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A Universal Musical

By David Quang Pham

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THANK YOU

Working Title Playwrights New Play and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship

Dr. Edwin Din Loh, Dr. Danny Caballero ○ Professors of Physics and Astronomy at Michigan State University

Dr. Daniel T. Smith Jr. ○ Professor of Theatre at MSU

Janelle Lawrence ○ Musical Theatre Mentor

Heather Helinsky ○ Literary Mentor at Playwrights Foundation

Amber Bradshaw ○ Managing Artistic Director of WTP

Emily McClain ○ First Reader

Alexis McKay ○ Fireworks/Stage Manager

Jordan Alexandria Ealey ○ Hat/Dramaturg

Aliyah Curry ○ Butterfly/Director

Parris Sarter*², Minka Wiltz* ○ Singularity

Vallea E. Woodbury ○ Gravity

Daniela Cobb* ○ SPT0615-JD

Jason-Jamal Ligon ○ Cartwheel

Skye Passmore ○ Whirlpool

Abby Holland ○ Triangulum

Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel ○ Andromeda

Evan Phillips ○ Milky Way

Kait Rivas ○ Tidsals

Sofia Palmero* ○ Narrator

Kate Leanne Jacoby* ○ Understudy

Isake Akanke, Robert Bryan Davis, Jeff Hathcoat², Ebony Jerry, Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor², Lee Osorio², Mary Lynn Owen, Lau'rie Roach, Imani Vaughn-Jones²

○ Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*

DAVID QUANG PHAM (he ★him)

David is a musical theater science communicator who guides scientists to the fourth wall and theatre artists to the fourth dimension. Due to youthful trips to operas and space camp, he now writes love letters to science, devising stories from its branches. His notable musicals personifying quantum mechanics and dimensions are respectively: TOUR (2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival finalist) and PARALLEL UNIVERSITY (2021 NYPL Lab) with [Marie Incontrera](#). He is the composer of [Minka Wiltz](#)'s mixed-media musical *Behind the Veil*. Composer [Janelle Lawrence](#) mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including gospel, pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics and Minor in Theatre at Michigan State University, Pham studied playwriting as the apprentice of Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He is the Literary Fellow of Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco. He is also a proficient trombonist; a critic in Kennedy Center's BIPOC Critics Lab; a moderator at LMDA; a founding member of CreateTheater and the International Dramaturgy Lab; a member of ΣΠΣ, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild. Be up to lightspeed at davidquang.com

CHRONOLOGY

October 5, 2020 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 December 7, 2020 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 February 1, 2021 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 May 3, 2021 • Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights
 June 13, 2021 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited
[July 15, 2021](#) • Concert Reading w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights; Director [Aliyah Curry](#), Dramaturg [Jordan Ealey](#)
 October 17, 2021 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited
 December 11, 2021 • Lab • Theater Resources Unlimited; Director [Miriam Eusebio](#)
 February 27, 2022 • Workshop • Theater Resources Unlimited
 2022 • Semifinalist • National Music Theater Conference, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

SYNOPSIS

Spend an eternity in the family musical of epic proportions: ELLIPSES is a cosmology mythology that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way out of a life-changing event known as the Big Bang.

Before the world that we have come to know, there lived a remote family of Galaxies. Singularity is the single parent who locked their six kids in the house. Milky Way is the baby sibling going through galactic puberty. JD is the oldest sibling looking to explore the Universe. This outgrown young adult is perfect for Gravity's manipulation. In a violent altercation, JD shoots Singularity to run away from home with Gravity (aka the Big Bang). Without their parent, the teenage Galaxies must fend for themselves in the vastness of the cosmos.

Family is everything we know, and so is the Universe. The entire chronology of our Universe is a family drama in play. To live as a family or to leave as anomalies is the heart of this universal coming-of-age story.

ooo

In geometry, an "ellipse" is an oval. ○
In punctuation, "ellipses" indicate omissions. ...

"..." at the end of a sentence implies ponderance.
Gravity and the other Tidals have no use for "..."

"An ellipse in the ellipses" ○ A Stage in the Three Stages of Human Development (Childhood/Teenhood/Adulthood)

"Ellipses" ○ A (divisive) term for Galaxies, besides "Ovals" and "Ellipsoids"

"The Elliptic" ○ The Dome Home in the Center of the Universe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog

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

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Supporting Characters

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

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

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

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

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

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

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

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. "[Bounce](#)" Singularity, Galaxies
2. "[Crunch](#)" Singularity, Teen Galaxies
3. "[Cutting Edge \(Make Myself Clear\)](#)" Galaxies
4. "[Figure](#)" JD, Milky Way
5. "[Zilch](#)" Gravity, JD, Tidal
6. "[Luminous](#)" Singularity
7. "[Big Bang](#)" Singularity, Galaxies, Gravity, Tidal
8. "[Verse](#)" JD, Gravity, Singularity
9. "[Rip](#)" Teen Galaxies
10. "[Anomaly is Everything](#)" Teen Galaxies
11. "[Time is Relative](#)" Cartwheel, Whirlpool
12. "[Big Rip](#)" Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Tidal
13. "[Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles](#)" Milky Way, Solar System
14. "[Globular](#)" Andromeda
15. "[Fabric](#)" Teen Galaxies, Tidal
16. "[Far-Fetched](#)" Gravity, JD, Tidal
17. "[Point](#)" Singularity, Multiplicities, Tidal

Act II

18. "[Heat Death](#)" Singularity, Invariant, Fix
19. "[Parallax](#)" Gravity, JD
20. "[Tangent](#)" JD, Gravity, Singularity
21. "[...](#)" Gravity, Tidal
22. "[Bounce Back](#)" Teen Galaxies
23. "[Family is Everything](#)" Galaxies
24. "[Apparent \(Shed Light\)](#)" Galaxies, Singularity, Gravity
25. "[Spacetime](#)" Singularity, Teen Galaxies
26. "[Liminality](#)" JD, Invariant, Fix
27. "[\(The Big Rip of\) Zenith](#)" Gravity, Singularity, Teen Galaxies, Tidal
28. "[Big Crunch](#)" Singularity, Teen Galaxies, Tidal

Nulla

29. "[Big Bounce](#)" Company

○ Legend: [Full Demo](#)

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

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

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

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

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

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

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

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

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

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

SINGULARITY leaves through a side exit of the home.

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

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

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

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

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

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

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

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA scopes out. They stow away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY, looking disheveled, strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

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

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

MILKY WAY makes their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA sails to the table.

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

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

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

JD!

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

JD

ABELL...

ABELL reaches out to JD.

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

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

GRAVITY

(Narrating)

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

This single parent has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. Their kids aren't much older than a dozen eternities. But one nears two. I like this one.

(re: SPT0615-JD)

We've long lived in the Elliptic. The Elliptic is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD. JD is on the edge.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

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

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Sounds like someone's been eating my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY touches the snow globe
and stares at ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA hands over the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

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

GRAVITY tries to nab TRIANGULUM's
 dish.

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

TRIANGULUM

*That's not for you to gravitate to. Stupid tidal
 force. Nothing between those ears but a vacuum.*

ANDROMEDA

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

(to GRAVITY)

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

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible
 spaghetti to a sitting GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

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

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY
 tries getting them to sit.

TIDALS

(Repeating)
 Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

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

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes endless millennia to burn that,
Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

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

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's
physique.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

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

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

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

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

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

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY sits with the TEEN
GALAXIES. They lovingly pinch
MILKY WAY's cheek.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Always full of grace. Let us save space.

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

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES pray.

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

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

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

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

WHIRLPOOL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

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

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

End of "CRUNCH"

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

GRAVITY approaches JD.

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

GRAVITY makes JD face outside.

JD (CONT'D)
CENTER WITH OUR RELATIVES...
OUR TIDAL DOGS.
GRAVITY, ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.

JD nears the edge of the home.

JD (CONT'D)
YOU SEE.
I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

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

JD takes a jab at their siblings.

JD (CONT'D)
WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL?
STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.
WHY ARE THESE OVALS BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

TEEN GALAXIES
CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

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

In JD's mind, the TEEN GALAXIES
seem to be 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.* (re: SINGULARITY)
AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A *LIGHTLESS GALAXY.* (re: ABELL)
MY HEART TELLS ME THERE'S A PROMISING FAMILY, OFF—
END OF THIS TANGENT.

TEEN GALAXIES

SPT0615. CHILD.

NO NEED TO BE APPARENT- (Droning on in JD's mind)
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

JD

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

GRAVITY grounds JD.

TEEN GALAXIES

SPT0615-JADED-

JD

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 (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY

Force!

JD (CONT'D)

Grounded. You're my tidal
force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

I will spare a millennium to listen to your
verse, JD... It is apparent of 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, raise me physically. Gravity
raises 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 sick of the same old dish of photons that we eat and I'm tired of 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's *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've shed.

JD

I'm ready to pass on your light. Our light. Nomy/Mom/Dad... *May I go to the Edge of the Universe?*

SINGULARITY

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

JD

Can I play with *nothing*? Please?

SINGULARITY

No means *no*.

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

I don't think clearly when I sentimentally stated these "prophecies." In reality, your "lightless" does not need apparency. Drop this legacy nonsense. Be present for your family. The future is *nothing* to ponder on. Join us for Cr-

SINGULARITY reaches for JD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl with SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS

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.

GRAVITY runs to the opening of the Elliptic. They hit an invisible wall and dizzily fall back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

SINGULARITY

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

The TIDALS tremble and bow out. They leave.

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 pet. You're treating me as though I'm not the grandmaster of the Universe.

JD

If you're going to keep the masses 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. Declinations. See you Gals in Crunch Time.

SINGULARITY exits, dragging
GRAVITY out.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

TRIANGULUM

You know you're childish when you think you're 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
Crunch Time is all that you look forward to.
This Universe is all you see. You're too young
to notice what's outside.

MILKY WAY
Me no baby!

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

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
With nomy/mama/papa not around, let's deck the
Elliptic-

TRIANGULUM
Oh no, you're not.

TRIANGULUM tries to drag away
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

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

MILKY WAY
Square? Reminds me... Board game? Tardigrades
and Elevatas?!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Look at the time... Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off
to bed.

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

TRIANGULUM
Declinations... Last one to bed is an anomaly!

JD
I can't even with this family...

JD sets the snow globe on the rug.
They sense some perplexity.

JD (CONT'D)
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 have been waiting on a partner to play
Water Bears and Elevators with.

MILKY WAY joyfully brings out an
elliptical 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 wata'-

JD
You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY
Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusin'.

JD
I'm the adult around here.

MILKY WAY
Fine. Gas it is... May I ask...? What
different? Bein' 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 ellipses?

JD
A *liminal* space...?

MILKY WAY tries repeating the word.

JD (CONT'D)

Liminal. It's where who we were ends and who we are begins. You're in a liminal space.

MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on the board.

JD holds figures of all heights.

JD (CONT'D)

You'll soon not fit in your ellipse. I stopped fitting in yours, ten eternities ago. I don't think I fit in mine anymore... No longer a teen- 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 outgrown air, um cub. I only go up from here... I will own you, land bear!

4. "FIGURE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-figure>)

The actions taken upon the board during this duet is open ended.

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

JD

LIFE HAS *UPS* AND *DOWN*S.

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

YOU ARE GAINING SOME CURVES.
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 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?
Figure out yourself, Milky Way...

MILKY WAY slaps JD's figure off
the elliptical board.

JD (CONT'D)
LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY
KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
Pawn!

Only JD understands GRAVITY.

JD
Gravity?

MILKY WAY
That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (O.S.)
There's even more time to kill! Let's kill time
together! All ya need to do is free Gravity!

MILKY WAY

Quiet dog befa' Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake up.
That dog is nuthin' but trouble.

JD

Nothing. 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.

JD bows.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

5. "ZILCH" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/5-zilch>)

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is free!

JD

You always understand me...

GRAVITY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Nothing is infinite. Nothing is out there for
ya.

JD

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

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is waiting for us. A wide-open space.
Save space for us dogs. For me! A space without
Singularity. Zilch is not out of our Elliptic.
It's below ya. *Relax.* Ya'll know in spacetime.

JD sits on the rug, feeling life
underneath. They unroll the rug
and discover the Big Bang Taser.

JD

Our rug of spacetime...?

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Use them opposable thumbs, Gal.

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

JD

Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

TIDALS (O.S.)

(Whimpering)

Fall.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

End Singularity! Free thee. No longer bound by
this family. Make *nothing* ya legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up in the
audience.

End of "ZILCH"

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

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

JD hides the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug.

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY enters.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

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'm not going out to play.

(re: to settle down in a fresh space beyond the fourth wall and to *start a family*)

I'll 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...

Why?

JD (CONT'D)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light to you all, the lightless. *Nothi-* 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 Elliptic?

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 elliptic. You're in a liminal space. It's also mine. You step out of this place and you're dead to me.

JD

You old Galaxy... This space is dead to me. "Crunch Time" no longer bears fruit for me. It is time I planted my own garden around my own elliptic. I'm dying to know what's out there!

SINGULARITY

Arguing is fruitless... I'll answer *why*. JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It alerted me to end my old relationships. 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, Bach Ho... 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. Stop making light-

JD

I'll make light of myself. I need to shed my light. Light isn't made. It's passed down. I need to pass down. There's no longer enough space. That's why I'm shedding.

SINGULARITY

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

SINGULARITY hands the monocular to JD. They point out.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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. Do I make myself clear? You
are never getting passed me.

JD longingly scopes out the Edge.

JD

Our purpose is to pour out our hearts to those
with less heart. I can only see light if another
life lightens up. I want to make myself clear. I
need to be apparent as you. Singularity...
Nothing gets passed you... Not even light.

6. "LUMINOUS" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-luminous>)

SINGULARITY takes the monocular.

SINGULARITY

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

Other GALAXIES enter in alignment.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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.
(re: SPT0615-JD)
At the center of yours is supermassive.

End of "LUMINOUS"

GRAVITY rushes in, scattering the
GALAXIES. They scratch up the rug.

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're
ripping apart the family rug! Its spacetime
fabric is passed down from my parents! Gravity.
(MORE)

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

JD grabs the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY reaches underneath the
rug only to feel zilch. They soon
notice 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" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-big_bang)

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.

SINGULARITY gets electrocuted.
They melodically shriek and jerk
in their final squillo.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

The light fluctuates. Appliances
may short circuit and spark.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALS (O.S.)

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

The TIDALS freely rush out.

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

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

JD walks to the edge of the home,
shifting from dolor to wonder.

JD carefully steps out onto the stage. They stow away the Big Bang Taser in their dress. 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 filled with stars. They grab JD and run out of the home. They run in place on stage. They soon stop when they notice their lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground.

JD (CONT'D)

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge...?
It's further away?

JD takes a step downstage, causing the lights to expand further out and the home to move upstage in between the back curtains.

JD (CONT'D)

It's *getting* further away. We're rolling out the Fabric of Spacetime like our rug... We're going to go off on a tangent for all eternity. For the rest of spacetime.

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. Destination's a gift. Destiny's Zenith.
(to JD, who did not hear the soliloquy)
Force!

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

JD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

From the home, most TEEN GALAXIES watch the Universe unravel, while MILKY WAY mournfully wraps itself around the lifeless SINGULARITY.

TEEN GALAXIES

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

End of "BIG BANG"

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

8. "VERSE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/8-verse>)

Field equations bloom.

GRAVITY and JD blissfully frolic.
They mix and match equations, as
though they are picking flowers.

JD

LETTERS, NUMERALS, 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 $F = AM$.

SINGULARITY echoes from beyond.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a big mis—

JD stays put while picking up the
frequency ratio of a semitone in
twelve-tone equal temperament: $_{12}\sqrt{2}$.

JD

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 rearranges $F = AM$ into
Newton's second law: $F = MA$.

GRAVITY

Force?

JD expresses contentment.

GRAVITY concocts 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!

GRAVITY
 Force!

GRAVITY and JD hastily skip out.

End of "VERSE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

9. "RIP" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/9-rip>)

SINGULARITY may be lowered into the
 ground. The TEEN GALAXIES drape the
 rug over the burial ground and bow.

TEEN GALAXIES
 Singularity. Declinations, nomy/mommy/daddy.

End of "RIP"

MILKY WAY sniffles.

CARTWHEEL
 Will you grow up? It's what Singularity would
 have wanted us to do.

ANDROMEDA
But not too much. We may be the oldest ones
 left, but we're still children.

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

CARTWHEEL	WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
Nothing matters.	Ain't anything holding mass.

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

CARTWHEEL
 We can't make time to grieve! We're about to
 lose mass. Famine will tear apart this family.

WHIRLPOOL
 We must make of what is left with no Crunch Ti-

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 clusters of delicate flowers. Look out. The garden's thinning out. Our crops face an eternal drought. This profound cosmos is going to have a field day with us. We'll starve to death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates.

TRIANGULUM

Luminous, Gals. Let's lighten up.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Is your head a vacuum too, you square? Our nomy/mother/father lightened up, remember?

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 by the rug.

WHIRLPOOL

Uh, it was passed down by the wisest being...?

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

Singularity limited our gifts to light but *power*?

ANDROMEDA

Where is the power...? Who has the power...?

TRIANGULUM

Power comes with age. It's adulthood. JD is all we have left. Let's bring home our caretaker—

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.

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

I hear JD talk to dogs. JD gone mad.

TRIANGULUM

It is absolutely the dog's fault. Gravity caused the Big Bang. And it's on us Galaxies to start the Big Crunch. JD is the only Galaxy who knows how to pick field equations, put together its formulas, and cook up some photons. Like Singularity had done. This nothingness. JD will forgo *nothing*. We are not forgiving JD. Our anomaly will give back everything.

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

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

TRIANGULUM

Cart-Whirl! You two are barred from stepping out
of the Elliptic for eternities. *Andromeda and I*
are going to find JD. Disarm the anomalous. Even
anomalies are powerless without their family...

CARTWHEEL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything's— What's family?

MILKY WAY

What is anomaly?

10. "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/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 AS FAMILIARITY.

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

TRIANGULUM brings out the
shattered snow globe.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

WE KNOW.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY'S UNIVERSAL. *WE KNOW*
THAT WE'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING.
WELL, THE THING IS THAT WE'RE ALL HOMES TO FAMILIES.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

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

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

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

TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopee
cushion at the table.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly
laugh.

TRIANGULUM appears flustered. They
shift to delight. They pull out
the cushion then toss it away.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!
ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

TRIANGULUM exits with ANDROMEDA.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL end their
laughter, realizing that they have
been duped.

MILKY WAY
You wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas?

CARTWHEEL points elsewhere.

CARTWHEEL
Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs
out of the Elliptic with them.

WHIRLPOOL
We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling 'lone
for your sporty ego? Triangulum tries too hard.
You take it to the next level. In general, this
is specially unrelativistic what we're 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 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.

MILKY WAY hears the SOLAR SYSTEM
in their head.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

You are now the adult in the room.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Like sight, we're another *sense*. We're adole-

MILKY WAY

Sounds like peer pressa'...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY strolls away from the
safety of the Elliptic.

MILKY WAY

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

MILKY WAY exits.

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

ANDROMEDA mumbles the Galaxy shanty, "Globular." They take out their monocular and scope upstage.

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 need to go. The Center of our Universe should not be in the scope of things. Family may be everything but—

ANDROMEDA

Ope. There's nothing.

TRIANGULUM

'Scuse me?

ANDROMEDA

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

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.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

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. They're not waiting for us. They're living the dream. The cosmos is their oyster. 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

To let the favorite child get in harm's way... Cart-Whirl are going to meet my spiral arms.

ANDROMEDA mocks TRIANGULUM.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

My 30,000-light-year radius packs a punch, okay?
Hate to say this: I hope Milky Way's with them.

ANDROMEDA

Melky Way will pop through.

TRIANGULUM

In time, I wonder what misgivings are popping for our relatives.

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA exit.

SCENE 7

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.

CARTWHEEL clumsily lands their cartwheel.

CARTWHEEL

Time is... Up.

WHIRLPOOL

In the air?

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

You and I need some downtime.

CARTWHEEL

We're not stopping until we finish our quest.
We need to reach the Edge. Time is running out.

WHIRLPOOL

Time to run back home. That is our real quest.

CARTWHEEL

There you go again, making me question time...
I used to run circles around our square sibling and Andromeda. I can't believe they ditched us.

WHIRLPOOL

(Seeing the hypocrisy)

Ditch *um...*? Drop the ego. Time is a circle.
The whole Universe will come around. JD will
come back. *Let's be around for Milky Way.* We
make perfect babysitters.

CARTWHEEL

We can't sit on JD. Our oldest sibling is our
last chance for survival. Triangulum is right.
We need to bring home a caretaker.

WHIRLPOOL

We need to take care of our baby sibling. I
ain't going anywhere but home.

CARTWHEEL

You want to mill about for eternities, huh? We
only wasted millions of years out here.

WHIRLPOOL

That is precisely how much Milky Way has grown
since we last saw them. Let's go home.

CARTWHEEL

Give me a millennium to consider your thoughts.

Beat. WHIRLPOOL sits.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Minds cannot be changed in a single millennium.

WHIRLPOOL

But bodies certainly do.

CARTWHEEL

Don't mock my ring... Oh, I get it. Milky Way
is showing signs of waves and wrinkles. *Makes*
me sentimental as Singularity when we became
teens... Too bad our parent won't be around
when we reach another *ellipse*.

WHIRLPOOL

They ain't here to see Milky Way ascend. But we
are. We're not even a dimension away.

CARTWHEEL

Time is up... In another dimension.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is us. I must mention. JD ran out. And
Milky Way will, too. Let them have a fulfilling
childhood before it is too late. Time dilates.

CARTWHEEL

Can you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL

Dilation means to expand.

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?

WHIRLPOOL

Time feels like a point if you meditate on it.

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" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/11-time_is_relative)

CARTWHEEL

OUR PARENTS WAS OUR ONLY SOURCE...

WHIRLPOOL meditates.

WHIRLPOOL

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

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

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Live with me in the millennium.

CARTWHEEL poorly meditates.

CARTWHEEL

You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL

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

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.

$T \text{ OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY}$
SQUARED DIVIDED—

CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.
WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

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 stands and rotates
counterclockwise away.

CARTWHEEL

DOWNTIME.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)
I CAN'T FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL
PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL spirals clockwise.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
Time gets slower the deeper one's mass is. So, your black-hole heart is younger than how you look. Really, you're naïve and scared 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'll miss their 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 by WHIRLPOOL while
light stops by CARTWHEEL.

CARTWHEEL
T. Time... Over. Time has an influence over 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'D)
Time is more special than it is relative... Unlike light, time is not passed down. Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. We left home at ages thirteen plus eternities near the speed of light. Milky Way was twelve. If we come back eternities later, we'll only seem a bit older while Milky Way gets rightfully old. *Time dilation*. We're forever 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 passes away.

(MORE)

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)

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.

CARTWHEEL lends a hand.

WHIRLPOOL stands with CARTWHEEL.

The lights balance amongst
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

Through a training montage,
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL assemble
the time dilation equation:
 $\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$.

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

CARTWHEEL earns their ring. They
can cartwheel again.

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

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

WHIRLPOOL
(Proudly)
WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

Lights form a frame around them.

CARTWHEEL
TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE'S LIGHTER.
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.

SCENE 8

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

12. "BIG RIP" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-big_rip)

The TIDALS dance around the rug.
The Big Bang is their holiday.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Dilations, Milky Way. We're home!
(re: TIDALS dancing over the burial ground)
Singularity?! Don't get near our relative!

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

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Give us back our baby 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 chase them out.

TIDALS
Force! Force! Fall!

End of "BIG RIP"

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 9

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY exhaustedly drifts in.

MILKY WAY
My tummy hurts... Need Crunch Ti- Milky Way forw-

MILKY WAY hears the SOLAR SYSTEM
in their head.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
Forgotten?

MILKY WAY
Imaginary friends?

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)
No, we're your planetary friends.

EARTH (O.S.)

I'm not.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (O.S.)

No one is asking you, Earth.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

Don't give up. Being forgotten isn't all that bad. I wish I was cause no matter what I do, I'm always blamed for everything. Everyone hates retro and loves to grade me. I'm Mercury by the way. Milky Way... You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are larger than many.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (O.S.)

You most certainly are a massive spiral Galaxy.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (O.S.)

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (O.S.)

Go play with your ring.

SATURN [Cartwheel] (O.S.)

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

URANUS (O.S.)

Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (O.S.)

(Laughing)

You are a two.

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

URANUS [Triangulum] (O.S.)

Sun. My gas giant siblings are making me the butt of the joke! *Always treating me like crap-*

MILKY WAY

You have a son?

URANUS [Triangulum] (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

EARTH (O.S.)

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?

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

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

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

I'm so close to Sun that it gets pretty heated all the time. At least I don't get fevers like Venus. Look, Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. However, you're so distant from your siblings that you're not such a drag.

MILKY WAY

I needa find JD. Mercury. Don't degrade yaself. I wish life go retro a million years ago.

EARTH (O.S.)

Oh yeah, the frame of time is dilated for you Galaxies. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last you were in your family's orbit was... 13.81 billion years ago. The year that your eldest elliptical sibling tore apart the Galaxy family. Gal, do you hate being an oval?

SUN [Singularity] (O.S.)

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

EARTH (O.S.)

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

MILKY WAY feels their body.

MERCURY [JD] (O.S.)

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. That rocky planet may be the well-rounded 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. Like Oort Cloud, who doesn't blame my retrograde for their imperfections.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (O.S.)

I'm out of this Solar System and yet I have a stronghold on it, like you. I have an influence that is about a hundred thousand astronomical units wide. 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 puppets pop out,
with an absence of the SUN.

EARTH (PUPPET)

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

MILKY WAY gracelessly bellows with
cracks. They hiccup.

EARTH (P.) (CONT'D)

Milky Way warped themselves!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets burst
into laughter.

MILKY WAY bursts into tears.

MILKY WAY

I hate myself!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

All the use crying. Let it out. Milk of
celestial kindness. You show a huge quality.

MILKY WAY examines their body.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.) (CONT'D)

Not just your curves. Figures... 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.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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.

EARTH (P.)

There are people in me.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH)(P.)

Cut your hubris, Earth!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY

Sing it.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You must first, own it.

MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM.

13. "WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/13-warp_waves_and_wrinkles)

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

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.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

IMAGINARY!

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

BUT REALLY...

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

ONE OF SEVERAL...

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

ARMS, IN FACT.

The extra arms extend out behind
an unaware MILKY WAY.

URANUS [Triangulum] (P.)

Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY

What's mirra'?

URANUS [Triangulum] (P.)

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

MILKY WAY

I neva' know what I look like...

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (P.)

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

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake
each of MILKY WAY's multiple arms.

SOLAR SYSTEM (P.)

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.
 PERSEUS ARM.
 NORMA, CYGNUS.
 SAGITTARIUS,
 ARM AND HEART.
 WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.
 ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets pull out
 MILKY WAY's tiny arm.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

You are Magellanic.

MILKY WAY looks upon their curves.

OORT CLOUD [ANDROMEDA] (P.) (CONT'D)

Your curves don't garnish the highest presence.
 Buried underneath your waves are the most
 majestic gifts: The Magellanic Clouds!

MILKY WAY pulls out two magnolia
 flowers from their dress.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.) (CONT'D)

Like you, they have existed since the beginning
 of time. They signify perseverance and longevi-

MILKY WAY devours the flowers.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.) (CONT'D)

Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds)

I gravitate my feelings...

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

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 distance, not time.

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (P.)

I'm parsecs away from losing it.

JUPITER [Whirlpool] (P.)

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

SATURN [Cartwheel] (P.)

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

MERCURY [JD] (P.)

They are beyond just a kid. Like you said, Oort
Cloud: Milky Way has always been a person. They
have reached a new stage in personhood.

MILKY WAY

(Sing with cracks and flaws and tremolos)

I NOW HAVE

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LIVE WITH IT.

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Voice deepens or elevates)

I LOVE MYSELF!

The extra arms may hug MILKY WAY.

Many SOLAR SYSTEMS spiral in, while
EARTH drags their feet. Each dancer
resembles distinct planets and
stars. They orbit MILKY WAY like
spiral arms around the center of
many Galaxies. A 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!

SUN [Singularity] (OFFSTAGE)

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

MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEMS
stop in their tracks then resume.

MILKY WAY & SOLAR SYSTEMS

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

End of "WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

The stage goes red as the SUN
becomes a red giant, swallowing
the SOLAR SYSTEM in their wake.

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

MILKY WAY touches their forehead,
feeling a headache. They remove
their hand to reveal a zit. They
pass out on the ground.

MILKY WAY

W- W- N- Wr-

OORT CLOUD [Andromeda] (O.S.)

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

SCENE 10

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail in.

14. "GLOBULAR" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/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 and ANDROMEDA glide to
an anchored MILKY WAY.

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA

Milky Way! Declinations! We have found you!

ANDROMEDA

(to MILKY WAY)

Did we lose ye? Oh no... Are ye now 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

(Voice has forever changed)

Zi- Zi- It?

ANDROMEDA

Ye 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. Go supernova your acne and let's get going.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY

Their name, Solar System.

TRIANGULUM

Your "Solar System" seems to be bringing you astronomical pain. Turning it to stardust is yours and *their* only remedy.

TRIANGULUM stares down ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA

Ope, what?

TRIANGULUM

Pop it.

ANDROMEDA

No.

TRIANGULUM

Pop the red giant!

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

I'm not touching that thing!

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

A little space scurvy is too scary for you?

ANDROMEDA

Why don't ye scurry to it since ye a zit expert?

TRIANGULUM

I have these *teeny spiral arms*, remember?

ANDROMEDA

Least ye not a Ring Galaxy...

15. "FABRIC" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/15-fabric>)

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Fall!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL run in,
crashing into TRIANGULUM.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Milky Way! Dilations! You're still alive!

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

The TIDALS enter, prowling in.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Too late! The tidal dogs are after our stardust!

TRIANGULUM
Who let the tidal forces out?! Let's get you
all back in the doghouse. We got treats for you!

The TIDALS nearly bite TRIANGULUM.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
A cosmic bone to pick with you! We're not the
treats! We're not retreating... What is wrong?

ANDROMEDA
They've been wronged their entire lives... The
wide-open space drove things into righteousness.

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

ANDROMEDA
And once JD gave them a taste of the Fabric of
Spacetime. Free "nothingness." Once Singularity
lost control of the cosmos, the Tidal 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 your "cosmic dog park" back to the way
things were. We're trying to park it and um...

MILKY WAY

Fix, it...

The TIDALS instinctually sit.
Then, they prepare to pounce.

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

ANDROMEDA pops MILKY WAY's zit.

MILKY WAY

Quasar! (A luminous active galactic nucleus.)

The spotlight lands on MILKY WAY.

The TIDALS get blinded and run off.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Milky Way. Don't go to the light!

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

Quasi-stellar radio source...!

ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up,
dissolving the spotlight.

ANDROMEDA

Looks like ye officially a teen Galaxy...

TRIANGULUM

I can't deal with another one...

MILKY WAY

I, too old for board games... Milky Way forward?

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

TRIANGULUM

Deal. Milkomeda. All aboard the teenage globular.

ANDROMEDA sings the shanty,
"Globular."

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly
exit with their siblings.

End of "FABRIC"

SCENE 11

A Quasar looms in the distance.

GRAVITY, now huskier, and JD
wander in.

JD

A trillion years... Fetch, Gravity. Fetch the
star!

JD grabs a stellar ball from their
knapsack and tosses it.

GRAVITY retrieves the star.

GRAVITY

Force!

JD

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

JD is about to toss the star
before they notice the Quasar.

JD (CONT'D)

Milky Way...?

GRAVITY

Abell?

JD understands GRAVITY once again,
this time with amassed anxiety.

JD

Pet. *Force*...?

GRAVITY

Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are ya a puppet.
But something's pulling at ya heartstrings:
Abell. Ya always say "Abell" under ya breath as
ya peek over the Edge. What is Abell? Why do ya
wanna pour ya heart out for this Abell?

JD

Abell is the name I gave "nothing."

GRAVITY

Why name it Abell?

JD

My biological clock rings whenever I see *them*.

GRAVITY

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

JD

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

GRAVITY

Clearly, ya cuckoo. I mean— The Edge of the Universe is just beyond the horizon!

JD

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

GRAVITY

Relax. This Fabric of Spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite. Ya 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

Ya at the highest point in ya life since ya were away.

JD

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

GRAVITY

Finally. Peace and quiet. Ya now the adult in the space. Relax!

JD

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

GRAVITY

(Fiercely)

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

JD examines the ball.

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" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/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 YA GALAXY NEEDS TO FETCH.
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

GRAVITY grabs and tosses a ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

GO FETCH THE STAR.

JD cramps up, retrieving the ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

JD

ALL'S A STRETCH!

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

GRAVITY notices JD's heartache.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Ya a part of my accretion, and I thank ya
SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

GRAVITY jumps on and embraces JD,
making JD drop numerous balls.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

The TIDALS rush in as a tidal wave.
They set a sled under GRAVITY and
JD, then form lines like sled dogs.

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

TIDALS

FAR!

GRAVITY

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YA GALAXY NEED TO FETCH.

TIDALS

FETCH!

GRAVITY

POINT OF RETURN IS?

JD

FAR-FETCHED!

In place, GRAVITY and JD traverse
the space with the tidal huskies.

GRAVITY

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

JD (CONT'D)

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

TIDALS

A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

GRAVITY, JD, and the TIDALS sled
away.

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 12

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

A Quasar looms in the distance.

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

17. "POINT" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/17-point>)

SINGULARITY

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

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing)

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the
audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

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

Six elliptical puppets loom.

TIDALS (O.S.)

(Echoing)

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

SINGULARITY sits up and meditate.

The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY,
growing elliptical and sole.

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.

Blackout.

End of "POINT"

END OF ACT

INTERMISSION

ACT IISCENE 1

SINGULARITY'S BACKSTORY AND PAST UNIVERSE

The stage front is solely lit.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)

Nothing, like a little story to *kill time*.

Countless eternities ago in another universe unlike ours that we could only fathom, a supernatural couple called Multiplicities gave birth to a special Galaxy named: Singularity. Like other Galaxies, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was not like 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.

The more these parents raised them, the more their child raised *Hell*. Singularity sucked the fun out of them. Not even life could escape it. Bent on bending light out of shape, they sucked the literal energy out of the room. Wherever they went, so did the space.

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" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/18-heat_death)

In the audience, SINGULARITY is now a resplendent and youthful Galaxy. They shoot their parent FIX in the face with the Big Bang Taser and run away from their other parent INVARIANT. They gravitate towards the stage. To stop themselves, they grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre, holding on for dear life until the fabric of spacetime rips. They soon tumble in front of the stage, holding a torn chunk of fabric that shields the Big Bang Taser. They limp alongside the front of the stage and find a spot to collapse against. They shiver.

In this interdimensional plane in between universes, SINGULARITY grows aware that they will never return home and ever be with their parents again for all eternity.

SINGULARITY
HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

INVARIANT and FIX, resembling law enforcers, search the audience. In a pattern, they shout Singularity's name in the hopes of finding them, then grieve with one another.

INVARIANT
Singularity! Our single child. 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'd you grab my Big Bang Taser?!
Multiplicity. We're laws of physics enforcers. As a part of the force, we've raised our kid without forcing doubt on them. *But you just had to go and tell them their supermassive disorder.* Now, my face knows supermassive disorder. Ouch! 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? Do you see the problem of stars orbiting that center of theirs? *Right. Your eyes are swollen.* Anywho, I'd hold regret 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 functions. You still broke it and dug into the dark energy.
(MORE)

FIX (CONT'D)

You mourn their supermassive heart and the spirit that came with it. I'm personally blessed to have had them.

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

INVARIANT

Singularity!

Multiplicity. *Bless your heartlessness.* They wouldn't fit in Sun Millennium school— My ego's atomic, but my love for our nebula is galactic. They'll be much more deformed out there. Agony. Ionized gas. They had to 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 space into their event horizon! They've been relativitistically impossible to handle. Children will lose their hearts as do their parents eventually. They'll shed light once they hold a Galaxy of their own.

INVARIANT and FIX search about.

SINGULARITY

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

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
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.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Force!

FIX
I have a hunch, our baby's singleness crunches.

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

INVARIANT displays their holster.

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

SINGULARITY draws out their Big
Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY

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

TIDAL[S]

Force!

SINGULARITY sways.

SINGULARITY

Like to echo, huh?

TIDALS

Force force force!

SINGULARITY feels a tidal wave.

SINGULARITY

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

TIDALS

Fall!

SINGULARITY falls over themself.

SINGULARITY

What are you howling about?!

FIX

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

SINGULARITY accidentally shocks
themself into a stupor with the
Big Bang Taser.

TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

SINGULARITY catches their breath.
They stow away the Big Bang Taser
and accept their fate.

SINGULARITY

Bring the heat...

The light shifts to the Dome on
stage. The cavelike home does not
yet contain any furniture.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto
the stage and set them down in the
home. Growing tame, they present
the tidal pup to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY sets down the fabric,
where the rug will eventually be.

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

PUPPY GRAVITY
(Adorably)
Force~ Force~ Force~

SINGULARITY gently accepts puppy
GRAVITY, feeling a sudden weight.

SINGULARITY
A puppet- Puppy. The Gravity of it all!

SINGULARITY "bonds" with GRAVITY.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand,
making them fling their hand about.

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

INVARIANT and FIX return to their
seats in the audience to pray.

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

TIDALS
(Gratefully howling)
Fall!

The home moves upstage, out of view.

A front curtain protrudes.

SCENE 2

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, PRESENT

GRAVITY and JD skip in.

GRAVITY

Force! Our adventure is nearing the Edge.

JD

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

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

GRAVITY

At quadrillion parsecs, we hit a wall. *Fourth dimension*. Ya look a bit under the weather? Well, we have time to kill.

JD

What's up with you and killing time? *Okay, I'm eroded*. Let's camp out for a few million years. It'll *clear* up. Fourth dimension... Have I ever mentioned how funny it was when you tried to break out of our Elliptic, billions of times?

GRAVITY

The trillionth time worked.

JD

I did the work.

GRAVITY

I loosened up Singularity for ya.

JD

Hmm... How did Singularity let us loose into this world?

GRAVITY

Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and stardust, and then watered all ya'll with dark matter? At least, that's how puppies are made.

JD

Did Singularity truly come from beyond the Edge?

GRAVITY

My fam 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*. (Dogs see the world with distinct color perceptions.)

JD

I miss Singularity's eyes...

GRAVITY

Ya spiral arms was not quite accurate. Off the mark with ya shot. Shoulda gone for their eye.

JD pulls out the Big Bang Taser.

JD

I miss their *stunning looks and presence*.

GRAVITY sticks the Big Bang Taser back into JD's dress.

GRAVITY

Put away the taser! Relax. I'll tell the story.

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

Before all ya'll were even born and I was just a mere tidal pup, my family and their pack taught ya orphaned parent how to cluster nuclear pasta from our hunts for neutron squirrels and orbitoads. Singularity rose up as the beta by magnetizing wildlife 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.

Apparently, Singularity became their parents: Multiplicities or coupled Galaxies or whatever.

JD

My grandparents?

GRAVITY

Yes. Ya grandmaster of the Universe started hurting those who are different, like us, tidal forces. Stowing away their past manifested into matters darker than their own black-hole heart.

What made ya nomy/mother/father feel security was when they rolled back the cosmos into that accursed Dome and locked us in, packing the entire Universe into a tight singularity.

JD

Singularity is uptight... But it feels right.

GRAVITY

What has gotten into ya?

JD

What have I got out of this? Time away from family. This Fabric of Spacetime is thinning out. Space is cold. It's unclear-er. *Nothing...*

GRAVITY tilts their head by JD.

GRAVITY

Is infinite. Ya are *apparent* to me. Hmm. That rings a *bell*. My fam has always said that whenever ya needed to see things clearly just *tilt ya head and relax*.

JD

Being uptight and upright as 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

Look forward beyond this stage. Break the fourth dimension. Never mind them. Think not of the Galaxies. Consider the stars once for a change.

19. "PARALLAX" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/19-parallax>)

GRAVITY builds the parallax formula: $d = 1/p$.

GRAVITY

RELAXATION TIME
GETS DISTANCE TO EQUAL ONE OVER OBSERVED ANGLE.
DIVIDED, YA ARE TO APPARENT CHANGE IN POSITION, SO SIT.
DO GROUND YASELF.
JUST PARALLAX.

JD

PERILOUS.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

JD

PARANOID.

GRAVITY

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

GRAVITY discards the formula.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

JD

PARADOX.

GRAVITY

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

JD

PARAGON...

GRAVITY

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

JD tilts their head by GRAVITY.

JD

I'M RELAXED.

Light rises in the cosmic horizon.

GRAVITY instantly sits up straight.

GRAVITY

YA SEE?

The light vanishes, disappointing
GRAVITY.

JD

I SEE *NOTHING*.

(Enlightened by "Nothing")

JUST PARALLAX.
PARALLAX.

The light returns, brighter.

GRAVITY & JD

PARALLAX. PARALLAX. PARALLAX.
PAIR OF FRIENDS. FEEL THE STARS.
PARALLAX. FEEL THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

The front curtain vanishes.

End of "PARALLAX"

SCENE 3

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

20. "TANGENT" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/20-tangent>)

The horizon is painted with unseen colors. The air is scented with all aromas. The theatre constellates with ellipses. Six ovals stand out.

JD

We have gone off on a... Tangent.

JD looks around for ABELL. They look on, heartbroken, as ABELL is not in the audience.

GRAVITY takes in the scent. They proudly look up to JD, unaware of JD's descent.

GRAVITY

This tangent ya howl for. I'm spectral blind.
What do ya see beyond the stars? Who do ya know?

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

SINGULARITY echoes from beyond.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a big—

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

JD

We have gone on off a... Tangent. Let's be grounded. I am taking the Edge on us... I don't want *to be the adult in the room* anymore. I must *clear* my name.

End of "TANGENT"

GRAVITY

JD? After the stars we felt, gas we expelled, and cosmos we derailed. All this time together. Ya taking the wide-open space, away?

JD

Nothing may be infinite, but the fun is finite. My kind needs a guide to stay close in such a space. My kin need to find their way home.

GRAVITY

This *cosmic dog park* is ya kind of home. I am ya true kin. Ya haven't outgrown ya siblings. They saw *nothing*. I, I always believed in this.

JD

I'm not falling for this...

GRAVITY

They saw nothing in ya. I saw infinity in ya. But ya never out of affinity. Them Galaxies reckoned that there's no one out there for ya.

JD

That is because there is really nothing... *Adulthood is nothing*. But eternal reckoning.

GRAVITY

Abell?

JD (CONT'D)

Singularity...

JD (CONT'D)

"Biological" clocks are illogical. I should have had faith in their words.

GRAVITY

Ever since ya first words, ever since I first laid my puppy eyes on ya, I knew my puppy cries would persuade ya to free me. All is fate that ya be the one to take down Singularity. Have faith that Singularity is no more.

JD

It's up to me to care for the Galaxy family now as Singularity. Unrolling the Universe back to its single destination, it's my destiny. Drop my legacy. Forfeit my prophecy. Time away is not worth it. It is long past Crunch Time. My family needs me—

GRAVITY bites JD's arm.

GRAVITY

I never imagined I'd fall for Singularity's flesh and blood! Ya cannot 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, ya felt for me.

JD

I fell for you. The only cosmic being to feel their Galaxy... The only parent to ever love me is gone. Gravity... You've always let me down.

JD reveals a critical wound.

GRAVITY

JD! Ya shedding stardust. I can fix that.

JD

I'll push you over the Edge if you touch me.
Wolves can't mend a heart like dogs can.

GRAVITY

(Disturbingly)

Force?! I am no wolf! Ya pushing it, kid! *I am nothing but ya pal.* Well, feeding that hole in ya heart always works on ya Gals.

JD

So Crunch Ti- There's no field equations left.
The Universe has spread itself out too thin.
The natural order of things is that I will too
if I don't move. Go away, you entitled *dog*.

GRAVITY pulls out $F = MA$. They try
to hand the flowery equation to JD.

GRAVITY

SPT0615-JD.

JD whips out the Big Bang Taser.
They ignite it at $F = MA$, causing
the equation to combust into dust.

JD

Am I not apparent? *Let's bounce!* For once, rise
up for your own family, Gravity.

GRAVITY

I'll be there for my fellow pups. Live with ya
puppets. What else could a Galaxy do than become
a singularity? Ya turning into ya parent.

JD

You'll always be my pup. I cannot be your pet.
A pup's pet. I am the master of the Universe...
I need to be the one who pulls the strings.
Families need their Singularities. The Galaxies
need me. Do I make myself clear?

GRAVITY

Unapparent. I saw stars for who they are. Ya
gonna be seeing stars from afar. A cluster of
stars. *In Crunch Time.* For-

GRAVITY kicks up dust off the Edge
before tearfully running off.

JD stows away the Big Bang Taser.
They peer over the edge of the
stage, the Edge of the Universe.

SCENE 4**21. "..."** (Omission) (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/21-omission>)

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

The entire Universe rolls by JD. Field equations increasingly blossom, as though the cosmos is growing abundance once again. Orbitoads are croaking "orbit."

The Continuum Checkpoint slowly rolls out from backstage.

The TIDALS gather nearby. They brawl amongst themselves to claim the role as the alpha of the pack.

TIDALS
(Repeating)
DOT DOT DOT. OMISSION!

GRAVITY comes out victorious, seeming to have fought mere tidal coyotes.

The TIDALS celebrate. They grow aware of JD's presence.

TIDAL
That Galaxy is rolling back the Fabric of Spacetime.

TIDAL
That Galaxy is shutting down our cosmic dog park.

TIDALS
Let's spaghettify them!

GRAVITY
If any tidal force lays a paw on this Galaxy, all ya'll will be buried six parsecs under. Don't defy me.

TIDAL
That wicked Galaxy is undoing everything we have worked for!

GRAVITY
That Galaxy is everything to me.

TIDALS

Our alpha has an alpha?

GRAVITY

Let JD face Gravity.

GRAVITY directs the TIDALS out.
They exit.

JD goes into hiding when the
Continuum Checkpoint is secured.

End of "..."

SCENE 5

THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

Three huts or tents resemble the main Elliptic. The Left Elliptic is the doghouse, the Central Elliptic is the sleeping quarters, and the Right Elliptic is the command post. The Left Elliptic houses TIDALS. The Central Elliptic houses a sleeping WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY. The Right Elliptic houses CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM.
(<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/set>)

Each GALAXY looks disheveled, having not eaten in literally forever.

CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM quietly banter near a repaired snow globe.

WHIRLPOOL

(Snoring)

T over square root of one minus velocity...

JD discreetly heads to the Left Elliptic.

JD

Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

JD gravitationally pulls each TIDAL out of the Left Elliptic.

Once all TIDALS are freed, they shove JD into the Left Elliptic. They wreak havoc upon the campsite. Some enter the Right Elliptic, startling CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM. TRIANGULUM shields the snow globe. Some enter the Central Elliptic.

22. "BOUNCE BACK"https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/22-bounce_back

The Central Elliptic intensely
lights up.

The TIDALS run out of the Central
Elliptic.

ANDROMEDA strolls out with a
supermassive white-hole heart,
surprisingly furious.

The TEEN GALAXIES except
TRIANGULUM cluster together.

TEEN GALAXIES

BOUNCE BACK!

The TEEN GALAXIES except TRIANGULUM
bounce off and land near their
respective TIDALS. They fight the
TIDALS, distinct in their combat
and posing at certain drumbeats.

ANDROMEDA repels away the TIDALS.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL utilize
martial art tactics.

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar.

The TIDALS run away.

End of "BOUNCE BACK"

MILKY WAY

I'm so hungry, I could eat Pegasus. Shall we
catch them?

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

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

MILKY WAY

Andromeda, we have never seen 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

Quite the opposite.

TRIANGULUM

Is everyone an anomaly around here?! We're each becoming anomalies with each passing millennium.

MILKY WAY

Speaking of anomal- JD?

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

JD? / JD. / JD!

TRIANGULUM comes out of hiding.

TRIANGULUM

SPT0615-JD.

JD

Declinations... It's been a millennium.

TEEN GALAXIES

A million quintillion declining years...

CARTWHEEL

You ran away on the fly...

WHIRLPOOL

You ain't say a goodbye...

TRIANGULUM

You come crawling back to us.

ANDROMEDA

Ye now a pearl in...

MILKY WAY

A smaller elliptic!

JD

How is the Center of the Universe...?

MILKY WAY snivels.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

How is the Edge of the Universe...?

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

In here, there is no one for us children. Much like out there, there is no one for you adults.

CARTWHEEL

Singularity is nothing now.

WHIRLPOOL

Our nomy/mom/dad is no longer here for us.

ANDROMEDA

Though nature is now healing, our Universe remains nothing.

JD

I'm bringing back everything. Everything I got.

TRIANGULUM

You're bringing back family? You don't have Gravity? And we must disarm you of everything.

JD

Don't get near my arm! They are a bad dog...
Oh, I've taken care of them... Um... *They fell off the face of the Universe.*

ANDROMEDA

If ye can't care for a dog, how'd ye expect to take care of us? Wait, *did ye toss them overboard...?*

TRIANGULUM flips over JD's arm.

CARTWHEEL

JD! You have a bite wound!

WHIRLPOOL

JD! We need to go home!

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 ye in the Gravity well.

JD

(Nervously lies)

Gravity lost themselves. Gravity got to my head. Gravity attracted me to *nothing*. But I fought Gravity's attractive force with electricity. I did toss Gravity over the Edge... And I tossed the taser 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 makes the
body strong.

TEEN GALAXIES

Now is Crunch Time, SPT0615-JD.

JD

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

MILKY WAY

(Seeing through JD)

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

JD

That's apparent... It is all clear to me. *I'll
be apparent almost like Singularity.*

TRIANGULUM

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

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

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. We're
not famine. I will give my all. We are family.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

You gave your all to *nothing*.

23. "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/23-family_is_everything)

TRIANGULUM
NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY...

FAMILY IS FORGIVING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
OH NO.

TRIANGULUM
FAMILY SHARES A HEARTBEAT.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
TAKE IT SLOW.

TRIANGULUM
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT 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.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
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 GALAXIES clear out the
campsite.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH ALL SIBLINGS.

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

MILKY WAY embraces JD like
SINGULARITY.

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

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 "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

SCENE 6

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

JD returns to the Elliptic. They
poignantly look upon the rug,
where SINGULARITY is buried under.
They set down their knapsack. They
head through the side exit.

The TEEN GALAXIES go to the table.

TEEN GALAXIES
It is Crunch Time, JD. SPT0615-JD?

JD returns with dishes. They bow.

JD
Declinations, family.

TEEN GALAXIES
Declinations, JD.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit, while
TRIANGULUM tosses away the whoopee
cushion.

MILKY WAY pouts.

JD passes out the dishes.

JD

Looks like someone's been avoiding gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the sass, Milky Way.

JD finally sits with their family.
They look upon the empty chair.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Again, Milky Way... Teenagers...

The other TEEN GALAXIES take a
swig. They cough up their Crunch.

TRIANGULUM

What did you put in this nuclear pasta, JD?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly dark matter, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

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

WHIRLPOOL

I need a nap after this, Cartwheel.

JD

We're relatives again, Whirlpool!

MILKY WAY inspects JD's healed
wound.

MILKY WAY

You are 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.

Most TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Declinations, sibling.

MILKY WAY

No way will I call you siblin' Sing. You are no
Singularity.

JD hands the Big Bang Taser to
MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)
Adults usually tell truths...?

JD
Hibernation or not, a solid bear finds ways to
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.

JD meditates on the rug.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
You are a bit mistaken... For revisiting this
place. Save space.

JD
I can't even save myself...

SINGULARITY (O.S.)	JD (CONT'D)
Baby, are you hurt?	Nomy/Mommy/Daddy, are you hurting?

SINGULARITY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
JD, who did you see beyond our Elliptic?

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

SINGULARITY (O.S.)
SPT0615-JD, apparency. Are you apparent yet?

JD
Singularity, what made you decide to be
apparent?

SINGULARITY (O.S.)
Our hearts eventually open up the prophecy:
When a Galaxy takes in enough light from their
singularity, it's time to be the single source
of light for the lightless. Every being is born
lightless. It's upon us to shed our light. To
save space. To produce photons in Crunch Time.
You're a luminous Gal. A bright adult. Act like
one.

JD
My heart will never be as apparent as yours.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

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 (O.S.)

It seems apparent now that your heart is too supermassive for this place and there is another 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 is to leave family or does it leave family? All it really did was leave me alone out there. You were right. It's a heartless and lightless universe. In an elliptic unlike ours, I have nothing to take care for. I am unable to share the light of my heart.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

You certainly took care of me.

JD

I only wished for the death of our time together...

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

I wish for your legacy to not end here. As a parent, it is apparent 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 a(p)parent. Not now.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

I no longer shed light to you.

JD

I need you to be a(p)parent. More than ever. I believe my prophecy. I need to leave a legacy. But I don't want to leave this family. I am nothing.

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

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

JD grabs 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 with TRIANGULUM holding the snow globe.

24. "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/24-apparent>)

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	SINGULARITY
JD.	SHED LIGHTLY...
ANOMALY.	SHED LIGHTLY...
YOU'RE EVERYTHING.	TREAD LIGHTLY.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)
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.

JD steps backwards. They barely fall off the edge of the stage.

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

JD (CONT'D)
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...

FALL. GRAVITY HEART... JD (CONT'D)

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
PLEASE FINISH YOUR VERSE.

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

The shadows of the TIDALS loom.

JD accepts the SINGULARITY.

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

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
stage, the Edge of the Universe,
and vanishes into nothingness.

JD (OFFSTAGE) (CONT'D)
*You're meant to let me down, Gravity. Save
space for your fam-*

GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake
they have instinctively made. They
run off with an elliptical whimper.

GRAVITY
...! Forc- Fall!

TRIANGULUM drops the snow globe,
shattering it again. They collapse
into CARTWHEEL's arms.

End of "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

MILKY WAY ignites the Big Bang
Taser. They angrily and repeatedly
stab it into the rug, unwittingly
like a defibrillator.

The other TEEN GALAXIES are caught
unaware.

25. "SPACETIME" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/25-spacetime>)

SINGULARITY suddenly rises from underneath the rug and embraces MILKY WAY. They stow away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug. They notice the snow globe. They place it on the rug. They cluster together the TEEN GALAXIES.

SINGULARITY
(Repeating)

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

End of "SPACETIME"

26. "LIMINALITY" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/26-liminality>)

As time slows, SINGULARITY heads to the Edge and looks out.

The elliptical light lands on JD and ABELL within the audience. JD is now embracing their child, ABELL.

JD

Abell. 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. Nothing is anomaly like *family. Everything. Nothing is everything...* Nothing is infinite. *I've made myself clear...* I am apparent.

INVARIANT

Singularity! Like you, JD bypassed this elliptical liminality!

FIX

Singularity. I knew they'd break the fourth dimension and fulfill this familial prophecy!

INVARIANT

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

FIX

Sing- Single grandest Galaxy we could ever hope for.

INVARIANT & FIX

The 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 Elliptic/Universe. They return to their family.

End of "LIMINALITY"

SCENE 7

27. "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/27-zenith>)

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Fall!

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

GRAVITY, now embodying an outlawed Lupus, marches out of the shadows.

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

GRAVITY

Dogfight at Zenith. Singularity?! *Bach Ho.*

SINGULARITY

Gravity... *Entitled pet.*

GRAVITY

A "pet" who has ripped up ya spacetime fabric. I have time to kill, too.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Relatives... Let's save time.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the defense with the time dilation equation in their midst.

TRIANGULUM

Gravity is back to curb stomp spacetime.

ANDROMEDA gets TRIANGULUM to safety.

GRAVITY

Matter is neither created nor destroyed. Unlike those who mattered in our Universe.

MILKY WAY

What're you sayin', Gravity?

GRAVITY

Free fall!

TIDALS
(Savagely and twistedly)
Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

ANDROMEDA
Ope. 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 ANDROMEDA.
They implode ANDROMEDA and rip out
their white-hole heart.

ANDROMEDA
Me pearl!

TIDALS
Fall!

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 towards 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.

The time dilation equation
crumbles into *FAM*.

TIDALS
Force! Fall!

EARTH lives in MILKY WAY's head.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)
You got this, water bear.

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

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar,
wiping out some TIDALS.

SINGULARITY

Voice, warped? Hair, waved? Skin, wrinkled?

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

MILKY WAY

(Voice re-cracks)

My outsides look like that? Ow, waves, wrink...

GRAVITY faces the home.

SINGULARITY bows. They kick up the
rug to find zilch underneath.

GRAVITY unveils the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY

Zilch?

SINGULARITY

Opposable thumbs...?! The forc-

The TIDALS dogpile on SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA,
and MILKY WAY crawl to SINGULARITY.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up, Galaxies...

CARTWHEEL

Gals, it is downtime...

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Time is relative. Please, don't take time away
from us, Gravity!

ANDROMEDA

And our oyster, Gravity!

MILKY WAY

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

GRAVITY

Big Freeze, Singularity! Ya pushed everything
I've ever loved over the Edge! All I am now is
nothing: a lone wolf. What's left of the Galaxy
family: All ya'll a pack of Omegas. Heat death
is what ya spineless dust piles deserve and what
a fair universe would serve. No matter how fast
light goes, darkness awaits at the end. We will
crunch ya up with the force of Gravity ya know.

TRIANGULUM rushes in to stand
between GRAVITY and their family.

TRIANGULUM
Stupid tidal wolf... You can have a piece of my
nuclear pasta but not the piece of everything!

GRAVITY knocks down and tases
TRIANGULUM.

GRAVITY
I'm getting behind the ears and the years!

TRIANGULUM wallows in pain.

The zaps illuminate *FAM*, which was
dropped earlier.

GRAVITY notices the familial
equations. They stop tasing.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
Fam. Time is family. JD. Force! Fix!

The TIDALS stop focusing on
SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
I feel... Nothing. I am the anomaly. Family...?

GRAVITY
(Remorsefully narrating)
Nothing comes close to family. Not us, beasts.
I'm Gravity. I've been around for infinite dog
years. Long enough. This is the end of the
tidal pack. The en- *Beginning of time.*

GRAVITY tosses the Big Bang Taser
off the stage.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
No elliptic is perfect. In Zenith, I save space
for my fam. I'll spend eternity- *Free fal-*

GRAVITY jumps off the stage from
where JD fell off the Edge of the
Universe. They crescendo out.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
Gravity!

Time starts and erratically
accelerates.

The TIDALS are livid.

SINGULARITY

I ask for a millennium of clarity!

SINGULARITY rockets out of the
dogpile, fighting through the
TIDALS to save TRIANGULUM with all
their parental love. They help the
TEEN GALAXIES up. Their heart bows
out, coming to terms that they no
longer can handle the tidal forces.
They sense the inevitable end.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

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

The TIDALS wildly dance.

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

TRIANGULUM

You are everything.

TRIANGULUM expresses contentment.
They sit on the whoopee cushion.

The GALAXY FAMILY laughs their
last hearty laugh. They all sit.

GALAXY FAMILY

We know...

SINGULARITY prays.

The TEEN GALAXIES do the same.

SINGULARITY decides to hold each
of their children's hands.

In turn, the TEEN GALAXIES hold
each of their sibling's hands.

End of "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

28. "BIG CRUNCH" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/28-big_crunch)

SINGULARITY

LOSE CONTROL IN OUR PALMS.
FILL US WITH EXTERNAL DARKNESS.
BLEED OUR LIGHT IN NO TIME.
AS IT'S BIG CRUNCH, GALAXIES.

The darkness swallows the stage,
outside of the home.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
 IN OUR HOME, DWELLS NIGHTMARES.
 KINDLED BY MY CLUSTERS OF STARS.
 LIVE YOUR THOUGHTS IN OUR HEARTS.
 IT'S THE BIG CRUNCH, ELLIPSES.

TEEN GALAXIES
 CONSUME OUR COSMOS.
 CONSUME OUR WHOLE LIVES.

SINGULARITY stressfully tries to
 course correct.

SINGULARITY
CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

TEEN GALAXIES
 CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF REALITY. REALITY...

The darkness seeps into the home.
 The curtains gradually close.

The TIDALS creep into the home.

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

The GALAXY FAMILY hugs one another
 to the point of a singularity.

GALAXY FAMILY
 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

NULLA

SCENE 0

A FRESH UNIVERSE

A ray of light illuminates the Big Bang Taser in front of the stage.

From the audience, ABELL picks up the Big Bang Taser. JD, now resembling SINGULARITY, approaches ABELL. ABELL points the Big Bang Taser at JD. Rather than zapping them by tradition, they hand it to JD, who sentimentally accepts it.

JD

Nothing...

JD fires the Big Bang Taser at the stage. They return it to ABELL.

29. "BIG BOUNCE"

(https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/29-big_bounce)

The home seeps out of the curtains.

A light flashes with each GALAXY.

TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.

TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING!

WHIRLPOOL

EVERYTHING!

CARTWHEEL

EVERYTHING!

ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING!

ANDROMEDA hands the monocular to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY scopes out the Edge.

MILKY WAY

EVERYTHIN'!

SINGULARITY and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster together in the home.

The light fills the whole Elliptic.

BIG BOUNCE!

GALAXY FAMILY

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another. They distinctly dance alongside their respective walls.

SINGULARITY idly stands, amused.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow during their respective tones of their signature songs.

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows during 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 frolic in the wide-open space upstage. They bow.

The MULTIPLICITIES separate from the audience. They bow.

The spotlight unveils GRAVITY running up to JD and hugging them in the audience.

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

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

JD tosses every star onto the stage.

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

COMPANY bows. They dance together through space and time.

END OF SPACETIME