

DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



EL LIP SES

Book, Music, and Lyrics
DAVID QUANG PHAM

www.ellipsesmusical.com
  [tumblr. @EllipsesPlay](#)

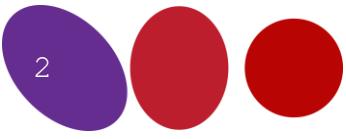
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ELLIPSES

A Musical
by
David Quang Pham



WORKING TITLE

PLAYWRIGHTS



THANK YOU

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



DEVELOPMENT

Date	Type	Site	Specifics
2017	Idea	Michigan State	AST 308 Galaxies and Cosmology by Ed Loh
2020 8-15	Writing	Working Title Playwrights	Addae Moon's Master Class, "Generating Story Idea"
2020 10-5	Reading "Bounce"	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Critique Sessions
2020 11-13	Reading (Preview)	S.I.S.R!	Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily ellipsesmusical.com/events/2020-11-14
2020 12-7	Reading "In-Depth"	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Critique Sessions

SYNOPSIS

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

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

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



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

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

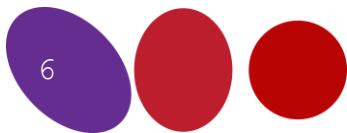
From the center, Singularity observes their children through a telescope ("[Wrong Space](#)"). The edge is on the cosmic horizon.

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

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

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

Nothing is anomaly like family. Nothing is everything.



CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Galaxy ○

Character	Vocal Tone & Range	Identity
<u>SPT0615-JD</u>	Any	Teenager
A distant galactic sibling. JD wants to be with "nothing" beyond the edge of the universe.		
<u>SINGULARITY</u>	Any	Adult
The relativistically impossible guardian. Singularity wants to keep their universe intact.		
<u>GRAVITY</u>	Any	Any
A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground JD on their voyage.		
<u>TRIANGULUM</u>	Any	Teenager
A jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role model.		
<u>ANDROMEDA</u>	Any	Teenager
A dreamy galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find resplendence in the chaos.		
<u>MILKY WAY</u>	Any	Teenager
An aimless galactic sibling. Milky Way wants to make themself useful.		
<u>WHIRLPOOL</u>	Any	Teenager
An anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to be present for Cartwheel.		
<u>CARTWHEEL</u>	Any	Teenager
An aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to be present for Whirlpool.		
<hr/>		
Ensembles		
TIDALS	SOLAR SYSTEM	MULTPLICITIES



TIDALS

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

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

SOLAR SYSTEM

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

MULTIPLICITIES

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

MUSICAL NUMBERS

#	Page	Title	Character(s)	<i>○Present but unvocal</i>
1.	13	<u>Bounce</u>	JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
2.	16	<u>Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL JD GRAVITY tidals	
3.	21	<u>Cutting Edge</u>	JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL SINGULARITY	
4.	28	<u>Ground</u>	SINGULARITY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL ANDROMEDA JD TRIANGULUM MILKY WAY	
5.	34	<u>Anomaly is Everything</u>	TRIANGULUM JD WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
6.	—	<u>Sweep Under the Rug</u>	JD GRAVITY tidals	
7.	—	<u>Hinge</u>	SINGULARITY JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL GRAVITY tidals	
8.	—	<u>Big Bang</u>	JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
9.	—	<u>Depth</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
10.	—	<u>Apartment</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
11.	—	<u>Verse</u>	JD GRAVITY	
12.	—	<u>Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</u>	MILKY WAY solar system	
13.	—	<u>Time is Relative</u>	WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
14.	—	<u>Working Tidal</u>	SINGULARITY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
15.	—	<u>Bundle</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY	
16.	—	<u>Far-Fetched</u>	GRAVITY JD	
17.	—	<u>Fabric</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals solar system	
18.	—	<u>Wrong Space</u>	SINGULARITY	
19.	—	<u>Bounce Back</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
20.	—	<u>Accretion</u>	JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
21.	—	<u>In-Depth</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities tidals GRAVITY	
22.	—	<u>Eccentricity</u>	JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	



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

MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS

JD| “The edge of the universe” is sung: The(D3-5) edge(B2-4)
of(A2-4) the(F#2-4) u(G2-4)-ni(F#2-4)-verse(F#2-4→D2-4)

SINGULARITY| The hums are the longing melodies in “In-Depth”: D3-5 B2-4 C#3-5 G#2-4 E2-4 F#2-4 G#2-4 F#2-4

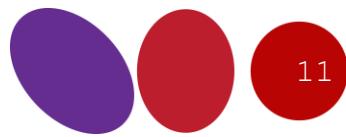
TRIANGULUM| Associative Instruments: Triangle, Handbell

MILKY WAY| Associative Instrument: Cowbell (may be attached to Milky Way’s physicality or personality)

CARTWHEEL| Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine, Jingle Bell

SCENES

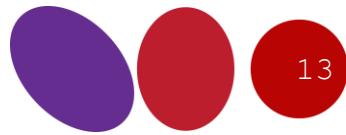
Act	Page	Location	SET props
Ii	13	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME SEATS (7) TABLE VANTABLACK RUG balls BB Taser dishes knapsack monoculars (7) snow globe whoopie cushion
Iii	—	The Fabric of Spacetime	
Iiii	—	The Center of the Universe	
Iiv	—	The Fabric of Spacetime	
Iv	—	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME SEATS (7) TABLE VANTABLACK RUG telescope
III	—	The Fabric of Spacetime	
IIii	101	Singularity's Past Universe	BB Taser vantablack fabric
IIiii	110	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME
IIiv	—	The Fabric of Spacetime	
IIv	—	The Edge of the Universe	
IIvi	—	The Center of the Universe	
III	—	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME SEATS (7) TABLE snow globe



SET DESIGNS



ACT I



1. BOUNCE

[*The Center of the Universe*]

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

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

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

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

TRIANGULUM

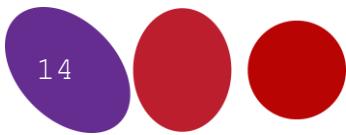
NOTHING.

(*ANDROMEDA pops out.*)

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

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

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

(MILKY WAY appears disheveled. They stroll in.)

MILKY WAY

NOTHIN'...

(The GALAXIES, but JD, cluster together.)

GALAXIES but JD

LET'S BOUNCE!

(The GALAXIES, but JD, bounce away from each other and land on their respective walls. They choreographically move alongside the walls of the dome home. They are distinct in their dance. They stop and pose or slow down whenever the musical number plays the G chord and G suspended chord. They are also distinct in their poses and suspensions. They may alternatively do that whenever the melody has rests. Through choreographic exposition, they detail themselves perfectly. Now, all they need are their names.)

(SINGULARITY remains absent.)

SINGULARITY

MILKY WAY!

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

SINGULARITY (cont.)

ANDROMEDA!

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

TRIANGULUM!

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

WHIRLPOOL!

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

CARTWHEEL!

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

JD!

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

[End of "Bounce."]

2. CRUNCH

(*SINGULARITY arrives, with empty dishes.*)

(*The TIDALS prowl in and surround the table.*)

(*SINGULARITY bows.*)

SINGULARITY

Declination.

(*Unbowing.*)

It is that time.

(*Placing a dish on the ground. They set the other dishes on the table.*)

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

(*The GALAXIES at the table sit themselves. They each set their monoculars on the table.*)

(*TRIANGULUM sits on the whoopie cushion.*)

Looks like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

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

(*MILKY WAYS snickers.*)

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

**WHIRLPOOL**

What ya got cooking up?

CARTWHEEL

What are we having...

SINGULARITY

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

(Picking up a monocular.)

TRIANGULUM

The usual. For the past googolplex millennia, it's been nothing. And they'll be nothing.

(Looking out to JD.)

SINGULARITY

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

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

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

(MILKY WAY dives into their dish.)

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

It's mostly photons, Triangulum.

**CARTWHEEL**

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

A simple nap lasts just as long, Cartwheel.

SINGULARITY

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

(*WHIRLPOOL smirks at CARTWHEEL.*)

WHIRLPOOL

Ain't it ring a bell, ring Galaxy?

CARTWHEEL

Gal, y'all are morbidly spiral Galaxies.

ANDROMEDA

Least you're not a two-dimensional square, like this Galaxy.

(*Pointing to TRIANGULUM.*)

TRIANGULUM

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

(*Tossing the whoopie cushion at CARTWHEEL or WHIRLPOOL.*)

(*In their seats, WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL defensively demonstrate martial art stances.*)

(*ANDROMEDA appears to be daydreaming.*)



(*MILKY WAY stops eating. Their mouth is full of Taurus' stardust.*)

MILKY WAY

Kau tau to you, Ellipses.

(*SINGULARITY stops the bickering.*)

SINGULARITY

Galaxies! Your hearts are vigorous.

(*Demonstrating that MILKY WAY is their favorite cluster of stars.*)

Always, full of grace.

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

Let us save space.

(*The nearby GALAXIES emulate SINGULARITY.*)

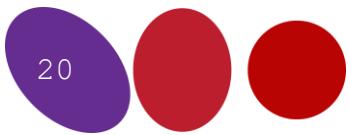
SINGULARITY

HOLD THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.
HOLD OUR LIGHT FOR ALL TIME.
FOR IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.

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

GALAXIES but JD

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 IN OUR HOLES / AS A WHOLE.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, WE BELIEVE.

TRIANGULUM

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

WHIRLPOOL

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

MILKY WAY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

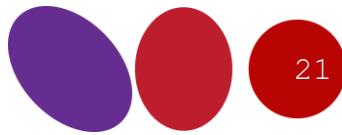
(*SINGULARITY waits.*)

SINGULARITY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?

SPT0615-JD?

[End of "Crunch."]



3. CUTTING EDGE

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

JD

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

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

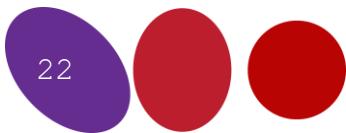
CUT INTO MY—
PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE OF THE...

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

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

(Nearing the edge of the dome home.)
YOU SEE.
I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...
WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS SAILING INTO
KINSHIP.
DROP OUT OF THIS ELLIPSE.
WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF
CHORAL REEFS.
SEA/SEE WITH OTHER ELLIPSES.

(At the table, the GALAXIES harmonize.)



JD (cont.)

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.

(*Getting the other GALAXIES' attention.*)

GALAXIEs but JD

CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE...

JD

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE ME?
BESIDES YOUR DAILY CHORES INDOORS.
IT ALL HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON ME.
THERE'RE PLANETS TO HARVEST,
I'LL JUST BE OUT ON A TANGENT—

GALAXIEs but JD

SPT0615-JD...

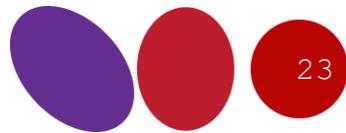
AS WE ARE JUST SAYING BEFORE YOU CUT US OFF.
NOTHING'S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE.
NOTHING'S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE.
CUTTING-EDGE SIBLING.

(*JD fondly looks out.*)

(*GRAVITY encouragingly grounds JD.*)

GALAXIEs but JD

SPT0615-



JD

JD

GALAXIES but JD

JADED—

JD

GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

THERE'S GOTTA BE A SPACE THAT'LL LISTEN TIL THE END OF
MY VERSE.

(*Holding GRAVITY close.*)

OUR CUTTING-EDGE VERSE.

OUR POETRY'S GOTTA REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS UNIVERSE.
THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'LL KNOW.

I'LL BE AT THE CUTTING EDGE.

[*End of "Cutting Edge."*]

GRAVITY

Force!

(*JD hugs GRAVITY.*)

JD

Grounded, I do love my Gravity.

(*SINGULARITY accompanies JD.*)

SINGULARITY

I will spare a millennium to listen to your verse, JD.

**JD**

(Feeling childishly annoyed.)

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

What speaks to your heart, JD?

JD

You...

SINGULARITY

'niverse?

JD

Speak down to me.

SINGULARITY

And their edge speaks to your center?

JD

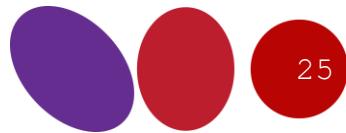
The edge speaks.

SINGULARITY

The eyes isn't enough for you?

(Directing to the table.)

(GALAXIES at the table demonstrate their monoculars.)



(*SINGULARITY hums.*)

SINGULARITY (cont.)

Has the edge wept?

JD

No...

SINGULARITY

Then the edge isn't cutting it.

(*JD remains silent.*)

What is the edge saying, JD?

JD

My center no longer cares.

SINGULARITY

You dare speak about your center that way?

JD

There's no other way to the center.

SINGULARITY

Course correction. The edge insults this center.

JD

Alternative. The center is pushing me over the edge...

**SINGULARITY**

Altar... Pull yourself to the center.

(Grabbing ahold of JD. SINGULARITY pulls JD towards the table.)

Native. Take the edge off you.

(GRAVITY pulls back JD.)

Correction. Naïve.

JD

Gravity is here with me on the eve of something big.

TRIANGULUM

There's nothing big out there. There's nothing even in here.

(Pointing at their heart.)

SINGULARITY

(Addressing GRAVITY.)

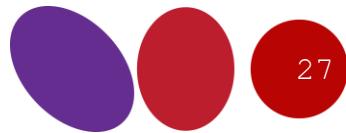
I don't feed you so you could be as obtuse as Triangulum.

(TRIANGULUM takes offense.)

JD

Why don't you acutely speak to us Galaxies and straight to the point like you do with our Tidals?

(Petting GRAVITY.)



SINGULARITY

I thought the center doesn't speak to you?

JD

The center never listens.

SINGULARITY

I didn't save space so our center cannot listen to your center.

ANDROMEDA

Perhaps, the centers seem to have some slight miscommunication.

GRAVITY

Force.

(Holding JD close.)

SINGULARITY

No center of Gravity of mine is going to place my Galaxy out of this space. Not if the center has anything to say about it. Whirlpool. Cartwheel. Leash our Tidals...

(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL clusters GRAVITY and the TIDALS.)

(GRAVITY and the TIDALS leave.)

(Addressing JD.)

Your center is not going anywhere.

**JD***Our...***SINGULARITY**

By the our- By the time you grow into your center like I have,
and dare my center say the impossible: *have centers of your own...*

(JD seems flustered.)

The edge would no longer be central. For now, the edge isn't going anywhere either.

4. GROUND

SINGULARITY

(Speaking out to the edge.)

Until then, supermassive hearts have no say. Until then, I'll do what Gravity has profoundly failed to do for my precious Galaxy.

(Turning to JD.)

YOU'RE GROUNDED!
'WAY FROM THE EDGE...

(Grabbing ahold of JD. SINGULARITY pulls JD away from the edge of the dome home.)

YOU'RE GROUNDED!
TO YOUR CENTER...

(Pointing to their offstage bedroom.)

YOU'RE SO DAFT!
LISTEN TO ME...

YOU'LL BE DEAF.
NOTHING IS SOUND.
NOTHING...



(*WHIRLPOOL orbits JD and SINGULARITY.*)

WHIRLPOOL

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

(*CARTWHEEL dance about.*)

CARTWHEEL

WHAT MAKES YOU CERTAIN?

EVER COULD YOU BE HAPPY?
AT LEAST YOU ARE FLOORED.

SINGULARITY

I WILL NOT GO ON.
I WILL NOT GO ON.
I WILL NOT GO ON...

A tangent.

(*JD goes to the offstage bedroom.*)

I WILL NOT GO ON.
I CAN'T RETURN TO—
I WILL NOT GO ON...

A tangent and neither can you. And all of you.

[End of "Ground."]

ANDROMEDA

Return to...?



(*JD briefly peeks out to overhear ANDROMEDA.*)

SINGULARITY

Stating what keeps me going. And that is for the rest of you to ground yourselves. At least Triangulum will make sure of that.

(*Directing TRIANGULUM.*)

Keep your siblings grounded to the center.

(*Demonstrating that MILKY WAY is their favorite cluster of stars.*)

Save space, Milky Way.

(*TRIANGULUM routinely clusters the remaining GALAXIES.*)

(*CARTWHEEL stares blankly at SINGULARITY.*)

Just an elliptical phase. All things pass. *Everything* is past.

(*Departing.*)

(*TRIANGULUM brings out JD.*)

TRIANGULUM

Do you have a millennium?

JD

What are you going to mill about at this time?

TRIANGULUM

Mill? I triangulate.



JD

It's rather late to try my patience...

TRIANGULUM

We've been here for what? An eternity?

JD

Seems like it. Well, really it.

TRIANGULUM

And every morn, you are here.

JD

And every dawn, we are there.

(Looking at their offstage bedroom.)

TRIANGULUM

In this millennium and age, I'm just going to stand by and be as dense as dark matter.

JD

So, you have no density?

TRIANGULUM

Non-baryonic, for you.

JD

Ironic for someone who constantly box themself in.

**TRIANGULUM**

Triangular- Hmm, you're particular. Quirk.

JD

Familiarity feels the up and down. Familiarity sees the top and bottom. Quite charming me, stranger.

TRIANGULUM

Even as a *stranger* and *dark matter*, I will not let anything, whether familiar or unfamiliar, get passed me and fall off the edge of the universe...

JD

For peek's sake, I'm not going over the edge.

TRIANGULUM

For the sake of peak, we're already on top.

JD

How would you know we're not upside down and under a valley?

(TRIANGULUM inadvertently steps on the rug.)

TRIANGULUM

There is no value to what is hidden underneath this ellipse.

JD

Quick to judge but not fastidious.

TRIANGULUM

You've gradually milled about and haven't reached a conclusion.



JD

Something is hidden. Some things are underneath.

TRIANGULUM

I've grazed triangulation and reached a continuity. Hidden are no things. Underneath is nothing.

JD

Nothing is everything to me.

TRIANGULUM

If only family is nothing to you! You outlier!

(Calming down.)

Sorry for turning your— Our universe upside down. JD, I'm just like you... Not a square. Also, far out. But again, outlier... I am seen. While you, you need this, to feel seen.

(Pulling out a monocular.)

(JD prepares to take the monocular from TRIANGULUM.)

(TRIANGULUM pockets the monocular.)

JD

Triangulum, what do you need?

TRIANGULUM

I need you to treat family... Like nothing.

5. ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING

TRIANGULUM

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

(JD grows saddened.)

ANOMALY.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?
 FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW
 NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.
 NO SUCH THING
 THAT IS JUST
 FAMILIARITY.

[The spotlight lands on JD.]

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

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

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

JD

WE KNOW.

**TRIANGULUM**

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

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

[A galaxy projects into their dome home.]

(TRIANGULUM brings out a ball.)

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

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

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

(JD feels trapped in the system.)

[The projected galaxy fades away.]

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

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

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

TRIANGULUM (cont.)

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

(*Turning to JD.*)

JD?

(*Poignantly looking upon JD. They encouragingly join JD at the table. They sit on the whoopie cushion.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL distantly laugh.*)

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

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

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

ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!

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

ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

(*Looking at JD.*)

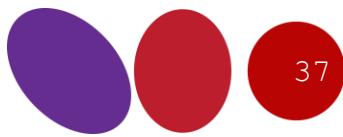
ANOMALY IS WHAT'S LEFT...

(*Earnestly holding onto JD.*)

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

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

[End of "Anomaly is Everything."]



6. SWEEP UNDER THE RUG

(*JD stares out.*)

JD

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

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

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

(*JD sets the snow globe on the rug. They orbit it.*)

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

(*Unraveling the rug.*)

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

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

(*SINGULARITY is heard humming.*)

(*The TIDALS remain absent.*)

TIDAL

(*Terrified.*)

Fall...



(Reading it.)

BBT...

(Turning the BB Taser more.)

Taser...

JD

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

SINGULARITY

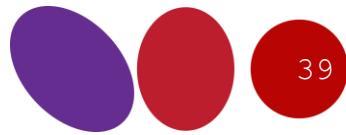
Shocking...

(Arriving.)

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

(SINGULARITY is sarcastic.)

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



7. HINGE

(SINGULARITY gathers the GALAXIES and TIDALS.)

SINGULARITY

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

(Focusing on JD.)

YOURS IS SUPERMASSIVE.

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

JD

You are a black hole in it of itself.

SINGULARITY

Hums "In-depth."

There were those that wouldn't accept your hearts. But I do. I love all of yours. My heart was in the wrong space, but it is now in the right place. Who speaks to your heart?

Cluster around.

My center weeps.

8. BIG BANG

(*SINGULARITY faces JD.*)

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A...
BIG...

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

MISTAKEEEEEEE!

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

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

TIDALS

(*Repeating.*)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG!

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

(*The TIDALS howl.*)

FALL!

[*The snow globe explodes.*]

[*The light suddenly fills the stage.*]



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

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

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

(The GALAXIES look upon SINGULARITY.)

GALAXIES but JD

THIS IS SUCH A
BIG MISTAKE YOU ARE!

BIT THE HAND THAT FEEDS.
HEART THAT LOVES.

*(GRAVITY grabs a knapsack full of balls.
They grab JD and run out.)*

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

(JD and GRAVITY run in place.)

(JD stops in their tracks.)

JD

Where is it?

(GRAVITY rushes to JD's side.)

**GRAVITY**

Force!

JD

It's further away?

(*Taking a step.*)

[*The light expands further out.*]

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

(*JD and GRAVITY dash off.*)

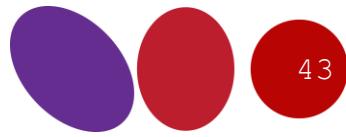
(*TRIANGULUM solely looks out as JD and GRAVITY run away from home.*)

TRIANGULUM

MUST YOU BE GOING
OUT, WITH A
BIG BANG?

(*Tearing up.*)

[*End of "Big Bang."*]



9. DEPTH

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

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

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

SINGULARITY

I'VE SEEN DEPTH.

I MISS DEPTH.

The universe is spread out too thin!

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

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

Would you like to be buried six parsecs under?

[*This musical number, "Depth," is about SINGULARITY retaliating. The brief synopsis is that SINGULARITY forces their children out of the home, to retrieve the edge of the universe. SINGULARITY has less control of the universe, as it spirals into chaos. Skipping ahead...*]

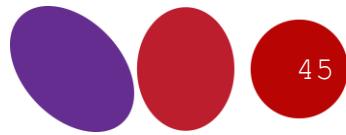
10. APARTMENT

[This musical number is about the remaining siblings blaming one another and distancing from each other. The brief synopsis is that the siblings blame one another for kickstarting the universe. WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL heads in one direction. TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA split in another. MILKY WAY stays near the dome home, but eventually they are forced out by SINGULARITY to wander the universe, alone. Skipping ahead...]

Milky Way, I don't know what we're going to do with you. Stay here. Don't get in our way.

All flux and no drag.

(ANDROMEDA wonders how JD is doing.)



11. VERSE

[The Fabric of Spacetime]

[Field equations scatter all over the space.]

(JD and GRAVITY blissfully skip in.)

JD

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

NUMBERS, ALPHABETS, EPIC POEMS.

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

[Music notation projects on the ground.]

(JD and GRAVITY thread the line.)

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

(Missing their family.)



(*GRAVITY gathers a V, an =, an H, a tiny 0,
and a D. They put together $v = H_0D$. They
present Hubble's Law to JD.*)

JD (cont.)

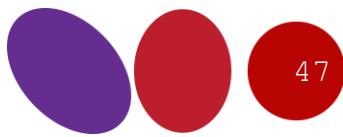
DISTANCE, VERSIFIES, VELOCITY.
BREVITY OF HUBBLE'S CONSTANT.
THIS IS THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE END OF OUR VERSE!

GRAVITY

FORCE!

(*JD and GRAVITY skip out.*)

HYPERBOLE



12. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

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

(MILKY WAY drifts alone.)

MILKY WAY

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

[Skipping ahead...]

Milky Way becomes mute.

13. TIME IS RELATIVE

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

(WHIRLPOOL meditatively twirls in.)

(CARTWHEEL cartwheels in.)

(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL are wasting time because of course they are.)

Training montage.

Time's relative and you ain't got rhymes to give.

Rhythm's relative as there ain't no gem in octaves.

Time to quit wasting time.

[]

Our lives's relative and you ain't help prime some olives.

Condemn relatives as there ain't none in them that're active.

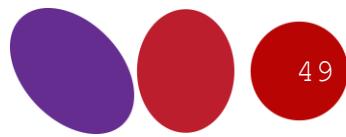
Time to give me time.

My life's relative and you ain't got no time to give.

I'm your relative, so there ain't got no time to give.

Time to give up time.

(You got nowhere to be, so spend Thanksgiving with me.)



Time is relative and you can't waste them within you.

Time is relative so why don't you find it in ya.

Time is relative and you have got them within you.

Time is relative and we ain't got them within us.

Quit wasting time.

Time ain't wasted when you ain't got them within you.

We don't have time, but we can warp it though.

Exactly.

Time is relativistic.

14. WORKING TIDAL

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

SINGULARITY

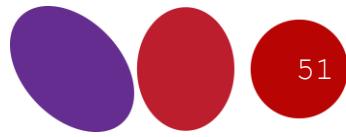
I was not born yester-millennium.

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

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

Release the Tidals!

[Skipping ahead...]

**15. BUNDLE**

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



16. FAR-FETCHED

(*JD and GRAVITY wander.*)

JD

A trillion years...

(*Grabbing a ball.*)

Fetch, Gravity.

(*Tossing the ball.*)

Fetch the star!

GRAVITY

Force!

(*Retrieving the ball.*)

(*JD pets GRAVITY.*)

JD

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

(*Tossing the ball.*)

GRAVITY

Re-fetch?

JD

(*Woofing.*)

...Force?

**GRAVITY**

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

JD

We keep rolling away the horizon.

GRAVITY

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

JD

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

GRAVITY

You're blowing it out of proportion.

JD

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

GRAVITY

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

JD

And yet, on this voyage, you learnt how to speak my language... Or I learnt how to speak tidal force... Whether or not, I have grown in the worst ways possible.

(GRAVITY retrieves the ball.)

**GRAVITY**

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

(JD misunderstands.)

JD

...Give up and give up?

GRAVITY

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

(JD exhaustedly looks out.)

JD

Far, far away...

GRAVITY

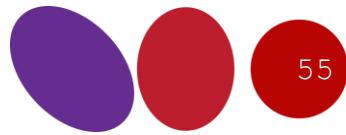
LONG TIME AGO
YOU WERE REAL CLOSE
TO THE CENTER
WHERE YOUR SIBLINGS,
WHERE YOUR BROTHERS,
WHERE YOUR SISTERS,
WHERE YOUR PARENT...

JD

SINGULARITY.

GRAVITY

APPARENTLY
WILL NOT FORGET.
WILL NOT FORGIVE.

**GRAVITY (cont.)**

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

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

GO FETCH THE STAR...

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

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

JD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY

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

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

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

JD

IT GIVES ME PAUSE.



GRAVITY

IMPLAUSIBLE.

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

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

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE WHENEVER YOU BE SHOOTING STARS?

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

IMPLAUSIBLE.

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

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

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

JD

IT'S PLAUSIBLE!

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

GRAVITY

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

(Nearing JD.)

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

(Jumping on and embracing JD like a dog.)

(The TIDALS loom in the distance.)

TIDALS

SUPERMASSIVE HEART!

[The atmosphere fills with Quasars.]

**GRAVITY**

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

TIDALs

NEAR AND WELL-KEPT!

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

TIDALs

FAR!

GRAVITY

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXIES NEED TO FETCH.

TIDALs

FETCH!

GRAVITY

POINT OF RETURN IS...

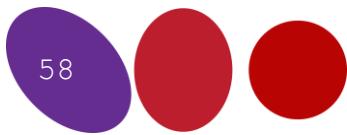
JD

FAR-FETCHED!

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

JD**GRAVITY**

APPARENTLY,
WE'LL NOT FORGET.
WE'LL NOT FORGIVE.



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

(The TIDALS vanish.)

JD

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

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

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

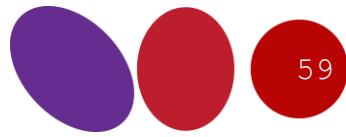
[The flaring black holes fade away.]

(JD and GRAVITY pick up the balls.)

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

(JD and GRAVITY dash off.)

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



17. FABRIC

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

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

(TRIANGULUM is stationary.)

TRIANGULUM

Your heart's in the wrong space.

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

You're facing the wrong way.

(ANDROMEDA ignores.)

Do you see the edge...?

(ANDROMEDA breathes in.)

Of the universe?

(ANDROMEDA nods.)

Your eye's in the wrong place?



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

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

TRIANGULUM

Right...

ANDROMEDA

Mom... / Dad...

(*Tenderly putting down the monocular.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA almost dash off.*)

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

TRIANGULUM

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

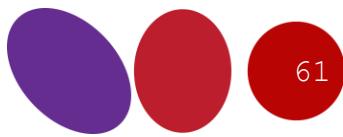
ANDROMEDA

That *Solar System* that Milky Way is ranting on about is cancer to their head!

TRIANGULUM

And the tidal forces will cancel us all.

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



TRIANGULUM

A crime against Hubble!

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

Stay six parsecs away from me...

(Tearing up.)

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

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

(ANDROMEDA holds MILKY WAY close.)

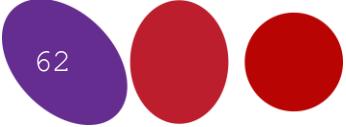
(Lights erupt from MILKY WAY's mouth, like a dragon. MILKY WAY is now a Quasar.)

(The TIDALS get blinded and scatter away.)

(TRIANGULUM nears ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.)

(ANDROMEDA holds up five fingers.)

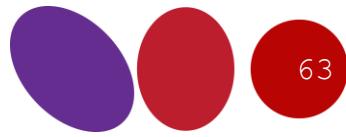
(TRIANGULUM stops in their tracks.)



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

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

You are the way forward, Milky Way.



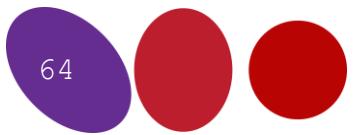
18. WRONG SPACE

[*The Center of the Universe*]

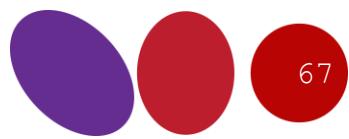
[This musical number is about SINGULARITY regretting their children's dismissal. The brief synopsis is that SINGULARITY observes their children through a telescope. The edge is on the cosmic horizon. Skipping ahead...]

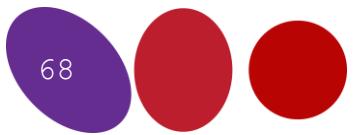
End of Act

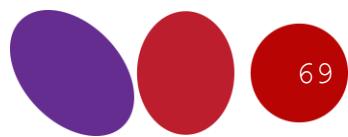
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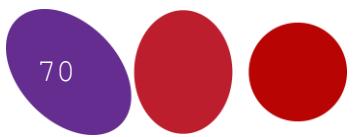


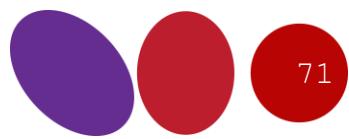


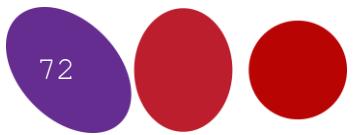


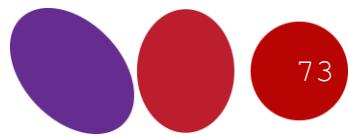
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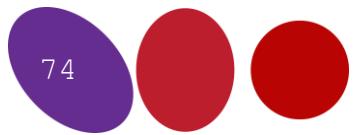
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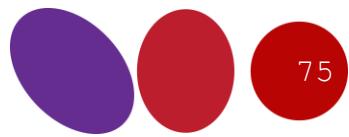






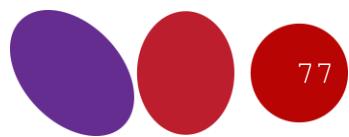


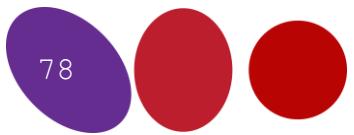


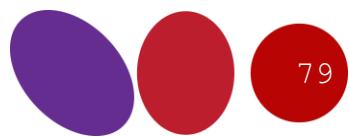


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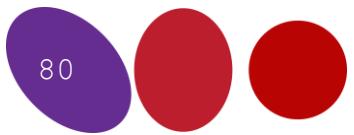


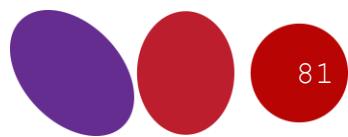


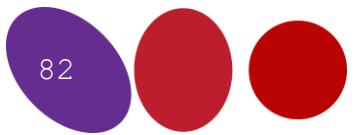


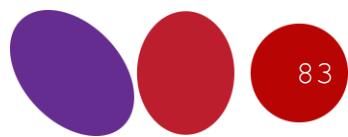


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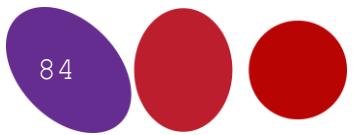


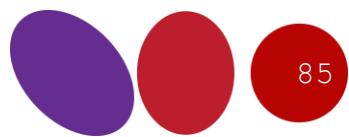




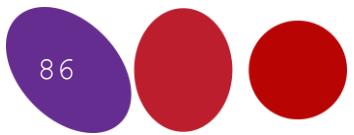


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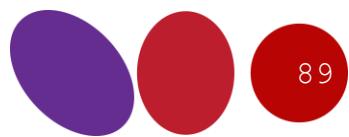


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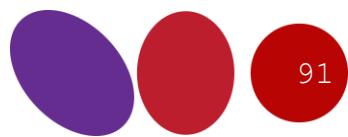


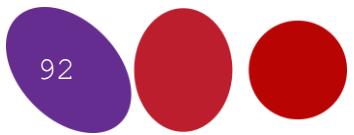


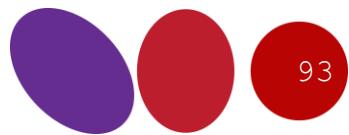
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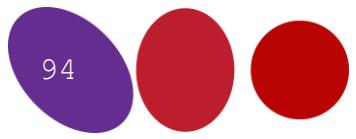
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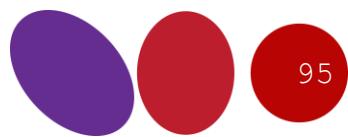






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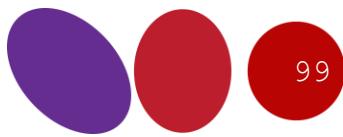
LIP

ACT II

19. BOUNCE BACK

[The Fabric of Spacetime]

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



20. ACCRETION

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

(JD throws a ball and GRAVITY fetches it only for the siblings to go on the attack.)

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

(GRAVITY hands SINGULARITY's eye to JD.)

JD

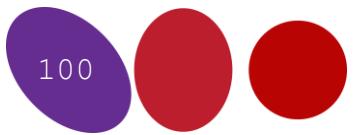
Singularity's eye...?!

(GRAVITY whimpers.)

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

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

100



21. IN-DEPTH

[SINGULARITY's Backstory and Past Universe]

[Wonders fill the theatre.]

(GRAVITY remains absent. They narrate.)

GRAVITY

An eternity ago in a universe unlike any other that we could ever fathom, these supernatural beings, called Multiplicities, gave birth to a very special Galaxy. They named their baby, Singularity. And like any other Galaxy, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was unlike their guardians. This Galaxy had a supermassive heart. In fact, it was so massive that their parents couldn't even hold their cluster of stars. Singularity sucked the energy out of them; not even light could escape it.

Their parents wanted to raise them but not beyond who their child already was. And Singularity was better at raising... Hell. Wherever they went, so did the space. They literally sucked the energy out of the room, too. They were bent on bending light. But even though they warped time itself, time still flew. It was time for Singularity to meet their event horizon.

Eventually, Multiplicities sat Singularity down and let them know what is in their heart(s). And with that heartless truth, Singularity left behind their family, ran away from their center, and fell off the edge of their universe.

(SINGULARITY remains absent. They are heard holding on to the edge of their native universe for dear life.)

[The fabric of spacetime stretches and eventually rips.]

(A reminder that this is during a period of time before their six galactic children were born. So, SINGULARITY has their eyes intact. SINGULARITY appears youthful and resplendent as a Galaxy. They hold a torn chunk of vantablack fabric, shielding the BB Taser. In front of the stage, they may scream as they tumble in. They get up and limp alongside the front of the stage. They find a spot to collapse against. They feel lost and frightened in an interdimensional plane between universes. They grow aware that they can never return home and will never be with their parents ever again for all eternity.)

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE A HOME...?

(MULTIPLICITIES never physically appear. They may be casted as shadows or projections of celestial bodies searching on stage. They shout SINGULARITY's name in hopes of getting SINGULARITY's attention and finding SINGULARITY, then they follow up by having a grief-stricken discussion with accompanying MULTIPLICITIES.)

MULTIPLICITY 1/A

Singularity! We love you. We gravitate to you. We need you. We balance time for you. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?! Come home! Return to the center of the universe, at once!

(Addressing another MULTIPLICITY.)

File a report. Our child ran away from home. Our baby is missing!

MULTIPLICITY 2/B

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 1/A.)

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

SINGULARITY

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

MULTIPLICITY 1/Γ

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 2/B.)

What? The theory that they have a black hole for a heart? Do you not see the problem of stars orbiting that chasm of theirs? What would cells want to do circulating a heart? Why can't their stars be stationary like ours? They have been relativitistically impossible to handle. I would regret as a mother/father if I spaghettiified the truth.

SINGULARITY

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

MULTIPLICITY 2/Δ

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 1/Γ.)

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



SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

MULTIPLICITY 1/E

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 2/A.)

Our home is trashed everywhere they go—

(Retracting.)

Forget it. My ego is atomic, but my love for our little nebula is galactic. Out there, they themself will be even more mutated and deformed. Agony. Ionized gas. They had to empirically know what their heart is capable of. Some millennia.

MULTIPLICITY 2/Z

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 1/E.)

We won't get another millennium with them. They didn't have to know who they truly are inside. They could have experimented with their own internalized theories. You could have been a general relative to them... You took the light out of our little cluster of stars!

SINGULARITY

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

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

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

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

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

I DON'T HAVE A HEART!

[MULTIPLICITIES' shadows may die out.]

**MULTIPLICITY 1/H**

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 2/Z.)

They sucked the light out of us, into their little event horizon!

(Fighting despondence.)

And that heart is where the lights are trapped inside... And time carries on with them, too. And, their heart sucked energy out of this space. They should have had enough energy to get themselves out of any mess...?

(SINGULARITY tries to reach for the stage.)

SINGULARITY

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

MULTIPLICITY 2/O

Singularity!

(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)

Declination!

SINGULARITY

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

MULTIPLICITY 1/I

Singularity!

(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)

We looked up and down. Right ascension?!

SINGULARITY

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



MULTIPLICITY 2/K

Singularity!

(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)

We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?!

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE A REACH...

MULTIPLICITY 1/\Lambda

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

(Silence. MULTIPLICITIES realize that their child/cluster of stars has forever vanished.)

MULTIPLICITY 2/M

Singularity fell off the edge of the universe!

(MULTIPLICITIES weep for all eternity.)

(SINGULARITY ponders for an eternity. They take it all in.)

SINGULARITY

I'M OUT OF MY DEPTH.

I'M OUT OF MY DEPTH.

I'VE GONE OFF THE DEEP END. IT'S HERE...

[The light focuses more on SINGULARITY, as though it asks SINGULARITY to go to it.]

(SINGULARITY literally soaks in the light.)



SINGULARITY

I'M INTO DEEP.

(*MULTIPLICITIES say SINGULARITY's name under their breaths. Then, they follow up by rationalizing with accompanying MULTPLICITIES.*)

MULTIPLICITY 1/N

Singularity... I deny they broke the laws of physics. They must be in the courtyard of another plane. Within the walls of a new stage. It has to be. Or not. They broke the fourth dimension...?

MULTIPLICITY 2/E

Singularity... I am angered that you would care whether or not they are breaking any law. At least, no longer our laws. We know that they can't break our universal laws.

MULTIPLICITY 1/O

Singularity... I bargain the fact that the laws of physics are different in other universal jurisdictions. They don't know if they'll break the other laws of physics.

MULTIPLICITY 2/Π

Singularity... I am depressed. Either way, they'll break...

(*SINGULARITY breaks down.*)

MULTIPLICITY 1/P

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



(The TIDALS' cast shadows in the distance.)

(SINGULARITY cannot clearly see what is going on.)

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THIS... DEPTH PERCEPTION...
I AM NOT IN-DEPTH...!

MULTIPLICITY 2/ Σ

Singularity... Just a crunch...

[Melody of "Crunch"]

(On stage, the TIDALS approach SINGULARITY.)

SINGULARITY

IN-DEPTH!
I'M INTO DEEP.
I'M DEAD!

MULTIPLICITY 1/T

(Feeling disoriented.)

Multiplicity... Where did we put the electricity...? Where is the BBT? The Big Bang Taser?!

(SINGULARITY pulls out the BB Taser.)

SINGULARITY

In my native universe, this brings charge. And it's shocking...

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

What kind of forces are you exerting—?

TIDAL(s)

Force!

(*SINGULARITY sways a bit.*)

SINGULARITY

Like to echo, huh?

TIDALs

Force force force...!

(*SINGULARITY feels the tidal force.*)

SINGULARITY

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

TIDALs

Fall!

(*SINGULARITY falls over themself.*)

SINGULARITY

What are you howling about?!

MULTIPLICITY 2/Y

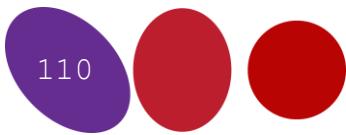
Multiplicity. For safekeeping, our baby will take care of themself... Uh, did we ever teach them how to properly conduct the Big Bang Taser?

(*SINGULARITY accidentally electrocutes themself with the BB Taser. They shock themself into a stupor.*)

TIDALs

(*Repeating.*)

Big big big big big. Bang!



(*SINGULARITY catches their breath. They decide to stow away the BB Taser inside the fabric. They accept their fate.*)

(*The TIDALS grab ahold of SINGULARITY.*)

[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The light shifts to the dome home on stage.*]

[*The home does not yet contain a vantablack rug.*]

(*The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto the stage. They carry SINGULARITY into the home. They set down SINGULARITY. They grow tame. They present the tidal pup to SINGULARITY.*)

(*SINGULARITY sets down the fabric, where the rug will presently be.*)

GRAVITY

(*Adorably as a puppy.*)

Force! Force! Force!

(*SINGULARITY gently takes ahold of the tidal pup. They feel the sudden weight upon them.*)

SINGULARITY

The Gravity of it all!

(*Increasingly bonds with puppy GRAVITY. They may hear their past family praying for them.*)



111

MULTIPLICITY 1/ Φ

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

MULTIPLICITY 2/x

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

MULTIPLICITY 1/ Ψ

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

MULTIPLICITY 2/ Ω

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

MULTIPlicities

Singularity is where the heart is.

SINGULARITY

I CAN SEE...
THE TIDES HAVE TURNED.

(Timidly interacting with the TIDALS.)

IN-DEBT...

TIDALS

(Gratefully howling.)

Fall!

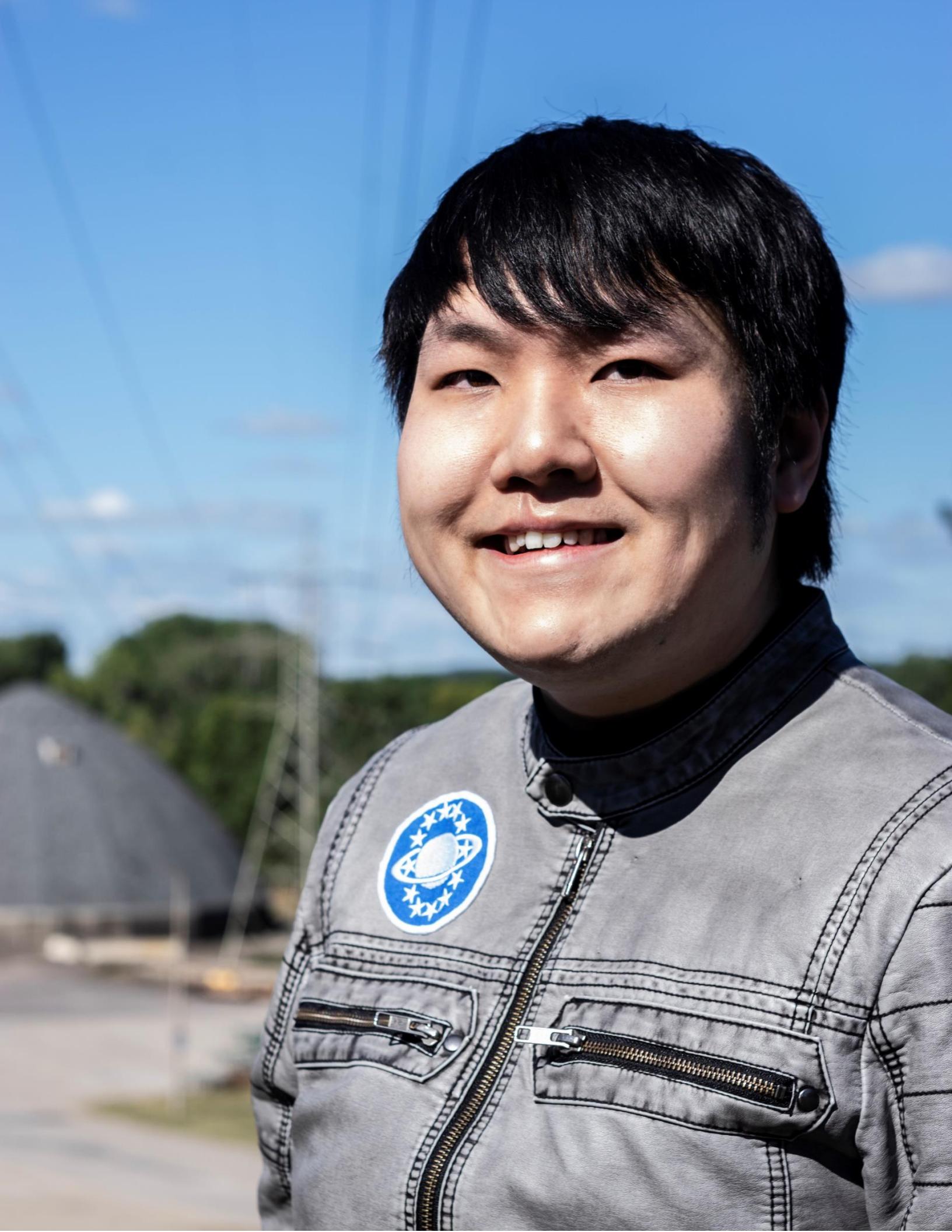
[End of "In-Depth."]

DAVID QUANG PHAM

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

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

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



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