Singularity's oldest child
 Caring, Deviant, Credulous

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child
 Tense, Insensitive, Cantankerous

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child
 Spiritual, Sensitive, Mischievous

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child
 Organized, Snappy, Virtuous

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child
 Seafaring, Wacky, Glamorous

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child
 Loving, Naïve, Zealous

Supporting Characters

SPECIAL, adult, Singularity's parent
 Difficult, Considerate, Prejudiced

GENERAL, adult, Singularity's parent
 Straightforward, Negligent, Prejudiced

Minor Characters

ABELL (a ) , young child, HD's eventual Galaxy /// **KID HD**

ANTI, a puppy, Abell's eventual friend /// **PUPPY GRAVITY**

Ensemble

TIDALS, dogs, wolves, and canines personifying tidal forces
 Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

SOLAR SYSTEM, Milky Way's imaginary friends

○ Named: Sun, Mercury, Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Pluto

○ 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, Tidals, Special, General
2. "Crunch" Singularity, Teen Galaxies
3. "Cutting Edge (Make Myself Clear)" Galaxies, Singularity, Gravity
4. "Figure" HD, Milky Way
5. "Zilch" Gravity, HD
6. "Big Bang" Singularity, Galaxies, Gravity, Tidals
7. "Anomaly is Everything" Teen Galaxies
8. "Far-Fetched" Gravity, HD, Tidals
9. "Time is Relative" Cartwheel, Whirlpool
10. "Big Rip" Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Tidals
11. "Point (of No Return)" Singularity, Special, General, Tidals
12. "Warps, Waves, and Wrinkles" Milky Way, Solar System
13. "Globular" Andromeda
14. "The Fabric of Spacetime" Teen Galaxies, Tidals
15. "Parallax" Gravity, HD
16. "Tangent" Galaxies, Gravity, Singularity, Tidals

Act II

17. "Heat Death" Singularity, Special, General
18. "..." Gravity, Tidals
19. "Bounce Back" Teen Galaxies
20. "Family is Everything" Galaxies
21. "Up Against Gravity (Down With Gravity)" Tidals, Singularity, Galaxies
22. "Apparent (Shed Light)" Galaxies, Singularity, Gravity, Puppy Gravity, Young HD
23. "(The Big Rip of) Zenith" Gravity, Galaxies, Tidals
24. "Big Crunch" Galaxies, Singularity, Tidals

Nulla

25. "Big Bounce" Company

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

1. "BOUNCE"

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL & GENERAL

NOTHING...

Alert, SINGULARITY draws out the Big Bang Taser and ignites it outwards. The lights flicker. The curtains ripple. The Universe is wondrous. Far from the stage, a bell-shaped light shines. A shadow of HD in a shooting stance protrudes. HD soon enters, carrying a pestle. SINGULARITY hides the Big Bang Taser under the rug, returning the Universe back to its void stasis. They hand the bowl to HD. They disappear inside the home.

SINGULARITY
NOTHING...TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
OOOHHHHHH.

HD unveils a scope in the pestle and scope out the edge of the home.

TRIANGULUM wanders out to HD. They grab HD's scope and toss it behind.

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING.

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

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

HD

HERE GOES NOTHING!

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY skips to the table.
ANDROMEDA sails to the table.
TRIANGULUM triangulates the table.
WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.
CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.
HD joins the table with the bowl.

GRAVITY marches in, doglike.

HD

ABELL...

End of "BOUNCE"

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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

GRAVITY
(Narrating)

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

SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY.

GALAXIES

Declinations, Singularity.

GRAVITY

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

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY. The
GALAXIES sit. TRIANGULUM sits on
the whoopee cushion. TRIANGULUM
puts up a fist to CARTWHEEL and
WHIRLPOOL as the pair high five.
ANDROMEDA plays with their food.

SINGULARITY

Sounds like someone's enjoying my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

The dog did it!

GRAVITY

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

ANDROMEDA

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

GRAVITY

Triangulum is such a square.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

HD sets a dish on the ground.

GRAVITY

We can do no wrong with this one. We're never blamed by this one. We like this one. The Circle's bearable with the fairest Galaxy: HD1.

SINGULARITY

Quit dogging my firstborn!

GRAVITY

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

MILKY WAY

Why is that dog always staring out into space?

HD

The dog sees something.

TEEN GALAXIES

The dog speaks to no one.

GRAVITY & HD

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

SINGULARITY

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

TEEN GALAXIES

Rip up the Fabric of Spacetime...

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

Calories take millennia to burn, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's body.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

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

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, *ellipsoids*.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

Wash your wormhole with soap, you quasi-baby!

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY lovingly pinches MILKY
WAY's cheek. They all stand and pray.

GRAVITY inches towards HD.

2. "CRUNCH"

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

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

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
 (Individually)
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

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

SINGULARITY
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, HD? HD1?

End of "CRUNCH"

3. "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY
 THIS IS YOUR TIME. (*re: HD*)
 IT IS YOUR TIME. (*re: HD*)
 LET BE YOUR TIME. (*re: HD*)

SINGULARITY
 NOW'S NOT THAT TIME. (*re: HD*)
 IT'S NOT THE TIME. (*re: HD*)
 THIS CAN'T BE TIME. (*re: HD*)

HD
 WHY IS MY SILENCE NOT MADE CLEAR?
 WHEN MY VOICE CAN'T STAY HERE.
 WHY DO THIS ADULT STILL TREAT ME LIKE A KID?
 WHEN I CAN GO OFF THE GRID.
 WHY ARE YOU CHILDREN AFRAID OF NOWHERE?
 WHEN THERE MAY BE FRIENDS OUT THERE.

WHY DOES MY FAMILY LACK MY CURIOSITY?
 WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH TO KNOW.
 WHY CAN'T THESE OVALS SEE SOMETHING IN THIS MYSTERY?
 WHEN I KNOW I NEED TO GO...
 WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

TEEN GALAXIES
CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

HD
WHY MUST YOU HOLD ME BACK?
I NEVER GET ANY RELIEF.

TEEN GALAXIES
IT'S CRUNCH TIME, HD1.

HD
FEED ME LIGHT THAT I DON'T LACK.
PLEASE JUST LET ME BE AT PEACE...

WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE TOWARDS CLARITY.
WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS SINGULARITY.
FAR AWAY FROM THESE GALAXIES.
LOOK BEYOND THE ELLIPSES—

SINGULARITY
END THIS TANGENT!

HD
(Falling into tantrums and back to prayer)
TANGENT? TANGENT! TANGENT...

GRAVITY
(Manipulatively uplifting HD)
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE.
WHERE NOTHINGNESS SETS YA FREE.
WHERE A NEW WORLD CAN BE SEEN.
WHERE TANGENTS ARE MAKE-BELIEVE.

HD
(Standing up to SINGULARITY)
END THIS TANGENT? I HAVEN'T MADE MYSELF CLEAR.
CUTTING MY EDGES MAKES MYSELF APPARENT AS YOU.
AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A LIGHTLESS GALAXY. (re: ABELL)
MY HEART TELLS ME THERE'S A PROMISING FAMILY...
WHERE THE END OF THIS TANGENT WILL BE...

ALL THE SITES THAT WE WILL SEE.
ME AND GRAVITY.
FIND OUR PATH BEYOND THE STARS.
A NEW REALITY.

SLIP OUT OF THIS BACKWARDS PLACE.
FORWARD TO THAT OUTER SPACE.
WRITE OUT OUR AUDACIOUS VERSE.
RIDE OUT THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'LL KNOW. I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

End of "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY
Force!

HD

You're the best Tidal force a Galaxy could ever ask for, Gravity. I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

I'll spare a millennium to listen to your verse. No need to go off on a tangent, HD.

HD

Leave me out of this, nom/mom/dad...

SINGULARITY

Don't leave me- I lead you back in. Gravity leads you on. The dog's a bad influence.

HD

You raised me physically. They raise my spirit.

SINGULARITY

Your poor soul seems dragged down.

HD

Life in this circle is the real drag. My soul rings for something more. What my life needs now is for the next stage to take shape.

SINGULARITY

Your soul's ringing? You need to get in shape if you want to be a big kid in the real world. The only way to do that is... Gals?

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch-

HD

Shut your wormholes! So sick of dishing it out. The same old dish of photons. I'm over Crunch.

SINGULARITY

Even a grownup Galaxy accretes. You babies need to stay growing. This attitude is beneath us.

MILKY WAY

HD, what is out there?

HD

Who. I hear a bell. I see a light. A tiny curiosity. Tiny like you, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

Baby... to answer your curiosity: There is nothing out there for us, adults...

HD

Well, then there is someone for that nothing. That someone is me.

SINGULARITY

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

HD

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

SINGULARITY

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

HD

Can I play in *nothing*? Plea—
Pretty please with a
supergiant on top?

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

No means no.

The sight of darkness is not
enough for you?

They're just bedtime stories.
Fantasy. There is no one but
us. This is the only family
you've got. Drop this legacy
nonsense. Join us for Crun—

SINGULARITY reaches for HD.
GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They
brawl and soon ground SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Force! Force! Force! Force!

GRAVITY
Force. Force. Force. Force!

GRAVITY runs into the invisible
wall and dizzily falls back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Free~ Free~ Free~ Free~ Free~

SINGULARITY

*Gravity will be our downfall. You entitled dog.
You get on my nerves. Back in the doghouse!*

HD

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

SINGULARITY

Treat me as the grandmaster! I have my hands on
the entire Fabric of Spacetime... I pull,
thread, weave its strings, and it's better to
be my puppet than pet. I am the center!

HD
Let this dog out! If you
don't give them space, it'll
bite you in the end.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
*And let them treat the cosmos
like a trampoline? They'll
rip up the spacetime fabric!*

HD (CONT'D)
What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY
Oh now you want to consider my center...

HD
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 shut-eye. I expect
lights out when you Galaxies head off to bed.
Declinations. See you gals in Crunch Time.

SINGULARITY exits, pulling 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.

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

TEEN GALAXIES
What's up with you? And *The Edge*?

MILKY WAY
Our Universe is all that
matters!

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY) (CONT'D)
And a nebula's opinion doesn't.

MILKY WAY
I... No baby!

ANDROMEDA
Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one. Declinate.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
So Singsing ain't around. Let's deck The Circle!

TRIANGULUM
Oh no, you don't!

TRIANGULUM drags away the pair.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
You're such a square, Triangulum...

MILKY WAY
Square? That reminds me of... a 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 heads off to bed.

HD
I can't even with this family... Anyways, you
were saying: *Water Bears and Elevators?*

4. "[FIGURE](#)"

HD brings out a board game.

MILKY WAY
I figured you're too old for games.

HD
The box says: "Ages six to twenty eons." I am
old. I still like to mess around and play... A
game called "life." The goal's to go from one
ellipse to another. Each ellipse is a period. A
period is a sentence. Ellipses are life's
sentences. Each ellipse has its own risks.

MILKY WAY
To you... What 'tis between ellipses?

HD
A liminal space...?
(Seeing MILKY WAY try to repeat the word)
Liminal: a place where who we were ends and who
we are begins. You're in a *liminal* space. You'll
not fit in your ellipse, kid. I no longer fit
in mine. Not a teen. Your body will be a *teeny*
bit different. *Figure that out* on your own.

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.

HD

Your voice warps beautifully with each passing millennium. Figure out yourself, Milky Way...

MILKY WAY slaps HD's figure off.

HD (CONT'D)

LOST MY FIGURE...

End of “FIGURE”

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Pawn!

HD (CONT'D)

Gravity?

Only HD understands GRAVITY.

MILKY WAY

That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

I'd kill at this game of life! 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 'tis nuthin' but trouble.

HD

Nothing... We'll get in trouble staying past our bedtime. Let's finish this game some other time. Gal, cubs need rest. *Quit the sour face, Milky Way.* I'm the anomaly in this family.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

5. “ZILCH”

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is free!

HD

You always understand me...

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

HD

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

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is waiting for us. A wide-open space. Save space for me! A space without Singularity. Zilch is not outta our Circle. It is below ya. Relax. Ya will know in spacetime.

HD sits on the rug, feeling life underneath. They unroll it and read the Big Bang Taser.

HD

Our rug of spacetime...? Big Bang Taser...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Use them opposable thumbs, gal. Stun thee!

HD accidentally shocks themself.

HD

Zilch!

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Put down Singularity! Free Gravity! No longer bound by family! Make nothing ya legacy!

A light shines out of reach.

End of "ZILCH"

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

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

SINGULARITY and GRAVITY fight and soon fall into the space. They notice HD with the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Not this time... Declinations, HD. Put it down.

HD

Declinations, Singularity. Put what down?

SINGULARITY

Don't toy with me. The Big Bang Taser. Drop it.

HD

Or I'll hurt myself? Your falling outs hurt.

SINGULARITY

Gravity has been letting us down.

HD

Has your black-hole heart ever let down someone it loved?

SINGULARITY

I don't have a black hole for a...

The TEEN GALAXIES enter.

MILKY WAY

What 'tis happening to nomy/mommy/daddy?

SINGULARITY

Look away! HD. I did let my parents down.

GALAXIES

Parents? We have grandparents?

SINGULARITY

I grew out and made it to adulthood. I made it apparent to them that I'll make it as a parent.

HD

And as *your* children, somehow you believe none of us can make it out there in the Universe.

SINGULARITY

It is unclear that you're ready to be an adult. HD1. Don't let me down. I don't have the heart.

HD drops the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY reaches for it, but GRAVITY bites their hand, so SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! Gravity. For the last time, you've let down this family. Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity!

GRAVITY

Adulthood's *nothing*. Who'll it be: a dog's love or parent's obsession? Do ya see clearly, HD?!

HD retakes the Big Bang Taser. SINGULARITY reaches around and soon notices that HD is armed.

HD

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

6. "BIG BANG"

#D shoots SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

(Electrifyingly jerking and shrieking)

MISTAKEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

BIG BIG BIG BIG! BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

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

SINGULARITY dies in MILKY WAY's arms.

TIDALS

TIDALS

☛ **FALL...**!

★ BIG ♦ BIG
♦ BIG * BIG ☆ BIG. BANG! ♦

BIG BANG!

The lights suddenly fill the whole stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage. **The cosmic quake expels tremors into the audience. The TIDALS rush out and dance, luring the AUDIENCES to go wild.**

IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT.

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

HD

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

GRAVITY grabs HD and a knapsack. They run in place on the stage. They notice a lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground.

HD (CONT'D)

The Edge of the Universe? How far is The Edge?

HD takes a small step downstage. The home moves upstage.

HD (CONT'D)

It's getting further away. We're rolling out the Fabric of Spacetime like a rug. We're gonna go off on a tangent for the rest of eternity.

GRAVITY

(to the TIDALS)

*Free fall! Break ya leashes and unleash freedom!
Pet, I'm no longer! The wide-open space is ours.
Friends of Gravity, bring the Universe down!*

The TIDALS look to GRAVITY as their leader who has returned.

TIDALS

BANG! HEARD AROUND THE COSMOS.
BANG! CREATED WORLDS.
BANG! GAVE ANIMALS EARS.
BANG! ROLLED OUT TIME IN YEARS.
BANG! FREED OUR FIERCE LEADER!

GRAVITY

(Looking upon HD)

Listen, I promised my love the Edge. I'm all ears, wolf pack. But, my best friend has my heart. See y'all in Zenith.

(to HD, who did not hear the soliloquy)

Force!

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

HD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

In the home, most TEEN GALAXIES watch the Universe unravels. MILKY WAY mournfully hugs SINGULARITY.

GRAVITY and HD hastily skip out.

TEEN GALAXIES

THE BIG BANG LEFT A HOLE IN OUR HEARTS...

End of "BIG BANG"

The home gradually moves downstage.

SCENE 4

The TEEN GALAXIES circle the rug.

SINGULARITY either lowers into the ground or rises away *because space*.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)

Declinations, noma/mama/papa. Singularity.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
The anomaly killed our family.

ANDROMEDA
Our family pushed away the anomaly.

TRIANGULUM

Let's bring home our anomaly...

This proposition provokes a storm of enmity among the TEEN GALAXIES. MILKY WAY holds in their tears.

MILKY WAY

What 'tis family?

CARTWHEEL

Will you grow up?!

ANDROMEDA

Ye can't. When ye starving.

MILKY WAY

We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL

Look at Singulari— Singsing. What do you think?

MILKY WAY

I can't. When I— Hungry...

WHIRLPOOL

We've got wormholes to feed. Let's think like
our Bach Ho. *We can prey on the Tidal wolves.*

CARTWHEEL

Unlike our tiger nom/mom/dad, we're no hunters!

WHIRLPOOL

Gatherers! Let's harvest some field equations.

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. Do any of us even know how to cook?

TRIANGULUM

Gals, *lighten up.*

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Y'all hear this pinhead? Singsing lightened up.

TRIANGULUM

*Everything will return to normal. We have
ourselves to blame for this universal mistake.*

ANDROMEDA

The Universe is not a mistake.

MILKY WAY

All mistaken! I hear dogs talk to HD. HD's gone
mad. HD can't think clearly. Gravity ravels HD.

ANDROMEDA

Ye all are still blaming the dog...?

TRIANGULUM

Doggone it! The Tidal forces caused the Big
Bang. It's these animals' fault. Gravity was
our downfall, so HD will be our bounce back.

(MORE)

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

Our oldest sibling is the only one left who
knows how to pick equations, put together
formulas, and cook up photons. HD is kinda
Singsing. It's on us to end our big fuss.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

TRIANGULUM

HD is who we have left. Our only caretaker-

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care. An
anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.
Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything's- What's family?

MILKY WAY

What 'tis anomaly?

7. "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

TEEN GALAXIES

(Individually then soon together)

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

FAMILY ISN'T... FAMILY IS NOT... AN 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, (*re: HD*)

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

ANOMALY IS OUR THING,

LIKE OUR CENTER WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.

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.

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.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE *THEIRS* JUST STEMS. (*re: HD*)

TRIANGULUM
 OUR ANOMALY'S ALL WE'VE KNOWN.
 IT'S EVERY MEMBER OF THE GALAXY FAMILY. BUT ME. I'M NORMAL-

 TRIANGULUM sits on a cushion. They
 seem flustered then get delighted.

 TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY
 ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

 TRIANGULUM, CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL
 ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!

 TEEN GALAXIES
 ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

 TRIANGULUM
 NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

 MILKY WAY
 We gonna undo the Big Bang and get HD?!

 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 shall find HD.*

 ANDROMEDA
 Aye aye, devil's Triangulum!

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

 CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
 You ain't sailing without us, Captain Square.

 TRIANGULUM knocks down CARTWHEEL
 with the whoopee cushion, and runs
 off with ANDROMEDA.

 TRIANGULUM (OFFSTAGE)
 Square in the face!

 MILKY WAY
 Wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas...?

 CARTWHEEL
 Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL escapes with WHIRLPOOL.

WHIRLPOOL

We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling alone
for your sporty ego. In general, this is
especially unrelativistic what we're doing.

CARTWHEEL

Our special little relative is especially fine.
We may have few distractions around, but *kids*
have their imaginations. Now imagine us when we
shove it in Triangulum and Andromeda's faces
when we're the guardians of the Universe! We'll
save the cosmos and be home in Crunch Time!

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Milky Way's all alone... on their own!

MILKY WAY

Mind? I will own you!

SOLAR SYSTEM

Babies got no minds of their own.

MILKY WAY

I... No baby! Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Go out there and prove it! End the Big Bang!
Like sight, we're another *sense*. We're adole-

MILKY WAY

Sounds like *peer pressa'*...

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

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

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY steps out of The Circle.

MILKY WAY

Plant friends, what can a Galaxy do? What this
cosmos hold? Wait, adole— what 'tis the catch?

The home moves upstage, behind the
back curtains.

SCENE 5

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY stays put in low light.

A huskier GRAVITY and HD skip in. HD gets a ball from their knapsack and tosses it. GRAVITY fetches it.

HD **GRAVITY**
Fetch, Gravity. Fetch the star! Force!

HD (CONT'D)
Who's a good Tidal force? You are! You shaved a
few hundred thousand years from that retrieval.

HD tosses a star. MILKY WAY catches it, tosses it back, then exits.

A light shines out of reach.

HD (CONT'D)
(Anxiously understanding GRAVITY again)

GRAVITY
Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are ya a puppet,
but something's pulling at ya heartstrings:
Abell. Ya say "Abell" as ya look to The Edge.

HD

Abell is who I named "nothing." My biological
clock rings whenever I see *them*, okay?

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

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

GRAVITY
*Clearly, ya cuckoo. Ya tripping. The Edge of
the Universe is just beyond the horizon!*

HD
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.*

HD

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 being away.

HD

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!

HD

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

GRAVITY

I assure ya, kid: ya will not end up a monster like Singularity!

HD

Singsing was never a monster! Doggone it, why would you think that? Sure, they can be a tiger nom/mom/dad at times, but I miss my Bach Ho.

GRAVITY

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

HD

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.

GRAVITY snatches the star from HD. They drop it by the fourth wall.

8. "FAR-FETCHED"

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

THERE IS A CATCH. IT IS FAR! CAN YOU FETCH?

GRAVITY

HERE IS THE CATCH!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
SO FAR AHEAD.
WE ARE TO FETCH THE EDGE.

HD
THERE'S ONLY DEAD ENDS!

GRAVITY
YOU'LL REGRET MISSING THE REST.

DON'T TURN BACK, IT'S FAR-FETCHED.
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO FAR TO FETCH THE EDGE.
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK. SO FAR-FETCHED.
WE HAVE GONE THIS FAR, SO WE MUST FETCH THE EDGE.

HD fetches the star. They hold it away from GRAVITY's reach. They toss the star out of sight, triggering a reenactment of SINGULARITY's murder.

HD
NO CLUES TO CATCH!

SO FAR AWAY...
ARE WE TO FETCH THE SLAIN?
I WON'T BE MISSING OUR STAY.

GRAVITY
YA ARE JUST DEAD WEIGHT!

DON'T TURN YA BACK, IT'S FAR-FETCHED!
YOU'VE GOTTEN TOO FAR TO FIX YA MESS!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK. SO FAR-FETCHED!
WE'VE GONE THIS FAR, SO WE MUST FETCH THE EDGE!

HD
(Welling up)
THAT IS A STRETCH!

GRAVITY
YA LOOK SO FETCHING.
YA SIBLINGS WILL NOT FORGET.
YA FAMILY WILL NOT FORGIVE.
THEY ARE SO FAR REMOVED.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
GIVE IT A REST.

GRAVITY
YA SEEM SO FETCHING.
YA PARENT CAN'T BE REVIVED.
YA FAMILY CAN'T BE RETRIEVED.
THIS IS FAR-FETCHED.

HD
MY FAMILY WILL NEVER LIVE IT DOWN.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
THERE IS A *CATCH!*

GRAVITY
FETCH! YA GRAVITY WILL ALWAYS LIVE IT UP WITH YA!

GRAVITY jumps in HD's arms, making them drop countless balls. So, the TIDALS avalanche in. They play fetch with the AUDIENCES. They set a sled under GRAVITY and HD, then line up as sled dogs. They sled though the wonders of the cosmos.

TIDALS
FAR! IT IS FAR-FETCHED WHAT Y'ALL HAVE DONE.
FETCHED! Y'ALL'S LOVES ARE FAR-FETCHED. FAR IN A WAY.

GRAVITY	TIDALS (CONT'D)
THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS-	FAR!
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA	FETCH!
GALAXY NEED TO-	

GRAVITY (CONT'D)	HD
THE POINT OF RETURN?	FAR-FETCHED. FAR-FETCHED!

GRAVITY & HD	TIDALS
WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.	LIFE'S FAR AWAY!
FAR-FETCHED.	FAR!
FRIENDS BEYOND THE EDGE.	FETCH!

GRAVITY, HD, TIDALS
DON'T TURN BACK, IT'S FAR-FETCHED.
WE'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR TO FETCH THE EDGE.
WE ARE MOVING FORWARD, PLAYING FETCH.
WE HAVE GONE SO FAR, YET WE MUST FETCH THE REST.
FETCH! FAR-FETCHED!

HD tosses the star off stage. HD,
GRAVITY, and the TIDALS sled away.

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

SCENE 6

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in,
CARTWHEEL clumsily cartwheels in.

CARTWHEEL	WHIRLPOOL
Time is... up.	In the air?
<i>In a vacuum.</i> Yes, in the air!	You and I need some downtime.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)	
We must finish our quest. Time is running out.	
We're not letting Andromeda and the square	
ditch us. I used to run circles around them...	

WHIRLPOOL

(Sitting on the hypocrisy)

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

CARTWHEEL

Triangulum's right: we need a caretaker. We can't sit on HD, our last chance for survival.

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

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

CARTWHEEL

Your impatience disgusts me.

WHIRLPOOL

I have the patience of a teenager, like you.

CARTWHEEL

Remember when we became teens? Too bad Singsing isn't here when Milky Way reaches that age.

WHIRLPOOL

We are. Let's be decent and let them have a childhood before it's too late. Time dilates.

CARTWHEEL

Can you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

"Dilation" means to expand.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

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, time weighs heavily on me.

WHIRLPOOL

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

9. "TIME IS RELATIVE"

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 illuminates time.

CARTWHEEL
You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm slow as time. Our plans are bent out of shape.

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.
T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY
SQUARED DIVIDED—

CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.
WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL.
CARTWHEEL walks away.

CARTWHEEL
DOWNTIME.
I CAN'T FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

HMM!
PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

You're scared inside. Your heart's racing.
Life's quick. One millennium, you're baby Cartwheel. The next, you've got hands on the wheel. The same will go for Milky Way. Time di—

CARTWHEEL

Let's steer away from the time dilat- Dilemma that we face. Milky Way will outgrow our neglect. Past, present, and future.

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. MILKY
WAY enters. They act out
CARTWHEEL's epiphany, then vanish.

CARTWHEEL

T. Time... Over. Time reigns over us all... Square root. Our roots... Of one. Our single parent... Minus velocity. We need to take it slow... Squared divided. Our family is divided... By the speed of light squared. Though we squared off, our family is truly over once we see the light!
(Reaching enlightenment)

Time's more special than it is relative. Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. We left at lightspeed. Milky Way was twelve, when life was lighter. If we return eons later, our faces will be unfazed while Milky Way will change. Childhood goes by faster than other stages. *Time dilation!* I'll take on this weight before it's too late. We'll know in... no time.

TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

CARTWHEEL lends a hand. WHIRLPOOL stands. The lights balance. In a training montage, they form 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. Lights frame their relationship with WHIRLPOOL.

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.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

TIME... TIME. LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.

End of "TIME IS RELATIVE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 7

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

10. "BIG RIP"

The TIDALS party around the rug.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Dilations, Milky Way. We're home! Uh, Tidal
dogs?! Singsing?! Don't defile their grave!

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Milky Way is supposed to grow
an appetite not end up one!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Cough up our baby sibling, you savage Tidals,
or we'll bulldoze your cosmos!

TIDALS

Force! Ya lost ya oldest sibling to Gravity,
and now ya here to lose yaself to us. Fall!

The TIDALS split up CARTWHEEL and
WHIRLPOOL. They drag them away.

CARTWHEEL

Whirlpool! Time... Overrr!

WHIRLPOOL

Cartwheel! Time... Overrr!

End of "BIG RIP"11. "POINT (OF NO RETURN)"

In front of the stage, SPECIAL and
GENERAL wander in. SINGULARITY
crawls in and curls up on the rug.

SINGULARITY

MY POINT IS MOOT WHEN TIME HAS SENTENCED
MY KIDS... TO A LIFE ON THE EDGE. PERIODS...

WHERE IS THE POINT IN ALL OUR TROUBLES...?
DECEASED... I TREMBLE AT THIS POINT OF NO RETURN...

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE...?
WHY DEATH...? WAS THERE A SINGLE POINT IN LIVING...?

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

SPECIAL & GENERAL
(Reaching for SINGULARITY)

WHAT IS THIS POINT TO MAKE, WHEN THEY'RE MADE?
SINGLE PARENT WHO MADE MANY POINTS... *LEGACIES*:

six galactic spirits loom and gets
SINGULARITY to meditate.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

SPECIAL & GENERAL
THERE MAY BE NO POINT OF RETURN.
BUT THAT'S NOT A POINT OF CONCERN.
THE POINTS OF LIVING THEIR LIVES ARE TO LEARN.
WITHOUT YOU. BEYOND YOU. JUST LIKE YOU...

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

SINGULARITY vanishes into thin
space. SPECIAL and GENERAL exit,
holding newfound light.

End of "POINT (OF NO RETURN)"

SCENE 8

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

GRAVITY, HD, and the TIDALS camp
out. HD remains awake. HD pulls
out the Big Bang Taser. They point
it towards the Edge.

HD
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL B-

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Hauntingly echoing from beyond)
BIG MISTAKEEEEEEE!

HD drops the Big Bang Taser.
SINGULARITY's murder haunts HD. HD
hides away the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY
(Half asleep)
Anything wrong, friend?

HD
Nothing... Everything will be right at the end.

HD awakens the TIDALS. GRAVITY,
HD, and the TIDALS sled away.

SCENE 9

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY drifts in, hearing the
SOLAR SYSTEM in their head again.

MILKY WAY
I miss Singsing! Crunch Ti- My tummy hurts...
Milky Way forwa-

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
Forgotten?

MILKY WAY
Imaginary friends?

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)
We're your planetary friends.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
I'm not.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (OFFSTAGE)
No one asked you, Earth.

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)
We can never be down to Earth with this jerk.
Loneliness isn't so bad. I wish to be alone. No
matter what I do, I'm blamed for everything.
Everyone retrogrades me! I'm Mercury. You may be
barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are at large.

JUPITER (OFFSTAGE)
You most certainly have a massive orbit.

SATURN (OFFSTAGE)
Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER (OFFSTAGE)
Go play with your ring, Saturn.

SATURN (OFFSTAGE)
Jupiter's jealous. Got a ring to spare, Uranus?

URANUS (OFFSTAGE)
Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (OFFSTAGE)
(Laughing)
You are a two!

SUN (OFFSTAGE)
Planets! What is with y'all's radio outbursts?

URANUS (OFFSTAGE)

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 (OFFSTAGE)

No, Sun is our parent. We're sons of the Sun.

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

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

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

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

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

Things get heated around the Sun.

MILKY WAY

Same. Things got heated around Singsing. All cause HD wanted a "son" of their own. All my older sibling went through *this*. Why do I have to be alone going through *this*? (*re: puberty*)

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

URANUS (OFFSTAGE)

Stop relying on your siblings. You need to let go of HD.

JUPITER & SATURN (OFFSTAGE)

Just like you need to let go of your bowels!

URANUS (OFFSTAGE)

Shut your wormholes! When was the last time you stood butt to butt with your siblings?

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

HD ripped your family apart... 13.772 billion years ago. Still forgive them? You dumb oval.

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

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

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Sun: as a result of stars like you, I'm a proud sphere. Ugh, Ellipses. Ew waves. Pff wrinkles.

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

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 Pluto. They do not blame my retrograde for their imperfections.

PLUTO (OFFSTAGE)

I may be outta the system. My stature may dwarf the other planets. They may outcast me, but they cannot outclass me. I see things farther out than any of these terrestrials here. But, I've heard enough comet tails. You got a tidal tale to share with us? Cluster, Solar System!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets pop out.

EARTH (PUPPET)

Well... theorize somethin'!

MILKY WAY gracelessly bellows with cracks. They hiccup.

EARTH (PUPPET) (CONT'D)

Milky Way warped themself!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets burst into laughter.

MILKY WAY

(Bursting into tears)

I hate myself!

PLUTO (PUPPET)

All the use crying. Let it out. Milk of celestial kindness. You show a huge quality. Beyond your curves: figures! You hold oddities that no others have. You're a special Galaxy.

MILKY WAY

Tell me.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

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

EARTH (PUPPET)

There are people in me.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (PUPPET)

Cut your hubris, Earth!

PLUTO (PUPPET)

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.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

You must first, own yours.

12. "WARPS, 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 WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

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

PLUTO (PUPPET)

YOUR PLANETARY FRIENDS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN YOUR HEAD.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

IMAGINARY!

PLUTO (PUPPET)

BUT REALLY...

MERCURY (PUPPET)

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

ONE AMONG MANY...

MERCURY (PUPPET)

ARMS, IN FACT.

The extra arms extend out behind
an unaware MILKY WAY.

URANUS (PUPPET)

Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY

What's mirra'?

URANUS (PUPPET)

It's the thing to check what you look like.

MILKY WAY

I neva' know what I look like...

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (PUPPET)

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 tiniest arm pops out from
behind. MILKY WAY pulls out two
magnolia flowers from their dress.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

The lines on your forehead and by your smile is
a record of all your sorrow, anger, and joy.
Life plots your garden. 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.

PLUTO (PUPPET) (CONT'D)

Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds)

I gravitate my feelings...

PLUTO (PUPPET)

You ellipsoid...

EARTH enters. They whisper into
MILKY WAY's ear.

MILKY WAY

And you no real plant, Pluto.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

You've got real guts, kid.

MILKY WAY

(Singing with cracks, flaws, and tremolos)

I NOW HAVE

WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LIVE WITH IT.

WARPS, 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.
Distinct planets and stars orbit
MILKY WAY like spiral arms around
the center of Galaxies. A PLANET
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...

WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

WE LOVE IT ALL!

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

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

MILKY WAY & SOLAR SYSTEMS

OUR WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

End of "WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

The stage goes red as the SUN
becomes a red giant, swallowing
the SOLAR SYSTEM in their wake.
EARTH melts in the searing heat.
The other PLANETS maniacally laugh,
nab MILKY WAY's halo and run off.

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—

PLUTO (OFFSTAGE)

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

SCENE 10

Past sayings and screams from each member of the GALAXY FAMILY echo.

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail in.
ANDROMEDA is covered in pearls.
They broke in their sea legs since we last saw them. They scope out with the scope, before turning it into a mic.

13. "GLOBULAR"

ANDROMEDA

LET'S SET SAIL OVER SEVEN SPACES.
DIG UP PEARLS IN THEIR CLAMS.
THE UNIVERSE IS YE OYSTER.

MATTERS COME AND GO.
CRUXES OF FORCES THAT HOLD...
ALL US TOGETHER.
IT'S WHY YE CLUSTER OUR STARS.

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

End of "GLOBULAR"

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA

Milky Way?! Declinat- What are you doing here?!

ANDROMEDA

Did we lose ye, Matey? Oh no... Are we now in the temple of the cosmic beyond?!

TRIANGULUM

It's puberty. There's a pimple on their temple.

ANDROMEDA

Oh zit.

MILKY WAY

Zi- Zi- It?

ANDROMEDA

Ye voice is warped...

TRIANGULUM

A zit is when a star grows into a red giant, swallows nearby planets, and inflames 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 ye
acne and let's get sailing.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY

Their name, Solar System.

TRIANGULUM

"Solar System" seems like an astronomical pain.
I remembered having to pop my boil named *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...

14. "THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME"

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 dogs out?! We got treats for you!
(Nearly gets bitten by a TIDAL)
A cosmic bone to pick with you! We're not the
treats! We're not retreating... What is wrong?

ANDROMEDA

We've wronged them. They've been mistreated
their entire lives...

TRIANGULUM

We've never bothered them.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

The Tidals danced on Singularity's grave.

TRIANGULUM

We've done nothing to deserve this.

TIDALS

Singularity is dead and so will their legacy!

ANDROMEDA

Well, once HD gave them their leader, Gravity.
And the cosmos back to its wildness. Once
Singularity lost control of the cosmos, the
Tidals 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

Stupid dogs... Tidals! It's not what it looks like. We are not rolling back your cosmic dog park. We just need to bring back food, home, um-

MILKY WAY

Like Singsing!

TIDALS

(Losing their minds)

Force! 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, making the TIDALS blindly run off.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way, don't go towards the light!

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

Ew... That's the most extreme pulsar emitted.

MILKY WAY

Quasi-stellar radio source...!

ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up.

The spotlight dissolves.

ANDROMEDA

Looks like ye officially a teen Galaxy...

TRIANGULUM

I can't deal with another one...

MILKY WAY

I'm too old for board games. Milky Way forward?

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

TRIANGULUM

Deal. Milkomeda. All aboard the teenage globular.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly exit with their siblings.

End of "[THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME](#)"

SCENE 11

A front curtain protrudes.

The TIDALS sled in and drop off GRAVITY and HD. They sled away.

GRAVITY and HD skip into the barren space-land.

GRAVITY

Force! Our adventure is nearing The Edge.

HD

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

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

GRAVITY

We hit a wall. *Fourth dimension.*

HD

Maybe the Universe should be walled off...

GRAVITY

Ya collision's making ya speak like Singularity.

HD

Singsing was uptight... But it feels right.

GRAVITY

What's so righteous about being caged?

HD

A roof over our heads? It's all we've known.

GRAVITY

It's all ya have ever known. This wide-open space was my whole life before ya were born. Until Singularity took it away.

HD

Took what away? Emptiness? This void?

GRAVITY

Ya not like the others who saw "nothing" in the void. Ya parent once saw something: a new life. My pack gave ya parent a chance and treated them as our own, but that wasn't enough. Ya parent chased out the wolves and went on a power trip-

HD

Singsing was raised by wolves? Hold up...

GRAVITY

I hold *nothing* against ya. *On the other paw*, I had never trusted this foreigner, Singularity.

HD

Singsing treated you as family, but you kept biting the hand that feeds!

GRAVITY

They bit first! My pack took ya orphan in. We taught them to hunt and cluster. They were our most valued hunter. *It helps to have a taser.* Our preys did not stand a chance, and so did we. Ya Bach Ho had enough of the wilderness.

They wanted order. They tore down our cosmic forest to make that dome ya called home. Anyone who stood in their way faced a shocking demise. Singularity put down my pare—

My wild and free family welcomed ya's as our own. And what did we get in return? Collars and leashes! They treated me as a pest and turned me into a pet! Now once more, I'm at my best.

Ya seem tense.

HD

I'm... I'm so sorry. For everything. Singsing-Singularity. That was not apparent to me...

GRAVITY

It's all a distant past. Hard to see. *Relax!*
 (Tilting their head by HD)
 Hmm. That rings a bell. My fam used to say that when ya needed to see things clearly: just *tilt ya head and relax.*

15. "PARALLAX"

GRAVITY lays down 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.

HD

PERILOUS.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

HD
PARANOID.

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

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

HD
PARADOX.

GRAVITY
PERMANENT PARADIGM.

HD
PARAGON...

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

RELAX.

HD, you're meant to see in high def-

HD
(Tilting their head by GRAVITY)
I'M RELAXED.

GRAVITY
YA SEE?

Light rises in the cosmic horizon.

HD
I SEE *NOTHING*.
(Repeating)
NOTHING. NOTHING! NOTHIN'.
(Enlightened by "Nothing")
JUST PARALLAX.
PARALLAX.

GRAVITY & HD
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 12

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

16. "TANGENT"

The horizon is painted with every color. The air is scented with all aromas. The theatre constellates.

HD
THE END OF THE LINE...

GRAVITY THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE.

HD

WE DID IT, GAL. GRAVITY

HD THE ENDS OF THE WORLD...

FOR YOU AND ME!

HD

ABELL's light is absent. Bells echo then tangentially clashes.

SINGULARITY pops out of the Edge, startling HD. They soon vanish.

SINGULARITY
END THIS TANGENT...!
YOU ARE A BIG—

SINGULARITY IS NO MORE! GRAVITY

The TEEN GALAXIES eerily enter.
They then exit, except MILKY WAY.

NOTHING! TEEN GALAXIES

SIBLINGS?! HD GRAVITY
I AM YA KIN!

MILKY WAY erupts a Quasar, then vanishes in their light.

HD (CONT'D)
MILKY WAY! ABELL?!

HD (CONT'D)
I AM OUT OF LINE!

GRAVITY
THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE!

HD
I KILLED THEM.

GRAVITY
YA DID GOOD, FRIEND-

HD
FIEND, I'M ENDING IT ALL!

GRAVITY HD (CONT'D)
I AM NO FIEND! NOM/MOM/DAD...

HD (CONT'D)
YOU'RE THEIR PET-

GRAVITY knocks down HD.

GRAVITY
END YA TANGENT!
YA SUNK TO NEW LOWS
THAT I CAN'T EVEN BRING YA DOWN TO.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NOTHING IS WHAT YA SIBLINGS AFTER.

HD
LET'S END OUR TANGENT.

GRAVITY
THE EDGE-

HD
I'm taking it back. The Edge back to the Center. The Universe back to normal. I need to make my family whole again.

GRAVITY
What ya need is to leave a hole in each and every one of ya siblings.

HD
You are a bad dog...

GRAVITY turns to the audience.

HD (CONT'D)

Don't turn your back on me! Dog... Staring out
into space will not work this time.

The TIDALS enter in the audience.
They hum the melody of "Crunch."

GRAVITY

Dogs do not stare out into space. Dogs hear the
space. Dogs speak for the space. Force!

TIDALS

(Repeating)

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

The TIDALS lure the AUDIENCES to
chant along.

GRAVITY beats the living starlight
out of HD.

TIDALS (CONT'D)

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, GRAVITY.

GRAVITY bites HD, ripping them to
shreds.

SINGULARITY's bloodcurdling
screams turn into HD's cries.

GRAVITY

I WILL STOP AT *NOTHING* TO BE FREE,
EVEN IF IT MEANS KILLING YA FAMILY!

TEEN GALAXIES

(Echoing)

NOTHING. NOTHING! NOTHING. NOTHING! NOTHING. NOTHING!

HD zaps GRAVITY with their hidden
Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY

HD, ya felt for me!

HD

Gravity, I fell for you. As long as I stay
grounded, you'll never be my family's downfall.

GRAVITY

Everything falls.

HD & SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

Entitled dog. I blame you for everything!

GRAVITY

Ugh, I fell for Singularity's flesh and blood!

Blood spills from HD.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
Fam. Ya shedding stardust.

HD aims the Big Bang Taser as GRAVITY goes to help HD.

HD

I'll push you over the Edge if you lay a paw on my family.

YOU HAVE CROSSED THE LINE.

GRAVITY THE END OF OUR UNIVERSE.

HD

GRAVITY

GRAVITY & HD
THIS ENDS OUR TANGENT.

FRIEND... GRAVITY HD
AGENT OF EVIL, *PARALLAX-*

GRAVITY knocks out HD.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
THIS IS NOT THE END.

TIDALS OOOFFFFFFF EVERYTHING...

The TIDALS join GRAVITY on stage.
They rush out.

HD is grounded, bleeding stardust.

GRAVITY has left an even bigger black hole in HD's heart.

End of “TANGENT”

END OF ACT

ELLIPSES

INTERMISSION

MILKY WAY'S ORION ARM

0. "UNTITLED EARTH SONG"

EARTH enters. They step into the spotty sunlight.

EARTH
(Singing flatly)
I AM A PERFECT SPHERE-

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)
YOU'RE FLAT, EARTH!

EARTH quits.

End of "ENTITLED EARTH SONG"

END OF EARTH

ACT IISCENE 1

SINGULARITY'S BACKSTORY AND PAST UNIVERSE

17. "HEAT DEATH"

Law enforcers SPECIAL and GENERAL enter on stage. They magically unveil their child and dazzling young Galaxy, TEEN SINGULARITY.

SPECIAL & GENERAL
(Repeating and pointing to SINGULARITY)
Nothing. Nothing. Nothing! Nothing. Nothing!

TEEN SINGULARITY nabs the Big Bang Taser from SPECIAL's holster. They shoot and kill SPECIAL.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)
Nothing like a little backstory to kill time.

Eons ago, in another universe beyond The Edge, a supernatural couple called Relativities gave birth to a special Galaxy named Singularity. Like other Galaxies, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was not like any Relativity. 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.

TEEN SINGULARITY runs to the Edge.

TEEN SINGULARITY
HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

GENERAL
Singularity! Our only child. Please come home. It's *Crunch Time*. Food's ready...! If you're gonna run off into outer space, at least bring a jacket. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?!

Special, you deaf? Our baby is missing!

SPECIAL is now a ghostly figure.

SPECIAL
Singularity! What you're doing... Kills me!
General, why'd you tell them their supermassive disorder? Now, my face, body, and life are disordered. Ouch! As laws of physics enforcers, I authorized you to keep their center a secret!

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

GENERAL
Singularity!

Special, we're perfectly heartless. You're lifeless. Our kid has a heart and a black hole for one. An anomaly. If we shielded their eyes from the truth, there's more to regret.

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

SPECIAL
Singularity!

General, shielded? You ripped a wormhole in them. You broke their heart and dug into this dark energy. You mourn the spirit that came with it. I am blessed to have had them.

TEEN SINGULARITY
I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
The more they raised them, the more their child raised hell. The kid sucked the fun outta them. Not even life could escape it. Bent on bending light, they sucked the literal energy outta any room. Wherever they went, so did the space.

GENERAL
Singularity!

Special, bless your heartlessness. My ego's atomic, but my love for our nebula is galactic. They'll be deformed out there. They must know what their heart is capable of at some point.

SPECIAL
Singularity!

General. We won't get another millennium with them. They didn't need to know who they were inside. They can experiment with their own theories. You could have been relative to them. You took the light out of our cluster of stars!

TEEN SINGULARITY
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 A HEART!

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Their kid was relatively impossible to handle.
This adult was on the cusp to cut themself off.
Even though they warped time itself, time flew.
Twas time for them to meet their event horizon.
Eventually, the Relativities sat their kid 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.

GENERAL

Singularity! Relativity, declination!

TEEN SINGULARITY

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

SPECIAL

Singularity! Relativity, we looked up and down.
Right ascension?

TEEN SINGULARITY

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

GENERAL

Singularity! Relativity, we looked left and
right. Fourth dimension?

TEEN SINGULARITY

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

SPECIAL

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

TEEN SINGULARITY

I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

SINGULARITY aims the Big Bang Taser
at GENERAL. They jump off the Edge.

SPECIAL and GENERAL weep for all
eternity, seeing their kid vanish.

SPECIAL & GENERAL

Sing— Our baby fell off The Edge of the Universe!

SPECIAL floats away.

GENERAL draws out a Big Bang Taser
and aims it at themself. They join
SPECIAL in the great beyond.

End of “HEAT DEATH”

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

SINGULARITY lies by the stage,
with the Big Bang Taser in hand.

TEEN SINGULARITY

I am single.

TIDALS

Force!

TEEN SINGULARITY

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

TIDAL[S]

Force!

Force force force!
Force force force!

Fall!

TEEN SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

(Swaying)

Like to echo, huh?

(Shaken)

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

(Falling over)

What are you howling about?!

SINGULARITY accidentally shocks
themself into a stupor. They catch
their breath and stow away the Big
Bang Taser, accepting their fate.

TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

TEEN SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Bring the heat...

The lights reveal a cavelike dome.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY on the
stage. Two lead TIDALS presents a
puppy who'd grow up to be Gravity.

PUPPY GRAVITY

Force~ Force~ Force~

TEEN SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You accept my heart?

SINGULARITY accepts PUPPY GRAVITY.

TEEN SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

A puppet— Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand.

TEEN SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

Force?!

TIDALS

(Gratefully howling)

Fall!

PUPPY GRAVITY and a newfound adult
SINGULARITY vanish.

SCENE 2

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, PRESENT

18. “...” (Omission)

The TIDALS remain on stage.

GRAVITY enters. They brawl the other TIDALS to claim the throne.

TIDALS
(Repeating)

GRAVITY comes out victorious,
having fought mere Tidal coyotes.
They celebrate together.

HD woundedly crawls in. They pass out by the edge of the stage.

TIDALS (CONT'D)
(Individually)

That Galaxy is rolling back the Fabric of Spacetime. That Galaxy is shutting down our cosmic dog park. Let's rip them a new wormhole!

GRAVITY

Quasar, haha! Ya hate is far-fetched! If any of ya lays a tidal paw on this Galaxy, y'all will be buried six parsecs under. Don't defy me.

TIDAL

That wicked Galaxy is undoing everything! Those sons of witches are burning our forests, our home! Those people have no respect for nature!

GRAVITY

TIDALS

That Galaxy's everything to me. That Galaxy is nothing to us!

TIDALS (CONT'D) (Individually)

Gravity. Our fearless leader has fallen in love with their fearful captor. Ya grown soft in just twenty eons with them, stuck in a circular doghouse. No matter. No person can save their face even if they had a dog to lick it.

GRAVITY

Let HD face Gravity.

GRAVITY marches most TIDALS out.

End of “...”

SCENE 3

19. "BOUNCE BACK"

The remaining TIDALS circle an unconscious HD, ready to feast.

TRIANGULUM nervously wanders out, drawing the TIDALS' attention.

TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING!

The other TEEN GALAXIES run in. They fight the TIDALS. ANDROMEDA whips the TIDALS with their pearls. CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize martial art tactics. MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.

TEEN GALAXIES

BOUNCE BACK!

The TIDALS run away.

End of "BOUNCE BACK"

Quasar!

TRIANGULUM

Is everyone an anomaly here?!

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)
Speaking of anomalies - HD?

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

HD
Family... I'm the one who can end my big mess.

HD
Is that a way to say "declinations...?" It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIES

A million quintillion declining years...

ANDROMEDA
Ye expecting us to take ye
in?

HD
Would you mind taking me out
to Crunch?

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL help HD up before making aggressive gestures.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We'd love to *take you out*. Let's deck this Elli-

TRIANGULUM drags away the pair.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Let us square off, *you square!* HD, your heart's going to go out for your family!

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*...?

HD

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 no one now.

WHIRLPOOL

Singsing is no longer here.

ANDROMEDA

Nature may be healing, but ye world is scarred.

HD

I'm bringing back everything. Everything I got.

TRIANGULUM

Someone, disarm HD! Where's your stupid dog?

HD

Outsmarting us. I'm HD1, the stupid one. Singsing was right. Gravity was a bad dog...

MILKY WAY reveals HD's wounds.

CARTWHEEL

HD! You have bite wounds!

WHIRLPOOL

HD! We need to go home!

TRIANGULUM

Ungrateful Tidals! Biting the hand that feeds!

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

Gravity fed HD deception!

MILKY WAY

Gravity fed HD lies...

CARTWHEEL

Gravity took you down.

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity brought you down.

ANDROMEDA

Ye admit. The dogs will end us all if we do not get them back in their cages...

HD

Gravity is raising an army. Dogs forming packs-

TRIANGULUM

Stupid dogs running the cosmos amok. This is a call for war!

ANDROMEDA

Captain Square and the crew can take on Gravity.

TRIANGULUM

My captaining eons are over.

TEEN GALAXIES

Gravity is out for our bloody stardust.

HD

I can man our ship. I'll be on the front line.

ANDROMEDA

Ye barely a gal who can last another millennium.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Just a reminder that time is running out!

MILKY WAY

HD needs food! Food heals.

TEEN GALAXIES

Now is Crunch Time, HD1.

HD

Please, it's you who have nothing in the pit of your black holes. You're growing teenagers, who look more like famine than family. Now, Milky Way... you with your warps, waves, and wrinkles.

MILKY WAY

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

HD

It is clear to me that I'm nearest Singsing.

As a peace offering, HD hands the Big Bang Taser to MILKY WAY, then MILKY WAY hands it to TRIANGULUM.

TRIANGULUM

You see yourself as the center of the Universe. You're not. Cart-Whirl, roll back The Edge.

The Edge is unmovable.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We can't wedge out The Edge!

HD

I cut away from The Edge. I have the will to unroll the Fabric of Spacetime. I can cook for you. I can clean my own mess. I will undo the Big Bang.

(MORE)

HD (CONT'D)

I know now that family is all we have in this Universe. In our hearts of darkness, we are a family of light and energy. We matter.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

Everything that mattered to you was nothing.

20. "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 (E/ TRIANGULUM)
TAKE IT SLOW.

CARTWHEEL
SHUT YOUR WORMHOLE—

WHIRLPOOL slaps CARTWHEEL.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HD.

TRIANGULUM

WELL, LET'S START WITH WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GALAXIES.

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

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

LOYALTY IS EVERYTHING. LET GO.

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA

EACH SIBLING IS EVERYTHING. LET'S GO.

HD

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH YOU...

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY) (CONT'D)
 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 NOMA/MAMA/PAPA, TO OUR PARENT, TO OUR BACH HO.

MILKY WAY
 THIS GALAXY, WE HAVE LEFT, WE HOLD...
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHIN' WE'VE KNOWN!

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
 FAMILY ALWAYS HELP,
 GET PASSED THE TRAGEDY AND INSANITY.
 NOTHING LEAVES A LEGACY LIKE EVERYTHING.

HD
 I OWE YOU GALS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
 I OWE YOU GALS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?

GALAXIES
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

End of "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

The GALAXIES exit as a family.

SCENE 4

GRAVITY leads in the TIDAL pack. A TIDAL collapses in the back.

GRAVITY
 This is what ya get for defying me, weak link.
 Don't touch a Galaxy unless I give the order.
 Ya wanna know what *really* makes me tick?

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
 Gravity, you've let down this family. Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

GRAVITY
 Quantum ticks. Not weaklings. Don't put yaself down. It's downtime. Relax-

TIDALS
 We can't rest! Our space can't reset! Don't relax. Those people will put us down in that farm upstage! Ya have yet to uplift ya parents' legacy! All ya done is let down our family!

GRAVITY
 PARALLAX!

21. "UP AGAINST GRAVITY (DOWN WITH GRAVITY)"

The TIDALS sit and listen as the GALAXIES prowl in. Led by GRAVITY, the TIDALS need disorder in a free wilderness. Led by HD, the GALAXIES need order in a sheltered habitat. The TIDALS watch them deforest the cosmos. There can never be peace.

GRAVITY

FORCES OF EVIL WE ARE UP AGAINST.
DOWN IN A SPACE.
DARK MATTER.
DARK ENERGY.

DARKNESS SHALL NOT FALL AGAINST US ALL.
UP IN THIS RACE,
BRIGHTER THAN LIGHT
AND BRIGHTENED BY LIFE.

TIDALS

BECAUSE THEY ARE UP AGAINST GRAVITY.
THEY DARE GO UP AGAINST GRAVITY.
IT WILL BE THEIR DOWNFALL! (DOWNFALL!)
NEVER GO UP AGAINST GRAVITY. (GO AGAINST GRAVITY!)
(Individually)
FORCES OF NATURE WE WILL HAVE THEM FACE.
DOWN ON THEIR LUCK.
WEAK LIKE MANKIND
WEAKENED BY HUNGER.

GRAVITY

LED BY HD-

The GALAXIES exit, dropping models
of their real-life counterparts.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT HD) (OFFSTAGE)
Gravity. You've let us down!

GRAVITY
I have never let ya down. I
will bring ya down!

TRIANGULUM (OFFSTAGE)
Stupid dog!

The TIDALS rip apart most models,
while GRAVITY personally rips
apart TRIANGULUM's model.

TIDALS

THIS IS THROWBACK.
WE'VE FORMED THE PACK.
WE CAN'T STAND BACK. / WE MUST STAND UP. / WE WON'T STAND DOWN.
WE ARE ON TRACK. / THEY CAN'T PUT DOWN. / WE WON'T PUT UP.
WE WILL FIGHT BACK. / WE WILL ATTACK. / WE WILL BITE BACK.
THIS IS PAYBACK.

TIDALS (CONT'D)

THEY SHALL SPILL THEIR BLOOD FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.
 UPPING THE ANTE.
 MURDER THROUGH BITES.
 MURDERED BY CRUNCH TIME.

FOR THEY ARE UP AGAINST GRAVITY. (DO NOT GO AGAINST GRAVITY.)
 THEY DARE GO UP AGAINST GRAVITY. (DON'T YA DARE.)
 IT WILL BE THEIR DOWNFALL! (DOWNFALL!)
 NEVER GO UP AGAINST GRAVITY. (NEVER GO AGAINST YA INSTINCTS.)

Flashback: YOUNG ADULT SINGULARITY enters, subduing the TIDALS. They put HD's model in a baby sling.

Two TIDALS corner SINGULARITY.

TIDAL

Force! We welcomed ya into our pack! Our hearts took ya in. Our hearts shall take ya out. Ya lost ya mind since ya had ya baby! Force!

YOUNG ADULT SINGULARITY

My baby has little definition. My baby has not shed a tear of light since they were born. My baby deserves shelter. My baby needs medicine. My baby isn't safe in my society without order!

TIDALS

Force! Then go back to where ya come from! This is wild abandonment! It's our disord-

YOUNG ADULT SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
 Whatever you are saying, I will forever put your voices down! Force to you two!

SINGULARITY shoots and kills a TIDAL with the Big Bang Taser.

The other TIDAL guards GRAVITY.

TIDAL

Fall... Take it up with me. Please don't take down our puppy Gravity!

SINGULARITY kills the other TIDAL.

YOUNG ADULT SINGULARITY

Fall to you, too! You, Gravity and all your puppies, have been supermassive pains. You will let down my future family. I will put you all down for eternity!

HD enters. They snatch the Big Bang Taser and shoot SINGULARITY. HD takes on the baby sling as SINGULARITY disappears. HD exits.

GRAVITY

HD. Ya never put down. Ya put up with me. I'll
reconvince ya to rejoin the right side of the
force. Ya will be saved. We'll put up with ya.
As for the other gals, we'll put our paw down.
Friends of Gravity, bring the household down!

The TIDALS march with newfound
respect. Some leave and return as
beagle-like TIDALS. These spies
relay their findings.

TIDALS

(Individually)

Most Galaxies have special sets of skills.
Cartwheel and Whirlpool channel time dilation.
Andromeda slaps with the pearls of their white
hole. Milky Way blinds us with their Quasar
blast. Triangulum is an anomaly. Their hideout
is The Circle in The Center of the Universe.

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

GRAVITY

LAY LOW. PIPE DOWN.

ON MY SIGNAL: THE BIG RIP OF ZENITH.

TIDALS

AND THEN, THEY ARE UP AGAINST GRAVITY. (GRAVITY.)
THEY DARE GO UP AGAINST GRAVITY. (GRAVITY.)
IT SHALL BE THEIR DOWNFALL! / THERE WILL BE NO REMORSE!

TIDALS (CONT'D)
NEVER GO UP AGAINST GRAVITY.

GRAVITY
NEVER GO UP AGAINST ME.

The TIDALS observe The Circle.
GRAVITY marches the TIDALS out.

End of "UP AGAINST GRAVITY (DOWN WITH GRAVITY)"

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The GALAXIES enter. They set the
table while HD passes out the
dishes before bowing.

HD
Declinations, family.

TEEN GALAXIES
Declinations, HD.

The GALAXIES sit as TRIANGULUM
tosses away the whoopee cushion.

MILKY WAY pouts.

HD (CONT'D)

Looks like someone's avoiding the gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the sass, Milky Way.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Again, Milky Way... Teenagers...

The other GALAXIES cough up food.

TRIANGULUM

What did you put in this nuclear pasta, HD?

ANDROMEDA

Tastes mostly like dark matter, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

I need a nap after this, Cartwheel.

HD

We're relatives again, Whirlpool!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Your food will be our doom. Guess we really are gonna starve to death, Galaxies.

MILKY WAY

(Inspecting HD's scars)

You are yourself again, you ellipsoid.

HD

You are so grounded. Gals, you've stayed up for quintillions of years. Fix yourselves to bed.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Declinations, sibling.

Most TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.

HD sets the board game on the table.

MILKY WAY

We are finished.

HD

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

MILKY WAY

No way will I call you sibling Sing. We are no pawns to our ellipses. Is that why you need to have a *Sun* of your own? You are no Singularity.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

Big mistake!

HD

There's no other cub I need but you. You'll figure it out. I ask your warps, waves, and wrinkles... Walk away, hibernate. Declinations.

MILKY WAY heads off to bed.

HD meditates on the rug.

SINGULARITY enters and grabs the board game. They join HD.

SINGULARITY

My firstborn... You've made the wrong move. But if you keep moving, *everything* will be alright. *Nothing* lasts...

HD

My *family* will be alright? You've last... Gravi-

SINGULARITY

Gravity led you on. I'm here to lead you in.

HD

Then, why did you keep Gravity in our lives?

SINGULARITY

That entitled dog's been your whole world since your first steps. I, too, fell for Gravity.

HD

Did you put down Gravity's parents...?

SINGULARITY

Can't blame the dog. It was why Gravity did not put up with me. Please, do not put me up on a pedestal. I was not cut out to be a caretaker. However, I shall cut it as a caregiver.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Baby, are you hurt?

HD, who did you see beyond our Circle?

HD1, apparencty. Are you apparent yet?

HD

Nom/Ma/Pa, are you hurting?

Sing- What did you see in this Circle?

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

In due course, our hearts open up the prophecy:
When a singularity feeds a child enough light,
that child becomes a singularity. Renewed as a
source of light for the lightless. Life starts
lightless. It's upon you, as was me, to shed
light, feed photons, and save space. You're a
luminous gal. A bright adult. Act like one, HD-

HD

My heart's never as crystal clear as yours.

SINGULARITY

I made this game when you were a baby. I'm now
finally letting you win these crystals, so you
can get your figure to the last level. There is
nothing left on this board. You've outgrown our
cave. Please accept that you'll be a Bach Ho.

HD

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

SINGULARITY

Every eon is an opportunity for a fresh start.
Ellipses are life.

SINGULARITY & HD

The goal is to go from one period to another.

SINGULARITY

There's life beyond The Edge. It accepted me
leaving my family for my legacy.

HD

Is legacy to leave family? Or what's left of
legacy is family? It left me alone out there.
This heartless, lightless universe. Adulthood
is the worst. I cannot take care of anything!

SINGULARITY

You certainly took care of me.

HD

I only wished for the death of our time together-

SINGULARITY

Life is risks. Your legacy can't end here. Step
out of the Circle. Face The Edge. I no longer
shed light to you. Do you make yourself clear?
High definition one. HD1.

SINGULARITY clears away the board
game. They clear themself out.

22. "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

HD
DON'T EVER STOP BEING A(P)PARENT!

MILKY WAY (OFFSTAGE)
What is happening to HD?!

The TEEN GALAXIES enter.

HD
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
HD.
ANOMALY.
YOU'RE EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE STILL FAMILY. ELLIP-

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
SHED LIGHTLY...
SHED LIGHTLY...
THREAD LIGHTLY.

HD
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.

HD almost steps off the stage.
GRAVITY runs in and holds HD.

GRAVITY
Force?!

HD
(Full of love and fear)
GRAVITY, YOU'RE THE BEST DOG A GAL COULD EVER ASK FOR.

GRAVITY
PARALLAX.

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

GRAVITY & HD
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.

Flashback: TIDALS's shadows loom
as PUPPY GRAVITY crawls out of it.
SINGULARITY enters, holding a
younger HD. They aim the Big Bang
Taser at PUPPY GRAVITY. KID HD
hobbles to and hugs PUPPY GRAVITY.

KID HD

Force!

SINGULARITY

(Lovingly then ghastly)
Your first words, HD... "Force...?"

KID HD

I love Gravity...

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Gravity!

PUPPY GRAVITY

Force. Kill Singularity.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Love... Love Singularity.

KID HD and PUPPY GRAVITY vanish.

HD

I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...
I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

TIME IS RELATIVE!

SINGULARITY

TIME IS UP. RELATIVE IS DOWN.

SINGULARITY points to the Edge.

SINGULARITY & TEEN GALAXIES

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

HD

I KNOW!
NO!

SINGULARITY

YOU KNEW.
ANEW.

FAR-FETCHED!

HD tosses a star to SINGULARITY.
GRAVITY's attention veers off.
They run past SINGULARITY.
SINGULARITY pushes HD off The Edge.
They vanish into the nothingness.

TEEN GALAXIES

(Devastatedly repeating)

FAMILY WAS EVERYTHING!

HD

*You're meant to let me down, Gravity... Save
space for my fam-*

Like any dog who sees their owner
leaving home, the once cute GRAVITY
falls into madness and acts out.

GRAVITY

...! Forc- Fall!

End of "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

SCENE 6

23. "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Downfall!

At the cosmic high noon, time
screeches to a halt. The TIDALS
march out of the shadows as a
Tidal wolf pack. All members have
evolved into wolves.

GRAVITY

*Fall into place! A dog's seen enough. We've come
out full Tidal force. It is dogfight at Zenith.*

TEEN GALAXIES

Gravity... We loved HD more than you ever had.
Now leave us in peace, *entitled pet*.

TIDALS

We're not pets!

GRAVITY

*Then why'd HD leave our Universe? Anywho, we've
got time to kill. I'll leave ya in pieces!*

TRIANGULUM

Gravity will not curb stomp spacetime under my
watch. You will not clock a single heavenly
body count. Gals, make each millennium count!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Relatives... Let's save time.

ANDROMEDA

Ye 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

We understand no hints you're dropping, Gravity!

GRAVITY

No oldest sibling here to protect ya. No person to be a dog whisperer. No HD to put up with me. Tidal forces, bring the world down! Free fall!

TIDALS

(Savagely and twistedly)

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

TEEN GALAXIES

For Singularity... For HD. For the Galaxies!

The GALAXIES and the TIDALS brawl.
The GALAXIES are losing this war.

TRIANGULUM

Don't let Gravity get the upper hand! Fall back!

ANDROMEDA

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

GRAVITY

Tidal wave!

The TIDALS grab ANDROMEDA's pearls and puts ANDROMEDA in a chokehold.

ANDROMEDA

Me pearl!

TIDALS

Fall!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

$T \text{ OVER } \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$

Everyone in the space freezes, but CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, and GRAVITY. CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL knock out the frozen TIDALS who are choking ANDROMEDA. They cartwheel and spiral towards GRAVITY.

GRAVITY

Tidal dilate!

TIDALS

$T \text{ OVER } \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$

Time speeds up for CARTWHEEL while time slows down for WHIRLPOOL, so a TIDAL defeats CARTWHEEL at fast speeds while another TIDAL defeats WHIRLPOOL in slow motion.

TRIANGULUM

Stupid wolf. You can have a piece of my nuclear pasta but not *everything!* Not this weird famil-

GRAVITY ultimately overcomes. They disarm and tase TRIANGULUM.

GRAVITY

Big Freeze, Galaxy! I'm getting behind the ears and the years! Shut ya wormhole!

During the zap storm, HD rises to the stage, resembling SINGULARITY.

TEEN GALAXIES

Bach Ho?

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

HD- *Singularity.*

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Ya come back to this life to die with ya family.

GRAVITY stops tasing. They stand in a dueling formation, ready to kill an HD-turned-SINGULARITY or hug their friend HD to death.

TRIANGULUM

Family... I feel... Nothing. Nothing is...

As GRAVITY is about to pounce, HD reveals a bell-shaped light source in a baby sling (ABELL).

HD

Everything. Adulthood is unfulfilling. But only out of nothing in a space of my own, can I fill it with meaning. In darkness, can I shed light and feel seen. In a void of noise, can I hear Abell. I cut my edges for you. You're born from nothing. *I've made myself clear.* I am apparent.

SPECIAL, GENERAL, and SINGULARITY wander in together. They embrace.

SINGULARITY, SPECIAL, GENERAL

Everything...

SPECIAL, GENERAL, and SINGULARITY journey off into the great beyond.

HD

I've come back to welcome a new life into the family.

GRAVITY

A dog forgets: an owner always returns.

HD

You're no pet. A *friend* always returns. You are family, Gravity.

GRAVITY

Force... Fam. Ya are cutting edge, HD. Abell?

GRAVITY touches baby ABELL.

ABELL bites GRAVITY's paw, crying.

Flashback: PUPPY GRAVITY helps KID HD walk by old GRAVITY's sights.

KID HD

You hear my cries. You let my tears fall. You lie below my bed to fight and pull monsters under. You're no monster. Singularity's a liar. You inspire me when life is down to the wire. Gravity, you ground us into who we are.

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 end- *Beginning of time*. Now, I can let myself down. I can only go up from here. I am finally free...

GRAVITY tosses the Big Bang Taser away. They fall off The Edge. With no GRAVITY, everything escalates.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

We don't blame you, Gravity!

HD

(Having a moment)

Good Tidal... Force.

The TIDALS are livid, causing time to erratically accelerate.

TIDALS

Gravity down. Galaxies, downfall!

HD fights passed the TIDALS to save TRIANGULUM. HD comes out mortally wounded, scathed by countless bite marks. Their heart bows out, coming to terms that they cannot handle the TIDAL forces.

HD

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

HD sets ABELL in a knapsack. They
place the knapsack off The Edge,
in order for ABELL to float away.
HD returns to their siblings.

The TIDALS grotesquely dance and
strike terror into the hearts of
the AUDIENCES.

The GALAXIES take refuge in their
home. 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.
They immediately stand up, amused.

The GALAXIES laugh their last
hearty laugh. They stand together.

GALAXIES

We know...

HD prays a different tune, with
the TEEN GALAXIES doing the same.
They then decide to hold each of
their sibling's hands. In turn,
the TEEN GALAXIES hold each of
their sibling's hands.

End of "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

24. "BIG CRUNCH"

HD

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.

HD (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.

HD
(Stressfully trying to course correct)
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.
They tear up the spacetime rug.

TIDALS
(Sinisterly echoing)
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY!

MILKY WAY
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, HD...

MILKY WAY embraces HD. One by one,
the GALAXY FAMILY hugs one another
to the point of a singularity.

From beyond, SINGULARITY joins in.

GALAXY FAMILY
THROUGH THE BIG BANG THEORY.
AND BIG RIP OF SPACETIME FABRIC.
HOLD OUR LOVE PAST HEAT DEATH.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, FAMILY...

Like a tsunami, 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

NULLASCENE 0

A FRESH UNIVERSE

ABELL, a bell-shaped GALAXY and child, rises from The Edge.

ABELL
Anti! Far-fetch!

ANTI, a puppy, enters from the audience. They fetch the Big Bang Taser for ABELL.

ABELL fires the Big Bang Taser at the stage.

25. "BIG BOUNCE"

The home seeps out of the curtains.

Each GALAXY stands in the home.

A light flashes with each GALAXY.

TRIANGULUM
EVERYTHING...

WHIRLPOOL
EVERYTHING...

CARTWHEEL
EVERYTHING...

ANDROMEDA
EVERYTHING...

ANDROMEDA hands the scope to MILKY WAY.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
OOOHHHHH.

MILKY WAY scopes out The Edge.

MILKY WAY
EVERYTHIN'!

HD and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster.

The lights fill The Circle.

GALAXY FAMILY
BIG BOUNCE...!

HD
HERE COMES EVERYTHING!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce and bow.

SPECIAL, GENERAL, and SINGULARITY
join HD in The Circle. They bow.

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.

GRAVITY enters from the audience.
They meet HD at the edge of the
stage. They embrace.

HD pulls out a star for old time's
sake. They toss it about.

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

HD drops every star upon the stage.

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

COMPANY
FAMILY IS... EVERYTHING!

COMPANY bows. They dance together
through space and time.

End of "BIG BOUNCE"

END OF SPACETIME