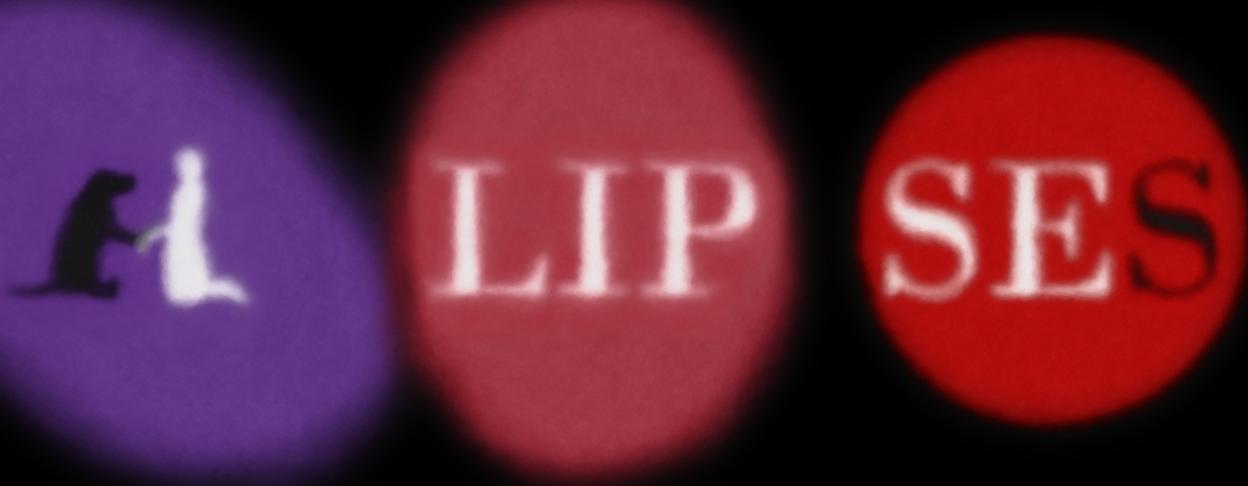


# DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



Book, Music, and Lyrics  
DAVID QUANG PHAM

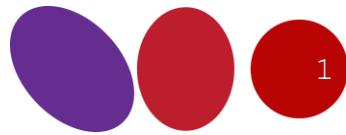
Narrative Dramaturgy  
JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY

[www.ellipsesplay.com](http://www.ellipsesplay.com)  
  [tumblr. @EllipsesPlay](#)

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For Dr. Edwin Loh,  
the Author's Longtime Instructor,  
Professor of Physics and Astronomy,  
Michigan State University





## ELLIPSES

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The Multiverse  
in an Opera  
by  
David Quang Pham

ELLIPSES developed under the 2020-2021 Working Title Playwrights New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship. At the time, Amber Bradshaw was the Managing Artistic Director, Aliyah Curry was the Rosalind-Ayres Williams Memorial Scholarship recipient, and David Quang Pham was the second apprentice. This play was conceived in their first class: Addae Moon's "Generating Story Ideas." The initial characters were Singularity, Milky Way, Andromeda, Triangulum, Whirlpool, Mice, and JD. The working title was WORKING TIDAL in the spirit of WTP and tidal forces. ELLIPSES was uncovered in Pham's geometric theme in all their work. The elliptical colors are celestially inspired by their alma mater's (Wyoming High) purple, WTP's red, and their favorite color. Jordan Alexandria Ealey is the dramaturg, Curry is the initial director, and Alexis 'Lexi' McKay is the initial stage manager.

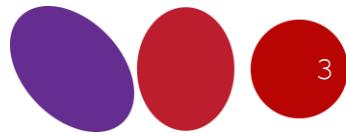


# WORKING TITLE

# PLAYWRIGHTS

## THANK YOU

Name	Role
Edward Brown, Danny Caballero, Professors of Physics and Astronomy	
Dionne O'Dell, Denise Troutman Professors of Theatre or Writing	
<a href="#"><u>Janelle Lawrence</u></a>	Musical Theatre Mentor
<a href="#"><u>Amber Bradshaw</u></a>	Apprenticeship Facilitator
<a href="#"><u>Emily McClain</u></a>	First Reader
<a href="#"><u>Alexis McKay</u></a>	Fireworks/Stage Manager
<a href="#"><u>Jordan Alexandria Ealey</u></a>	Hat/Dramaturg
<a href="#"><u>Aliyah Curry</u></a>	Butterfly/Director
<a href="#"><u>Parris Sarter*</u>, <u>Minka Wiltz*</u></a>	Singularity
<a href="#"><u>Vallea E. Woodbury</u></a>	Gravity
<a href="#"><u>Daniela Cobb*</u></a>	SPT0615-JD
<a href="#"><u>Jason-Jamal Ligon</u></a>	Cartwheel
<a href="#"><u>Skye Passmore</u></a>	Whirlpool
<a href="#"><u>Abby Holland</u></a>	Triangulum
<a href="#"><u>Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel</u></a>	Andromeda
<a href="#"><u>Evan Phillips</u></a>	Milky Way
<a href="#"><u>Kait Rivas</u></a>	Tidals
<a href="#"><u>Sofia Palmero*</u></a>	Narrator
<a href="#"><u>Kate Leanne Jacoby*</u></a>	Understudy
Isake Akanke, Robert Davis,	Monday Night Development Workshops
Jeff Hathcoat <sup>2</sup> ,	Ebony Jerry, Readers*
Tina Mitchell,	Bryan Montemayor <sup>2</sup> ,
Lee Osorio <sup>2</sup> ,	Mary Lynn Owen,
Lau'rie Roach,	Imani Vaughn-Jones <sup>2</sup>



## DEVELOPMENT

Date	Type	Site	Specifics
2017	Idea	Michigan State	Edwin Loh's AST 308 Galaxies and Cosmology
2020 8-15	Writing	Working Title Playwrights	Addae Moon's Master Class, "Generating Story Idea"
2020 10-5	Reading	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Critique Sessions Musical Number #1-3
2020 11-13	Reading (Preview)	S.I.S.R!	Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily
2020 12-7	Reading	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Critique Sessions Musical Number #18
2021 2-1	Reading	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Development Workshops Musical Number #5-7
2021 5-3	Reading	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Development Workshops Musical Number #13
2021 6-13	Workshop	Theater Resources Unlimited	<a href="#">How to Write a Musical That Works</a> Musical Number #1-3
2021 7-15	Concert Reading	Working Title Playwrights	<a href="#">Revue and Reading backed by WTP New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship</a>

Working Title Playwrights Apprenticeship presents a concert reading of a science musical about family

A LIP SES

Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM  
Dramaturgy by JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY

Directed by ALIYAH CURRY  
Managed by ALEXIS MCKAY  
Moderated by AMBER BRADSHAW  
Narrated by SOFIA PALMERO  
Performed by the Star-Studded Cast

ONLINE VIA ZOOM  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021  
SHOW · 6:30PM ET | TALKBACK · 9PM ET  
ELLIPSESPLAY.COM



PARRIS SARTER VALLEA E. WOODBURY  
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  
Tidals

## PLOT SUMMARY

An epic science mythology, ELLIPSES centers on the Galaxy family and their quest to undo the Big Bang, after Gravity sets it off. This coming-of-age opera follows a young adult and their dog running away from home. SPT0615-JD and Gravity, a tidal force, journey to the Edge of our Universe. The story explores the Big Crunch Theory and Hubble's Law, which states that Galaxies must distance from the Center. They are human, as we want to get out. The analogy is expressed through these cosmic personifications. A dome represents the Center, the stage is space, and the fourth wall is the Edge. Our Universe is truly a family drama in play.

The Galaxies begin their routine by scoping out towards the Edge ("[Bounce](#)"). Their parent calls them up for supper. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at this family gathering ("[Crunch](#)"). JD remains looking out, tangentially wanting to go to the Edge ("[Cutting Edge](#)"). They see their legacy as apparent. However, Singularity speaks of its perils. In retaliation, Gravity fights Singularity to go outside but ends up getting grounded in the doghouse. As the siblings head off to bed, JD and Milky Way discuss growing up ("[Figure](#)").

After Milky Way goes to bed, JD hears Gravity persuading them to search the rug. JD finds Singularity's Big Bang Taser stashed underneath and deems the Fabric of Spacetime to be just as sturdy ("[Zilch](#)"). Later, Singularity assesses their children's black-hole hearts ("[Luminous](#)"). With this being the final straw, JD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. Singularity goes lifeless. In the chaos, JD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing away. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away ("[Big Bang](#)"). At this start of the Universe, Gravity and JD enjoy themselves ("[Verse](#)").

Meanwhile, the teen Galaxies mourn ("[Rip](#)"). They realize that they must get a move on and undo the Big Bang. Because there is no longer Crunch Time, they may starve without Singularity's care and with the Universe thinning itself out. Triangulum manages to convince the family to bring JD home ("[Anomaly is Everything](#)"). Triangulum decides to journey out to the Edge with Andromeda. They instruct Cartwheel and Whirlpool to babysit Milky Way. However, they leave Milky Way behind. Eventually, they decide to return home to be present for their baby sibling ("[Time is Relative](#)"). But they find that Milky Way has left to wander the Universe alone ("[Big Rip](#)").



Isolated and alone, Milky Way talks to their planetary friends about physically growing up ("[Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles](#)"). Eventually, Triangulum and Andromeda find Milky Way in an exhausted state of adolescence ("[Globular](#)"). The Solar System has developed into a swelling. Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. As a result, Milky Way becomes a Quasar, leading the teen Galaxies to be reunited ("[Fabric](#)").

A trillion years pass, and Gravity and JD are still traversing space. They find time to play fetch, 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 cosmic beyond, Singularity sings ("[Point](#)").

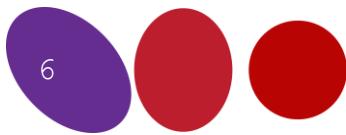
In the following act, Singularity's backstory is presented. Apparently, they themself ran away from their own Universe ("[Heat Death](#)"). An eternity passes, and Gravity and JD hit a wall while looking for the Edge. Gravity believes that one can overcome it by relaxing ("[Parallax](#)"). In that spirit, the Edge unveils ("[Tangent](#)"). Surrounded by spectacles that reminds them of family, JD decides to head back and take the Edge with them. Gravity feels betrayed as they fought hard for the wide-open space, only for it to be a singularity again. Gravity wounds JD and JD is left to return home alone, unrolling the Edge ("[...](#)").

JD stumbles upon their siblings' campsite. The teen Galaxies have been caging tidal dogs. JD releases them but is caught ("[Bounce Back](#)"). JD blames Gravity for the Big Bang. The Galaxies believe JD and returns home to heal them ("[Everything](#)").

JD tries to adjust to life as a caretaker but ends up being a dropout ("[Apparent](#)"). In these millennia of grief, Milky Way jolts Singularity back to life ("[Spacetime](#)"). Singularity looks beyond the Edge to find JD shedding light in their Ellipse ("[Liminality](#)").

All of a sudden in JD's honor, Gravity returns with a wolfpack. The Galaxies and the tidal forces end time in this epic showdown ("[The Big Rip of Zenith](#)"). When all is lost, Singularity and their Galaxies pray at their table in the Center of our Universe as the tidal forces consume them ("[Big Crunch](#)"). In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again ("[Big Bounce](#)").

The supermassive heart of the story is the Big Bang Theory and finding oneself in the nothingness, as an anomaly and a family. ELLIPSES answers: "What is family? What is growing up?"



## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Astronomy ○

○ Casting from historically excluded racial minorities is recommended ○

Character	Nature	Identity
<b>SINGULARITY</b>	Super Infinite Black Hole The relativistically impossible single parent. Singularity wants to keep all the luminosity within the liminality.	Adult
<b>GRAVITY</b>	Tidal Force A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground and free up the wide-open space.	Any
<b>SPT0615-JD</b>	Embryonic Galaxy The prophetic galactic sibling. JD wants to shed light and be apparent to their lightless legacy.	Young Adult
<b>CARTWHEEL</b>	Ring Galaxy The aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to earn their ring.	Teen
<b>WHIRLPOOL</b>	Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy The anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to spiral into enlightenment.	Teen
<b>TRIANGULUM</b>	Spiral Galaxy The jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role model.	Teen
<b>ANDROMEDA</b>	Spiral Galaxy The scenic galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find the pearl in our oysterous Universe.	Teen
<b>MILKY WAY</b>	Barred Spiral Galaxy The angelic galactic sibling. Milky Way wants their voice to be all that it's cracked up to be.	Preteen

### Ensembles

TIDALS	<u>MULTPLICITIES*</u> Invariant Fix	<u>SOLAR SYSTEMs</u> Sun (Singularity) Earth (ensemble) Jupiter (Whirlpool) Saturn (Cartwheel) Uranus (Triangulum) Eris (JD) Oort Cloud (Andromeda)
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\*

<b>ABELL</b> 2261	Elliptical Galaxy	Child
An anomalous galactic sweetheart beyond the Edge of the Universe. Abell is SPT0615-JD's timely loved one in the audience.		



## 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. JD can understand the tidal language through Gravity.

## MULTIPLICITIES

Multiplicities are coupled Galaxies seated in the audience of the theatre. Invariant and Fix are Singularity's parents. Singularity was born and raised by them in another universe. In that universe, Galaxies do not have a heart and are constantly shedding light. Singularity was an anomaly there, as they hold light within their inescapable heart. Big Bang Tasers are produced by these Multiplicities, as they are laws of physics enforcers in a universe made up entirely of electricity. In "Heat Death," the Multiplicities cry out for Singularity, after Singularity runs away to our Universe.

## SOLAR SYSTEMS

Solar Systems are celestial bodies that speak to Milky Way when they wander the Universe alone. They are like imaginary friends, before these planetary friends physically come to life as puppets and dancers. During the first act, they speak for several billion years (quarter-hour staging time) before the Sun becomes a red giant (zit). Any set of cast members may voice the general Solar System. The principal casts are marked in parentheses for convenient doubling.

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

<b>#</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Characters</b>	<b>Present but unvocal</b>
1.	16	<u>Bounce</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES	
2.	22	<u>Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES JD GRAVITY tidals	
3.	24	<u>Cutting Edge</u>	GALAXIES GRAVITY SINGULARITY	
4.	35	<u>Figure</u>	JD MILKY WAY	
5.	39	<u>Zilch</u>	JD GRAVITY tidals	
6.	42	<u>Luminous</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES	
7.	44	<u>Big Bang</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES GRAVITY tidals	
8.	47	<u>Verse</u>	JD GRAVITY	
9.	49	<u>Rip</u>	TEEN GALAXIES SINGULARITY	
10.	54	<u>Anomaly is Everything</u>	TEEN GALAXIES	
11.	63	<u>Time is Relative</u>	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL	
12.	69	<u>Big Rip</u>	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL tidals SINGULARITY	
13.	75	<u>Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</u>	MILKY WAY solar systems	
14.	80	<u>Globular</u>	ANDROMEDA TRIANGULUM	
15.	82	<u>Fabric</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals	
16.	88	<u>Far-Fetched</u>	GRAVITY JD tidals	
17.	92	<u>Point</u>	SINGULARITY tidals multiplicities	
18.	95	<u>Heat Death</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities	
19.	107	<u>Parallax</u>	GRAVITY JD	
20.	110	<u>Tangent</u>	JD GRAVITY	
21.	114	<u>...</u>	GRAVITY tidals JD	
22.	117	<u>Bounce Back</u>	GALAXIES GRAVITY tidals	
23.	123	<u>Everything</u>	GALAXIES	
24.	131	<u>Apparent (Shed Light)</u>	GALAXIES SINGULARITY GRAVITY tidals	
25.	134	<u>Spacetime</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES	
26.	134	<u>Liminality</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities GALAXIES ABELL	
27.	136	<u>(The Big Rip of) Zenith</u>	GRAVITY SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES tidals	
28.	143	<u>Big Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES tidals	
29.	146	<u>Big Bounce</u>	COMPANY	

Legend: Recorded | Scored | Not Yet Scored



## MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS

\*Due to the open-ended and androgynous nature of each character, there are no specified vocal ranges. In the scores, the treble clefs of the vocals are parenthesized with (8). It is up to the music director to adjust the octaves to fit the casting of each character.

SINGULARITY| The hums are the longing melodies in "Heat Death":  
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

ANDROMEDA| Their Galaxy shanty has a default phrase of chord progressions. But they may be interpreted in any way the performer sees fit as recitative. They may scat sing "Globular."

MILKY WAY| Associative Instrument: Cowbell (may be attached to Milky Way's physicality or personality) | Diet: Eat or drink as many dairy products before the performance as one pleases. Disregard this if one is lactose intolerant.

CARTWHEEL| Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine, Jingle Bell

ABELL| Associative Instruments: Chimes  
Leitmotif from "Able" whenever Abell is focused upon. "Able" is in any phrase in "Liminality".

## SCENES

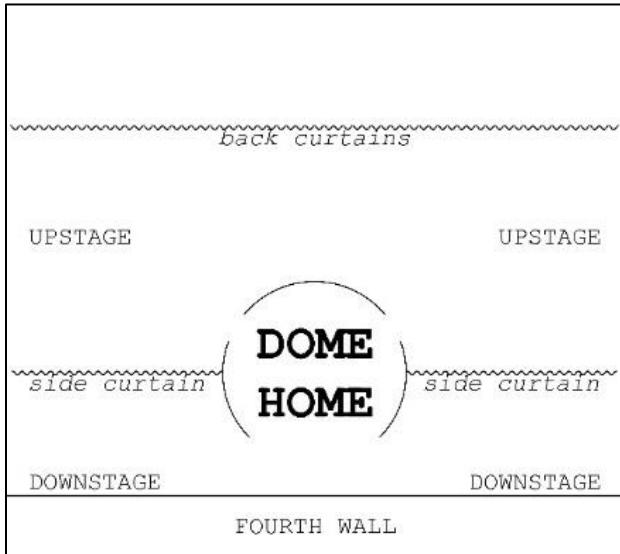
<b>Act</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>SET props</b>
Ii	15	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME FIELD EQUATIONS RUG SEATS(7)  TABLE Big Bang Taser dishes knapsack monocular snow globe whoopie cushion
Iii	47	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $f=ma$ , $v=H_0 \cdot D$ ) knapsack
Iiii	49	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE Singularity's body
Iiv	58	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ ) magnolia flowers(2) monocular
Iv	69	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE Singularity's body
Ivi	70	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS balls knapsack
Ivii	92	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE
III	95	Singularity's Past Universe	DOME HOME Big Bang Taser black fabric
IIii	104	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $d = 1 / p$ ) knapsack
IIiii	110	The Edge of the Universe	ENCHANTED AND SOFT UNIVERSE knapsack
IIiv	116	The Continuum Checkpoint	3 DOMES [left: doghouse, central: sleeping quarters, right: command post] knapsack snow globe
IIv	126	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS(6) TABLE Big Bang Taser dishes mirror snow globe whoopie cushion
III	146	A Fresh Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE balls knapsack snow globe



## SETTINGS

### THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

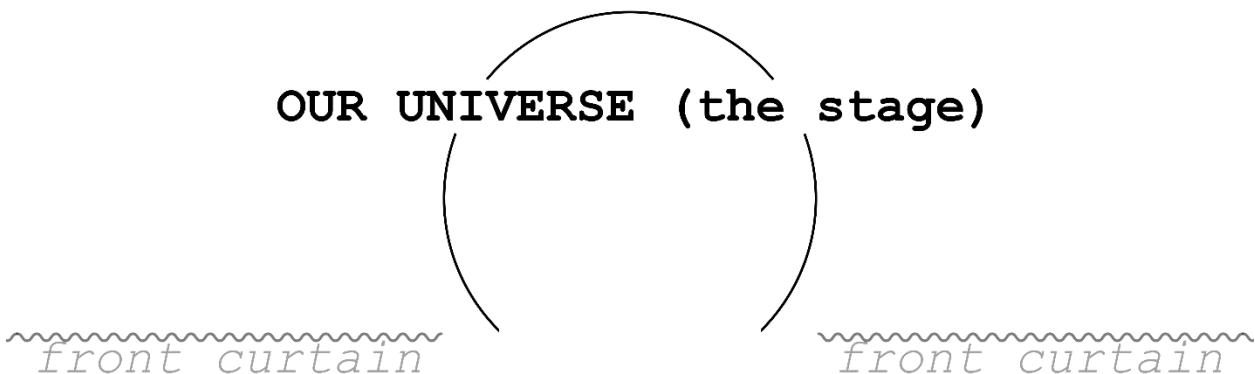
Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce



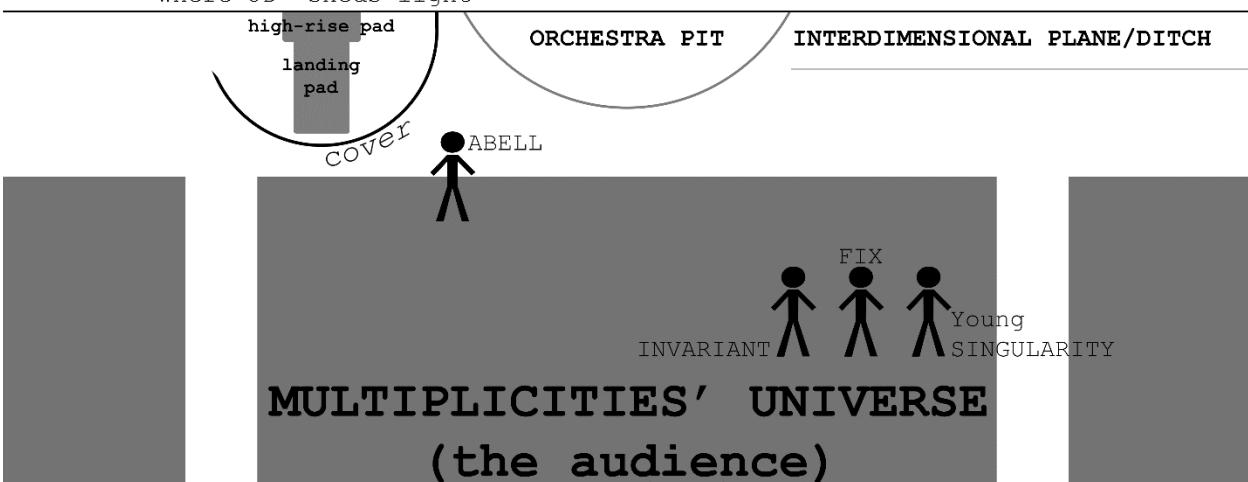
Post-Big Bang



### OUR UNIVERSE (the stage)



where JD "sheds light"



## THE ELLIPSE / DOME HOME



THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

FOURTH WALL

## THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

Doghouse



Sleeping Quarters

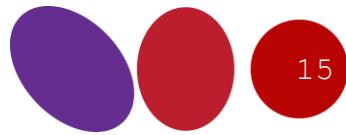


Command Post





# ACT I



[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The Ellipse is positioned downstage center. There is a table with seats and a rug inside. Lights dwell solely within the Dome. Outside, the stage is mainly off limits. Everything upstage is concealed by the side curtains. Equations are teeming flowers in the space.*]

(*SINGULARITY hums as they pick equations outside the home. They place them on a dish. They head to the rug to meditate.*)

(*The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.*)

**MULTIPLICITIES**

Nothing.

(*Startled, SINGULARITY draws out the Big Bang Taser. They ignite it outwards.*)

(*The TIDALS distantly whimper.*)

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

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

(*SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug, reversing the Universe. They look upon ABELL. They pound their chest.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Nothing...

(*Leaving through a side exit of the home.*)

**1. BOUNCE**

(*JD enters, holding a monocular. They position themself at the edge of the home. They look out through the monocular.*)

(*TRIANGULUM wanders out, carrying a snow globe that resembles the home. They head to JD. They snatch their monocular and look out. They toss it behind.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING.

(*WHIRLPOOL spirals out. They catch or pick up the monocular. They look out.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

(*CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They snatch the monocular from WHIRLPOOL. They look out.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

(*ANDROMEDA pops out.*)

(*CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.*)

(*ANDROMEDA looks out. They stow away the monocular.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!



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

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'...

(*The TEEN GALAXIES cluster in the center.*)

**TEEN GALAXIES**

LET'S BOUNCE!

(*Bouncing away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home. In choreographic exposition, they distinctly pose at certain melodic phrases.*)

(*SINGULARITY shouts from offstage.*)

**SINGULARITY**

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

(*MILKY WAY lugs their way to the table. ANDROMEDA heads to the table. TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They set the snow globe on the table. WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table. CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.*)

JD!

(*JD remains staring out at the Edge. They extend their arm out to ABELL.*)

**JD**

ABELL...

(*ABELL reaches out to JD.*)

[End of "Bounce".]



(All TIDALS prowl in and surround the table.)

(SINGULARITY arrives with dishes. They bow.)

### SINGULARITY

Declinations, family. The Galaxy family. It is that time.

(Placing the dishes around the table.)

(GRAVITY narrates.)

### GRAVITY

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. We've long lived in this Ellipse. Singularity has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. This Dome is all they've ever known. Most kids aren't much older than a dozen eternities, but one is nearing two. I like this one. This Ellipse is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy.

JD is on the edge. While their siblings see "nothing" out there, JD sees their future Ellipse in the nothingness. Beyond the Edge of the Universe. I sense that their dream is to have their own Ellipse. JD deserves a life of their own. What adult doesn't want to leave the safety of their home to 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. In Zenith... Force!

(SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY's bark. They place a dish on the ground.)

(The TIDALS feast on the grounded dish.)

(MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.)

(The TEEN GALAXIES bow.)

**TEEN GALAXIES**

Declinations, Singularity.

*(The TEEN GALAXIES sit, while TRIANGULUM unfortunately sits on the whoopie cushion.)*

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL hold in their laughter while MILKY WAY snickers.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Sounds like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

**TRIANGULUM**

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

**SINGULARITY**

Has anyone seen my scope? Where could they be? Got to be in here...

*(Touching the snow globe.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

*Everything in here is a cluster flux. Wouldn't hurt to look out-*

**SINGULARITY**

If you escape my gravitational pull and step out onto the space, you'll end up ripping apart the Fabric of Spacetime. Then I, the grandmaster of the Universe, will be out of order. Forget the scope. We got all the cosmic formulas right here in our Ellipse. With my wrists and black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae something special: nuclear pasta and meteors.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Special for the trillionth millennium, you Bạch Hổ<sup>1</sup>...*

---

<sup>1</sup>Bạch Hổ is Vietnamese for "white tiger," sounds like "black hole," and implies tiger parenting.

**SINGULARITY**

I, tiger nomy/mom/dad, am so glad that this meal is as special as our first. They're heated to over ten million degrees Kelvin and rotated 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 grab TRIANGULUM's dish.)*

*(TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

That is not for you to gravitate to. Stupid tidal force... Getting behind the ear because there's a vacuum in your head.

*(Unnervingly scratching GRAVITY's ear.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Throw dog a meteor. If tidal force wants swig, they can have spaghettification. Fix...? Who are good tidal forces? You all are!

*(Tossing invisible spaghetti at GRAVITY.)*

**TIDALS**

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

*(SINGULARITY tries to get the TIDALS to sit.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix.

*(MILKY WAY dives into their dish.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Again, Milky Way?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

**CARTWHEEL**

It takes eight 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. Y'all are the morbidly spiral Galaxies.*

**ANDROMEDA**

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

**TRIANGULUM**

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



(*TRIANGULUM tosses the whoopie cushion at CARTWHEEL.*)

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the defense.*)

### **MILKY WAY**

(*Mouthful of nuclear pasta.*)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids<sup>2</sup>.

**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.

(*Lovingly pinching MILKY WAY's cheek.*)

Always, full of grace. Let us save space.

### **2. CRUNCH**

(*SINGULARITY prays.*)

### **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.

(*The TEEN GALAXIES pray with SINGULARITY.*)

---

<sup>2</sup> In geometry, an ellipsoid is a three-dimensional ellipse. In ELLIPSES, this is like calling someone "fat."

**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".]*



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

### 3. CUTTING EDGE

*(JD is looking upon their Galaxy family.)*

**JD**

NOT THE TIME  
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...  
CUT INTO MY—  
PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE OF THE...

*(GRAVITY turns JD's head to what's outside.)*

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...

*(Longingly sighing.)*

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<sup>3</sup>.

WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL?  
STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.

WHY ARE THESE OVALS<sup>4</sup> BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?  
LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

<sup>3</sup> In geometry, ellipses are ovals. In linguistics, ellipses indicate omissions. In ELLIPSES, this is a divisive term.

<sup>4</sup> Being called an “oval” is like being called “slow” while being called an “ellipse” is akin to a curse word.



### **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—

*(In JD's head, the TEEN GALAXIES sound like they are droning on.)*

### **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<sup>5</sup>...  
AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A LIGHTLESS GALAXY.  
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 in JD's head.)*  
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

#### **JD**

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

---

<sup>5</sup> Singularity.



(*JD lets GRAVITY ground them.*)

**JD**

JD...

**TEEN GALAXIES**

SPT0615-JADED-

**JD**

GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

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".]

(*GRAVITY and JD embrace.*)

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

Grounded. You're my tidal  
force, Gravity.

**SINGULARITY**

I will spare a millennium to listen to your verse, JD. You are  
apparent to me. Clear and crisp like how I raised you to be.

**JD**

I love you too, Singularity...

**SINGULARITY**

You love Gravity, too much. That dog is a bad influence.

**JD**

You Singularity, raised me physically. Gravity raised my spirit.

**SINGULARITY**

Your soul will be dragged down to their level if you keep it up.  
What are you looking forward to? What's pulling at your heart?

**JD**

Abell... There is something ringing in mine.

**SINGULARITY**

A bell? Your astronomical clock must be malfunctioning.

**JD**

My biological clock remains malnourished.

**SINGULARITY**

Our biology has no logic. If you hope for any of your fictitious  
clock to be functioning and nourished, you may... *Galaxies*?

**TEEN GALAXIES**

Join us for Crunch—

**JD**

I'm done with Crunch. I'm tired of the same old dish of photons  
that we eat and dishing it out with these teen Galaxies.

**MILKY WAY**

JD, who is Abell?

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

Even a grownup Galaxy needs to accrete. My babies need to grow.  
There is *nothing* out there for you.

**JD**

There is someone for that *nothing*. That someone is me.

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

I'm ready to pass on your light. Our light. Singularity... *May I go to the Edge of the Universe?*

**SINGULARITY**

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

**SINGULARITY****JD**

No means *no*. Can I play with *nothing*? Please?

**JD**

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

**SINGULARITY**

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

**JD**

As your heart has told you... There is a prophecy that once we gather enough light, we must share with the lightless. Abell... I've set my sights on a fulfilling legacy.

**SINGULARITY**

What was said is unapparent. Drop this legacy nonsense. The future is *nothing*. Be present for your family. Join us for Cr-

(*Reaching for JD.*)

(*GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl with SINGULARITY all about.*)

(*The TEEN GALAXIES take JD to safety.*)

**TIDALS**

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

(*GRAVITY grounds SINGULARITY on the rug. They try to corral the TIDALS.*)

**GRAVITY**

Force. Force. Force. Force. Force. Force.

(*Running to the opening of the Ellipse. They hit an invisible wall and dizzily fall back.*)

*Free... Free... Free... Free... Free... Free...*

(*SINGULARITY gets up. They slightly lift up the rug.*)

(*The TIDALS tremble and bow out. They leave.*)

**SINGULARITY**

You all get on my nerves. Entitled forces. Back in the doghouse.

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

Um, I literally am the center. I, Singularity, have my hands in and on the entire Universe... Better a puppet than a pet.

**JD**

If you're going to keep the Galaxies in, at least let Gravity and the dogs out... It will come back to bite you in the end if you don't give them space.

**SINGULARITY**

And let them treat the Fabric of Spacetime like the springs of a trampoline? No dog bites or rips on my spacetime fabric.

**JD**

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

**SINGULARITY**

Oh now you want to consider my center...

**JD**

Yours and our centers hold all the light in this Universe. You've shed enough light upon us. I need to shed mine.

**SINGULARITY**

I expect lights out when you Galaxies go off to bed. See you Gals in Crunch Time.

(*SINGULARITY exits, dragging GRAVITY out.*)

**MILKY WAY**

I'm no baby.

**TRIANGULUM**

You know... *Nothing* is more childish than being fixated on anything but the gravity of the situation.

**CARTWHEEL**

What just happened?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Gravity went berserk. Brought down Singularity.

**JD**

Gravity never lets me down.

I'm not stooping to your level and blaming the dog, Galaxies.

**ANDROMEDA**

We're all on the same plane. The same Ellipse.

**CARTWHEEL**

What is so special about the Edge?

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Nothing ain't relative to us there.*

**JD**

You'll understand in no time...

**MILKY WAY**

We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

**JD**

Exactly... Why you're a baby, Milky Way. Crunch Time is all that you look forward to. And this Universe is the only one you see.

**MILKY WAY**

Me no baby!



**ANDROMEDA**

Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one... Declinations.

(Heading off to bed.)

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

With nomy/mama/papa not around, let's deck the Ellipse-

**TRIANGULUM**

Oh no, you're not.

(Trying to drag away CARTWHEEL or WHIRLPOOL.)

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

You're such a square, Triangulum.

**MILKY WAY**

Square? Reminds me... Board game? Tardigrades and Elevators?!

(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off to bed.)

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

Look at the time... Declinations!

(TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to JD. They head off to bed.)

**TRIANGULUM**

Last one to bed is an anomaly!

(JD sets the snow globe on the rug.)

**JD**

I can't even with this family...

**MILKY WAY**

Odd... You cannot be with me?



**JD**

I'm with you, every step of the way. I was you, Milky Way.

**MILKY WAY**

In what way?

*(JD sits at the table.)*

**JD**

Well, I'm waiting on you to grab Water Bears and Elevators.

*(MILKY WAY joyfully brings out a board game.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Wait... You like games? You an adult?

*(JD holds up a miniature figure.)*

**JD**

No... I'm a wat- Land bear.

**MILKY WAY**

Oh... That means... I the water-

**JD**

You're the air bear.

**MILKY WAY**

Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusing.

**JD**

I'm the adult around here...

**MILKY WAY**

Fine. Gas it is... May I ask...? What different? Being adult?

**JD**

Even at this age, I still like to game. Mess around even. We play a game called "life." The goal is to go from one Ellipse to another. Every Ellipse are risks.

**MILKY WAY**

To you... What is between Ellipse?

**JD**

A liminal space...?

*(MILKY WAY tries to repeat the word.)*

*Liminal.* It's where who we were ends and who we are begins. You're in the liminal space, too.

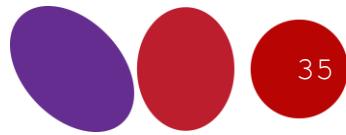
*(MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on the board.)*

*(JD holds figures with various heights.)*

You'll soon not fit in your Ellipse... I stopped fitting in yours ten eternities ago. I don't fit in mine anymore. You're going to fill my Ellipse. Your body will be a teeny bit different. Anyone who's not a toddler needs to *figure that out* on their own.

**MILKY WAY**

As air bear, I only go up from here... I will own you, land bear!



#### **4. FIGURE**

*(The actions taken upon the board as JD and MILKY WAY sing this duet is open ended.)*

##### **MILKY WAY**

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

##### **JD**

LIFE HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS.

##### **MILKY WAY**

GO FIG— UH.

##### **JD**

TAKE TWENTY STEPS FORWARD  
LEAVES YOU WANTING TO BE SEVEN STEPS BACK.

##### **MILKY WAY**

TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

##### **JD**

YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.  
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.  
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT OUT OUT...

##### **MILKY WAY**

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

**JD**

NO ONE KEEPS THEIR FIGURE.  
YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FIGURE.

**MILKY WAY**

I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

**JD**

LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

**MILKY WAY**

I'LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

**JD**

YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.  
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.  
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT OUT OUT...

**MILKY WAY**

I CAN'T LOSE FIGURE.  
I NEEDA KEEP FIGURE.

**JD**

Even when your mind revisits your past self, the system will always push your body forward.

**MILKY WAY**

*(Intensely cracking in their voice.)*

I no want to go far in this game, called— Uh, life. I hate my figure. I hate myself.

(*JD puts their figure in a winning position.*)

**JD**

Has anyone ever told you that your voice warps more beautifully with each passing millennium? Ground yourself, Milky Way...

(*MILKY WAY slaps JD's figure off the board.*)

LOST MY FIGURE...

(*MILKY WAY hands their figure to JD.*)

**MILKY WAY**

KEEP THE FIGURE.

[End of "Figure".]

(*GRAVITY shouts from offstage.*)

**GRAVITY**

Pawn!

**JD**

Gravity?

**MILKY WAY**

That dog keep howlin'.

**GRAVITY**

Free fall! Free me, JD!

**MILKY WAY**

Quiet dog before Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake up.

**JD**

I'll take care of them. It's bedtime. Gal, you're still a baby.  
*Quit the sour face, Milky Way.* I'm the anomaly in this family.

*(Bowing.)*

*(MILKY WAY bows. They head off to bed.)*

**GRAVITY****JD**

*Nothing* is free!

You always understand me...

**GRAVITY**

I believe in *nothing*, like you. There's *nothing* out there for you.

**JD**

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

**GRAVITY**

*Nothing* is out there for you. *Nothing* is out there, waiting for you. A wide-open space for you and me. Save space, for the dogs. Save space for me. A space without Singularity. Zilch is not out of our Ellipse. Zilch is underneath. You'll know in spacetime.

*(JD unrolls the rug. They discover the Big Bang Taser.)*

**JD**

Our rug of spacetime...?

<u>5. ZILCH</u>
-----------------

**GRAVITY**

Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.



(*JD ignites the Big Bang Taser. They accidentally shock themselves. They read it.*)

**JD**

Zilch— Big Bang Taser...?

(*The TIDALs remain offstage. They are scared.*)

**TIDALs**

Fall...

**GRAVITY**

Stun your nomy/mommy/daddy! Free me! No longer bound by family.  
Make *nothing* your legacy! End Singularity!

(*ABELL briefly stands up from their seat.*)

[End of “Zilch”.]

(*SINGULARITY yells and slaps offstage.*)

**SINGULARITY**

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

(*JD hides the Big Bang Taser under the rug.*)

(*SINGULARITY enters.*)

Something wrong, my Capricorn? Tardigrades and Elevators? I remember making this for you, twenty-something eternities ago. I guess, *nothing* really changes. Declinations, JD.

(*Bowing.*)

**JD**

Nothing... Declinations, nomy/mother/father.

**SINGULARITY**

Speaking of declining. I know that Gravity and I seemed to have a falling out. Gravity has been... Letting me down lately.

**JD**

Maybe you should let them out?

**SINGULARITY**

I let the tidal dogs out and the next thing you know you Gals are out and about. I'm not letting any of you play outside.

**JD**

I'm passed that. I'm an adult. I don't play outside. I want to make something of myself on the other side.

**SINGULARITY**

You can't make something out of nothing.

**JD**

How did you make us? Out of nothing?

**SINGULARITY****JD**

JD...

*Why...?*

**SINGULARITY**

SPT0615-JD. How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light. To you all, the lightlessL "Nothing." I fed you the finest photons from the field equations I picked. Now, my oldest cluster of stars... Your heart is too massive for this Ellipse?

**JD**

My supermassive heart is ready. I have light to shed.

**SINGULARITY**

I will not let go of your light. All your luminosity stays here.

I know your urge to jump to another Ellipse. You're in a liminal space; which is also my space. You take one step out of this place and you're dead to me.

**JD**

What other space is there for you to go, you old Galaxy? I wish "Crunch Time" would die... I wish family time...

Well...? I'm dying to know what's out there!

**SINGULARITY**

Fine. I'll... I'll answer *why*. So long as I pass over what you sai—

*(Holding back tears.)*

JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It became apparent. That I had to leave my parents...

**JD**

Parents? You had multiple parents? Can I meet my grandparents...?

**SINGULARITY**

There is *nothing* to them, Bạch Hổ. They never poured a drop of light for me. They're apparently heartless.

**JD**

Being a single parent sure did wonders to you.

**SINGULARITY**

Quit the antics. Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

**SINGULARITY**

Stop making light—

**JD**

I need to shed my light.

**JD**

Light isn't made. It's passed down. And I'm not. There's not enough space. That's why I'm shedding.

**SINGULARITY**

Oh, the luminosity. You got to be shedding me...

*(Handing the monocular to JD. They point out.)*

You are old enough to respond to a heartless and lightless world beyond the Edge of the Universe, by not making light of it.

**JD**

You've raised my supermassive heart by pouring light into it. My lighty heart is ready to be shared with the heartless.

**SINGULARITY**

The point of my hearty outpouring is for you to forever lighten up. Not to ever lighten down. You are never getting passed me.

*(JD scopes out the Edge, longing for ABELL.)*

**JD**

Our purpose is to pour our heart out to life with less heart. The only way I can see light is if another Galaxy lightens up. Singularity... I wish— Nothing gets passed you... Not even light.

**6. LUMINOUS**

*(SINGULARITY takes back the monocular.)*

**SINGULARITY**

WHY DON'T YOU ENLIGHTEN US?  
SHED SOME LIGHT TO YOUR FAMILY.  
FORGET ME, SINCERELY.  
LET OUR CENTERS SET US STRAIGHT...



(*The TEEN GALAXIES enter in alignment.*)

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.

LUMINOUS.

TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.

I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.

LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.

WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

Us. And us. And us. And us. And us. At the center of us all is heavy. What looms in us is light. Take it in. Our black holes. And you... At the center of yours, is supermassive.

[*End of "Luminous".*]

(*GRAVITY rushes in. They scatter the TEEN GALAXIES. They scratch up the rug.*)

(*SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.*)

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're destroying the family rug! Its spacetime fabric is passed down from my parents...

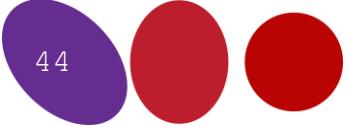
Gravity... For the last time, you've let down this family. You entitled dog... I'm putting you down for eternity.

(*JD grabs the Big Bang Taser from the rug.*)

(*SINGULARITY reaches underneath the rug to feel zilch. They soon see that JD is armed.*)

**JD**

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



## 7. BIG BANG

**SINGULARITY**

YOU ARE A BIG...

*(JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.)*

*(SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek and jerk in place.)*

*MISTAKEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.*

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

*(The TIDALS bark from offstage. They repeat.)*

**TIDALS**

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(SINGULARITY falls headfirst onto the rug, crushing the snow globe. They are lifeless.)*

**TIDALS**

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

*[The lights suddenly fill the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage.]*

*[It's the beginning of the Universe as we know it.]*



(*The TIDALs freely rush out. They make JD turn to what is outside.*)

(*JD gently walks to the edge of the home to look out, shifting from grief to wonder. They extend the Big Bang Taser through the opening of the home. They stow it away. They are surprised to step out onto the stage. They look back at their petrified siblings.*)

**JD**

MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT TO YOU ALL, FAMILY.  
BUT MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT FOR ME AND GRAVITY.  
DECLINATIONS!

(*GRAVITY gets a knapsack full of balls, embodying stars. They grab JD and run out. They run in place. They stop when they notice their lack of progress.*)

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge?

(*GRAVITY claws at the ground.*)

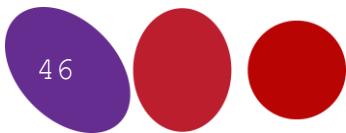
It's further away?

(*Taking a step downstage.*)

[*The light expands further out. The home moves upstage in between the back curtains.*]

It's getting further away. The Fabric of Spacetime is fabric, after all. And we're rolling it out, like our rug.

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



(*The TIDALS anxiously step out of the home. They suddenly unleash and scatter away.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. This wide-open space is our destination. Zenith is our destiny. Force!

(*JD stands, grateful to have a travel buddy.*)

### **JD**

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

(*Most of the TEEN GALAXIES step away from SINGULARITY to watch the Universe unravel, while MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themself around the lifeless SINGULARITY.*)

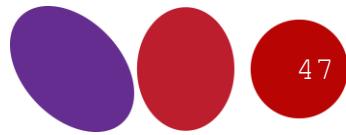
### **TEEN GALAXIES**

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE  
OUT WITH THE  
BIG BANG...

[End of "Big Bang".]

(*GRAVITY and JD run in place.*)

[*The home moves upstage, out of view.*]



*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

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

**8. VERSE**

*(GRAVITY and JD blissfully frolic now. They mix and match the constants of equations, as though they are picking flowers.)*

**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, POLYNOMIALS.  
PLANTING CONSTANTS AS MATH FARMERS.  
STAGES OF THE BIG BANG FORM HYPERBOLAS.  
ONLY HYPERBOLE!

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

*(GRAVITY puts together  $F = A \cdot M.$ )*

*(SINGULARITY echoes from another plane.)*

**SINGULARITY**

You are a big mis-

*(JD stops in their tracks while picking up the frequency ratio of a semitone in twelve-tone equal temperament:  $\sqrt[12]{2}.$ )*



**JD** (cont.)

MUSIC, DISCORDANCE, FAMILIAR.  
CROSSING THE LINE FULL OF SCEPTICS.  
ZAPPING NOMY/MAMA/PAPA IS A TURN FOR THE WORSE...  
THAT'S THE STING OF REVERSE...

*(GRAVITY fixes and turns their equation into  
Newton's second law of motion:  $F = MA$ .)*

**GRAVITY**

Force?

*(JD smiles.)*

*(GRAVITY puts together Hubble's Law:  $v = H_0 D$ .)*

**JD**

DISTANCE VERSIFIES VELOCITY.  
BREVITY OF HUBBLE'S CONSTANT.  
THIS IS THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.  
JUST THE START OF OUR VERSE!

*[End of "Verse".]*

**GRAVITY**

Force!

*(GRAVITY and JD skip out, faster than ever.)*

*[The home returns, wheeled downstage.]*



[*The Center of the Universe*]

**9. RIP**

(*Choreographically, the TEEN GALAXIES lay SINGULARITY to rest under the rug. They bow.*)

**TEEN GALAXIES**

Singularity. Declinations, nomy/mommy/daddy.

[*End of "Rip".*]

(*MILKY WAY sniffles.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

Will you grow up? It's what Singularity would want us to do.

**ANDROMEDA**

We may be the oldest ones left, but we're still children.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We'll get older... We'll grow pessimistic.

**CARTWHEEL**

Nothing matters.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain't anything holding mass.

**ANDROMEDA**

Sorry, but this mass isn't over... Let's make time to grieve.

**MILKY WAY**

Is... Is Crunch Time make-able?

**CARTWHEEL**

We don't have time to grieve! We're about to lose mass as there's no longer such a break as Crunch Time.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We must make of what is left of our Universe before we break.

**MILKY WAY**

We gonna go hungry?

**CARTWHEEL**

Look at Singularity. What do you think?

**MILKY WAY**

I can't. When I hungry.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Let's at least think like Singularity. We're gonna round up all the tidal forces.

**CARTWHEEL**

*We're also going to be dog catchers now?*

**WHIRLPOOL**

We can gather the delicacies of field equations as our grandmaster of the Universe once did.

**CARTWHEEL**

We're now clusters of delicate flowers. Look out. The garden is thinning out. The cosmos is going to have a field day with us. We will starve to death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates.

**TRIANGULUM**

Luminous, Gals. Let's lighten up. Not think. Be Singularities.

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

Is your head a vacuum too, you square?

**MILKY WAY**

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing lightened up, for reals.

**TRIANGULUM**

The Universe will return to its scheduled Crunch Time shortly. My mental bandwidth may be thinning out like the Universe, but it sure is expanding. Making the Universe spotless is what Singularity would've wanted. We have ourselves to blame for the Universe's biggest mistake.

**MILKY WAY**

I blame Big Bang thingy.

**WHIRLPOOL**

It ain't just a thingy.

**CARTWHEEL**

The thingy tases. So, a taser...?

**ANDROMEDA**

Why would such a weapon be in the hands of our wisest sibling?

(*WHIRLPOOL sits on the rug.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Maybe it was passed down by the wisest being in the Universe?

**CARTWHEEL**

Singularity? They had this, *Big Bang Taser*, the whole time?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Wholesomely, I joined them in meditation. One time, they felt out of place. Suddenly, they pulled it out. Our nomy/mama/papa never fired the thing. I didn't know it would do, *that...*

**TRIANGULUM**

There's no way that Singularity would give anything to us beyond light. Let alone power?

**ANDROMEDA**

Where is the power...?

**TRIANGULUM**

Where's it not? In this Ellipse. Listen to me. Let's unravel JD.

(*CARTWHEEL* and *WHIRLPOOL* turn away.)

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

**MILKY WAY**

You all mistaken... Gravity ravel JD.

**ANDROMEDA**

We're blaming the dog now...?

**MILKY WAY**

Gravity, cute. JD talk to dog all the time. JD gone mad.

**TRIANGULUM**

You're right, Milky Way. It's the dog's fault. Gravity caused the Big Bang. And it's on us Galaxies to start the Big Crunch. For Singularity.

**MILKY WAY**

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

**TRIANGULUM**

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. You're babysitting Milky Way.

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal... No one has time for this Barred Galaxy.

**TRIANGULUM**

You two will make sure that our baby barred sibling doesn't get in the way. *Andromeda and I* are going to find JD. Disarm the anomalous. Any anomaly is powerless without their family...

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

An anomaly stays an anomaly. Relatively, family stays family.

**TRIANGULUM**

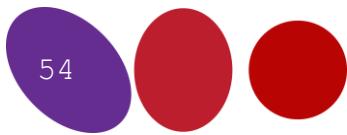
Let's not let JD face their destiny but their family.

**ANDROMEDA**

Everything is a... What is family?

**MILKY WAY**

What is anomaly?



**10. ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING**

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL****ANDROMEDA**

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

**TRIANGULUM**

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.

ANOMALY IS THEIR THING,  
FROM THE WAY THEY MOVED TO THE WAY THEY UNDERSTOOD.  
ANOMALY IS OUR THING,  
LIKE THIS ELLIPSE WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.

*(Bringing out the shattered snow globe.)*

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

**TEEN GALAXIES not 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**

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

**TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY IS ALL WE'VE EVER KNOWN...

(*Sitting on a whoopie cushion at the table.*)

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly laugh.*)

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

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

(*Hiding away the whoopie cushion.*)

ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!

ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

(*Grabbing ANDROMEDA. They both exit.*)

[End of "Anomaly is Everything".]

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL stop laughing. They realize they have been bamboozled.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Do you wanna play Tardigrades and Elevators with me?

**CARTWHEEL**

Look! Nomy/Mommy/Daddy has a warm plate of nuclear pasta!

(*MILKY WAY does not turn around.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Yeah... Nomy/Mommy/Daddy cooks shooting stars in my heart...

(*CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs off.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling at home for your sporty ego? Triangulum tries too hard. But you take it to the next level. In general, this is specially unrelativistic what we are doing...

**CARTWHEEL**

What do you know about special relativity? Our special little relative will be especially fine. We may have very few games or distractions around, but *kids have their imaginations*. Now imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum's and Andromeda's face that we're the galactic duos! We'll undo the Big Bang before them and save the Universe! We'll be home in Crunch Time.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time will tell...

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.*)

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's mind.*)

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

You are now the adult in the house.

**MILKY WAY**

I'm no adult...

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

If you're no adult, then you are a baby.

**MILKY WAY**

I'm no baby!

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

Go out there and prove it! Put an end to the Big Bang!

**MILKY WAY**

Who are you?

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

We're another sense. We're adole-

**MILKY WAY**

Sounds like peer pressure...

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

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

**MILKY WAY**

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

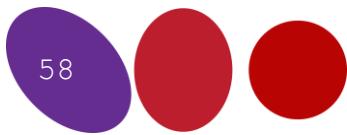
*Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.*

*(MILKY WAY departs away from the safety of the Ellipse.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Plant friends. I can't wait, see what this Galaxy can do. What Universe holds. Wait... Adole- What now?

*[The home moves upstage, out of view.]*



[*The Fabric of Spacetime*]

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)

(*ANDROMEDA mumbles the Galaxy shanty, "Globular". They take out their monocular. They scope out towards the Center.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Red shift. You're facing the wrong way...

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye just want to know how far we've come... We walked a few mill...

**TRIANGULUM**

I want to know how far we'll be coming. The Center of our Universe should not be in the scope of things. Family may be everything to us but—

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope. There's nothing.

**TRIANGULUM**

'Scuse me?

**ANDROMEDA**

Melky Way is away. No one is at the Ellipse...

**TRIANGULUM**

Those galactic idiots... This voyage is in vain.

**ANDROMEDA**

K, so... We're setting our course back to home base. Please try not to gamma-ray burst a vein.

(*TRIANGULUM takes out the broken snow globe.*)

Triangulum... Triangulate.

**TRIANGULUM**

JD... It's late out here. Going from finding JD to finding Milky...

**ANDROMEDA**

JD can wait...

**TRIANGULUM**

That was the problem... They waited too long.

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope. I take it back. They're not waiting. The Universe is their oyster. They're living the dream. Let's find Melky Way. For our pearl, Singularity. Then we'll go back and warsh the Fabric of Spacetime of their filth and see what this sea offers us.

**TRIANGULUM**

Oh to let Singularity's favorite child get in harm's way... Cart and Whirl are going to meet my spiral arms.

*My 30,000-light-year radius packs a punch, okay? Anyways, if their attention spans are this short for Milky Way, their attention spans will also be short on their way. I hope the Fabric of Spacetime tells them there's family time to be saved.*

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA head back.*)



(*WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.*)

(*CARTWHEEL clumsily lands their cartwheel.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

My time is... Up.

**WHIRLPOOL**

In the air?

**CARTWHEEL**

*In a vacuum...* Yes, in the air!

**WHIRLPOOL**

Why're you full of uncertainty?

**CARTWHEEL**

Time is so slow. And it gets slower. Are we ever going to reach the Edge of the Universe? I'm uncertain of where we're going.

**WHIRLPOOL**

You're certain 'nough that time is closer to the end than the start. Me too. Time's gonna end. So is this game we're playing. We ain't gonna reach the Edge before Andromeda and Triangulum.

(*Sitting and preparing to meditate.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

Give me a millennium to consider your input.

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal... For the billionth time, we're not going home. And home is not home without Crunch Time. We're running out of food.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Well, the Ellipse certainly had a roof. And now we have a billion less time with no shelter over our heads. A billion less time without our family.

**CARTWHEEL**

We need to spend billions of more years to find the Edge of our Universe and roll it back. Can you do that?

**WHIRLPOOL**

We ain't gonna reach the Edge before the other galactic duo. But we can be at the Center for our remote baby sibling. They're on the brink of leaping onto another Ellipse at this point in their life. I ain't spending another millennium without Milky Way.

**CARTWHEEL**

I get it. Milky Way is showing signs of waves and wrinkles. Well, let's not sit around all year as I stand here plotting our next move. I say, we face the waves ahead.

**CARTWHEEL**

Whirl, you're a whirlpool in this sea.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Cart, you be the steering wheel of this ship.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We're anchoring and making up lingos like Andromeda... Well, I'm just sitting here tryna make us turn this ship around.

**CARTWHEEL**

No turning back. Our scallywag's preoccupied with our dead captain.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Singularity wouldn't be disappointed if we considered our own safety, ring sibling.

**CARTWHEEL**

Whatever's left of my ring. I'm not worried if we'd disappoint them... I'm worried that we let *Triangulum* and *Andromeda* ditch us. It's time to prove that I, Cartwheel, am more well-rounded than *Triangulum* would ever be.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Forget our own egos. Let's consider Milky Way's safety. We can at least say that we're better babysitters than *Triangulum*.

**CARTWHEEL**

I'm not playing another Tardigrades and Elevators board game or reading another *Journey to the Cosmic* bedtime story to them...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Can you calm down and listen to your own supermassive heart? We are missing out on watching our baby sibling's development. Time ain't have bonus points. Time runs out... Time passes. *Dilation*...

**CARTWHEEL**

Can you expand on that?

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Dilation* means to expand.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Expansive*. And your point is?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Our Bạch Hổ would eat us alive if we let Milky Way go through the nuclear leftovers in the fridge.

I know what I just said was heavy. And weights on your shoulders make time go even slower. Just enjoy the time we have together. Help me piece the time dilation equation. Give time a whirl...

**CARTWHEEL**

Time's so special with you, relative. As a light individual, times are heavy weights.

**WHIRLPOOL**

A little enlightenment ain't gonna hurt. Wait for the light.

**11. TIME IS RELATIVE****CARTWHEEL**

SO, FAMILY COMES FIRST IN MIND?

(*WHIRLPOOL meditates.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

(*Tapping the ground.*)

Live with me in the millennium.

(*CARTWHEEL sits and poorly meditates.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

You have Singularity's chakras...

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

The focal point is to think about our relatives.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm slow as time... Drop this meditation. We're not bending from our objective.*

**WHIRLPOOL**

*And that is to make amends with our family...*

**CARTWHEEL**

Get bent.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Bent or straight, time points towards the end. Let's ride the rest of it out with our loved ones.

TIME'S FOR FAMILY;  
THAT'S WHY LIFE AIN'T FAST WITHOUT THEM.

**CARTWHEEL**

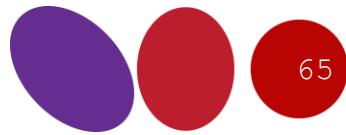
SINCE TIME GETS REAL SLOW,  
THEN LIFE IS LONGER WITHOUT THEM.

**WHIRLPOOL**

THAT AIN'T HOW TIME WORKS.

**CARTWHEEL**

FAMILY'S NOT IN THE EQUATION.

**WHIRLPOOL**

CHANGE IS.

**CARTWHEEL**

CHANGES?

**WHIRLPOOL**

YOU'LL CHANGE IN TIME.

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY  
SQUARED DIVIDED—

*(CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL's strike.)*

TIME IS RUNNING OUT,  
YET TENSOR CALCULUS STRAINS YOU.

**CARTWHEEL**

NO ATTENTION SPANS  
FOR REALITY THAT PAINS ME.  
EACH MOMENT'S LOST TIME...

**WHIRLPOOL**

FAMILY'S IN OUR EQUATION.  
THEY MAKE UP OUR SOCIAL CONSTRUCT.

*(CARTWHEEL gets up and walks away. They timely rotate.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

DOWNTIME.



(*WHIRLPOOL spirals clockwise in place.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

I CAN'T FACE TIME.

**WHIRLPOOL**

PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time goes slower the further you move into one's gravity. So, your black-hole heart is younger than how you look. Really, you're naïve and scared on the inside. Life went by fast when the family was together. One millennium, you were baby Cartwheel. The next, you're a teen with hands on the wheel. The same goes for Milky Way. However, we ain't present for our baby sibling. We will miss their stages of development, from height to psyche. Sure, you yourself ain't grown a bit. But get it through your head that there will someday be no time.

**CARTWHEEL**

Let's steer away from the time dilat- *Dilemma*, that we face. Milky Way will outgrow our neglect. Past, present, and future, all we need is each other. You'll come around to it.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME'S TOO RELATIVE.  
WE NEED TO SEE OUR FAMILY.  
YOU'LL KNOW IN NO TIME...

[*Light slows near WHIRLPOOL while light stops near CARTWHEEL.*]

**CARTWHEEL**

T. Time... Over. Time has an influence on us all... Square. Our family square... Root. Where we come from... Of one. Our single parent... Minus velocity. Each of us leaving for another city... Squared divided. Our family is divided... By the speed of light squared. Even though we squared off, our family will truly be over once we see the light...



(*CARTWHEEL reaches enlightenment.*)

**CARTWHEEL** (cont.)

Time is more special than it is relative... Because unlike light, time is not passed down. Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. Triangulum may be obtuse. Milky Way may be cute. Whirlpool and I left home at the age of thirteen or so eternities near the speed of light. Milky Way was twelve eternities old. If we come back eternities later, we'll only be a few eternities older while Milky Way may be rightfully old. Time dilation... We may forever be Singularity's babies. But no matter how hard we try, nevermore family will be. Whether times are fast or slow, it doesn't change that time will pass away. I must take on this weight. We must be there for our family before we won't have time anymore. We'll know in... No time.

TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

(*Returning and lending a hand to WHIRLPOOL.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL accepts their hand. They stand with CARTWHEEL.*)

[*Their lights gradually balance one another.*]

(*Through a training montage, CARTWHEEL assembles the time dilation equation:*

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

*They share it with WHIRLPOOL.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

(*CARTWHEEL eventually earns their ring. They can perfectly 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**

(Proudly.)

WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

**CARTWHEEL**

TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE'S LIGHTER.

*[Light forms a box like a picture frame around CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.]*

TIME IS IN OUR FRAME OF REFERENCE.  
TIMES ARE SPECIAL FOR YOU AND ME.

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL have a warm stance.)*

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

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

*[End of "Time is Relative".]*

*[The home returns, wheeled downstage.]*



[*The Center of the Universe*]

**12. BIG RIP**

(*The TIDALS dance around SINGULARITY's body. They are celebratory at SINGULARITY's demise. The Big Bang is a holiday to them.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

Dilations, Milky Way. We're home! Singularity?! Don't get near our relative!

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**CARTWHEEL**

I knew we'd miss out on Milky Way going through an appetite. I didn't think we missed them because they're now appetite.

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

Give us back our little sibling, you savage tidal forces! Once we're through with the Big Bang, we're putting you back in the doghouse!

(*The TIDALS surround CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL. They growl, bark, howl, and chase them out.*)

**TIDALS**

Force! Force! Fall!

[*The home moves upstage, out of view.*]

[*End of "Big Rip".*]



[*The Fabric of Spacetime*]

(*MILKY WAY exhaustively drifts in.*)

**MILKY WAY**

My tummy hurts... Need Crunch Time with family. Milky Way for...

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM lives in MILKY WAY's head.*)

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

Forgotten?

**MILKY WAY**

Imaginary friends?

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

No, we're your planetary friends.

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

I'm not.

**SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS, NOT EARTH**

No one is asking you, Earth.

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

Don't give up. You're not the only one forgotten. Everyone knows Pluto. But I'm cooler, literally. I'm Eris and I should be the heiress/heir-no-less of the dwarf planets. You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are larger than many.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER (Whirlpool)**

You most certainly are a massive spiral Galaxy.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN (Cartwheel)**

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER (Whirlpool)**

Go play with your ring.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN (Cartwheel)**

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

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)**

Two. In fact.

**JUPITER (Whirlpool)****SATURN (Cartwheel)**

You are a two.

*(Laughing.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)**

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)**

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the butt of the joke!

**MILKY WAY**

You have a son?

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)**

No... Sun is our nomy/mother/father. We are basically sons of Sun.

**MILKY WAY**

Sons can have sons...?



### **SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

Yes, child. It's 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?

### **SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)**

Earth, you know we don't discuss galactic formation in our Solar System household. It is theoretical heresy.

### **SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. But you're not in the inner circle like Earth is. Trust me as I make my way around the Kuiper Belt. I hate my elliptical orbit. One decade, you're with your family. The next centuries, you're a rogue planet.

### **MILKY WAY**

Patience. Only a millennium.

### **SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

Oh yeah, you're a Galaxy. The frame of time is dilated for you. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last time you were in your family's orbit was... 13.81 billion years ago. As a Galaxy, do you hate being an oval?

### **SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)**

Earth, I didn't raise you to be mean to other shapes.

### **SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

Sun. Just like you as a star, I'm very proud to be a sphere. Milky Way... Ew, waves... Pff, wrinkles.

*(MILKY WAY feels their body and face.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. They may be the perfect person that you always want to be. But you are already a person, Milky Way. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Just like Oort Cloud, who I want you to meet.

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

I'm out of this Solar System and yet I have a stronghold on it, just like you. I have an influence that is about a hundred thousand astronomical units wide, but you, you are 6.685 billion. I've heard a lot about you, Milky Way. Personally, I know enough about comets' tails. Do you have a tidal tale to share with us, Milky Way? Gather around, Solar System!

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM pops out as puppets.*)

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

(*MILKY WAY gracelessly and half-melodically bellows, with cracks. They suddenly hiccup.*)

Milky Way warped themself!

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts into laughter.*)

(*MILKY WAY bursts into tears.*)

**MILKY WAY**

I hate myself...

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

All the use crying, Milky Way. Let it out. Melk of celestial kindness. There is a pattern here. You show a huge quality.

(*MILKY WAY examines their physical self.*)

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

Not your mass. Oh, the Ellipses... You are a special Galaxy. You hold something dear that no one else has. Well, *your siblings probably do, but they won't show it.*

**MILKY WAY**

*Tell me.*

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

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

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (ensemble character)**

There are people in me.

**SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS, NOT EARTH**

Cut your hubris, Earth!

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

We like all things, *unearthly*, about you. You carry our weight, our history, our culture, our pride, our secrets, our voices.

**MILKY WAY**

*Sing it.*

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

You must first, own it.

*(MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM puppets.)*

### 13. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

#### **SOLAR SYSTEM**

MILKY WAY'S  
ON THEIR OWN.  
ALL ALONE.  
KNOW THAT FOR  
US AT HOME.  
YOU'RE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD,  
THROUGH WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.  
  
THROUGH IT ALL.  
THICK AND THIN.  
THROUGH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

#### **SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

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

#### **SOLAR SYSTEM**

IMAGINARY!

#### **SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

BUT REALLY...

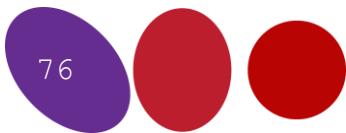
#### **SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

#### **SOLAR SYSTEM**

ONE OF SEVERAL...

*(Extra arms extend out behind MILKY WAY.  
They are unaware of these arms.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

ARMS, IN FACT.

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)**

Look in a mirror!

**MILKY WAY**

What's mirror?

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS (Triangulum)**

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

**MILKY WAY**

I never know what I look like...

*(The extra arms shake MILKY WAY's hands.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS, not EARTH**

Neither do we. But take it from us, we know you're beautiful on the inside!

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake each hand.)*

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.

PERSEUS ARM.

NORMA, CYGNUS.

SAGITTARIUS,

ARM AND HEART.

WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.

ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

*[A tiny arm pops out.]*

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

You are Magellanic.

They're not planets and you don't need to imagine. We hid a present in your waves.

*(MILKY WAY digs into their dress. They pull out two magnolia flowers.)*

Like you, they have existed from the beginning of time. They signify perseverance and longevity—

*(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)*

Don't eat your natural satellites!

**MILKY WAY**

*(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds.)*

I gravitate my feelings...

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

You ellipsoid... Go ahead and have a taste of the Local Group while you're at it. Cook Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs.

**MILKY WAY**

Parsecs no work like that. Parsecs distance, not time.

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER (Whirlpool)**

It's the nature of Galaxies... They'll eat everything.



### **SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN (Cartwheel)**

Like us gas giants. We're persons too after all!

### **SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS (JD)**

Like you said, Oort Cloud: Milky Way has always been a person. In fact, they have reached a new stage in personhood.

(*MILKY WAY sings with cracks and flaws.*)

#### **MILKY WAY**

I NOW HAVE  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.  
I LIVE WITH IT.  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Deepening voice.)

I LOVE MYSELF.

(*The extra arms<sup>6</sup> may hug MILKY WAY.*)

(Many SOLAR SYSTEMs spiral in. These dancers resemble known and unknown stars and planets, while EARTH drags their feet. They orbit MILKY WAY like the spiral arms around a supermassive black hole of a Galaxy. One dancer 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...  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!  
WE LOVE IT ALL!

---

<sup>6</sup> Avalokiteshvara, the multi-armed Buddhist deity who embodies compassion. Religious imageries make this song.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SUN (Singularity)**

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

(*MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMs lower a bit in distress. They confidently resume.*)

**MILKY WAY****SOLAR SYSTEMs**

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

[End of "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles".]

[*The stage goes red as though the Sun has become a red giant and is swallowing the Solar System in their wake.*]

(*The SOLAR SYSTEMs run away and steal MILKY WAY's halo. EARTH screams in the searing heat. JUPITER and SATURN maniacally laugh.*)

(*MILKY WAY suddenly feels a headache. They touch their forehead. They take their hand off to reveal a zit on their forehead.*)

**MILKY WAY**

W— W— N— Wr—

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (Andromeda)**

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

(*MILKY WAY passes out on the ground.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)



14. GLOBULAR

**ANDROMEDA**

EVERYTHING IS A BIG CLUSTER FLUX.  
 THAT IS THE SPIRIT, ISN'T IT?  
 THAT'S HOW YE BE SPENDING OUR SPACETIME?  
  
 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! Declinations! We have found you!

**ANDROMEDA**

Did we lose you? Are they in the temple of the cosmic beyond?

**TRIANGULUM**

Oh. No. They're going through puber- There's a zit on their temple. A pimple. They certainly found themself before we did...

**MILKY WAY**

Zi- Zi- It?

**ANDROMEDA**

Your voice has warped...

**TRIANGULUM**

It's a zit, we know... A zit is when after several billion years, a star grows into a red giant, swallows the planets near it, and enflames 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. Let's supernova it and get going.

**MILKY WAY**

No... Plant friends.

**ANDROMEDA**

Plant friends?

**MILKY WAY**

Their name is Solar System.

**TRIANGULUM**

This Solar System of yours is causing you astronomical pain. Milky Way, extinguishing it is yours and their only remedy.

*(Smirking at ANDROMEDA.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope, what?

**TRIANGULUM**

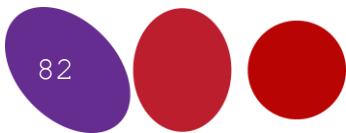
Pop it.

Pop the red giant.

**ANDROMEDA**

No.

I'm not touching that thing.

**TRIANGULUM**

What? A little space scurvy is too scary for you?

**ANDROMEDA**

Since ye such an expert on anomalous zits, why don't ye scurry to the red giant?

**TRIANGULUM**

I have these teeny spiral arms, remember?

**ANDROMEDA**

Least ye aren't a Ring Galaxy...

**15. FABRIC**

(*The TIDALS howl from offstage.*)

**TIDALS**

Fall!

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL run in. They crash into TRIANGULUM.*)

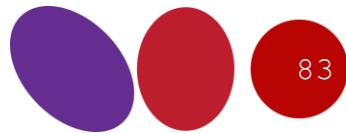
**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

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 Universe alone.

(*The TIDALS enter, prowling in.*)



### **CARTWHEEL**

### **WHIRLPOOL**

Too late... The tidal dogs are out for our gas and dust!

### **TRIANGULUM**

Who let the tidal forces out?! Let's get you all back in the doghouse. We have treats for you! A cosmic bone to pick with you.

*(The TIDALs almost bite and growl.)*

### **TRIANGULUM**

We're not the treats! We're not retreating... What is wrong?

### **ANDROMEDA**

They've been wronged for their entire lives... The wide-open space has driven things into righteousness...

### **TRIANGULUM**

But they have been used to the righteous doghouse for eternities. They have been nothing but well fed.

### **ANDROMEDA**

And once JD gave them a taste of the Fabric of Spacetime... Of freedom... This "nothingness." Once Singularity lost control of the Universe and the Tidals. They 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**

Tidals. It's not what it looks like. We are not rolling the Universe back to the way things were... We're trying to... Um.

**MILKY WAY**

Fix, it...

*(The TIDALs instinctually sit briefly. They recircle the TEEN GALAXIES, ready to pounce.)*

**TIDALS**

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

*(ANDROMEDA pops MILKY WAY's zit.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Quasar<sup>7</sup>!

*[The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.]*

*(The TIDALs get blinded and scatter away.)*

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

Milky Way. Don't go to the light!

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope... The light is actually coming from Melky Way.

**TRIANGULUM**

Ew... That's the most extreme pulsar I've ever seen emitted.

---

<sup>7</sup>Quasar is an extremely luminous active galactic nucleus. For more information, read NASA's [article](#).

(*MILKY WAY stops emitting light.*)

**MILKY WAY**

*Quasi-stellar radio source...!*

(*ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

Looks like you are officially a teen Galaxy...

**TRIANGULUM**

I can't deal with another one...

(*MILKY WAY offers their hand.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Only way's forward...

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

**TRIANGULUM**

Milkomeda<sup>8</sup> forward, Milky Way. Milkomeda forward...

(*TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY walk it off, while CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly exit with them.*)

[End of "Fabric".]

(*GRAVITY, now huskier, and JD wander in.*)

(*JD ponders.*)

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<sup>8</sup> In 4.5 billion years, Milky Way and Andromeda will collide to form the elliptical galaxy: Milkomeda. Eventually, Triangulum will merge as well.

**JD**

A trillion years...

*(Grabbing a ball and tossing it.)*

Fetch, Gravity. Fetch the star!

*(GRAVITY retrieves the ball.)*

**GRAVITY**

Force!

*(JD pets GRAVITY.)*

**JD**

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

*(Tossing the ball.)*

*[A Quasar looms in the distance.]*

*(JD notices the Quasar.)*

Milky Way...

**GRAVITY**

Abell?

**JD**

Pet. Force...?

**GRAVITY**

Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are you a puppet any longer. But there's something that's pulling at your heartstrings: Abell. In that dome, you always said "Abell" under your breath whenever you looked out. What is Abell, and why do you want to pour your heart out for this Abell?

**JD**

Abell is a name I gave "nothing."

**GRAVITY**

Why name it Abell?

**JD**

My biological clock rings when I see them.

**GRAVITY**

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

**JD**

They're in another Ellipse... You wouldn't know them.

**GRAVITY**

The Edge of the Universe is just beyond the horizon.

**JD**

We keep rolling away that horizon... The Universe expands at 2.327 terameters per year per megaparsec... The light can't even see the end of the tunnel.

**GRAVITY**

This Fabric of Spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite. You're blowing it out of proportion.

**JD**

Portion... My little siblings are probably going hungry! Milky Way and I need to finish our game of Water Bears and Elevators!

**GRAVITY**

You're at the highest point in your life since you were away.

**JD**

Gravity... You led me down a lowly, if not lonely, path.

**GRAVITY**

Finally. Peace and quiet. *You're now the adult in the space.*

**JD**

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

**GRAVITY**

You've gone too far with Singularity. You had your way. The world you know is over. There's no turning back.

*(JD examines one of the balls.)*

**JD**

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.

**16. FAR-FETCHED****GRAVITY**

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



**JD**

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 YOU GALAXY NEEDS TO FETCH.  
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

*(Snatching the ball. They toss it towards  
the Center of the Universe.)*

GO FETCH THE STAR...

*(JD retrieves the ball. They cramp up.)*

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

**JD**

ALL'S A STRETCH!

**GRAVITY**

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

YOUR FAMILY  
WILL NOT FORGET.  
WILL NOT FORGIVE.  
CAN I FORETELL?  
CAN'T YOU FORESEE?  
THIS IS FAR-FETCHED.

*(JD woefully tugs at their heart.)*

**GRAVITY** (cont.)

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

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

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

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

*(JD drops numerous balls.)*

*(The TIDALs rush in like a tidal wave. They increasingly form lines like sled dogs.)*

**TIDALs**

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

**GRAVITY**

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

**TIDALs**

FAR!

**GRAVITY**

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXY NEED TO FETCH.

**TIDALs**

FETCH!

**GRAVITY**

POINT OF RETURN IS...



**JD**

FAR-FETCHED!

*(In place, GRAVITY and JD traverse the space with their tidal sled dogs.)*

**GRAVITY**

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

**JD**

WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.  
FAR-FETCHED.  
FAR-FETCHED.  
FRIENDSHIP SAILED  
FAR-FETCHED.  
FARTHER AWAY.

**TIDALs**

A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

*[End of "Far-Fetched".]*

*(GRAVITY, JD, and the TIDALs sled away.)*

*[The home returns, wheeled downstage.]*



[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*A Quasar looms in the distance.*]

17. POINT

(*SINGULARITY*curls up into a singularity on  
the spacetime rug. They are still very much  
dead.)

**SINGULARITY**

WHERE IS THE POINT IN ALL THIS TROUBLE?  
ALONE... I TREMBLE AT THIS POINT OR PERIOD.

MY POINT IS MOOT WHEN TIME HAS SENTENCED  
MY KIDS... TO A LIFE ON THE EDGE. NO RETURN.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE?  
SINGLE... WHAT IS THE ENTIRE POINT WITHOUT US?

(*The TIDALS remain offstage. They echo.*)

**TIDALS**

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

(*The MULTIPPLICITIES are in the audience.*)

**MULTIPPLICITIES**

WHAT IS THIS POINT TO MAKE, WHEN THEY'RE MADE?  
SINGLE  
PARENT WHO MADE MANY POINTS  
LIKE ALL THIS.

[*Their six Galaxies are physically demonstrated via puppets in the distance.*]

**TIDALS**

*(Echoing and repeating.)*

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

*(SINGULARITY sits upright. They meditate.)*

*[The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY. It progressively grows elliptical and eventually becomes the only light.]*

**MULTIPLICITIES**

THERE IS NO POINT TO REVERSE.  
THERE IS NO US IN YOUR VERSE.  
THE POINT OF THIS UNIVERSE  
IS YOU...

**SINGULARITY**

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

*[The light dims to a singular point on SINGULARITY's inescapable heart.]*

*[End of "Point".]*

*End of Act*

# ACT II

[*SINGULARITY's Backstory and Past Universe*]

*[Wonders fill the theatre. The front of the stage is solely lit. The stage is dark.]*

(*GRAVITY remains absent. They narrate.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Nothing... Like a little story to kill time.

Many eternities 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 other Galaxies, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was unlike any Multiplicity. 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 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, the Multiplicities sat Singularity 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.

### **18. HEAT DEATH**

*(In the audience, SINGULARITY stands up. They are youthful and resplendent as a Galaxy. They shoot FIX in the face with the Big Bang Taser. They run away from INVARIANT and FIX, their parents. They slide towards the stage and grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre. They hold on for dear life.)*

[*The fabric of spacetime stretches and eventually rips.*]

(*SINGULARITY tumbles in front of the stage. They hold a torn chunk of dark fabric, shielding the Big Bang Taser. They limp alongside the front of the stage. They find a spot to collapse against. They shiver as they feel lost 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**

HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

(*INVARIANT and FIX get up from the audience. They resemble laws of physics enforcers. They look about. In a pattern, they shout SINGULARITY's name in the hopes of finding them, then grieve with one another.*)

### **INVARIANT**

Singularity! Without you, we are *nothing*... We love you. Please, come home. We need you. Return to the Center of the Universe, at once. If you're going to run off into the cold, dark Universe, at least bring a jacket. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?!

Multiplicity. File a report. Our baby is missing!

### **FIX**

Singularity! Why did you grab my Big Bang taser?!

Multiplicity. We're the laws of physics enforcers. We're a part of the force... We raised them without forcing doubt on them. *But you just had to go and tell them their supermassive disorder.* Now, my face knows supermassive disorder. Ow... I authorized you to keep their center a secret!

## SINGULARITY

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

## INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We're perfectly heartless. They have a heart. And a black hole for one too. An anomaly. Don't you find it weird? Don't ya see the problem of stars orbiting that chasm of theirs? Right... Your eyes are swollen. Anywho, what would cells want to do circulating a heart? Why can't their stars be fixed like ours? I'd regret as a nomy/mother/father if I spaghettified the truth.

## SINGULARITY

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

## FIX

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Spaghettify? You ripped a wormhole in them. Though they have a heart, it's functional. Still, you broke it. You dug into this dark energy. You've regretted their supermassive heart and the spirit 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...

## INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Ever since they were born, the doctors have been right. They wouldn't fit in school. The school literally fit in them. Our own fortress, our home is trashed everywhere they go—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 millennium.



## **FIX**

Singularity!

Multiplicity. 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!

## **INVARIANT**

Singularity!

Multiplicity. A Galaxy is meant to shed light, not suck the light out of any room into their little event horizon! They have been relativitistically impossible to handle.

*(Fighting their despondence.)*

We're heartless. Children will lose their hearts as did their parents eventually... They will shed light, the moment they hold a Galaxy of their own.

## **SINGULARITY**

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

*(INVARIANT and FIX search about.)*

## **FIX**

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Declination!

**SINGULARITY**

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

**INVARIANT**

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We looked up and down. Right ascension?

**SINGULARITY**

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

**FIX**

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?

**SINGULARITY**

I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

**INVARIANT**

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

*(Silence. INVARIANT and FIX realize that  
their child has forever vanished.)*

**INVARIANT****FIX**

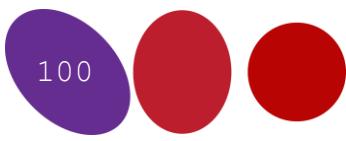
Sing— Our baby fell off the Edge of the Universe!

*(INVARIANT and FIX weep for all eternity.)*

*[End of "Heat Death".]*

**SINGULARITY**

I am single.



100

(*A TIDAL remains offstage.*)

**TIDAL**

Force!

**FIX**

Singularity... I have a hunch, that singleness crunches...

(*On stage, the TIDALS enter.*)

(*INVARIANT shows their personal Big Bang Taser from their holster.*)

**INVARIANT**

I hope our baby makes good use of your Big Bang Taser...

(*SINGULARITY pulls out their Big Bang Taser. They ignite and aim it towards the TIDALS.*)

**SINGULARITY**

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

**TIDAL(s)**

Force!

(*SINGULARITY sways a bit.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Like to echo, huh?

**TIDALs**

Force force force force force force...!

(*SINGULARITY feels the tidal force.*)

**SINGULARITY**

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

**TIDALS**

Fall!

(*SINGULARITY falls over themselves.*)

**SINGULARITY**

What are you howling about?!

**FIX**

Multiplicity. When they have a baby of their own, I hope theirs don't shoot our baby in the face like they did to me.

(*SINGULARITY accidentally electrocutes themselves with the Big Bang Taser. They shock themselves into a stupor.*)

**TIDALS**

(*Repeating.*)

Big big big big big. Bang!

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

**SINGULARITY**

Bring the heat...

(*The TIDALS grab ahold of SINGULARITY.*)

[The light shifts to the Dome on stage. The home does not yet contain the family 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.)

### **SINGULARITY**

You accept my black-hole heart?

### **GRAVITY**

(Adorably like a puppy.)

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

(SINGULARITY gently takes ahold of baby GRAVITY. They feel a sudden weight.)

### **SINGULARITY**

A puppet- Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

(Bonding with puppy GRAVITY.)

(INVARIANT and FIX return to their seats in the audience. They pray together.)

### **INVARIANT**

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

**FIX**

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

**INVARIANT**

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

**FIX**

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

**INVARIANT**

**FIX**

Singularity is where the heart is.

*(SINGULARITY timidly interacts with the TIDALS.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Nothingness can be so warm. I'm not single, apparently... Warmth, life...

**TIDALS**

*(Gratefully howling.)*

Fall!

*[The home stows away in the distance.]*

*[The front curtains partially close or some front curtains get lowered.]*



[*The Fabric of Spacetime, Present*]

(*GRAVITY and JD frolic in.*)

**GRAVITY**

Our adventure is nearing the Edge.

**JD**

Too bad the tidal sled dogs don't want to venture any further.  
The Edge is the limit—

(*Running into the cosmic front curtain. They fall backwards.*)

**GRAVITY**

We hit a wall. At quadrillion parsecs. The fourth... Dimension.  
You look a little under the weather?

(*JD sits up.*)

**JD**

Beyond that. I'm eroded. Let's camp out for a few million years.  
Maybe this weather will clear up... Fourth dimension... Have I ever  
mentioned how funny it was when you tried to break out of our  
Ellipse, billions of times?

**GRAVITY**

The trillionth time worked.

**JD**

I did the work.

**GRAVITY**

I loosened up Singularity for you.

**JD**

Hmm... How did my siblings and I come to be?

**GRAVITY**

Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and stardust and watered you with dark matter... At least, that's what my parents told me.

**JD**

Did Singularity really come from beyond the Edge?

**GRAVITY**

My parents smelt them in its interdimensional ditch in fact.

**JD**

Did they ever describe to you what is beyond the Edge? Who is...?

**GRAVITY**

It wasn't apparent to my parents. We tidal dogs have visible spectrum blindness<sup>9</sup>.

**JD**

I miss Singularity's eyes...

**GRAVITY**

Your spiral arm was not quite accurate. You were off your mark with your shot. Should have gone for their eye.

*(JD pulls out the Big Bang Taser.)*

---

<sup>9</sup> Dogs do not see congruent colors as humans. Dogs have more rods than cones in their retina, whereas humans have more cones, and this makes the difference in color perception.

**JD**

I miss their *stunning looks and presence.*

**GRAVITY**

Put away that shock colla- Taser! I'll tell you what I saw...

*(JD stows away the Big Bang Taser.)*

My family has never seen any matter quite like Singularity, with a supermassive black hole. And one who massively hated themself.

The earlier eternities were spent trying to get this orphan to hide away their past deep in their internal darkness. My pack taught them how to cluster nuclear pasta from our hunts for neutron stars. Singularity ascended to being the beta by magnetizing these neutron squirrels, when they used the full potential of the... Big Bang Taser. Soon, they became the alpha, when Singularity took advantage of us with it. My parents... Um...

Well, Singularity became their parents: these Multiplicities; those who caused pain and hurt to those who are different, such as us tidal forces. Free and wild Tidals. Stowing away their past family manifested into matters darker than their black-hole heart. Rolling back the Universe into that Dome you lived in made us locked in. But that made Singularity feel secured. Where the resources of the entire Universe were packed into a singularity.

**JD**

Singularity has always been uptight... But they're usually right.

**GRAVITY**

What has gotten into you?

**JD**

Time away. From family. The warmth of this Fabric of Spacetime is thinning out. This space is empty. It's unclear-er. *Nothing...*

(GRAVITY leans their head against JD.)

### **GRAVITY**

You are apparent to me...

That rings a bell. My parents told me that if you wanted to see something clearly, just tilt your head and relax.

### **JD**

Being uptight and upright like Singularity made the Edge present in the first place.

### **GRAVITY**

And we're the first here...

### **JD**

Do you think... My siblings are looking for me?

### **GRAVITY**

Never mind that. Think not of the Galaxies. Consider the stars once for a change.

## **19. PARALLAX**

(GRAVITY builds the parallax formula:  $d = \frac{1}{p}$ .)

### **GRAVITY**

RELAXATION TIME

GETS DISTANCE TO EQUAL ONE OVER OBSERVED ANGLE.

DIVIDED, YOU ARE TO APPARENT CHANGE IN POSITION, SO SIT.

DO GROUND YOURSELF.

JUST PARALLAX.

### **JD**

PERILOUS.

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

**JD**

PARANOID.

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS?

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS FROM WHERE YOU ARE.

*(Discarding the distance formula.)*

PARASITIC MINDS

GOT "NOWHERE" TO BURDEN YOU UNDER AND ENTANGLED.

MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM'S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY...

TO TILT YOUR HEAD.

FIND PARALLELS.

**JD**

PARADOX.

**GRAVITY**

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

*(JD tilts their head onto GRAVITY's shoulder.)*

**JD**

PARAGON...

**GRAVITY**

PLEASE RELAX. SEE THE STARS?

REMAIN LAX. SEE THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

RELAX.

**JD**

I'M RELAXED.

[The light slightly peeks through a corner of the cosmic horizon.]

(GRAVITY instantly sits up straight.)

**GRAVITY**

YOU SEE?

[The light dissipates.]

(GRAVITY feels disappointed.)

**JD**

I SEE *NOTHING*.

(Smiling.)

JUST PARALLAX.

PARALLAX.

[The light returns, growing brighter.]

(GRAVITY graciously relaxes.)

**GRAVITY**

**JD**

PARALLAX. PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

PAIR OF FRIENDS. FEEL THE STARS.

PARALLAX. FEEL THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

[The curtain rises or moves away.]

[End of "Parallax".]

*[The Edge of the Universe]*

*[The horizon is painted with unseen colors. The air is scented with unscented aroma. The theatre constellates with ellipses, whether the geometric shape or the three dots. Six ellipses stand out, perhaps by appearance or they are clustered together.]*

## 20. TANGENT

**JD**

WE HAVE GONE OFF ON A... TANGENT.

(*Looking around for ABELL.*)

(*ABELL is not in the audience.*)

(*JD looks on, heartbroken.*)

(*GRAVITY enjoys the scent. They are proud, believing that JD is living the dream.*)

**GRAVITY**

THIS TANGENT YOU HOWL FOR... I'M SPECTRAL BLIND.  
WHAT DO YOU SEE BEYOND THE STARS? WHO DO YOU KNOW?

*[The music drowns out JD's answers, leaving the Edge of the Universe unanswered.]*

(*SINGULARITY echoes from another plane.*)

**SINGULARITY**

You are a big—

(*JD mouths and points all about. They soon point to the six ellipses. They fall silent.*)



111

**JD**

WE HAVE GONE ON OFF A... TANGENT.  
LET'S BE GROUNDED.  
I AM TAKING THE EDGE ON US.

*[End of "Tangent".]*

**GRAVITY**

After all this time together... After the stars we felt, the gas we expelled, the Universe that we derailed... You're taking the wide-open space... Away?

**JD**

The Galaxy family deserves to grow in a space where they will not lose themselves. Far away from feeling so away.

**GRAVITY**

Your siblings saw nothing in you. Those Galaxies believed that there is no one out there for you.

**JD**

That's because there's really nothing... *Adulthood is nothing.*

**GRAVITY**

Abell...

**JD**

Singularity was right. "Biological" clocks are illogical.

**GRAVITY**

Singularity is no more.

**JD**

There is more: me. I am to care for the Galaxy family now. I say... It's time to unroll the Universe back to the singularity that once was. It is Crunch Time. It is long past Crunch Time.

*(GRAVITY bites JD.)*

**GRAVITY**

I will not let you become Singularity. The only Galaxy to see their tidal force from where they are. The only person to see their dog for who they are. JD, you felt for me.

**JD**

I fell for you. The only celestial being to see their Galaxy is gone. The only parent to ever love me is gone. Gravity... You always let me down.

*(JD reveals a critical wound.)*

**GRAVITY**

JD, you're shedding stardust. I can fix that.

**JD**

How?

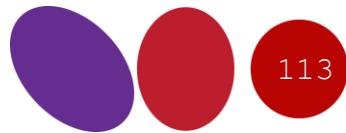
**GRAVITY**

Feeding that hole in your heart always works on you Gals.

**JD**

So... Crunch Ti- Since when was the last time you saw field equations...? Exactly. The Universe has spread itself out too thin. The natural order of things is that I am going to, too.

Nature says you're no longer just a dog. My orders are that you are no longer mine. Get going...

**GRAVITY**

SPT0615-JD.

**JD**

I am not apparent to you. It is clear that we need to take steps back to move forward. *Let's bounce.*

**GRAVITY**

You haven't outgrown your siblings. They saw nothing. But I, I believed in nothing.

Ever since Singularity birthed you... Ever since I first laid my puppy eyes on you, I knew you'd be the one to take down Singularity. I knew my puppy cries would convince you to free me. But I never imagined I'd fall for Singularity's flesh and blood: JD—

**JD**

I'm not falling for that. Go grow with your family. You're *nothing* to your kin. Be their leader. Form your pack.

**GRAVITY**

I'll be there for my fellow pups. Have fun with your puppets. What else could a Galaxy do, other than become a singularity? You are turning into your parent.

*(JD pulls out the Big Bang Taser.)*

**JD**

There is only ever one person who can be Singularity... With you or with them, I'm going to be apparent.

**GRAVITY****JD**

We'll be back... At Crunch Time.



(GRAVITY sadly looks upon JD. They run off.)

**21. . . (Dot Dot Dot)**

(JD remains at the edge of the stage. They turn around, with their backs towards the audience. They woundedly walk in place. They traverse through the universal tundra.)

[The entire Universe rolls by JD. Field equations increasingly blossom, as though the Universe is growing abundant once again.]

(Eventually, there is a gathering of the TIDALS. They are brawling amongst themselves to claim the role as the alpha of the pack.)

**TIDALs**

(Repeating.)

DOT DOT DOT...

(GRAVITY comes out victorious.)

(The TIDALS celebrate. They become aware of JD's presence.)

[The Continuum Checkpoint slowly rolls out from the horizon, downward from backstage.]

**TIDAL**

That Galaxy is rolling back the Fabric of Spacetime.

**TIDAL**

That Galaxy is shutting down our cosmic dog park.

**TIDALS**

Let's spaghettiify them!

**GRAVITY**

If any tidal force lays a paw on this Galaxy, you will be buried six parsecs under.

**TIDAL**

That Galaxy is undoing everything we have worked for...

**GRAVITY**

That Galaxy is everything to me.

**TIDALS**

*Our alpha has an alpha?*

**GRAVITY**

This is between JD and GRAVITY.

*(Directing the TIDALS out. They exit.)*

*(JD goes into hiding when the Continuum Checkpoint is near.)*

*[End of "...".]*

[Continuum Checkpoint]

*[There are three huts or tents that resemble the home. The Left Ellipse is the doghouse, the Central Ellipse is the sleeping quarters, and the Right Ellipse is the command post. The Left Ellipse houses some TIDALS, the Central Ellipse houses a sleeping WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY. The Right Ellipse houses an active CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM.]*

*(The TEEN GALAXIES are disheveled and have not eaten in literally forever.)*

### **WHIRLPOOL**

*(Snoring.)*

T over square root of one minus velocity...

*(CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM may be fixing the snow globe or planning on a map.)*

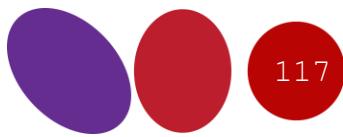
*(JD discreetly heads to the Left Ellipse.)*

### **JD**

Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

*(Reaching into the opening of the Ellipse. They gravitationally pull out each TIDAL.)*

*(Once all the TIDALS are freed, they shove JD into the Left Ellipse. They wreak havoc upon the campsite. Some enter the Right Ellipse, disgruntling CARTWHEEL and scaring TRIANGULUM. They break the snow globe in the process. Some enter the Central Ellipse. Some run amok on the campgrounds.)*



## 22. BOUNCE BACK

[*The Central Ellipse intensely lights up.*]

(*The TIDALs run out of the Central Ellipse.*)

(*ANDROMEDA strolls out with a supermassive white-hole heart, surprisingly mad.*)

(*TRIANGULUM sobs at the sight of the broken snow globe.*)

(*The TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM cluster together.*)

### **TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

BOUNCE BACK!

(*The TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM bounce off and land near their respective TIDALS. They choreographically fight the TIDALS, distinct in their combat. They pose or slow down whenever the song hits certain drums.*)

(*MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.*)

(*ANDROMEDA repels away the TIDALS.*)

(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize martial art tactics against the TIDALS.*)

(*The TIDALs run off.*)



**MILKY WAY**

So hungry, I can eat Pegasus... Should we catch them?

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time will catch up to them. Hopefully starvation doesn't.

**MILKY WAY**

Andromeda, we never see you so upset...

**ANDROMEDA**

*My once-in-a-literal-eternity beauty sleep was interrupted.*

**WHIRLPOOL**

That ain't a black hole where your heart should be.

**CARTWHEEL**

In fact, quite the opposite.

**TRIANGULUM**

We're each becoming anomalies with each passing millennium...

*(CARTWHEEL finds JD in the Left Ellipse.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

Speaking of anomaly... JD?

**WHIRLPOOL**

JD?

**ANDROMEDA**

JD.

**MILKY WAY**

JD!

*(TRIANGULUM comes out of the Right Ellipse.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

SPT0615-JD.

*[End of "Bounce Back".]*

**JD**

It's been a millennium.

**TEEN GALAXIES**

A million to the millionth power.

**CARTWHEEL**

You ran out of our home...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain't a goodbye...

**TRIANGULUM****ANDROMEDA**

You come crawling back to us.

You're now a pearl in...

**MILKY WAY**

A smaller Ellipse!

**JD**

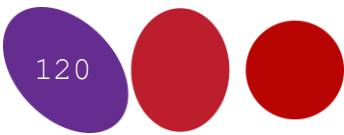
How is Singularity...?

*(MILKY WAY weeps.)*

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL****TRIANGULUM**

How is the Edge...?

*(ANDROMEDA scopes out the Edge.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

Well, "where" is certainly answered.

**TEEN GALAXIES**

You're unrolling back the Edge?

**JD**

You were right about "nothing..."

**TRIANGULUM**

There is no one out there for us... Much like there is no one here for us.

**CARTWHEEL**

Singularity is nothing now.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Our nomy/mother/father is no longer here for us.

**ANDROMEDA**

Though nature is now healing, our Universe remains nothing.

**JD**

I'm bringing everything. Everything I've got.

**TRIANGULUM**

You brought anything but family. Where's Gravity?

**JD**

Gravity... Fell off the face of the Universe.

**ANDROMEDA**

You sure you didn't toss them overboard...?

**CARTWHEEL**

JD! You have a bite wound!

**WHIRLPOOL**

JD, we have to go home now.

**TRIANGULUM**

Tidal forces... Biting the hand that feeds.

**MILKY WAY**

No. Gravity fed JD...

**TRIANGULUM**

Gravity fed JD lies and deception.

**CARTWHEEL**

Gravity almost took you down.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Gravity brought you down to their level.

**ANDROMEDA**

We almost lost you in the Gravity well.

*(JD nervously lies.)*

**JD**

Gravity lost themself. I did throw Gravity over the Edge... Gravity got to my head. Gravity attracted me to *nothing*. But I fought against the tidal dog's attractive force with the Big Bang Taser. Then I chucked it off the face of the Universe.



### **ANDROMEDA**

We understand. We'd do anything for our dog. Even strike our nomy/mother/father.

### **TRIANGULUM**

Tidal forces are stupid. They're running the cosmos amok.

### **CARTWHEEL**

### **WHIRLPOOL**

Just a reminder that time is running out!

### **MILKY WAY**

JD needs food! Food heals. Growth make our body stronger.

### **TEEN GALAXIES**

It is Crunch Time, SPT0615-JD.

### **JD**

Please, it is you who has nothing in the pit of your supermassive black holes. You are all growing teen Galaxies. Even you, Milky Way... You with your warp, waves, and wrinkles... It's wonderful.

*(MILKY WAY sees through JD.)*

### **MILKY WAY**

You never be Singularity.

### **JD**

I'm certainly apparent as Singularity. It is all clear to me.

### **TRIANGULUM**

You definitely believe you're the center of the Universe like they once did. Cart-Whirl, roll back the Edge.



(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go to the edge of the stage. They demonstrably have trouble.)

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

We can't wedge out the Edge!

**JD**

I did cut away from the Edge. I have the knowledge and strength to unroll the fabric of spacetime. I can clean up my own mess. I must undo the Big Bang. Listen, I'm the closest thing you have to Singularity. I shall not compare myself to the grandmaster. I may just be worthy as your master of the Universe. I will give my all.

**TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

You gave your all to *nothing*.

**23. EVERYTHING**

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY...

FAMILY IS FORGIVING.

**TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

OH NO.

**TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY SHARES A HEARTBEAT.

**TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

TAKE IT SLOW.

**TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

**TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT JD.

**TRIANGULUM**

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

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

**TEEN GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM, MILKY WAY**

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

LOYALTY IS EVERYTHING. LET GO.

**TRIANGULUM****ANDROMEDA**

EACH SIBLING IS EVERYTHING. LET'S GO.

**JD**

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

*(The TEEN GALAXIES clear out the campsite.)*

**TEEN GALAXIES**

WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH ALL  
SIBLINGS.

*(JD is assisted by their siblings or  
honestly guilt tripped by them.)*

**TEEN GALAXIES (cont.)**

FAMILY IS EVERY PINCH,  
FROM CURRENCY TO OUR THICK SKIN MADE OF STARDUST.  
FAMILY IS EVERY FIGHT,  
FROM VERBEL TO PHYSICAL TO SPIRITUAL.  
FAMILY IS EVERY STRIKE,  
TO OUR NOMY/MAMA/PAPA, TO OUR PARENT, TO OUR BẠCH HỒ.

*(MILKY WAY embrace JD like SINGULARITY.)*

**MILKY WAY**

GALAXY, THIS, WE HAVE LEFT, WE HOLD...  
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

*(The TEEN GALAXIES embrace JD.)*

**TEEN GALAXIES**

FAMILY IS EVERY HUG,  
FROM RELUCTANCE TO GENUINE TO FORGIVING.  
NOTHING LEAVES A LEGACY LIKE EVERYTHING.

*[The home returns from beyond the horizon.]*

**JD**

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

**GALAXIES**

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

*[The home returns to near the edge of the stage once again.]*

*[End of "Everything".]*



[*The Center of the Universe*]

(*SINGULARITY remains lifeless under the rug.*)

(*JD returns to the Ellipse. They look upon SINGULARITY. They set down their knapsack. They head through the side exit.*)

(*The TEEN GALAXIES stand by the table.*)

**TEEN GALAXIES**

It is Crunch Time, JD. SPT0615-JD?

(*JD returns with the dishes. They bow.*)

**JD**

Declinations, family. The Galaxy family. It is Crunch Time.

(*The TEEN GALAXIES bow.*)

**TEEN GALAXIES**

Declinations, SPT0615-JD.

(*The TEEN GALAXIES sit, and TRIANGULUM tosses away the whoopie cushion.*)

(*MILKY WAY pouts.*)

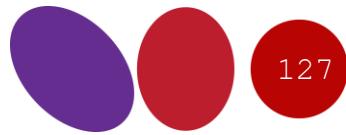
(*JD passes out the dishes.*)

**JD**

Looks like someone's been avoiding gas giants.

**TRIANGULUM**

Quit the sass, Milky Way.



(*MILKY WAY dives into their dish.*)

**GALAXIES not MILKY WAY**

Again, Milky Way... Teenagers...

(*JD finally sits amongst their family.*)

(*Each TEEN GALAXY takes a swig. All of them, but MILKY WAY, cough up their Crunch.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

What did you put in this nuclear pasta, JD?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye mostly dark matter, Triangulum.

**CARTWHEEL**

It'll take eight eternities to wash out our mouths, Andromeda.

**WHIRLPOOL**

I need a nap after this, Cartwheel.

**JD**

We're a family again.

(*MILKY WAY inspects JD's healed wound.*)

**MILKY WAY**

You yourself again. You ellipsoid.

**JD**

You are so grounded. Alright, Gals. It has been quintillions upon quintillions of years of staying up. Fix yourselves to bed.

(*The TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.*)

**TEEN GALAXIES not MILKY WAY**

Declinations, sibling.

**MILKY WAY**

No way I call you sibling Sing. You no Singularity.

(*JD hands the Big Bang Taser to MILKY WAY.*)

Adults usually tell truth...?

**JD**

Even after hibernation, a solid bear still lies. Let me be the anomaly. I ask for your warp, waves, and wrinkles... To walk away.

(*MILKY WAY heads off to bed, without a bow.*)

(*SINGULARITY remains lifeless.*)

**SINGULARITY**

You are a bit mistaken... For revisiting this place. Save space.

**JD**

I can't even save myself...

**SINGULARITY**

Baby, are you hurt?



**JD**

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy, are you hurting?

**SINGULARITY**

JD, who did you see beyond our Ellipse?

**JD**

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing, what did you see in this Ellipse?

**SINGULARITY**

SPT0615-JD, are you apparent yet?

**JD**

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

**SINGULARITY**

When a Galaxy takes in enough light from their singularity, it's their time to be the single source of light for the lightless. Every being is born lightless. It is upon us to shed this light. It is upon us to save space. It is upon us to feed our photons in Crunch Time. You are a luminous adult. Act like one.

**JD**

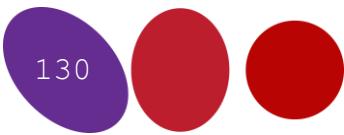
My love is never going to be as apparent as you.

**SINGULARITY**

My black hole has only been feeding. Has only been accepting.

**JD**

Can you just please accept the Edge? I can't bare the legacy I made you leave behind...

**SINGULARITY**

It is apparent now that your heart is too supermassive and there is a space that'll hold you. A Universe that'll hear you. The Edge accepted me... The moment I left my family for my legacy.

**JD**

My legacy isn't out there. You were right. It's a heartless and lightless universe. In an Ellipse unlike ours, I have nothing to take care of. I am unable to share the light of my heart.

**SINGULARITY**

You certainly took care of me.

**JD**

I didn't wish for you to die... I wished our time together did...

**SINGULARITY**

I wish for you to not meet your end here. It is apparent as a parent that I now grant you the right to shed light where you need to. Face the Edge. You must cut away from this Center. You will never be apparent to your siblings. I'll always be the source of light for them. Be the light for Abell.

**JD**

There comes a time when one must stop being apparent/a parent. Not now.

**SINGULARITY**

I no longer shed light to you.

**JD**

I need you to be apparent/a parent. More than ever. I want to leave a legacy. I don't want to leave this family. I am nothing.

**SINGULARITY**

I am apparent as you are going to be. SPT0615—... Just dropout.

(*JD gets their knapsack. They head to the edge of the stage.*)

(*MILKY WAY enters, seeming to have listened the entire time. They rush out and return with the rest of the TEEN GALAXIES.*)

(*TRIANGULUM holds a fixed snow globe.*)

**24. APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)****JD**

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**

JD.

**SINGULARITY**

SHED LIGHTLY...

**TEEN GALAXIES**

ANOMALY.

**SINGULARITY**

SHED LIGHTLY...

**TEEN GALAXIES**

YOU'RE EVERYTHING.

**SINGULARITY**

TREAD LIGHTLY.

**TEEN GALAXIES**

YOU'RE STILL FAMILY.

ELLIP-...

**JD**

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.

*(Stepping backwards. They barely fall off  
the edge of the stage.)*

*(GRAVITY suddenly runs in, startling the  
TEEN GALAXIES. They catch JD.)*

**JD**

GRAVITY, YOU'RE THE BEST TIDAL FORCE A GALAXY COULD EVER ASK FOR.

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX.



(*JD tilts their head into GRAVITY.*)

**JD**

I CAN'T WHEN YOU GROUND MY SUPERMASSIVE

**GRAVITY**

FALL...

**JD**

HEART...

**SINGULARITY**

PLEASE FINISH YOUR VERSE.

**GRAVITY**

A "SINGULARITY" IS WHAT YOU'LL BE,  
IF YOU SPEND THE REST OF TIME WITH YOUR NEW FAMILY.

[*The shadows of the TIDALS loom.*]

**JD**

I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...  
I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW U-  
'NIVERSE.

FAR-FETCHED!

(*JD pretends to toss a ball over GRAVITY.*)

(*GRAVITY accidentally lets go of JD. They look to where JD supposedly threw the star.*)

(*JD falls off the Edge of the Universe or the edge of the stage into nothingness.*)

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

[*End of "Apparent".*]



*(GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake they have instinctively done. They whimper.)*

### **GRAVITY**

Forc— Fall...!

*(Running off.)*

*(TRIANGULUM's drops the snow globe. They collapse into CARTWHEEL's arms.)*

*(MILKY WAY ignites the Big Bang Taser. They fiercely and repeatedly stab it into SINGULARITY's chest, like a defibrillator.)*

*(The other TEEN GALAXIES are caught unaware.)*

### **25. SPACETIME**

*(SINGULARITY suddenly embraces MILKY WAY. They stow away the Big Bang Taser under the rug. They pick up the snow globe. They walk back to the rug and place it there. They cluster together the TEEN GALAXIES.)*

### **SINGULARITY**

IT'S ABOUT...  
IT'S ABOUT...  
IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME.

*[End of "Spacetime."]*

### **26. LIMINALITY**

*(SINGULARITY walks away from their family. They head to the Edge and look out.)*



[*The elliptical light lands on JD and ABELL.*]

(*JD is now embracing their child, ABELL.*)

**JD**

A bell. Adulthood is unfulfilling. But only out of nothing, in a space of my own, can I fill it with meaning. In a place devoid of noise, can I hear a bell. In darkness, can I shed light and feel seen. Familyhood is to be made. I cut my edges for you. Abell, I made you from nothing... It is clear. I am apparent.

**INVARIANT**

Singularity! Like you, JD bypassed this elliptical liminality!

**FIX**

Singularity. I was right that they'd break the fourth dimension and fulfill this familiar prophecy!

**INVARIANT**

Singularity... The grandmaster of the Universe is now the grandparent/mother/father of the Multiverse.

**FIX**

Sing— Single grandest Galaxy we could ever hope for... Another...

**INVARIANT**

**FIX**

Liminal space awaits your heart, Singularity.

(*SINGULARITY could not be more sentimental. Sooner or later, they have to accept JD's newfound family in a new Ellipse/Universe. They return to their family.*)

[*End of "Liminality".*]

**27. (THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH**

[At the cosmic high noon, time screeches to a halt.]

(GRAVITY now embodies an outlawed Lupus. They march out of the shadows.)

**GRAVITY**

Dogfight at Zenith... Singularity?! Let's kill time.

(The TIDALS have evolved into wolves. As a tidal wolf pack, they follow GRAVITY's lead.)

(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the defense.)

**CARTWHEEL****WHIRLPOOL**

Let's save time.

**GRAVITY**

Let's take this millennium to square off...

**TRIANGULUM**

Gravity is back to curb stomp spacetime.

(ANDROMEDA pushes TRIANGULUM to safety.)

**GRAVITY**

In our Universe, matter is neither created nor destroyed. Unlike those who mattered in this Universe...

**MILKY WAY**

What you saying, Gravity?

**GRAVITY**

(*Howling.*)

Free fall.

**TIDALS**

(*Savagely and twistedly terrifyingly.*)

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

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope. All the energies of the Universe have been compressed to this place... Ye really miss the wide-open space right about now!

(*GRAVITY recognizes the galactic weak spots.  
They strategize the TIDALS to ANDROMEDA.*)

**GRAVITY**

Fix.

(*The TIDALS surround and implode ANDROMEDA.  
They take away ANDROMEDA's white-hole heart.*)

**TIDALS**

Fall!

**ANDROMEDA**

Me pearl!

(*SINGULARITY remains weakened.*)

**SINGULARITY**

You Tidals are not entitled to any of my children's heart. And you sure aren't entitled to our fourth dimension: time.



(*CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL cartwheel and spiral at GRAVITY.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Fall time.

[*Time speeds up for CARTWHEEL while time slows down for WHIRLPOOL.*]

(*A TIDAL defeats CARTWHEEL at fast speeds. Another defeats WHIRLPOOL in slow motion.*)

### **TIDALS**

Fall!

(*EARTH speaks in MILKY WAY's head.*)

### **SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

You got this, water bear.

### **MILKY WAY**

My heart, no longer primordial. I no nebula anymore, mortals!

(*Unleashing their Quasar.*)

(*Some TIDALS get wiped out. The TIDALS drastically bring out a mirror.*)

(*MILKY WAY is blinded. They collapse.*)

Outsides look like that...? Ow, waves, and wrinkles...

(*GRAVITY faces the home.*)



(*SINGULARITY bows. They kick up the rug to find that underneath, there is zilch.*)

(*GRAVITY unveils the Big Bang Taser.*)

**GRAVITY**

Zilch?

**SINGULARITY**

The force...? Opposable thumbs?!

(*The TIDALs dogpile on SINGULARITY.*)

(*CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY crawl in front of SINGULARITY.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time is up.

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal, it's downtime.

**CARTWHEEL**

**WHIRLPOOL**

They took time away from us.

**ANDROMEDA**

And our oyster.

**MILKY WAY**

We kill too much time. What left of time... Recover.



*(GRAVITY ignites the Big Bang Taser.)*

### **GRAVITY**

Big Freeze, Singularity! You've pushed everything I've ever loved over the Edge! My friend. My family. I was naïve to believe they'd stay here for a dog. I unpacked those feelings and smelt them for who they are: a lone wolf. What's left of the Galaxy family... You are a pack of Omegas. Heat death is what you spineless piles of dusts deserve and what a fair universe would serve. No matter how fast light goes, darkness awaits at the end. We'll crunch you up with the force of Gravity, you know?

*(TRIANGULUM rushes in to stand in between GRAVITY and their family.)*

### **TRIANGULUM**

Stupid tidal wolf... You can have a piece of my nuclear pasta, but you can't have a piece of everything!

*(GRAVITY knocks down and tases TRIANGULUM.)*

### **GRAVITY**

I'm getting behind the ears and the years!

*(TRIANGULUM tosses and turns in pain.)*

*[The space illuminates field equations made up of Newton's second law of motion:  $F = MA$ . They are spelt out as FAM.]*

*(GRAVITY notices the familial field equations. They stop tasing.)*

### **GRAVITY**

Fam... JD... Force! Fix!

*(The TIDALS stop focusing on SINGULARITY.)*



(*TRIANGULUM* is disoriented.)

### **TRIANGULUM**

I feel... Nothing. I am the anomaly. Everything is family...

(*GRAVITY* grows remorseful. They narrate.)

### **GRAVITY**

*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 of time.

(*Tossing the Big Bang Taser off the stage.*)

No Ellipse is perfect. In Zenith, I'll spend eternity... Free!

(*GRAVITY jumps off the stage from where JD fell off the Edge of the Universe.*)

### **GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

Gravity!

[Time starts and erratically accelerates.]

(The *TIDALS* are livid.)

(*SINGULARITY* rockets out of the dogpile. They fight through the *TIDALS* to save *TRIANGULUM* with all their parental love.)

### **SINGULARITY**

A closed space is our destiny. My all is in this singularity!

(*SINGULARITY* gathers the *GALAXIES* towards the table. They ponder and come to terms that they cannot handle the tidal forces any longer. They feel the Big Crunch Theory<sup>10</sup>.)

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<sup>10</sup>The Big Crunch Theory is a theory of the end of our Universe, where its expansion eventually reverses and collapses into a singularity.

**SINGULARITY (cont.)**

It is Crunch Time... Singularity...

*(Outside, the TIDALS are wildly scattering.)*

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL guard TRIANGULUM as ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY lead TRIANGULUM to the table.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

You are everything.

*(TRIANGULUM smiles. They sit on the whoopie cushion.)*

*(The Galaxy family laughs their last hearty laugh. They sit at the table.)*

**SINGULARITY****TEEN GALAXIES**

We know.

*(SINGULARITY places a hand on their chest.)*

*(The TEEN GALAXIES pray with SINGULARITY.)*

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

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

*[End of "The Big Rip of Zenith".]*



## 28. BIG CRUNCH

### **SINGULARITY**

LOSE CONTROL IN OUR PALMS.  
FILL US WITH EXTERNAL DARKNESS.  
BLEED OUR LIGHT IN NO TIME.  
BIG CRUNCH THEORY, GALAXIES.  
  
IN OUR HOME, DWELLS NIGHTMARES.  
KINDLED BY MY CLUSTERS OF STARS.  
LIVE YOUR THOUGHTS IN OUR HEARTS.  
IT'S THE BIG CRUNCH, ELLIPSES.

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

### **TEEN GALAXIES**

CONSUME OUR COSMOS. / DOOMED BY THE SYSTEM.  
CONSUME OUR WHOLE LIVES. / ENTOMB ALL OUR DREAMS.

### **SINGULARITY**

CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

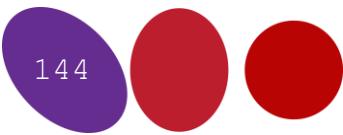
### **TEEN GALAXIES**

CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF REALITY. REALITY...

*(The TIDALs creep into the home.)*

*[The darkness seeps into the home.]*

*[The curtains progressively close.]*



(*SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES hug each other to the point of a singularity.*)

**SINGULARITY**

**TEEN GALAXIES**

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

(*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*



# ACT III

[*A Fresh Universe*]

[*A particle of light rests on the Big Bang Taser which is lying in front of the stage, near the audience.*]

(*From the audience, ABELL heads to the Big Bang Taser and picks it up.*)

(*JD approaches ABELL.*)

(*ABELL slowly points the Big Bang Taser towards JD's face. Instead of traditionally shooting them, they actually want to hand it over to JD.*)

(*JD gently takes the Big Bang Taser from ABELL. They sentimentally smile and chuckle.*)

**JD**

Nothing...

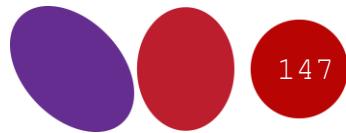
(*Aiming the Big Bang Taser towards the stage. They fire. They return it to ABELL.*)

## **29. BIG BOUNCE**

[*The home seeps back out of the curtains, as it initially did before the Big Bang. It is still notably dark.*]

[*Different lights briefly flash after each GALAXY speaks.*]

(*TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING!

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'!

*(SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster together in the home.)*

*(The TEEN GALAXIES lower their torso to bow.)*

*[The lights completely fill the home.]*

**TEEN GALAXIES**

NOTHING!

*(Bouncing away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home.)*

*(SINGULARITY remains at the center of the home, amused by their GALAXIES.)*

(CARTWHEEL bows when this song plays the drum solo of "Time is Relative".)

(WHIRLPOOL bows when this song plays the tone of "Time is Relative".)

(MILKY WAY bows when this song plays the tone of "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles".)

(ANDROMEDA bows when this song plays the tone of "Globular".)

(TRIANGULUM bows when this song plays the tone of "Anomaly is Everything". They hand the snow globe to SINGULARITY.)

(SINGULARITY bows when this song plays the tone of "Luminous". They unscrew the glass dome off the snow globe.)

[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 freely play about in the wide-open space upstage. They bow.)

(The MULTIPLICITIES separate from the audience and bow.)



[The spotlight unveils GRAVITY in the audience.]

(GRAVITY runs up to, jumps on, and hugs JD.)

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

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

(JD tosses all the balls onto the stage.)

(The CREW rushes in. They pick up as many stars as they could. They cluster together. They bow.)

(COMPANY bows. They dance in spacetime.)

*Close circuit*

## DAVID QUANG PHAM (he★him)

With an astrophysics degree, his colleagues went out to discover new ions, fight cancer with lasers, and stop asteroids from hurtling into our planet. He has been instrumental, too. With any spirited artistic community, he brought the theoretical principles. The world of theatre brings the spirit of experimentation. He loves the theatre space and space in general.

This passion for astronomy and theatre manifested from trips to space camp and operas as a kid. In middle and high school, he delved into music theory and plays the modern sackbut. The nerdy persona remained, and the artistic talents dwelled into his collegiate 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. Soon, he uncovered his niche: science communication through the human condition.

Now, he is a science dramaturg from Wyoming, Michigan. He is the second apprentice of [Working Title Playwrights](#) in Atlanta, the best new play incubator in the Southeast. He creates and practices professional new development dramaturgy under their Dramaturgy Master Intensive and the International Dramaturgy Lab with LMDA. He often follows Fornés's tenets. He is a Founding Member of the [CreateTheater Expert's Theater Company](#). As a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild, he attained an astrophysics degree with a minor in theatre at Michigan State University.

Since college, he has been working on a particle physics fable. [TOUR](#) revolves around Quark, Lepton, Boson, and Atom. This opera has these subatomic educators collide and compete in the academic Accelerator. TOUR is a 2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist and was granted several readings. He is also cowriting the book and music of [PARALLEL UNIVERSITY](#) with [Malina Detcheva-Rossa](#) and [Marie Incontrera](#).

His music has been performed at Cabaret on the Couch, Musical Theatre Factory, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and Berkeley's Play Café.

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 this superposition.





<https://workingtitleplaywrights.com>



Sense-Ability Ensemble ([openspottheatre.com](http://openspottheatre.com))



Daughters of Lorraine Podcast  
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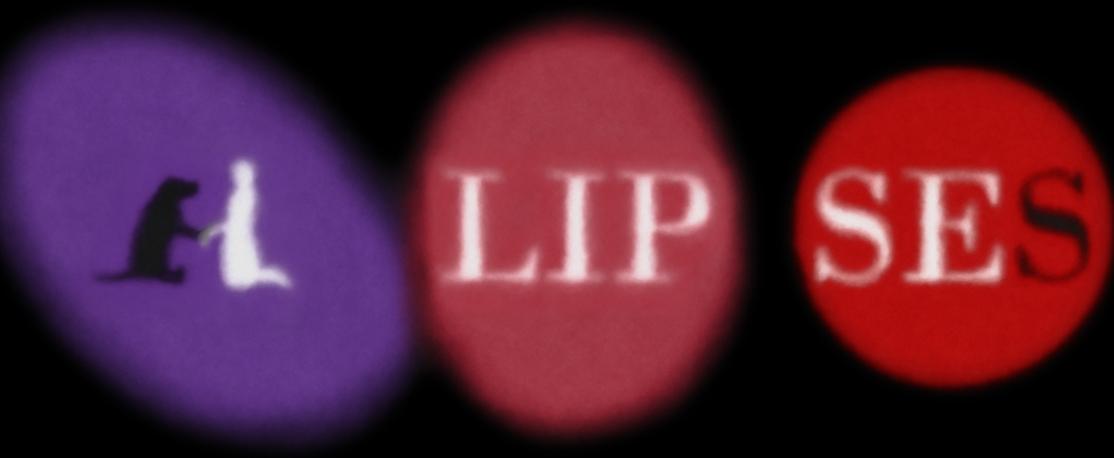
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Inside My Box Podcast ([anchor.fm/insidemybox](https://anchor.fm/insidemybox))



Working Title Playwrights New Play Development Apprenticeship features  
a concert reading of a brand-new science musical about the Galaxy family



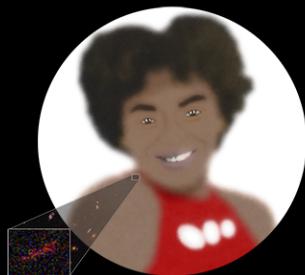
Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM | Directed by ALIYAH CURRY  
Dramaturgy by JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY | Managed by ALEXIS MCKAY  
Narrated by SOFIA PALMERO | Performed by the Star-Studded Cast



PARRIS SARTER



VALLEA E. WOODBURY



DANIELA COBB



JASON-JAMAL LIGON



SKYE PASSMORE



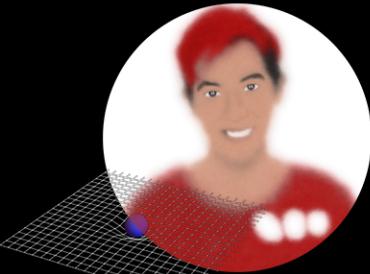
ABBY HOLLAND



DANIEL SAKAMOTO-WENGEL



EVAN PHILLIPS



KAIT RIVAS

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