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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 ○ Parris Sarter*²/[Minka Wiltz](#)* Singularity
[Vallea E. Woodbury](#) Gravity ○ Daniela Cobb* SPT0615-JD
 Jason-Jamal Ligon Cartwheel ○ Skye Passmore Whirlpool
 Abby Holland Triangulum ○ Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel Andromeda
[Evan Phillips](#) Milky Way ○ Kait Rivas Tidalis ○ Sofia Palmero Narrator
 Kate Leanne Jacoby* Understudy ○ Isake Akanke, Robert Bryan Davis,
[Jeff Hathcoat](#)², Ebony Jerry, Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor²,
[Lee Osorio](#)², [Mary Lynn Owen](#), [Lau'rie Roach](#), [Imani Vaughn-Jones](#)²
 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 ○ Joseph Lee Singularity
[Maria Noriko Cabral](#) Gravity ○ [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](#) Tidalis

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. His purpose is to guide scientists to the fourth wall and theatre artists to the fourth dimension. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science, devising stories from its branches. His notable musicals personifying quantum mechanics and astrophysics are respectively: TOUR (2020 DUAF finalist) and ELLIPSES. In January 2023, [MilkyWay Theatre Company](#) produced a sold-out industry reading of ELLIPSES in their Inaugural Off-Broadway New Works Festival in Theatre 71 at Blessed Sacrament. His dramaturgical credits include [Millennials are Killing Musicals](#) by [Nico Juber](#) and directed by Ciara Renée (2022 29-hour reading at Open Jar Studios and 54 Below).

Composer [Janelle Lawrence](#) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as the second apprentice of [Working Title Playwrights](#) in Atlanta. He is the 2021-22 Literary Fellow of [Playwrights Foundation](#), San Francisco. His music was commissioned by [Harriet Tubman Effect Institute](#). He was a critic in [Kennedy Center's](#) BIPOC Critics Lab whose work is published in [TheaterMania](#). He is a proficient trombonist; moderator at [LMDA](#); founding member of [CreateTheater](#) and the [International Dramaturgy Lab](#); member of [SNE](#), [ASCAP](#), and the [Dramatists Guild](#). His moonbase is in Washington Heights. Be up to lightspeed at [davidquang.com](#)

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 • WTP; [Aliyah Curry](#) Director

2022 • Semifinalist • [Eugene O'Neill Theater Center](#)

2022 • Semifinalist • [CreateTheater](#) SUNY Cortland Partnership

[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

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 and their children. Their universe turns upside down when the firstborn HD1 strikes their parent and runs away with the dog to explore The Edge of the Universe (aka the Big Bang). To restore order, the other kids organize a search party to locate their oldest sibling. They encounter beasts, fight famine, and settle sibling rivalries on this cosmic journey. In the chaos, their baby sibling Milky Way gets separated. Alone, they must confront the Universe's most powerful foe: puberty.

Family is everything and so is the Universe. Our Universe is a family drama in play and this coming-of-age story answers the 13.8-billion-year-old question: What is family and how it is 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 Stage in the Three Stages 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, Crafty, 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 /// **YOUNG HD**

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

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

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

Act II

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

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.

SINGULARITY stomps in. They force GRAVITY to hide away in the back. They go outside to pick formulas. They 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.

SINGULARITY stows the Big Bang Taser under the rug, returning the Universe back to its void stasis.

In the back of the audience, a glimmer of light shines as a *bell*.

A shadow of HD in a shooting stance protrudes from the home. HD then enters, carrying a pestle.

SINGULARITY

NOTHING...

SINGULARITY hands the bowl to HD. They disappear inside the home.

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!

GRAVITY leads in a pack of TIDALS.
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.

HD

ABELL...

End of "BOUNCE"

GALAXIES

(Bowing)

Singularity. Declinations.

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. They
bow.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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.

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 and WHIRLPOOL high five
while TRIANGULUM puts up a fist.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

The dog did it!

GRAVITY

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

ANDROMEDA

(Playing with their food)

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

GRAVITY touches TRIANGULUM's dish.

GRAVITY

Triangulum is such a square.

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 snatches a dish. They set it on
the ground for the TIDALS.

TIDALS

(Gratefully barking)
Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

(Making the TIDALS sit)
Fix... Fix... Fix... Fix...

GRAVITY

We can do no wrong with this one. We're never
blamed by this one. We Tidals 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 will see. It'll be the last
time ya will see them. We've got time to kill.
In Zenith. Force!

The GALAXIES look out.

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.

(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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.

(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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 sit and pray.

The TIDALS yearn for what's outside
while 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)"

HD
WHY DOES MY FAMILY LACK MY CURIOSITY?
WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH TO KNOW?
WHY DO THESE OVALS SEE NOTHING IN THIS MYSTERY?
WHEN I KNOW I NEED TO GO...
(Standing)
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

TEEN GALAXIES
CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

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

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 THE ELLIPSES.
LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES—

SINGULARITY
END THIS TANGENT!

HD
TANGENT? TANGENT! *TANGENT...*

GRAVITY
(Manipulatively)
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 ANOTHER SPACE.
INTO AN AUDACIOUS VERSE:

TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

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

End of "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY
Force!

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- 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 soul will be dragged down if you keep this up... *Raised?* I am still raising you.

HD

Abell is raised. There's a ringing in my soul.

SINGULARITY

A bell? Your astral clock must be malfunctioning.

HD

My biological clock feels malnourished.

SINGULARITY

Our biology has no logic, but if you need your fictitious clock to keep ticking, you may, *gals?*

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch-

HD

You tick me off! I'm 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, *who 'tis* Abell?

HD

Abell is a tiny curiosity. *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*. A Galaxy for that nebula. 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

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

GRAVITY

(Corralling the TIDALS)
Force. Force. Force. Force!

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

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

SINGULARITY

Gravity will be our downfall. You all get on my
nerves. Entitled forces. Back in the doghouse!

The TIDALS tremble and leave.

HD

You are not the center of the Universe. Why must you treat the dogs 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 the dogs out. If you don't give them space, it'll come back to bite you in the end.

SINGULARITY

And let them treat the cosmos like springs of a trampoline? They'll rip the spacetime fabric.

HD

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 (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

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

MILKY WAY

Our Universe is all that matters!

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

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...

(MORE)

HD (CONT'D)

A game called "life." The goal's to go from one ellipse to another. Each ellipse is 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 soon not fit in your ellipse. I stopped being in yours ten eternities ago. I don't feel like I fit in mine anymore. No longer a teen... You'll be in mine. 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 us dogs. 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
discover the Big Bang Taser.

HD
Our rug of spacetime...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
Use them opposable thumbs, gal. Stun thee!

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

HD
Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
*Put down Singularity! Free Gravity! No longer
bound by family! Make nothing ya legacy!*

A light shines in the audience.

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"

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

HD shoots SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

(Electrifyingly jerking and shrieking)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY dies in MILKY WAY's
arms.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

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

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

The TIDALS freely rush out and
tidally dance, trying to lure 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 single step downstage.

The lights expand. The home moves
upstage between the back curtains.

HD (CONT'D)

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

(Leveling with GRAVITY)

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

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Break ya leash and unleash freedom!

Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours.

Destination's a gift. Destiny's Zenith.

(to HD, who did not hear the soliloquy)

Force!

HD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

In the home, most TEEN GALAXIES
watch as the Universe unravels.
MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themselves
around the lifeless SINGULARITY.

GRAVITY and HD hastily skip out.

TEEN GALAXIES

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE OUT WITH THE BIG BANG.

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, *cause 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...

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 must round up the Tidal forces.

CARTWHEEL

We're gonna be dog catchers now? Unlike our tiger noma/mama/papa, we're not 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.

(MORE)

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

Gravity was our downfall, so HD will be our
bounce back. 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"

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

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,
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.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

TRIANGULUM
BELIEVE ANOMALY'S ALL WE'VE KNOWN.
IT IS ALL OF US AS THE GALAXY FAMILY. BUT ME. *I'M NORMAL!*

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

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY
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

Fetch, Gravity. Fetch the star!

HD gets a ball from their knapsack
and tosses it. GRAVITY fetches it.

GRAVITY

Force!

HD

Who's a good Tidal force? You are! You shaved a
few hundred thousand years from that retrieval.HD tosses the star and MILKY WAY
catches it. MILKY WAY tosses the
star back, then exits.

HD (CONT'D)

(Reminiscing)

Milky Way...

GRAVITY

(Manipulating)

Abell?

A light shines in the audience.

HD (CONT'D)

(Anxiously understanding GRAVITY again)

Pet. *Force*...?

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... Do I
make myself clear...?

GRAVITY

Clearly, ya cuckoo. I mean— 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!

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing from beyond)

You are a big-

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.

8. "FAR-FETCHED"

GRAVITY

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

HD

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

GRAVITY

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

GRAVITY grabs and tosses a star
 while HD cramps up, getting it.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

HD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

YA FAMILY

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

(Narrating off)

I WATCHED THE SEEDS OF LIBERTY PLANTED AFAR.
 THE TREES OF FREEDOM GREW OUT OF REACH.
 INDEPENDENCE DROPPED NO STICK NOR WOULD IT STICK.
 OUR RELEASE SEEMED FAR-FETCHED.

BUT YA BRANCHED OUT.
 AND WE STUCK IT OUT.

(Refocusing on and noting HD's heartache)

Ya are a part of my accretion, and I thank ya

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

HD1, YA ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

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

The TIDALS avalanche in. They
 place a sled under GRAVITY and HD,
 then line up as sled dogs.

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

TIDALS

FAR!

GRAVITY

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA GALAXY NEED TO FETCH.

TIDALS

FETCH!

GRAVITY

POINT OF RETURN IS?

HD

FAR-FETCHED!

GRAVITY & HD

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

TIDALS

A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

HD and the TIDALS sled away.

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

SCENE 6

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in,
CARTWHEEL clumsily cartwheels in.

CARTWHEEL

Time is... up.

WHIRLPOOL

In the air?

CARTWHEEL

In a vacuum. Yes, in the air!

WHIRLPOOL

You and I need some downtime.

CARTWHEEL

We 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

"Dilation" means *to expand.*

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?

WHIRLPOOL

Time is the point once you meditate on it.

CARTWHEEL

Time's so special with you, relative. As a
light individual, time weighs heavily on me.

WHIRLPOOL

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

9. "TIME IS RELATIVE"

WHIRLPOOL

(Meditating)

$T \text{ OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY}$
 $\text{SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.}$

Live with me in the millennium.

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

CARTWHEEL

You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL

$T \text{ OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY}$
 $\text{SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.}$

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.

$T \text{ OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY}$
 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.

(MORE)

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

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, TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA

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.

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*.

MILKY WAY ages then vanishes.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

CARTWHEEL lends a hand. WHIRLPOOL stands. The lights balance. Within a training montage, they assemble the time dilation equation:

$$\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}.$$

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY

SQUARED DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

CARTWHEEL earns their ring. They can cartwheel again.

WHIRLPOOL
TIME IS RELATIVE.
FAMILY HAS COME TO YOUR SENSES.

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

WHIRLPOOL
WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

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

Lights form a frame around.

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Cough up our baby sibling, you savage Tidals!
And get back in the doghouse!

TIDALS
Force! Force! Fall!

The TIDALS chase out the GALAXIES.

End of "BIG RIP"

11. "POINT (OF NO RETURN)"

In front of the stage, SPECIAL and GENERAL wander in.

SINGULARITY crawls in. They settle and curl 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)
(Echoing)
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.

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

SINGULARITY sits up and meditates.

A spotlight lands on SINGULARITY.
The light gradually dims to a dot
on their inescapable heart.

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.

BE and DY exit, holding newfound
light.

End of "POINT (OF NO RETURN)"

SCENE 8

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY drifts in, hearing *them*.

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)

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

URANUS (O.S.)

Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (O.S.)

You are a two! Hahahahahaha!

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

Planets: what is with the 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. What are you? Twelve eternities old?

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...

URANUS

You need to let go of HD.

JUPITER & SATURN

Just like you need to let go of your bowels!

URANUS

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 themselves!

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 WHOLE 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)

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)

Ye 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 9

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

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail in.

ANDROMEDA is covered in pearls.
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? 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 (CONT'D)

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.
Pop the red giant!

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

No.
I'm not touching that thing!

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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 (CONT'D)

Least ye not a Ring Galaxy...

14. "FABRIC"

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Fall!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL run in,
crashing into TRIANGULUM.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way! Dilations! You're still alive!

TRIANGULUM

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

The TIDALS enter, prowling in.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Too late! The Tidal dogs are after our stardust!

TRIANGULUM

Who let the dogs out?! We got treats for you!

A TIDAL nearly bites TRIANGULUM.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

*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... The wide-open space drove
things into righteousness.

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

And once HD gave them a taste of the Fabric of
Spacetime. Free "nothingness." Once Singularity
lost control of the cosmos, the Tiduals 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... Tiduals! 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 "*FABRIC*"

SCENE 10

A front curtain protrudes.

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 others who saw "nothing" in the void. Ya parent once saw something: a new life. My fam gave Singularity a chance and treated them as our own, but that wasn't enough. Ya's took my parents' lives and went on a power tri-

HD

Singsing was raised by dogs? *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 became 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 dog parks, and confined us dogs into that lil' 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! We were treated like pests and turned into pets! Now once more, we're at our best.

Ya seem tense.

HD

I'm... I'm so sorry. For everything. Singsing-Singularity. That wasn't 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*.

(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 11

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

We have gone off on a... tangent.

HD looks around for ABELL, growing heartbroken as ABELL is absent.

GRAVITY

(Proudly taking in the scent, unaware of HD's descent)

I'm spectral blind. What colors do ya see?

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

SINGULARITY wanders by the stage, then vanishes.

SINGULARITY

You are a big—

HD

Singularity?!

GRAVITY

Is no more!

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

TEEN GALAXIES

NOTHING!

HD

Siblings?!

GRAVITY

I am ya kin!

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

HD (CONT'D) GRAVITY (CONT'D)
Milky Way! Abell?!

HD (CONT'D)
I see you, family... I see the light! Gravity.
We have gone *on off* a *tangent*. I must take The
Edge back... The Cutting Edge is *nothing* to me.

GRAVITY
The Cutting Edge is not to be? Relax. Relax!

HD GRAVITY (CONT'D)
End this tangent! There is Ya taking the wide-open space
nothing. away?!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
(Pushing down HD)
Nothing. Exactly! See a new dawn. Parallax!

HD
Let me up at once for once, Gravity!
Nothing may be infinite, but food is finite. My
kind needs their guardian. A guide in this
space. My *real* kin must find their way home.

GRAVITY HD (CONT'D)
This dog park is ya home now. I'm not falling for this...

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
I saw infinity in ya. But ya never be outta
affinity. Ya haven't outgrown ya siblings. They
saw nothing in ya and no one out there for ya.

HD
There is nothing to being an adult. Biological
clocks are illogical. It killed Sing-

GRAVITY HD (CONT'D)
Singularity is evil to us! Singularity lives in me...

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
Ya not a tyrant! Ya can't kill our freedom!

HD
I'm not killing *your* freedom. You've been
freed. Happy? Free me, so I can care for my
Galaxies. Families need Singularities.
Unrolling the cosmos into a single destination
is my destiny.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE) & HD
It is long past Crunch-

GRAVITY knocks down and bites HD.
They rip HD to shreds.

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

GRAVITY

The only Galaxy to see this Tidal force from
where they are! The only person to see their
dog for who they are! HD, ya felt for me!

HD

I fell for you. The only parent who can love is
gone. Gravity. You always let me down. Bad pet-

GRAVITY

Friend! Ya really an abuser's offspring. Ugh, I
fell for Singularity's flesh and blood!

(Noticing HD is bleeding)

HD! Ya shedding stardust. We dogs can fix that.

HD

I'll push you over The Edge if you touch me or
my family. Go away, you entitled *dog*. I blame
you for everything!

GRAVITY

What is *everything*, HD1? *Fam.* Force?

HD zaps GRAVITY with their hidden
Big Bang Taser.

HD

Adulthood is zilch. Do I make myself clear?

GRAVITY

Ya becoming Singularity, but ya unapparent.

HD

I pull the strings of the Fabric of Spacetime,
as I have this trigger. I am the master of the
Universe...

GRAVITY

Master of the Universe: If ya don't give us
space, we'll come back to bite ya in the end.
Gravity shall be y'all's downfall!

GRAVITY runs off.

HD is grounded, bleeding stardust.

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"

The stage front is solely lit.

SPECIAL and GENERAL, law enforcers in uniform, enter from behind the audience. They magically unveil their dazzling young Galaxy and child, SINGULARITY.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)

Nothing like a visual 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.

SINGULARITY shoots and kills SPECIAL with the Big Bang Taser. They run away, before gravitating towards the stage. They grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre, holding on for dear life. The fabric of spacetime rips. SINGULARITY tumbles in front of the stage. They limp by the stage, before finding a spot to collapse against. In this interdimensional plane in between universes, they grow aware that they will never return home and ever be with their parents again for all eternity.

SINGULARITY
(Shivering)

HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

SPECIAL and GENERAL search the aisles. SPECIAL is now a ghostly figure. In a pattern, they shout their kid's name in the hopes of finding them, then argue.

GENERAL

Singularity! It's *Crunch Time*. Food's ready...!
Our only child. Please come home. 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

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!

SINGULARITY

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

GENERAL

Singularity!

Special, we're perfectly heartless. Our kid has
a heart and a black hole for one. An anomaly.
You find it weird? *Oh, your eyes are swollen.*
Your life was stolen. But if we shielded their
eyes from the truth, there's more to regret.

SINGULARITY

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

SPECIAL

Singularity!

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

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!

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)

This kid was relatively impossible to handle. 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.

SPECIAL and GENERAL search about.

SINGULARITY

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

GENERAL

Singularity!

Relativity. Declination!

SINGULARITY

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

SPECIAL

Singularity!

Relativity. We looked up and down. Right ascension?

SINGULARITY

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

GENERAL

Singularity!

Relativity. We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?

SINGULARITY

I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

SPECIAL

Singularity!

We looked over and under all fabric of spacetime.

Silence. SPECIAL and GENERAL sees
their child has forever vanished.
They weep for all eternity.

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. GENERAL
joins SPECIAL in the great beyond.

End of "HEAT DEATH"

SINGULARITY

I am single.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Force!

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

SINGULARITY draws out their Big
Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY

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

TIDAL[S]

Force!

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

(Swaying)

Like to echo, huh?

(Shaken)

Force force force!

Force force force!

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

(Falling over)

Fall!

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!

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Bring the heat...

The lights reveal a cavelike dome.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto
the stage and set them in the dome.
A couple TIDALS presents a puppy.

PUPPY GRAVITY
(Adorably)
Force~ Force~ Force~

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
You accept my black-hole
heart?

SINGULARITY accepts puppy GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
A puppet- Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
Oh, it is Crunch Time, you entitled pup...
Force?!

TIDALS
(Gratefully howling)
Fall!

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

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)
DOT DOT DOT. OMISSION!

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.

TIDAL
That Galaxy is rolling back
the Fabric of Spacetime.

TIDAL
That Galaxy is shutting down
our cosmic dog park.

TIDALS
Let's rip them a new wormhole!

GRAVITY
(Mockingly threatening)
*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

That Galaxy's everything to me.

TIDALS

That Galaxy is nothing to us!

TIDALS (CONT'D)

Our alpha has an alpha?

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.

TEEN GALAXIES

BOUNCE BACK!

ANDROMEDA whips the TIDALS with
their pearls.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize
martial art tactics.

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.

The TIDALS run away.

End of "BOUNCE BACK"

MILKY WAY

Quasar!

TRIANGULUM

Is everyone an anomaly around here?!

MILKY WAY

Speaking of anomal— HD?

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

HD...1.

HD

Declinations... It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIES

A million quintillion declining years...

CARTWHEEL

You ran away on the fly...

WHIRLPOOL

You ain't say a goodbye...

ANDROMEDA

Ye expecting us to take ye in?

HD

Would you mind taking me out?

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!*

(to 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 nothing now.

WHIRLPOOL

Singsing is no longer here.

ANDROMEDA

Though nature is now healing, our Universe
remains nothing.

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. That dog is forming
packs as we speak.

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.

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.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

(Having a hard time moving the stage)

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. 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...
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
(Nearing HD)
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. Don't ever
touch *my* Galaxy or ya end up the weak link. Ya
wanna know what really makes me tick?

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing from beyond)

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. Just sleep on it. Put yaselves to sleep!

TIDALS

We can't rest! Our space can't reset! 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!

21. "PUT DOWN"

GRAVITY

PUT DOWN...
THE SHAME YA HAVE IN YA MEMORIES...

I SHALL PUT DOWN...
MY FOOT TO STAND 'GAINST ANARCHY.

TIDALS

THAT HD...

GRAVITY

SLEEP ON IT!
PUT DOWN...
THE PAIN YA LIVE ON WITH GALAXIES...

I MUST PUT DOWN...
HD'S NOT LIKE THEIR FAMILY!

TIDALS

ANARCHY!

GRAVITY

HIBERNATE!
PUT DOWN...
THIS DEBATE YA HAVE WITH REALITY!
I WILL PUT DOWN...
MY GUARD IF YA PUT UP WITH SLEEP.

TIDALS

YOU WEAKLING.

All TIDALS rest as the GALAXIES prowl in. In a dream sequence, they split into factions. Led by GRAVITY, the TIDALS need disorder in the free wilderness. Led by HD, the GALAXIES need order in a sheltered habitat, deforesting everything in the cosmic expanse. The TIDALS watch them pave over space and harvest food. There can never be peace. The GALAXIES exit, leaving behind models of their real-life counterparts.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT HD) (OFFSTAGE)

Gravity. You let us down!

GRAVITY

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

The TIDALS rip apart most models.

TRIANGULUM (OFFSTAGE)

Stupid dog!

GRAVITY personally rips apart TRIANGULUM's model. They kick around in a nightmarish state.

Young SINGULARITY enters. They subdue the TIDALS. They put HD's model in their 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!

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 the wild! It is our disorder-

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

Fall to you, too!

SINGULARITY kills the other TIDAL.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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.

Tidal shadows illustrate the
heavenly end of the Universe.

The TIDALS awaken. They march
through the deforested cosmos with
newfound respect. Some leave and
return as beagle-like TIDALS.
These spies relay their findings.

TIDAL[S]

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: DOWNFALL AT ZENITH.

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

End of "PUT DOWN"

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

Nom/Ma/Pa, are you hurting?

HD, who did you see beyond our Circle?

Sing- What did you see in this Circle?

HD1, apparency. Are you apparent yet?

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*" called "life." The goal's to go from one to another. There's life beyond The Edge. It accepted me when I left 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. 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 themselves 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

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.

The shadows of the TIDALS loom as
puppy GRAVITY crawls out of it.

Young SINGULARITY enters, holding
young HD. They aim the Big Bang
Taser at puppy GRAVITY. Young HD
hobbles to and hugs puppy GRAVITY.

YOUNG HD
Force!

SINGULARITY
Your first words, HD... "*Force...?*"

YOUNG HD
I love Gravity... SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
Gravity!

PUPPY GRAVITY
Force. Kill Singularity. SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
Love... Love Singularity.

Young SINGULARITY, young HD, and
puppy GRAVITY vanish.

HD
I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...
I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE.
FAR-FETCHED!

HD pretends to toss a star, making
GRAVITY's attention veer off. HD
falls or steps off The Edge,
vanishing into nothingness.

HD (CONT'D)
*You're meant to let me down, Gravity... Save
space for your 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 623. "(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? Well, we have
time to kill. I'll leave ya in pieces!

TRIANGULUM

(Strategizing and leading)

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

Free fall!

TIDALS

(Savagely and twistedly)

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

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!

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.

TIDALS
Force! Fall!

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
You got this, water bear!

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

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar,
wiping out some TIDALS.

GRAVITY
Tidal warp!

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

MILKY WAY

(Voice re-cracks)

Zit! You popped it! Mirror?! Ow, waves, wr...

The downed GALAXIES cluster.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up, Galaxies...

CARTWHEEL

Gals, it is downtime...

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Don't take time away from us relatives, Gravity!

ANDROMEDA

And our oyster, Gravity!

MILKY WAY

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

GRAVITY

Ya pushed everything I've ever loved over The
Edge. I figured out our space. I am ya
downfall. Face the force of Gravity! Forces!

The TIDALS tower over the space.

TRIANGULUM takes out the Big Bang
Taser and shoots GRAVITY. They
stand in front of their family.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Zilchhhhhh?!

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.
They hold a bell-shaped light
source in a baby sling (ABELL).

TEEN GALAXIES

Bach Ho?

GRAVITY stops tasing.

TRIANGULUM

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

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.

GRAVITY

A dog forgets: an owner always returns.

HD

You're no pet. A *friend* always returns.

GRAVITY

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

GRAVITY touches baby ABELL.

ABELL bites GRAVITY's paw, crying.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

(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.*

GRAVITY tosses the Big Bang Taser
off the stage.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Now, I can let myself down. I can only go up
from here. I am finally *free*...

GRAVITY falls off The Edge.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

We don't blame you, Gravity!

HD

(Having a moment)

Good Tidal... Force.

Time erratically accelerates.

The TIDALS are livid.

HD helps the TEEN GALAXIES up and fights through 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 (CONT'D)

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.

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

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

TRIANGULUM

You are everything.

TRIANGULUM expresses contentment. They sit on the whoopee cushion.

The GALAXIES laugh their last hearty laugh. They all sit.

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
 (Menacingly echoing)
 IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY!

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

From beyond, SINGULARITY sings.

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

NULLA

SCENE 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.

MILKY WAY scopes out The Edge.

MILKY WAY

EVERYTHIN'!

HD and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster.

The lights fill The Circle.

GALAXY FAMILY

BIG BOUNCE...!

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