[ELLIPSES](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The Multiverse

in a Musical

by

David Quang Pham

© David Quang Pham 1140 Alger St SW

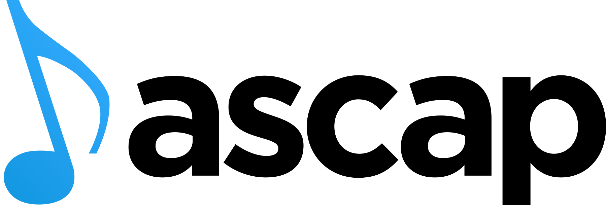
Wyoming, Michigan 49509

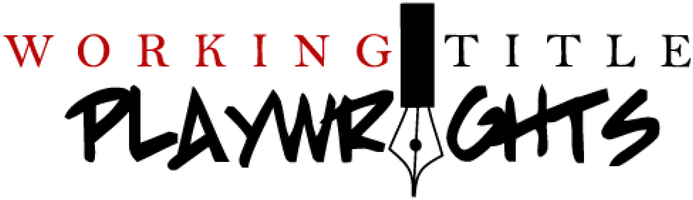
(616)818-5413

[davidquangpham@outlook.com](mailto:davidquangpham@outlook.com)

ellipsesplay@gmail.com

[www.ellipsesplay.](http://www.tourmusical.com)com

****

**[](https://workingtitleplaywrights.com)**

**THANK YOU**

**Name**  **Role**

Edward Brown, Laura Chomiuk, Professors of Physics and Astronomy

Andrea Ghez, Stephen Zepf

Prakash Agrawal, Neil Patel Planets & Telescopes Partners

[Janelle Lawrence](https://www.janellelawrence.com) Musical Theatre Mentor

[Emily McClain](https://newplayexchange.org/users/27781/emily-mcclain) First Reader & 2nd Reader

Alexis McKay Fireworks/Stage Manager

Jordan Ealey Hat/Dramaturg & 2nd Reader

Daniela Cobb\* SPT0615-JD

[Minka Wiltz](https://www.minkawiltz.com/)\* Singularity

[Vallea E. Woodbury](https://vallea.com) Gravity

[Jason-Jamal Ligon](https://www.imdb.me/jasonjamalligon) Cartwheel

[Skye Passmore](https://www.skyepassmore.com/) Whirlpool

Abby Holland Triangulum

Daniel Sakamoto-Wengel Andromeda

[Evan Phillips](https://www.evanhillphillips.com/) Milky Way

Isake Akanke Monday Night Development Workshops Jeff Hathcoat Readers\* Kate Jacoby Bryan Montemayor Lee Osorio2 Mary Lynn Owen Sofia Palmero Lau'rie Roach Parris Sarter2 Imani Vaughn-Jones2

**DEVELOPMENT**

**Date** **Type** **Site** **Specifics**

2017 Idea Michigan State Edwin Loh’s AST 308 Galaxies and Cosmology

2020 Writing Working Title Addae Moon’s Master Class, “Generating 8-15 Playwrights Story Idea”

2020 Reading Working Title Monday Night Critique Sessions 10-5 Playwrights #1-3

2020 Reading S.I.S.R! Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily 11-13 (Preview)

2020 Reading Working Title Monday Night Critique Sessions 12-7 Playwrights #17

2021 Reading Working Title Monday Night Development Workshops 2-1 Playwrights #6-8

2021 Reading Working Title Monday Night Development Workshops 5-3 Playwrights #12

**SYNOPSIS**

An astrophysics epic, ELLIPSES centers on the Galaxy family and their quest to undo the Big Bang, after a member sets it off. This coming-of-age musical follows a teenager and their dog running away from home. SPT0615-JD and Gravity, a tidal force, journey to the Edge of our Universe. The story explores the Big Crunch Theory and Hubble’s Law, which states that Galaxies must distance from the Center. They are like human beings, as we want to get out and explore. The analogy is expressed through these cosmic personifications. The set has a Dome Home to represent the Center, the stage is space, and the fourth wall is the Edge. The Universe is told through the relative experience.

The teenage Galaxies begin their routine by scoping out the Edge (“[Bounce](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/1-bounce)”). Their parent calls them up for supper. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at the table (“[Crunch](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch)”). JD still looks out, tangentially wanting to go to the Edge (“[Cutting Edge](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/3-cutting_edge)”). They see their future as apparent. However, Singularity speaks of its perils and sends them to bed (“[Fixed Stars](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-fixed_stars)”). Letting JD out of bed, Triangulum outlines their family values (“[Anomaly is Everything](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/5-anomaly_is_everything)”). Eager for a voyage anyways, JD finds Singularity’s Big Bang Taser stashed underneath the rug, and deems the Fabric of Spacetime to be just as sturdy (“[Zilch](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-zilch)”). Later, Singularity assesses their children’s black-hole hearts (“[Luminous](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-luminous)”). With this being the final straw, JD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. Singularity goes lifeless. In the chaos, Gravity discreetly picks up Singularity’s dislodged eye. Then, JD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away (“[Big Bang](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/8-big_bang)”).

Triangulum decides to journey out to the Edge with Andromeda. They instruct Cartwheel and Whirlpool to babysit Milky Way. However, Cartwheel and Whirlpool heads out as well. Elsewhere, JD and Gravity are on an adventure (“[Verse](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/9-verse)”). Soon, Cartwheel and Whirlpool decide to return home (“[Time is Relative](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/10-time_is_relative)”). They come to find that Milky Way (“[Spaghetti Horizon](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/11-spaghetti_horizon)”). Isolated and alone, Milky Way speaks to their planetary friends (“[Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-warp_waves_and_wrinkles)”). Eventually, Triangulum and Andromeda find Milky Way in an exhausted state (“[Globular](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/13-globular)”). The Solar System has developed into a swelling. Despite Triangulum’s objections, Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. As a result, Milky Way becomes a Quasar (“[Fabric](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/14-fabric)”).

A trillion years pass, and JD and Gravity are still traversing space. They find time to play fetch, and Gravity catches on JD’s fugue. Through a stellar speech, Gravity explains that the point of return is far-fetched. When retrieving a star, Gravity accidentally fetches over Singularity’s eye (“[Far-Fetched](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/15-far_fetched)”).

From the Center, Singularity awakens (“[Point](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/16-point)”).

In the following act, Singularity’s backstory is presented. Apparently, they ran away from their own Universe themself (“[Heat Death](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/17-heat_death)”). Presently, JD and Gravity discuss their lives. Soon, most siblings have clustered together (“[Bounce Back](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/18-bounce_back)”). They intercept JD and Gravity, where they take them as captives. The Galaxies break JD’s spirit and scope (“[The Scope of Things](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/20-the_scope_of_things)”). Regardless, JD dreams to do what their parent did (“[Apparent](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/19-apparent)”). Milky Way visits their cell to talk about their journey. Soon, they accidentally help JD and Gravity escape (“[Big Rip](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/21-big_rip)”). After the dust settles, Singularity shows up to bring most of the Galaxies home (“[It's About Spacetime](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/22-its_about_spacetime)”).

An eternity passes, and JD is lost more than ever without their scope. They have hit a wall while looking for the Edge. Gravity believes that one can overcome by relaxing (“[Parallax](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/23-parallax)”). In that spirit, the Edge unveils (“[Tangent](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/24-tangent)”). Surrounded by spectacles that reminds them of family, JD decides to head back and take the Edge with them. Gravity feels betrayed as they fought hard for the wide-open space, only for it to be a singularity again. They run away and JD is left to return home alone (“[…](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/25-dot_dot_dot)”). JD tries to give back Singularity's eye when they return. However, Singularity cannot forgive JD. JD jumps off the Ellipse (“[Shed Light](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/26-shed_light)”). In these millennia of grief, the siblings hold each other close (“[\*](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/27-asterisk)”). Singularity takes in their eye, restoring their depth perception. Singularity looks beyond. JD sheds light in an ellipse full of Galaxies. (“[Hearts in the Right Place](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/28-hearts_in_the_right_place)”).

All of a sudden in JD’s honor, Gravity returns with a wolfpack. The Galaxies and the tidal forces end time in this epic showdown (“[The Spaghettification of Zenith](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/29-zenith)”). When all is lost, Singularity and their Galaxies pray at their table in the Center of our Universe as the tidal forces consume them (“[Big Crunch](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/30-big_crunch)”). In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again (“[Big Bounce](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/31-big_bounce)”).

The supermassive heart of the story is the Big Bang Theory and finding oneself after it, as an anomaly and a family.

**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

⬭ Androgyny and Astronomy ⬭

**Character** **Nature Identity**

SINGULARITY Super Infinite Black Hole Adult

The relativistically impossible single parent.

Singularity wants to keep the oneness of the Universe.

GRAVITY Tidal Force Any

A tidal dog.

Gravity wants to ground the wide-open space.

SPT0615-JD Embryonic Galaxy Young Adult

The distant galactic sibling.

JD wants to shed light and be apparent to the lightless.

CARTWHEEL Ring Galaxy Teenager

The aerobic galactic sibling.

Cartwheel wants to earn their ring.

WHIRLPOOL Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy Teenager

The anaerobic galactic sibling.

Whirlpool wants to spiral into enlightenment.

TRIANGULUM Spiral Galaxy Teenager

The jingoistic galactic sibling.

Triangulum wants to be the role model.

ANDROMEDA Spiral Galaxy Teenager

The scenic galactic sibling.

Andromeda wants to find the pearl in this universal oyster.

MILKY WAY Barred Spiral Galaxy Preteen

The angelic galactic sibling.

Milky Way wants to make themself useful.

**Ensembles**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TIDALs | SOLAR SYSTEMs  Sun (Singularity)  Earth (ensemble)  Jupiter (Whirlpool)  Saturn (Cartwheel)  Uranus (Triangulum)  Eris (JD)  Oort Cloud (Andromeda) | MULTIPLICITIEs  Invariant  Fix  Abell\* |

**BRIGHT IDEA\***

ABELL 2261 Elliptical Galaxy Onlooker

An anomalous galactic sweetheart beyond the Edge of the Universe. Abell is JD’s timely loved one in the audience. They may not have a heart or a supermassive black hole, much like the Multiplicities.

**TIDALS**

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

The barks and woofs of Tidals are uttered by barking: “Force.” Their howls are uttered by howling: “Fall.” Singularity and most Galaxies cannot converse with the Tidals. Along JD’s and Gravity’s voyage to the Edge of the Universe, JD eventually understands the tidal language.

**SOLAR SYSTEMS**

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

**MULTIPLICITIES**

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

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**🎜# Page Title Characters** ○*Present but unvocal*

1. 16 [Bounce](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/1-bounce) JD**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|**SINGULARITY

2. 24 [Crunch](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch) SINGULARITY**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|***JD***|***GRAVITY***|***tidals*

3. 25 [Cutting Edge](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/3-cutting_edge) JD**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**TRIANGULULM ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|***GRAVITY***|***SINGULARITY*

4. 33 [Fixed Stars](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-fixed_stars) SINGULARITY**|**WHIRLPOOL**|***JD***|***CARTWHEEL* *TRIANGULUM***|***ANDROMEDA***|***MILKY WAY*

5. 37 [Anomaly is Everything](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/5-anomaly_is_everything) TRIANGULUM**|**JD

6. 39 [Zilch](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-zilch) JD**|***tidals*

7. 44 [Luminous](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-luminous) SINGULARITY**|***JD***|***CARTWHEEL***|***WHIRLPOOL* *TRIANGULUM***|***ANDROMEDA***|***MILKY WAY*

8. 45 [Big Bang](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/8-big_bang) JD**|**SINGULARITY**|**GRAVITY**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**CARTWHEEL TRIANGULUM**|**ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|**tidals

9. 61 [Verse](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/9-verse) JD**|**GRAVITY

10. 70 [Time is Relative](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/10-time_is_relative) CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL

11. 79 [Spaghetti Horizon](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/11-spaghetti_horizon) CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**tidals**|***SINGULARITY*

12. 86 [Warp, Waves, and](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-warp_waves_and_wrinkles) MILKY WAY**|**solar systems [Wrinkles](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-warp_waves_and_wrinkles)

13. 92 [Globular](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/13-globular) ANDROMEDA**|**TRIANGULUM

14. 95 [Fabric](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/14-fabric) TRIANGULUM**|**ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|**tidals

15. 103 [Far-Fetched](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/15-far_fetched) GRAVITY**|**JD

16. 107 [Point](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/16-point) SINGULARITY**|**multiplicities**|**tidals

17. 110 [Heat Death](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/17-heat_death) SINGULARITY**|**multiplicities

18. 124 [Bounce Back](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/18-bounce_back) CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**TRIANGULUM**|**ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY

19. 130 [The Scope of Things](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/19-the_scope_of_things) TRIANGULUM**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY**|**JD**|**GRAVITY

20. 138 [Apparent](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/19-apparent) JD**|***ABELL*

21. 143 [Big Rip](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/21-big_rip) JD**|**GRAVITY**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|**tidals

22. 145 [It's About Spacetime](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/22-its_about_spacetime) SINGULARITY**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY

23. 149 [Parallax](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/23-parallax) GRAVITY**|**JD

24. 152 [Tangent](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/24-tangent) JD**|**GRAVITY

25. 157 [...](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/25-dot_dot_dot) GRAVITY**|**tidals**|***JD*

**🎜# Page Title Characters** ○*Present but unvocal*

26. 166 [Shed Light](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/26-shed_light) JD**|**SINGULARITY**|**GRAVITY**|**TRIANGULUM CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY

27. 170 [\*](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/27-asterisk) ANDROMEDA**|**WHIRLPOOL**|** CARTWHEEL**|**MILKY WAY TRIANGULUM**|**SINGULARITY

28. 172 [Hearts in the Right](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/28-hearts_in_the_right_place) *JD***|***SINGULARITY***|***TRIANGULUM****|****ANDROMEDA* [Place](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/28-hearts_in_the_right_place) *MILKY WAY***|***WHIRLPOOL***|***CARTWHEEL***|***ABELL* multiplicities

29. 173 [(The Spaghettification](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/29-zenith) GRAVITY**|**SINGULARITY**|**CARTWHEEL**|**WHIRLPOOL**|** [of) Zenith](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/29-zenith)TRIANGULUM**|**ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|**tidals

30. 181 [Big Crunch](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/30-big_crunch) SINGULARITY**|**WHIRLPOOL**|**CARTWHEEL**|**TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA**|**MILKY WAY**|***tidals*

31. 184 [Big Bounce](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/31-big_bounce) COMPANY

[Able](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/0-able) ABELL

**MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS**

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

TRIANGULUM| Associative Instruments: Triangle, Handbell

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

CARTWHEEL| Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine, Jingle Bell

ABELL| Associative Instruments: Chimes Leitmotif from “Able” whenever Abell is focused upon. “Able” is in the second phrase in “Hearts in the Right Place”.

**SCENES**

**Act Page Location** **SET|props**

Ii 15 The Center of DOME HOME**|**FIELD EQUATIONS**|**RUG**|**SEATS(7)|TABLE the Universe balls**|**Big Bang Taser**|**dishes**|**knapsack monoculars(2)**|**snow globe**|**whoopie cushion

Iii 61 The Fabric of FIELD EQUATIONS (including f=ma, v=H\_0\*D, Spacetime Δt=(Δt\_0)/√1–v^2/c^2)**|**knapsack**|**monocular

Iiii 79 The Center of DOME HOME**|**RUG**|**SEATS**|**TABLE**|**glasses on the rug the Universe Singularity’s body

Iiv 81 The Fabric of balls**|**eyeball**|**knapsack**|**magnolia flowers(2) Spacetime monoculars**|**eyeball

Iv 107 The Center of DOME HOME**|**RUG**|**SEATS**|**TABLE**|**glasses on the rug the Universe

Iii 110 Singularity’s DOME HOME**|**Big Bang Taser**|**black fabric Past Universe

Iiii 120 The Fabric of balls**|**eyeball**|**knapsack Spacetime

Iiiii 133 The Continuum 3 DOMES [left: doghouse, central: sleeping Checkpoint quarters, right: command post]**|**balls**|**board game equations (f=ma, Δt=(Δt\_0)/√1–v^2/c^2)**|**knapsack snow globe**|**whoopie cushion

Iiiv 147 The Fabric of FIELD EQUATIONS (including d = 1 / p) Spacetime

Iiv 152 The Edge of ENCHANTED AND SOFT UNIVERSE**|**balls the Universe

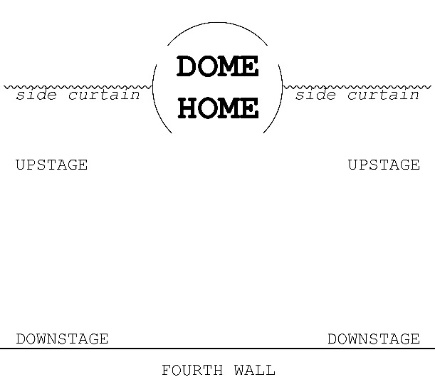
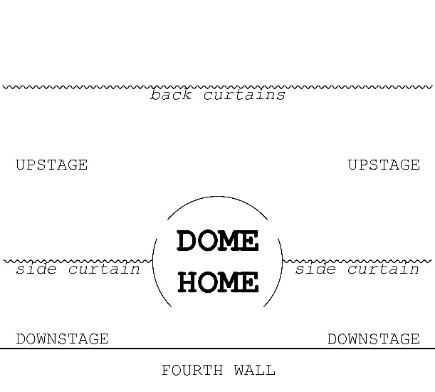
Iivi 159 The Center of DOME HOME**|**RUG**|**SEATS(6)**|**TABLE**|**Big Bang Taser the Universe dishes**|**mirror**|**snow globe**|**whoopie cushion

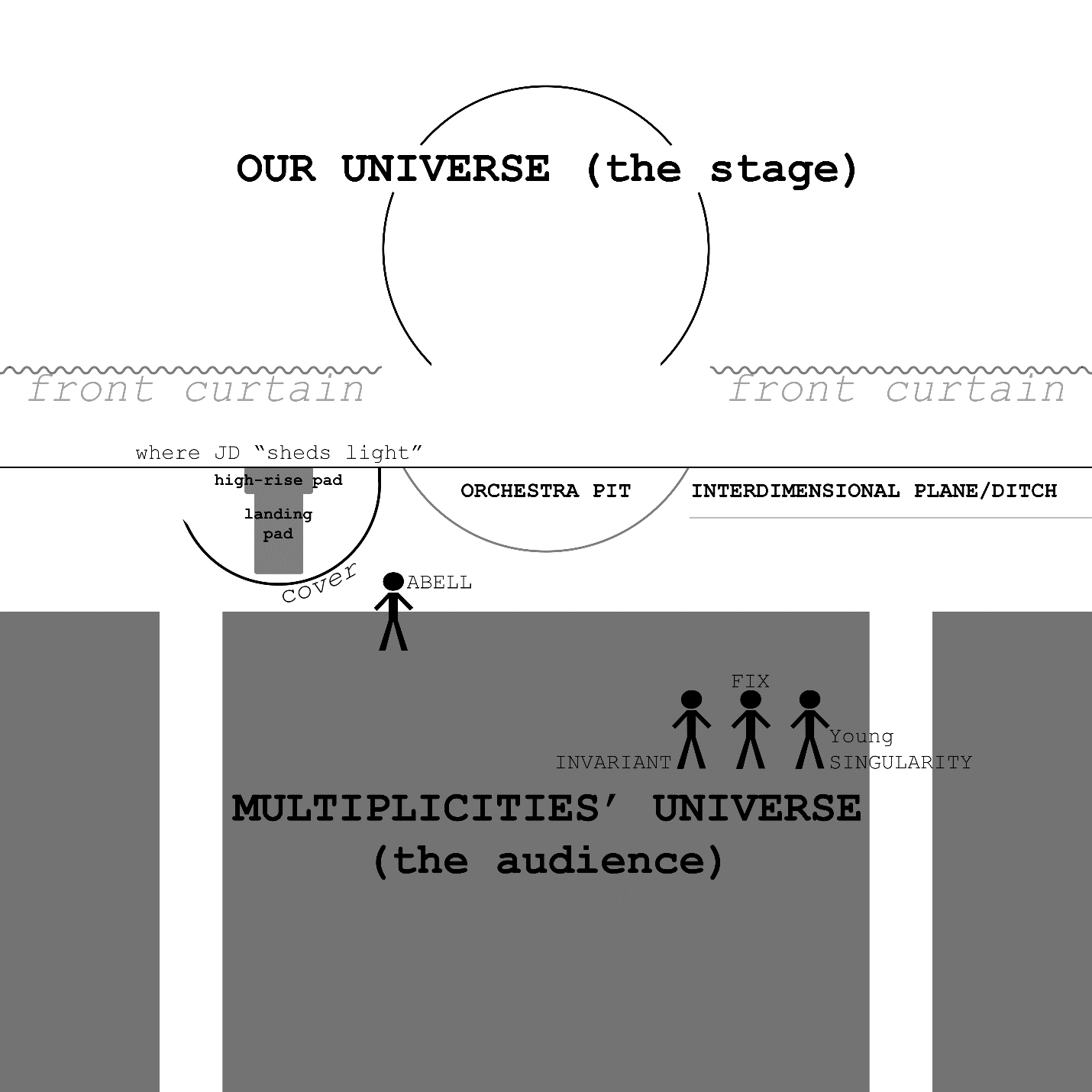
III 184 A Fresh Universe DOME HOME**|**RUG**|**SEATS**|**TABLE**|**balls**|**knapsack snow globe

**SETTINGS**

**THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce** | **Post-Big Bang** |

****

****

**SET DESIGNS**



*[The Center of the Universe]*

*[The Dome is positioned* *downstage center.*  *There is a table with seats and a* *rug inside.*  *Lights dwell solely within the home. Outside,*  *the stage is off limits.* *Everything upstage* *is concealed by the side curtains.]*

*(SINGULARITY hums and meditates on the rug.)*

*(The MULTIPLICITIEs are in the audience.)*

**MULTIPLICITIEs**

Nothing.

*(SINGULARITY pulls out the Big Bang Taser*  *from underneath the rug. They aim it* *outwards. They ignite the Big Bang Taser.)*

*(The TIDALs distantly whimper.)*

*[The lights flicker. The side curtains* *ripple. Field equations loom in the space,* *like a field of flowers. The Universe*  *flashes their wonder.]*

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

*(SINGULARITY stops the Big Bang Taser.)*

*[The Universe returns to normal.]*

*(SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser*  *underneath* *the rug. They look upon ABELL.*  *They beat their heart.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Nothing…

*(Leaving through the side exit.)*

|  |
| --- |
| [**1. BOUNCE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/1-bounce) |

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

*(TRIANGULUM wanders out, carrying a snow* *globe that resembles the home. They head to*  *JD. They notice that* *JD holds two monoculars.*  *They snatch* *one. They look out through it.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING.

*(Tossing the monocular.)*

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

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

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

*(ANDROMEDA pops out.)*

*(CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!

*(Stowing away the monocular.)*

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

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'…

*(The GALAXIEs not JD cluster in the center.)*

**GALAXIEs not JD**

LET’S BOUNCE!

*(Bouncing away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home. They distinctly pose or slow down whenever*  *the melody has rests. Through choreographic* *exposition, they detail themselves perfectly.*  *Now, all they need are their names.)*

*(SINGULARITY remains absent.)*

**SINGULARITY**

MILKY WAY!

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

ANDROMEDA!

*(ANDROMEDA heads to the table.)*

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

TRIANGULUM!

*(TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They* *set the snow globe on the table.)*

WHIRLPOOL!

*(WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.)*

CARTWHEEL!

*(CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.)*

JD!

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

**JD**

ABELL…

*(ABELL reaches out to JD.)*

*[End of “Bounce”.]*

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

*(SINGULARITY arrives with dishes. They bow.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.)*

*(SINGULARITY places a dish on the ground.)*

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

*(The GALAXIEs at the table sit themselves,* *and TRIANGULUM sits on the whoopie cushion.)*

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

Looks like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

**TRIANGULUM**

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL**  The concept of time? | **WHIRLPOOL**  Hmm… What is time? |

**SINGULARITY**

You would know time in a timely manner, when you meditate on it. Has any of you seen two of my space telescopes lately? Where could they be? The only place it could be is in the Center of our Universe. They have to be somewhere in this Dome Home. *This Ellipse*…

*(Looking upon the snow globe.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Least *nothing* is found at the Edge of our Universe, you know?

**ANDROMEDA**

Here, at the Center of our Universe, all we know are a bunch of asterisks, holding different pearls in their oysterous hearts. Galaxies with varying levels of brightness, shapes, and arms if they have any. Being fixed here like constellations, this glob is risky business.

*(SINGULARITY passes out the dishes.)*

**SINGULARITY**

There is nothing to risk but your lives if you leave this Dome. If you somehow escape my gravitational pull and step out onto the Fabric of Spacetime, you’ll end up ripping apart the cosmos. Then I, the grandmaster of the Universe, will be out of order. We have all the cosmic formulas we need right here in our Center. Let’s stay one big happy globular. I did what any supermassive parent would do for their little nebulae and made some grub. With my wrists and black-hole heart, I cooked you all up something special. Nuclear pasta and meteors.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Special* for the trillionth millennium, you Bạch Hổ[[1]](#footnote-1)…

**SINGULARITY**

This tiger nomy/mom/dad is especially happy that you’re just as thrilled as the first. Our meals are heated to almost 15 million degrees Kelvin and rotated within the prototype cosmic microwave background at the angular velocity of 14.713 minus 2.396 sine squared its solar latitude minus 1.787 sine to the fourth power of its solar latitude. Strongest material in the Universe. A variety of nutrition from the crusts of neutron stars. Dismantle the mantle. But leave the core. I’d love to planet these.

*(GRAVITY tries to grab TRIANGULUM’s dish.)*

*(TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Tidal dog… That is not for you to gravitate to.

**MILKY WAY**

Throw the dog a meteor. If tidal force wants a swig, they can have spaghettification. Fix…?

*(GRAVITY obediently sits.)*

*(MILKY WAY tosses unseen food to GRAVITY.)*

*(GRAVITY devours the invisible spaghetti.)*

Who are good tidal forces? You all are!

*(The TIDALs wag their tails.)*

**TIDALs**

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

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(WHIRLPOOL prepares to pray.)*

*(MILKY WAY dives into their dish.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Again, Milky Way?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

**CARTWHEEL**

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**SINGULARITY**

Most of you went through a phase where you ate megatons of nuclear pasta. You want to go through accretion and be a Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy, don’t you?

*(CARTWHEEL taps WHIRLPOOL on the shoulder,* *mocking their physique.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

You may be well rounded, but you ain’t got spiral arms in this fight. You’re filled with heavy blue stars. Ain’t it ring a bell, Ring Galaxy?

**CARTWHEEL**

*Gal*, I don’t put weight or stress on myself. Y’all are the morbidly spiral Galaxies.

*(ANDROMEDA points to TRIANGULUM.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

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

**TRIANGULUM**

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

*(Tossing the whoopie cushion at WHIRLPOOL.)*

*(In their seats, CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL*  *demonstrate defensive stances.* *They bicker.)*

**MILKY WAY**

*(Mouthful of nuclear pasta.)*

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids[[2]](#footnote-2).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** | **TRIANGULUM** |

Watch your worm hole, you quasi-Galaxy. Your primordial heart is barred.

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(Pinching MILKY WAY’s cheek. This shows that* *MILKY WAY is SINGULARITY’s favorite child.)*

Always, full of grace.

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

Let us save space.

*(The nearby GALAXIEs pray with SINGULARITY.)*

|  |
| --- |
| [**2. CRUNCH**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch) |

**SINGULARITY**

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

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

**GALAXIEs not JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**TRIANGULUM**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**CARTWHEEL**

IT IS CRUNCH *TIME*, SINGULARITY.

**ANDROMEDA**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**MILKY WAY**

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

**SINGULARITY**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD? SPT0615-JD?

*[End of “Crunch”.]*

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

|  |
| --- |
| [**3. CUTTING EDGE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/3-cutting_edge) |

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

**JD**

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

*(GRAVITY places their paw on JD’s monocular.)*

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

*(Nearing the edge of the home.)*

**JD** (cont.)

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*[[3]](#footnote-3).

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

WHY ARE THESE OVALS[[4]](#footnote-4) BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY? LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

**GALAXIEs not JD**

CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE…

**JD**

WHY DON’T YOU GO OFF? 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—

**GALAXIEs not JD**

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… AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A LIGHTLESS GALAXY. MY HEARTS TELLS ME THERE’S A PROMISING FAMILY, OFF— END OF THIS TANGENT.

**GALAXIEs not JD**

SPT0615. CHILD.

NO NEED TO BE APPARENT AS SINGULARITY. NO EDGE TO CUT AND SO NO LIGHT SHED. PLEASE DO NOT CUT US OUTTA YOUR LIFE. JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

**JD**

MY FUTURE IS IN A WARM SPACE WHERE MY ELLIPSE IS ABELL… BE WITH A NICE GALAXY…

*(Letting GRAVITY ground them.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JD**  JD… | **GALAXIEs not JD**  SPT0615-*JADED—* |

**JD**

GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

ALL MY COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS EPIC TALE. *OUR* AUDACIOUS VERSE.

THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND THAT WILL FOLLOW IN MY LYRICAL TRAILS TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE…

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

*[End of “Cutting Edge”.]*

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

Grounded. You’re my tidal force, Gravity…

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

I love you too, Singularity…

**SINGULARITY**

Your love doesn’t seem crystal clear. What speaks to your heart?

**JD**

Abell… There is something ringing in me.

**SINGULARITY**

*Abell*…? Is that reel bringing you out?

**JD**

My sights are on an ellipse outside this Ellipse.

**SINGULARITY**

There’s *nothing* but darkness. And a Galaxy must hold light. Think about this Center. I’ll be taking back my scope. Set your sights. We have nice Galaxies on this Ellipse.

*(Taking the monocular from JD.)*

**JD**

I’m past this Ellipse. It’s time I move onto another. What’s out there is my future. My heart tells me to speak to the Edge.

**SINGULARITY**

You’re about to make me cry with that nonsense. Our black holes seemingly *prophesize* what’s to come. Your heart’s telling you junk. And mine is telling me that the Edge will cut into our lives and split this family apart. What is the Edge telling you?

**JD**

I don’t know… But the central prophecy tells me that the nice Galaxies, like Milky Way… It’s nice that they’ll move on from the Center of our Universe, too. And form new centers.

**SINGULARITY**

Baby… Don’t remind me or inform them.

**JD**

I’m no baby anymore. Don’t need to. Their inner voices will tell them when their heart is supermassive and ready.

**MILKY WAY**

I’m a baby. What JD talkin' about, nomy/mama/papa?

**ANDROMEDA**

Just a dull sense that we have. Ye no longer will be a baby…

**JD**

We get too big for our own ellipse. We outgrow the Ellipse. Perhaps you should stop feeding our hearts while you still can.

**SINGULARITY**

I want you all to grow, but not out of this Ellipse. Suit yourself. Don’t join us for Crunch…

*(Heading back to the table.)*

**JD**

I will not take for granted the heart you poured out. Its light.

*(GRAVITY pulls back JD.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Gravity, do you feel the same way about your tidal pack?

*(The TIDALs join SINGULARITY’s side.)*

**GRAVITY**

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

*(Trying to corral the TIDALs. They turn to* *the opening of the Ellipse and run into an* *invisible wall. They dizzily fall back.)*

*(The TIDALs growl and bark. They* *abruptly*  *have their heads pummeled into* *the ground,* *as though by SINGULARITY’s control.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

Oh, Gravity may feel like you.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We sure hope you ain’t feel like Gravity.

*(GRAVITY sniffs the rug. They tap the rug.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Gravity will never learn. Andromeda, leash our Tidals. You and our tidal dogs are never leaving our doghouse’s orbit.

*(ANDROMEDA clusters GRAVITY and the TIDALs.*  *They escort them out.)*

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

And let them treat the Fabric of Spacetime like the springs of a trampoline? No dog bites or rips in or 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**

*(Mumbling.)*

*Your hearts are supermassive black holes for a reason. It’s meant to hold that light in. Inescapable. Why else would I raise you*…? If it suits you. You can shed light… While staying put. Fix yourself.

**JD**

Gravity is the one to ground me. Not you. You’re such a Bạch Hổ. That’s not fair!

**MILKY WAY**

Is JD gonna get us all grounded again?

**SINGULARITY**

You have one another to keep each other in check. I’d like for my clusters of stars to remain fixed in the position of this space. If only you knew how stellar you have it. There were beings that didn’t take kindly of my stars and cells orbiting and moving through my veins and into my heart. When I was a baby Galaxy like you all, all I was is an anomaly.

**JD**

Well now all of us has anomalous anatomies. But yours make up the single worst being in our Universe, especially when there are no other beings around in this Ellipse.

*(SINGULARITY hums.)*

**SINGULARITY**

I might not be the best parent, but I am better than the ones I had.

**JD**

You had a single parent of your own, Singularity? That doesn’t seem at all apparent.

**SINGULARITY**

Clearly, I am more apparent than you will ever be.

|  |
| --- |
| **[4. FIXED STARS](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-fixed_stars)** |

**JD**

FOR ME, A STAR NEEDS TO MOVE. WHAT A STAR NEEDS TO DO. AS THIS STAR NEEDS NO FIX. THIS HERE STAR NEEDS TO RESTART.

**SINGULARITY**

YOU’RE GROUNDED! BE FIXED STARS. OFF TO BED! FIX YOURSELVES. YOU’LL BE DEAD AT THE EDGE.

*(JD and SINGULARITY argue over one another.)*

**JD**

FOR US…

**JD** (cont.)

A STAR NEEDS TO MOVE. WHAT A STAR NEEDS TO DO. AS THIS STAR NEEDS NO FIX. THIS HERE STAR NEEDS A NEW START.

*(Heading off to the offstage bedroom.)*

**SINGULARITY**

ARE YOU DEAF? BE FIXED STARS. YOU’RE SO DAFT. FIX YOURSELVES. YOU’RE THE DEATH OF US ALL.

THINK OF THE FIXED STARS. LEARN FROM THE FIXED STARS. STAY LIKE THE FIXED STARS…

Fix yourself.

I WON’T BE FIXED TO… I CAN’T RETURN TO— I WILL NOT GO ON…

A tangent and neither can you. Fix yourselves.

*(Departing.)*

*(ANDROMEDA routinely clusters the remaining* *GALAXIEs away into their offstage bedroom.)*

*[End of “Fixed Stars”.]*

*(TRIANGULUM brings out JD.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

You’re quite the anomaly, you know? Do you have a millennium?

**JD**

What are you going to mill about now?

**TRIANGULUM**

Mill? I triangulate.

**JD**

It’s rather late to try my patience…

**TRIANGULUM**

We’ve been here for what? Twenty eternities?

**JD**

Seems like it. Well, just about.

**TRIANGULUM**

Where do you see yourself within ten eternities?

**JD**

I don’t see this dysfunctional family.

**TRIANGULUM**

You’re more like the dysfunctional anomaly. Our family functions in this Ellipse. Under the laws and orders of our mighty Bạch Hổ. I understand that you may be the oldest sibling in this household and that after a while, you start to see things. Where do you see yourself in the future?

**JD**

With Abell. With *nothing*…

**TRIANGULUM**

Nothing? Well, you’re an anomaly if you feel that way. As Singularity has said, you have it stellar. We like anomalies around here. Shed some light on this *nothingness*.

**JD**

Every millennium, Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Andromeda, Milky Way, and you say there is nothing out there. I believe in *nothing*.

**TRIANGULUM**

We can be nothing too. We’re as dense as dark matter. And as either stranger or *dark matter*, I will not let anything, whether familiar or unfamiliar, get passed me and fall off the Edge of the Universe…

**JD**

I’m not falling for the Edge.

**TRIANGULUM**

You’re such an outlier. You’re falling for nothing. Why can’t you instead fall for your family?

**JD**

I will…

**TRIANGULUM**

What is family to you?

**JD**

*Nothing*.

|  |
| --- |
| [**5. ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/5-anomaly_is_everything) |

**TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY IS… FAMILY IS…? FAMILY IS… FAMILY ISN’T… FAMILY IS NOT… ANOMALY.

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

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

*(Bringing out the snow globe from the table.)*

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

**JD**

WE KNOW.

**TRIANGULUM**

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

*(Setting the snow globe back on the table.)*

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. BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE YOURS JUST STEMS.

*(Gloomily turning away from JD.)*

AGAIN, ANOMALY IN EVERY THOUGHT, FROM YOUR VIEWS THAT SHIFT TO YOUR POINTS WITH NO

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

ROUND TRIPS. ANOMALY IN EVERY SPACE, LIKE THIS CENTER YOU NEED TO FEEL, YET BELIEVED.

*(Tapping their heart or motioning* *towards*  *the* *table.)*

*(JD somberly sits at the table. They place* *two fists next to the snow globe to make*  *an allusion of an ellipsis…)*

ANOMALY’S IN EVERYONE, INCLUDING US BUT ESPECIALLY YOU YOU YOU…

*(Turning to JD.)*

JD?

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

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL distantly laugh.)*

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

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

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

ANOMALY’S OUR SPACETIME! ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING. NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

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

*[End of “Anomaly is Everything”.]*

|  |
| --- |
| [**6. ZILCH**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-zilch) |

**JD**

ZILCH[[5]](#footnote-5). NOTHING.

*(Holding the snow globe up to their eyes.)*

ZILCH. SOME THINGS

ARE FAMILIAR. OUR NOMY’S/MOTHER’S/FATHER’S A LIAR. SINGULAR—

*(Placing the snow globe on the rug.)*

UNDERNEATH…

*(Orbiting the snow globe.)*

I AM ZILCH.

WHO’S FAMILIAR BEING AN OUTLIER. IT IS ME,

WHOSE FAMILY IS SOMETHING OLD, OUTDATED. EXCEPT ME.

*(Kicking up the rug over the snow globe.)*

UNDERNEATH…

*(Discovering the hidden Big Bang Taser*  *underneath. They warily kneel to pick it up.)*

THERE IS ZILCH?

*(The TIDALs remain absent.)*

**TIDALs**

*(Terrified.)*

Fall…

**JD**

Matters beyond assimilation? Why are you here?

*(Reading the inscriptions on the Big Bang* *Taser.)*

I FOUND A BB… BB TASER?

*(Igniting the Big Bang Taser. They* *accidentally shock themself.)*

Ow! Forces beyond imagination? Where does it go from there?

*(Sticking the Big Bang Taser through the*  *opening and into the space* *outside of the*  *Ellipse. They are surprised that their hand* *is out.)*

I FEEL THE BBT… BIG BANG THEORY.

*(ABELL briefly goes to the stage.)*

*[End of “Zilch”.]*

*(SINGULARITY remains absent.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Zilch. Shocking…

*(JD stows away the Big Bang Taser in their*  *dress. They unroll the rug back to its*  *initial position,* *with the snow globe on it.)*

*(SINGULARITY enters. They bow.)*

*To see you wide and first awake*. Declinations, JD.

*(JD bows.)*

**JD**

Declinations, nomy/mother/father. You’re always looming over us… You poured the light out of your heart to raise me and my siblings. Lights that last eternities. All the light that this Universe holds, and *more*. I was never enlightened to why that’s the nature of your heart. We call our hearts “supermassive black holes” for a reason. A dark void that won’t let light escape unless there’s another matter, bigger than ourselves. Like us to you. You let your light escape for us. May you shed some light—

**SINGULARITY**

What is there left to shed light on…? What is the matter? *Who*?

**JD**

Yourself…

**SINGULARITY**

Stop making light…

**JD**

Light isn’t made. It’s passed down. And making light of what?

**SINGULARITY**

My eternities.

**JD**

What was eternity like before me and my sibling’s eternities?

**SINGULARITY**

*(Irritably.)*

Oh, the luminosity…

**JD**

Where did you get it? All that light. For me as a Galaxy, you have provided that light. That also means, you inherited them…?

**SINGULARITY**

Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

**JD**

Did this light get passed down from your parent?

**SINGULARITY**

My heartless parents…

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

Didn’t you hear me? My two Bạch Hổ were heartless. And every Galaxy in this Universe has a heart. It is not possible for couples to be here. Indeed, having more than one parent was supermassive and added up… But Multiplicities’ love were fractional in this Ellipses I once lived in. There is everything to be proud of when raising you and your five siblings as a single parent. My love is forever wholesome.

**JD**

You were born and raised in another Universe…? Wait, you’re saying that there are indeed other Galaxies out there?

**SINGULARITY**

There is nothing out there. Nothing outside of this home.

**JD**

I once saw nothing out there with my younger siblings. But as I got older, I truly knew that nothing is in here.

**SINGULARITY**

Are you saying that family means nothing to you?

**JD**

Yes. And I hope someone like me feels that way about the Center of the Universe when I have a universe of my own.

**SINGULARITY**

Oh no. The only center of any universe is here, with me and my six clusters of stars. You sure are an anomaly. My anomaly.

**JD**

I’m not sure if I have maturity. I do have your responsibility. Of letting some of my light escape… My heart.

*(SINGULARITY pulls out a monocular and hands*  *it to JD. They point outside.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

The point of your heart is inherently mine. Like you, nomy/mother/father, as my heart outgrows yours, the purpose of life is to pour my heart out to someone with less heart. The only way I can see the light is if another Galaxy lightens up. If my heart is pointless, then your heart is pointless, too. Singularity… Nothing gets passed you… Not even light.

|  |
| --- |
| [**7. LUMINOUS**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-luminous) |

*(SINGULARITY notices the snow globe on the*  *rug. They go to pick up the snow globe.)*

*(JD blocks SINGULARITY’s path, so they do not* *discover that the Big Bang Taser was found.)*

*(SINGULARITY drags JD to the table.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(The other GALAXIEs enter.)*

*(SINGULARITY aligns each GALAXY.)*

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.

LUMINOUS. TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS. I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE. LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.

*(Lovingly pinching MILKY WAY. They try to* *align JD.)*

WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE…

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

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.

*[End of “Luminous”.]*

*(GRAVITY and the TIDALs enter and gather*  *around.)*

*(SINGULARITY focuses on JD.)*

And you… At the center of yours, is supermassive.

*(JD scopes out the Edge. They longingly see*  *ABELL.)*

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

*Well taken*. There’s *nothing* to take out, but family.

*(JD does not take it lightly.)*

|  |
| --- |
| [**8. BIG BANG**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/8-big_bang) |

**SINGULARITY**

YOU ARE A BIG…

*(JD wipes out the Big Bang Taser. They*  *instantly shoot* *SINGULARITY in the face.)*

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

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

*MISTAKEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.*

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

*(GRAVITY seems jubilant.)*

**TIDALs**

*(Repeating.)*

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

*(JD regretfully drops the Big Bang Taser.)*

*(GRAVITY kicks away the Big Bang Taser.)*

**SINGULARITY**

ACHE… ELLIPSES… BIG BANG…

*(Abruptly slamming their face onto* *the*  *table. They fall into lifelessness.)*

**TIDALs**

FALL!

*(Repeating.)*

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG!

*[The snow globe explodes.]*

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

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

*(GRAVITY makes JD turn to what is outside.)*

*(JD gently walks to the edge of the home to*  *look out, shifting from grief to wonder.* *They are surprised that they are now able to*  *take a step* *out onto the stage.)*

*(GRAVITY appears to pick up a sphere by* *SINGULARITY’s feet.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

S P T OH NO. YOU…?

**WHIRLPOOL**

IT HAD TO BE YOU?

**ANDROMEDA**

WHY WOULD YOU RISK THIS UNI—

*(MILKY WAY weeps on SINGULARITY.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

OUR UNIVERSE HAS END…

*(JD approaches their sibling GALAXIEs.)*

**GALAXIEs not JD**

DEAD, YOU ARE. BIGGEST FLAW. BIGGER FEARS. BIG BRAINED FOOL. BIT THE HAND THAT FEEDS. BEAT THE HEART THAT FELT TO DEATH.

**JD**

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

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

*(TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, WHIRLPOOL, and*  *CARTWHEEL step away from* *SINGULARITY to*  *watch as the Universe unravels.)*

*(MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themself around* *the* *lifeless SINGULARITY.)*

*(JD and GRAVITY run in place. They stop in* *their tracks when they notice their lack of* *progress.)*

**JD**

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge?

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

It’s further away?

*(Taking a step downstage.)*

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

It’s *getting* further away.

*(GRAVITY claws at the ground.)*

The Fabric of Spacetime is fabric, after all. And we’re rolling it out, like our rug.

*(Leveling with GRAVITY.)*

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

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

**GRAVITY**

*Free* fall! Pets, no more! The Cosmos is ours. Their celestial bodies are our puppets. The wide-open space is our destination. Zenith is our destiny.

*(Readdressing JD. They act like a dog again.)*

Force!

*(JD stands, grateful to have a travel buddy.* *They leave with GRAVITY on this journey.)*

**JD**

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

**GALAXIEs not JD**

DID REAL DAMAGE… *A BANG-UP JOB*!

YOU ARE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!

*(TRIANGULUM grieves at the sight of the* *shattered snow globe. They hold its base,* *before stowing it away.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE OUT WITH THE BIG BANG…

*[End of “Big Bang”.]*

|  |
| --- |
| [**7. LUMINOUS**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-luminous) |

*(Choreographically, the GALAXIEs prepare* a *funeral. They lay SINGULARITY on the table.*  *They close SINGULARITY’s only eye. They bow.)*

**GALAXIEs**

Luminous. It’s just us. Looks like the end times, Singularity.Declinations.

*[End of “Luminous”.]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL**  Nothing matters. | **WHIRLPOOL**  Ain’t anything holding mass. |

**ANDROMEDA**

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

*[A high-pitched ring echoes.]*

*(CARTWHEEL grows wobbly.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

We can’t even lay the full mass of nomy/mother/father to rest. An eye is missing… Was time ever made by us? I can now hear the clock ringing and feel it in my ring.

**WHIRLPOOL**

The aftermath of the Big Bang still rings true. Absent is the barks of our tidal forces, who have escaped into the unknown. It sounds like the Fabric of Spacetime is stretching itself.

**CARTWHEEL**

Our Universe is stretching itself out thin. And now, we’re supposed to stop that before our livelihoods are depleted?

**WHIRLPOOL**

We have to venture out and gather what’s left…? I guess we can’t make time and that there ain’t a millennium to waste…?

**CARTWHEEL**

Not a millennium but a certain Galaxy… They’ll face justice!

*(WHIRLPOOL grabs ahold of CARTWHEEL.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Is Singularity away…? Where is one of nomy’s/mama’s/papa’s eyes?

**ANDROMEDA**

Our grandmaster’s sights ascend beyond their expanding Universe.

**TRIANGULUM**

And along the expanding Universe, JD will not traverse far.

**CARTWHEEL**

You got to be kidding me. SPT0615-JD should stay away, or they will meet my hands… It’s not passed time to grieve another family member… But I won’t grieve when I waste JD—

*(WHIRLPOOL grabs ahold of CARTWHEEL again.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

You have no arms in this fight, Ring Galaxy. Time has long passed to be this upset. Triangulum…?

**TRIANGULUM**

Family is everything.

**GALAXIEs not TRIANGULUM**

We know…

**CARTWHEEL**

JD is nothing.

**TRIANGULUM**

No. JD is an anomaly. And will always be an anomaly, everywhere they go. They are everything in this nothingness.

**MILKY WAY**

Gravity…?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain’t knowing what that tidal dog did to convince JD to pull out that Big Bang Taser and tase our guardian in the face but—

**ANDROMEDA**

Grevity is a mysterious creature. Ye knew what that thing was?

**WHIRLPOOL**

I sneak out for snacks. Whenever I see Singularity meditate, they would pull out the Big Bang Taser to make theories come to life. It sends electricity through the chakras of our spacetime.

**CARTWHEEL**

It certainly shocked their chakras alright…

**TRIANGULUM**

JD gave Singularity zilch. Least, it’s not in the hands of evil…

*(MILKY WAY picks up the Big Bang Taser.)*

**MILKY WAY**

My hands are good!

*(CARTWHEEL clumsily cartwheels away.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

You’re losing your edge.

**CARTWHEEL**

I’ve lost my ring. One is enough Big Bang!

*(MILKY WAY slightly shocks themself. They*  *place the Big Bang Taser into* *SINGULARITY’s*  *unmoving hand.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Ow! Nomy’s/Mama’s/Papa’s hand is good, too…

*(ANDROMEDA touches the Big Bang Taser. They* *slightly shock themself.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

Lemme at— Ow! Why did Singularity bury away such a treasure?

**TRIANGULUM**

You know not to touch unknown forces… Where did Singularity dig this up from?

**CARTWHEEL**

Whatever it is, JD seems the most acquainted out of all of us. Seems none of us can truly use it.

*(WHIRLPOOL steps onto the rug. They sit.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Not yet. We each will know in a timely manner… At a certain stage of maturity. Meditation wouldn’t hurt. We should meditate on it.

**CARTWHEEL**

You think what JD did is *mature*? Meditation on…?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Equations. There may be field equations out there, but ain’t no flowers that are realer than what’s in the mind.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Daydreaming about frolicking in a field of flowery constants doesn’t seem at all formulaic*.

**TRIANGULUM**

Perfect. Form up on me, Andromeda. The rest of you can find escape and cook up some formulas, while we find our family’s escape by undoing the Big Bang.

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope, we? Say what?

**MILKY WAY**

May I undo Big Bang, too?

**TRIANGULUM**

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. You’re babysitting Milky Way.

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal… No one has time for this Barred Galaxy.

**ANDROMEDA**

Sorry but shut ye worm hole, Ring Galaxy.

**TRIANGULUM**

You two are going to make sure that our little barred sibling doesn’t get in the way.

**ANDROMEDA**

You are such a square, Triangulum. Melky Way is how we move forward. Don’t try to be a Bạch Hổ to Cartwheel and Wharlpool.

**TRIANGULUM**

Excuse me but this square picked you to be their dog catcher. We have the responsibility of leashing the tidal forces, too…

**MILKY WAY**

Milky Way no get in the way… Milky Way no get in the way…

**WHIRLPOOL**

By the way, how long will it take for you to get back?

**TRIANGULUM**

A few million years…?

**ANDROMEDA**

Several dozens of…?

**TRIANGULUM**

We’ll play it safe and say that it’ll be a hundred.

**ANDROMEDA**

Safer to be ready for no more than a nine-digit number.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Really? Is there an Edge in sight?

*(ANDROMEDA takes out their monocular. They*  *scope out.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

You got a point there.

**CARTWHEEL**

The point’s here. We’ll accomplish this errand in no time. While you are the two who have a mouth to feed.

**TRIANGULUM**

You have wormholes. I’ll give you that.

**CARTWHEEL**

We’re brighter…

**WHIRLPOOL**

We’re stronger…

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

Than you two.

**TRIANGULUM**

Says who?

**ANDROMEDA**

The Ring Galaxy with their blue stars and the Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy with their spiral arms…

*(TRIANGULUM strategically sits on the*  *whoopie cushion* *on a seat at the table.)*

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL distractedly bursts*  *into laughter.)*

*(TRIANGULUM decisively stands up.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

And yet, you both are as mature as gas giants. There’s not a millennium to spare.

*(Dragging ANDROMEDA away.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

We actually wasted four-hundred-and-eighty millennia arguing. Are we really going to spend our lives getting JD back…?

**TRIANGULUM**

Once we get JD, we’ll have everything waiting for us back home.

**ANDROMEDA**

What does that say about me?

**TRIANGULUM**

You’re nothing but passive. I could use a listener for my little music on this journey. Melody is every—

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye know.

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA depart.)*

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL finally stop* *laughing, realizing they have been*  *bamboozled.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Do you wanna play Tardigrades and Elevators with me?

**CARTWHEEL**

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

*(MILKY WAY does not turn around.)*

**MILKY WAY**

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

*(CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs off.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

Oh the luminosity…

**WHIRLPOOL**

In general, this is specially unrelativistic what you are doing…

**CARTWHEEL**

What do you know about special relativity? This is what’s best for our special little relative. I’ll show Triangulum and Andromeda that we’re the galactic duos! We’ll undo the Big Bang before them and save the Universe!

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time will tell…

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.)*

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM are voices in MILKY WAY’s*  *head.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

Be an adult.

**MILKY WAY**

Adult…? All adult— Only adult is gone.

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

There is only one in the entire Universe.

**MILKY WAY**

Who?

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

You. Now go be one. Clean up your siblings’ and dogs’ Big Bang.

**MILKY WAY**

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

*Planetary friends*, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

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

**MILKY WAY**

Plant friends. I can’t wait to see what JD is up to in this… U—ni— Uh. Verse.

*[The home stows away.]*

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

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

|  |
| --- |
| [**9. VERSE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/9-verse) |

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

**JD**

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

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

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

*(GRAVITY puts together F = A M.)*

*(JD stops in their tracks while picking up* *the frequency ratio of a semitone in*  *twelve-tone equal temperament:* .)

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

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

**GRAVITY**

Force?

*(JD smiles.)*

*(GRAVITY puts together Hubble’s Law:* *.)*

**JD**

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

*[End of “Verse”.]*

**GRAVITY**

Force!

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

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.)*

*(ANDROMEDA mumbles the upcoming space shanty,* *“Globular”. They take out their monocular.*  *They scope out towards the Center.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Your heart’s in the wrong space. Red shift. *You’re facing the wrong way…* Do you see the Edge…? Of the Universe?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye just want to know how far we’ve come… We walked a few mill…

**TRIANGULUM**

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

**ANDROMEDA**

Ope. There’s nothing.

**TRIANGULUM**

'Scuse me?

**ANDROMEDA**

Melky Way is away.

**TRIANGULUM**

Away? Are they getting lost in the Water Bears and Elevators board game again?

**ANDROMEDA**

No one is at the Ellipse.

**TRIANGULUM**

Those galactic idiots… This voyage is in vain.

**ANDROMEDA**

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

*(TRIANGULUM takes out the snow globe’s base.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

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

**ANDROMEDA**

JD can wait…

**TRIANGULUM**

That was the problem… They waited too long.

**ANDROMEDA**

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

**TRIANGULUM**

Oh to let Singularity’s favorite child get in harm’s way… Cartwheel and Whirlpool are going to meet my spiral arms.

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

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA head back.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.)*

*(CARTWHEEL clumsily lands their cartwheel.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

My time is…

**WHIRLPOOL**

What?

**CARTWHEEL**

Up…

**WHIRLPOOL**

In the air?

**CARTWHEEL**

*In a vacuum*… Yes, in the air!

**WHIRLPOOL**

Why’re you full of uncertainty?

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

*(Sitting and preparing to meditate.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

Give me a millennium to consider your input.

**WHIRLPOOL**

That’s a millennium. *You change your mind yet*…? Let’s go home.

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal… For the billionth time, we’re not going home.

**WHIRLPOOL**

And now we have a billion less time without a shelter over our heads. A billion less time without our family.

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**CARTWHEEL**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL**  Whirl, you’re a whirlpool in this sea. | **WHIRLPOOL**  Cart, you be the steering wheel of this ship. |

**WHIRLPOOL**

We’re anchoring to make up lingos like Andromeda… Well, I’m just sitting here tryna make us turn this ship around.

**CARTWHEEL**

No turning back. Our scallywag’s preoccupied with our captain.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Singularity wouldn’t be disappointed if we considered our own safety, ring sibling. Especially Milky Way’s.

**CARTWHEEL**

Whatever’s left of my ring. I’m not worried if we’d disappoint them… Milky Way’s probably having a grand old time now.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Typical Ring Galaxy. Your spine is uptight. You ain’t right. We wronged our little sibling by leaving them behind. What we’re doing to Milky Way brings degradation to the Galaxy family.

**CARTWHEEL**

Don’t grade me on loyalty. *Triangulum and Andromeda ditched us*. It’s time to prove that I, Cartwheel, am more well-rounded than Triangulum would ever be.

**WHIRLPOOL**

That be your reason to desert Milky Way? Time’s missing in your equation. Time’s up in the air when it needa be solid in you.

**CARTWHEEL**

Look. Leaving them home alone is the best thing we’ve done for that barred twerp. I learnt about time as much as you did on our travels. Their life goes by faster without us.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Times are fast. That there lies the problem… Life is short. We don’t want to miss any of that, especially our baby sibling’s growth and development. Die. Late.

**CARTWHEEL**

Never mind what I said I learnt. I should focus on why you’re once again going to meditate to that time whatever equation—

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time dilation? It’s what Singularity did to pass time. They used to meditate about formulas on our rug. I be wondering how our nomy/mother/father pondered these simple concepts…

**CARTWHEEL**

You’re becoming Singularity. A black hole. Our Bạch Hổ.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Look inside yours. Tiger parent ain’t who I am cause we’re still cubs. Besides, our Bạch Hổ would eat us alive if we let the primordial cub go through the nuclear leftovers in the fridge.

**CARTWHEEL**

We must undo the Big Bang if we want to be left over. Think about it: A welcome back will be the fruits of our labor.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Meditate on this. You think you’re competing against Triangulum.But really, we are all competing against time. Our quest ain’t fruitful. Our Universe expands faster than we can ever outrun it. *Dilation*…

**CARTWHEEL**

Can you expand on that?

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Dilation* means to expand.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Expansive*. And your point is?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Our point’s in the Center of the Universe. Home. We ain’t there. We should think about it. We gotta go home.

**CARTWHEEL**

That’s not the point of our duty. What should come first in mind is the Edge of the Universe. Not Milky Way or our Bạch Hổ.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Singularity ain’t like a tiger parent any longer. They’re pretty tranquilized. Home… I miss being a tiger cub in a well-kept zoo. Now, there’s no better duty than for us to be Milky Way’s keeper. We got to take care of Milky Way.

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

Can you calm down and listen to your own supermassive heart? We are missing out on watching our baby sibling’s heart grow. They’re outgrowing your former chores. There ain’t a point in this “chore.” Time ain’t have bonus points. Time runs out… I know what I just said was heavy. And weights on your shoulders make time go even slower. Just enjoy the time we have together. Help me piece the time dilation equation. Give time a whirl…

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**CARTWHEEL**

What’s on your mind when you expand your mental universe?

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Everything*.

|  |
| --- |
| [**10. TIME IS RELATIVE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/10-time_is_relative) |

**CARTWHEEL**

SO, *FAMILY* COMES FIRST IN MIND?

*(WHIRLPOOL meditates.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

*(Tapping the ground.)*

Live with me in the millennium.

*(CARTWHEEL sits and poorly meditates.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

You have Singularity’s chakras…

*[Strobe of lights move fast near WHIRLPOOL*  *while lights move slow near CARTWHEEL.]*

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

The focal point is to think about our relatives.

**CARTWHEEL**

TIME’S NOT RELATIVE…

*(Pointing to the lights.)*

What is this?!

**WHIRLPOOL**

Enlightenment.

**CARTWHEEL**

Where’s time in all this?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Did I forget to mention that time’s in the fourth dimension? Time’s invisible in our third dimension. So, these strobes of lights will have to do in presenting the speed of time.

**CARTWHEEL**

Why is my time so slow?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time ain’t fast if you keep stressing. Think about something that makes you happy.

**CARTWHEEL**

Family…

**WHIRLPOOL**

Exactly. One moment here seems like a million years…

*[Lights erratically quickens near* *CARTWHEEL.]*

**CARTWHEEL**

When you factor in time…

*(Freaking out.)*

*One million years with relatives seem like a moment.*

**WHIRLPOOL**

That’s relativity. Time goes by quickly, weighed by those you love spending it with. Time is specially related to family.

*(CARTWHEEL is in denial.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

UNRELATED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME WILL TELL YOU TO CONFRONT YOUR RELATIVES.

**CARTWHEEL**

NOT ELATED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME WILL TELL YOU TO RESPECT YOUR RELATIVES.

**CARTWHEEL**

NO DEBATE.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME WILL TELL YOU TO HELP OUT YOUR RELATIVES.

**CARTWHEEL**

YOU’RE DELUDED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

JUST DILATED.

**CARTWHEEL**

Dial it back.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Nah. You dial back your worries. Quit denying reality.

**CARTWHEEL**

It’s too early to turn back.

**WHIRLPOOL**

It’ll be too late if we turn our backs. Let’s just take it step by step…

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY…

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**CARTWHEEL**

Get bent.

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

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

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

THAT AIN’T HOW TIME WORKS.

**CARTWHEEL**

FAMILY’S NOT IN THE EQUATION.

**WHIRLPOOL**

CHANGE IS.

**CARTWHEEL**

CHANGES?

**WHIRLPOOL**

YOU’LL CHANGE IN TIME.

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY SQUARED DIVIDED—

*(CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL’s strike.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT, YET TENSOR CALCULUS STRAINS YOU.

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

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

**CARTWHEEL**

DOWNTIME.

*(WHIRLPOOL spirals clockwise in place.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL**  PLEASE DO FACE TIME. | **WHIRLPOOL**  I CAN’T FACE TIME. |

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time moves slowly the further into one’s gravity you go. So, your black-hole heart is younger than how you look. Really, you’re naïve and scared on the inside. Life was 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. Except we won’t be there to see them grow. Sure, you ain’t grown a bit. But get it to your head that there will someday be no time.

**CARTWHEEL**

I’m steering us away from the time dilation— Dilemma that we face. One universe, our caregiver cared. This Universe, they can’t care less. In any universe, we can’t care as caregivers. Milky Way will outgrow our neglect. Past, present, and future, all we need is each other. You’ll come around to it.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME’S TOO RELATIVE. WE NEED TO SEE OUR FAMILY.

YOU’LL KNOW IN NO TIME…

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

**CARTWHEEL**

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

*(CARTWHEEL reaches enlightenment.)*

**CARTWHEEL** (cont.)

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

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

TIME’S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

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

*[Their lights gradually balance one another.]*

*(Through a training montage, CARTWHEEL* *assembles . They share it with* *WHIRLPOOL.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

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

*(CARTWHEEL eventually earns their ring.* *They can perfectly cartwheel again.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME IS RELATIVE. YOU’VE CHANGED AND SO MILKY WAY COMES FIRST.

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

*(Proudly.)*

WHY WE’RE HEADING HOME?

**CARTWHEEL**

TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE’S LIGHTER.

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

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

TIME… TIME. LET’S NOT WASTE TIME.

*[End of “Time is Relative”.]*

*[The Center of the Universe]*

*[The home returns. Singularity remains on* *the table. The Ellipse is messier.]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

We’re home! Dilations, Milky Way. Milky Way?!

**WHIRLPOOL**

Where are ya, ya barred rascal?

**CARTWHEEL**

You’re not already too old for Tardigrades and Elevators, are you? I’ll let you roll the first die.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We have a warm plate of nuclear pasta ready for you! *Ain’t stopping Milky Way from falling for this bait*.

|  |
| --- |
| [**11. SPAGHETTI HORIZON**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/11-spaghetti_horizon) |

*(The TIDALs remain absent. They whistle.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

Are we, the bait…?

*(A group of TIDALs grabs ahold of* *CARTWHEEL*  *while the other grabs ahold of* *WHIRLPOOL.)*

Gal, we’re about to be the first to die!

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL cry out for one* *another. They may also argue.)*

*(SINGULARITY remains lifeless. They echo.)*

**SINGULARITY**

You dare not look after your baby sibling?!

**CARTWHEEL**

From the cosmic beyond…

**WHIRLPOOL**

Our relative is specially…

**CARTWHEEL**

Relativistically…

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

Upset!

*(The TIDALs pluck out CARTWHEEL and drag out*  *WHIRLPOOL in separate directions.)*

**TIDALs**

*(Repeating.)*

SPAGHETTI HORIZON… SPAGHETTIFICATION…

*[The home stows away.]*

*[End of “Spaghetti Horizon”.]*

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*(MILKY WAY exhaustively drifts in.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Milky Way for…

**EARTH**

Forgotten?

**MILKY WAY**

Imaginary friends?

**ERIS**

No, we’re your planetary friends.

**EARTH**

I’m not.

**PLANETS, NOT EARTH**

No one is asking you, Earth.

**ERIS**

Don’t give up. You’re not the only one forgotten. Everyone remembers Pluto. But I’m cooler, literally. I’m Eris by the way, and I should be the heiress/heir-no-less of the dwarf planets. You may be barred with your messed-up arms, but barred spiral Galaxies are bigger than normal spirals like Triangulum and Andromeda.

**JUPITER**

You most certainly are a massive spiral galaxy.

**SATURN**

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

**JUPITER**

Go play with your ring.

**SATURN**

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

**URANUS**

Two. In fact.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JUPITER** | **SATURN** |

You are a two.

*(Laughing.)*

**SUN**

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

**URANUS**

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

**MILKY WAY**

You have a son?

**URANUS**

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

**MILKY WAY**

Sons can have sons…?

**EARTH**

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**

Earth, you know we don’t discuss galactic formation in our Solar System household. It is theoretical heresy. Who are you even talking to?

**EARTH**

Just mantling with my Moon, Sun.

**MILKY WAY**

May I talk to Moon?

**EARTH**

You have your own natural satellites. Isn’t that right, Moon? Moon…? Why don’t you ever return my calls?!

**ERIS**

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

**MILKY WAY**

Patience. Only a millennium.

**EARTH**

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

**SUN**

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

**EARTH**

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

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

**ERIS**

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

**OORT CLOUD**

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

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

**EARTH**

*Gravity well*… Theorize somethin'!

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

Milky Way warped themself!

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts into laughter.)*

*(MILKY WAY bursts into tears.)*

**MILKY WAY**

I hate myself…

**OORT CLOUD**

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

*(MILKY WAY examines their physical self.)*

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

**MILKY WAY**

*Tell me*.

**OORT CLOUD**

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**

There are people in me.

**PLANETS, NOT EARTH**

Cut your hubris, Earth!

**OORT CLOUD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

Sing it.

**OORT CLOUD**

You must first, own it.

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

|  |
| --- |
| [**12. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/12-warp_waves_and_wrinkles) |

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

MILKY WAY’S ON THEIR OWN. ALL ALONE. KNOW THAT FOR US AT HOME. YOU’RE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD, THROUGH WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets are livelier.)*

THROUGH IT ALL. THICK AND THIN. THROUGH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

**OORT CLOUD**

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

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

IMAGINARY!

**OORT CLOUD**

BUT REALLY…

**ERIS**

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

ONE OF SEVERAL…

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

**ERIS**

ARMS, IN FACT.

**URANUS**

Check a mirror!

**MILKY WAY**

What’s mirror?

**URANUS**

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

**MILKY WAY**

I never know what I look like…

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

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

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

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

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

*[A tiny arm pops out.]*

**OORT CLOUD**

You are Magellanic.

*(MILKY WAY ponders.)*

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

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

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

*(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)*

**OORT CLOUD** (cont.)

Don’t eat your natural satellites!

**MILKY WAY**

*(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds.)*

I gravitate my feelings…

**OORT CLOUD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

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

**OORT CLOUD**

I’m parsecs away from losing it.

**JUPITER**

It’s the nature of Galaxies… They’ll eat everything.

**SATURN**

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

**ERIS**

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

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

**MILKY WAY**

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

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

*(Deepening voice.)*

I LOVE MYSELF.

*(The extra arms may hug MILKY WAY.)*

*(Many SOLAR SYSTEMs spiral in. These dancers* *resemble known and unknown stars and planets,*  *while EARTH drags their feet. They orbit*  *MILKY WAY like the spiral* *arms around a*  *supermassive black hole* *of a Galaxy. One*  *dancer places a halo* *on MILKY WAY’s head.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEMs**

HALO FRIEND AND OUR HOME. PROTECTOR AND OUR RIDE. HITCHHIKER AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF OUR…

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES! WE LOVE IT ALL!

*(MILKY WAY loves this galactic stage that*  *they* *have reached in their life.)*

**SUN**

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MILKY WAY** | **SOLAR SYSTEMs** |

OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

*[End of “Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles”.]*

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

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

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

**MILKY WAY**

W— W— N— Wr—

**OORT CLOUD**

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

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

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA arrive.)*

1. Bạch Hổ is Vietnamese for “white tiger,” sounds like “black hole,” and implies tiger parenting. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In geometry, an ellipsoid is a three-dimensional ellipse. In ELLIPSES, this is like calling someone “fat.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In geometry, ellipses are ovals. In linguistics, ellipses indicate omissions. In ELLIPSES, this is a divisive term. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Being called an “oval” is like being called “slow” while being called an “ellipse” is akin to a curse word. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. In physics, zilch is a conserved quantity of the electromagnetic field. Normally, zilch means “nothing.” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)