

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog

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

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Supporting Characters

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

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

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

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

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

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

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

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

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

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

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

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

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

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

SINGULARITY leaves through a side exit of the home.

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

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

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

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

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

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA scopes out. They stow away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY, looking disheveled, strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

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

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

MILKY WAY makes their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA sails to the table.

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

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

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

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

JD
ABELL...

ABELL reaches out to JD.

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

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

TEEN GALAXIES
Singularity. Declinations.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

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

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

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

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Sounds like someone's been eating my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way!

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY touches the snow globe and stares at ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA hands over the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

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

GRAVITY tries to nab TRIANGULUM's
 dish.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

ANDROMEDA

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

(to GRAVITY)

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

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible
 spaghetti to a sitting GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

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

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY
 tries getting them to sit.

TIDALS

(Repeating)
 Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes endless millennia to burn that,
Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's
physique.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

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

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

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

SINGULARITY

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

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Always full of grace. Let us save space.

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES pray.

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

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

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

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

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

WHIRLPOOL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

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

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

End of "CRUNCH"

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

GRAVITY approaches JD.

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

GRAVITY makes JD face outside.

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

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

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

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

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

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES
 SPT0615-JADED—

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

JD (CONT'D)

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

YOU'LL KNOW.

I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

End of "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

Grounded. You're my tidal force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

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

JD

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

My biological clock is a bit malnourished.

SINGULARITY

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

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

JD

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

(MORE)

JD (CONT'D)

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

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY

JD, who is Abell?

JD

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

SINGULARITY

(to JD)

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

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

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Can I play with *nothing*?
Please?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

No means *no*.

JD (CONT'D)

Pretty please with a
supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

The sight of darkness is not
enough for you?

JD (CONT'D)

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

SINGULARITY

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

(MORE)