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A Universal Musical

By David Quang Pham

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THANK YOU

Working Title Playwrights Dramaturgy Apprenticeship 2020-2021

Amber Bradshaw WTP Managing Artistic Director ○ 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 Tidalis ○ 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
 WTP Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*

Colorado New Musical Festival 2022

Preston Adams, Kelly Bidstrup Graham, Mary Wilkie Backstory Theatre
 Emma Day Magellan/Music Director & Saturn ○ Lucia Graves Milky Way
 Jack Tyler Oort Cloud ○ Nicole Meredith Uranus Riley Krull Sun
 Elicia Hesselgrave Earth & Jupiter ○ Amanda M. Edwards Mercury

MilkyWay Theatre Company 2022-2023

Jamie T Burkhart MilkyWay Producing Artistic Director ○ Jay Michaels Director
 Si Boudoin Assistant Director/Dramaturg ○ Simon Broucke Music Director/Orchestrator
 Dominika Zawada Stage Manager ○ Joseph Lee Singularity
 Maria Noriko Cabral Gravity ○ Isaac Williams HD1
 Karina Ordóñez Cartwheel ○ Kristen Amanda Vargas Smith Whirlpool
 Carla Angeline Mongado Triangulum ○ Yoosep Im Andromeda
 Yasmin Ranz-Lind Milky Way ○ Oscar Chicaiza Be ○ Flynn Byun Ing
 Kenedi Chriske, Leigh Dillon, Chyna Jackson, Chris King,
 Sabrina López, Caitlyn Somerville, Eli Wassertzug Tidalis

Life ∞-∞

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
 Christina Hemphill, Marty Jagodzinski, Madeline Stone CreateTheater
 Janelle Lawrence Mentor ○ Trung Pham, Hue Nguyen, Linda Pham Family

DAVID QUANG PHAM (he★him)

David Quang Pham is a musical theater science communicator. His purpose is to guide 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 cosmology are respectively: TOUR (2020 DUAF finalist) and ELLIPSES. In January 2023, MilkyWay Theatre Company produced a sold-out industry reading of ELLIPSES in their Inaugural Off-Broadway New Works Festival in Theatre 71 at Blessed Sacrament. His dramaturgical credits include *Millennials are Killing Musicals* by Nico Juber and directed by Ciara Renée (2022 29-hour reading at Open Jar Studios and 54 Below).

Composer Janelle Lawrence mentors him, helping to forge his broad range of musical styles including pop, punk, tango, and Xiqu. After completing an astrophysics and theatre education at Michigan State University, he studied playwriting as the second apprentice of Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He is the last Literary Fellow of Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco. His music was commissioned by Harriet Tubman Effect Institute. He was a critic in Kennedy Center's BIPOC Critics Lab whose work is published in TheaterMania. He is a proficient trombonist; moderator at LMDA; founding member of CreateTheater and the International Dramaturgy Lab; member of SNE, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild. His moonbase is in Washington Heights. Be up to lightspeed at davidquang.com

CHRONOLOGY OF ELLIPSES

October 5, 2020; December 7, 2020; February 1, 2021; May 3, 2021
• Readings w/ Talkback • Working Title Playwrights (WTP)

June 13, 2021; October 17, 2021; February 27, 2022 • Workshops • Theater Resources Unlimited (TRU)

July 15, 2021 • Concert Reading w/ Talkback • WTP

December 11, 2021 • Lab • TRU; Miriam Eusebio Director

2022 • Semifinalist • Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

2022 • Semifinalist • CreateTheater SUNY Cortland Partnership

July 21, 2022 • Concert Reading • Colorado New Musical Festival

October 2022 – January 2023 • MilkyWay Theatre Company's New Works Festival; January 26, 2023 • Industry Reading • Theatre 71

SYNOPSIS

ELLIPSES is a universal musical that stars the Galaxy family and their dog Gravity as they sing and dance their way out of a family tragedy, known as the Big Bang.

Before the world 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. HD is the oldest sibling looking to explore the Universe. And Gravity is the family dog and their downfall. Gravity manipulates the young adult HD. In a violent altercation, HD 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 Circle" ○ The Dome Home in the Center of the Universe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog, the Galaxy family's pet

HD1, 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

BE, adult, Singularity's parent, a Multiplicity

ING, adult, Singularity's parent, a Multiplicity

Minor Characters

ABELL (A🔔), young child, HD's eventual Galaxy

ANTI, a puppy, Abell's eventual friend

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

SOLAR SYSTEM, Milky Way's imaginary friends

○ Named: Sun, Mercury, Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Pluto

○ 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, Singularity, Gravity
4. "Figure" HD, Milky Way
5. "Zilch" Gravity, HD, Tidal
6. "Big Bang" Singularity, Galaxies, Gravity, Tidal
7. "Verse" HD, Gravity, Singularity
8. "Anomaly is Everything" Teen Galaxies
9. "Time is Relative" Cartwheel, Whirlpool
10. "Big Rip" Cartwheel, Whirlpool, Tidal
11. "Warps, Waves, and Wrinkles" Milky Way, Solar System
12. "Globular" Andromeda
13. "Fabric" Teen Galaxies, Tidal
14. "Far-Fetched" Gravity, HD, Tidal
15. "Point (of No Return)" Singularity, Be & Ing, Tidal

Act II

16. "Heat Death" Singularity, Be, Ing
17. "Parallax" Gravity, HD
18. "Tangent" HD, Gravity, Singularity
19. "... " Gravity, Tidal
20. "Bounce Back" Teen Galaxies
21. "Family is Everything" Galaxies
22. "Put Down" Gravity, Tidal
23. "Apparent (Shed Light)" Galaxies, Singularity, Gravity
24. "(The Big Rip of) Zenith" Gravity, Galaxies, Tidal
25. "Big Crunch" Galaxies, Singularity, Tidal

Nulla

26. "Big Bounce" Company

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Light resides within The Circle, stationed downstage center. Inside its Dome is a table and a rug. The stage outside seems off limits and teems with floral equations. The side curtains conceal the upstage.

SINGULARITY is outside, picking equations and setting them in a mortar bowl. They then head to the rug to meditate.

A ghostly couple, BE and ING, wander outside the stage, like parents looking for their child.

BE & ING

Nothing...

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

The lights flicker. The curtains ripple. The Universe is wondrous.

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

A shadow of HD in a shooting stance protrudes from the home.

In the back of the audience, a glimmer of light shines as a *bell*.

SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser under the rug, returning the Universe back to its void stasis.

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

HD enters, carrying a pestle.

SINGULARITY hands the bowl to HD. They disappear inside the home.

HD unveils a scope from the pestle. They position themselves at the edge of the home and set down the bowl. They scope out.

1. "BOUNCE"

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

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

WHIRLPOOL spirals out while
CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They catch the scope. They scope out.

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING.

ANDROMEDA pops out. CARTWHEEL hands the scope to them. They scope out then stow away the scope.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

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

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another and land by the walls. They distinctly dance and pose.

GRAVITY leads in a pack of TIDALS. They prowl around the rug.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL! HD!

MILKY WAY skips 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.
HD joins the table with the bowl.

HD

ABELL...

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

GALAXIES

(Bowing)

Singularity. Declinations.

HD hands the bowl to SINGULARITY
and helps set 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.SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY. They
bow.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

GRAVITY

Singularity. They cannot stand me. They barely
understand their Galaxies. This single parent
sits on the stardust throne, having closed off
the outside world for quite some time.
Eternities in fact. However, the kids stay kids.
Milky Way is the baby sibling.

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

The GALAXIES sit, with TRIANGULUM
sitting on the whoopee cushion.

SINGULARITY

Sounds like someone's enjoying my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL high five
while TRIANGULUM puts up a fist.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

The dog did it!

GRAVITY

When kids get into trouble, most blame the dog.
Cartwheel and Whirlpool are the most relative.
Not even time can separate them. Andromeda is?

ANDROMEDA

(Playing with their food)

Let's set sail over seven spaces. Dig up pearls
in their clams. The Universe is ye oyster.

GRAVITY

Triangulum is such a square.

GRAVITY touches TRIANGULUM's dish.

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

TRIANGULUM

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

HD snatches a dish. They set it on
the ground for the TIDALS.

TIDALS

(Gratefully barking)
Force! Force! Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

(Making the TIDALS sit)
Fix... Fix... Fix... Fix...

GRAVITY

We can do no wrong with this one. We're never
blamed by this one. We Tidals like this one. The
Circle is bearable with our oldest Galaxy: *HD1*.

HD is on the edge. While their siblings see
"nothing" out there, HD sees a future in the
nothingness. I sense they hope to have a circle
of their own. This Dome is all we've known. HD
deserves a new life, a new home. What adult
doesn't wanna go out and explore the Universe?

Singularity can't hold Galaxies or me, a tidal
force, forever. Singularity shall face the Big
Bang even if it's the last thing Gravity does.
I'll let ya down an enlightening path. *Relax.*
We've got *time to kill*. In Zenith. Force!

The GALAXIES look out.

SINGULARITY

Kids. If any of you escape my gravitational
pull and walk out, you'd rip up the Fabric of
Spacetime. Then *this grandmaster of the
Universe* will be out of order. We've got all
the cosmic formulas right here in our Circle.
With my black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae
something special: nuclear pasta and meteors!

CARTWHEEL

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

SINGULARITY

*Unlike your oldest sibling, ya'll don't know
how to cook stardust. You'd die without us.
Your tiger nomy/mom/dad heated this special meal
above ten million degrees Kelvin in our cosmic
microwave background. The healthiest 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.*

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

Calories take millennia to burn, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

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

SINGULARITY

It's the overeating phase. Ya'll want to be a
Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy, like Whirlpool?

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's body.

WHIRLPOOL

I know you be looking cute with your ring, but
you ain't got spiral arms like us, Ring Galaxy.

CARTWHEEL

Gal, your arms dwarf my bright stars. You
stretched-out circle. Morbidly oval Galaxies.

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

I'll run circles around you, Galaxies.

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

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, *ellipsoids*.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

Wash your wormhole with soap, you quasi-baby!

SINGULARITY

Oneness, clusters of stars! In our hearts of
darkness, we are beings of light and energy. We
matter. Gals. Your hearts are all vigorous.
Always full of grace. Let us save space.

SINGULARITY lovingly pinch MILKY
WAY's cheek. They sit. SINGULARITY
and the GALAXIES pray.

The TIDALS yearn for the outside
while GRAVITY inches towards HD.

2. "CRUNCH"

SINGULARITY

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

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

TEEN GALAXIES

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

SINGULARITY

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

WHIRLPOOL

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

MILKY WAY

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

SINGULARITY

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, HD? HD1?

End of "CRUNCH"

3. "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

HD

WHY DOES MY FAMILY LACK MY CURIOSITY?
WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH TO KNOW?
WHY DO THOSE OVALS SEE NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
WHEN I KNOW I NEED TO GO...

(Standing)

WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

TEEN GALAXIES

CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

HD

WHY MUST YOU HOLD ME BACK?
I NEVER GET ANY RELEASE.

TEEN GALAXIES

(IT'S CRUNCH TIME, HD1.)

HD

FEED ME LIGHT THAT I DON'T LACK..
PLEASE JUST LET ME BE AT PEACE...

WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...
TOWARDS CLARITY.

WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS
SINGULARITY.

FAR AWAY FROM ELLIPSES.
LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES—

SINGULARITY

END THIS TANGENT!

HD

TANGENT? TANGENT! *TANGENT...*

GRAVITY

(Manipulatively repeating)

WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

HD

(Standing up to SINGULARITY)

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

WHERE THE *END OF THIS TANGENT* WILL BE...

ALL THE SITES THAT WE WILL SEE.
ME AND GRAVITY.
FIND OUR PATH BEYOND THE STARS.
A NEW REALITY.
SLIP OUT OF THIS BACKWARDS PLACE,
FORWARD TO ANOTHER SPACE.
INTO AN AUDACIOUS VERSE:

HD (CONT'D)
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!

HD
You're the best tidal force a Galaxy could ever
ask for, Gravity. *I love you too, Singularity...*

SINGULARITY
I'll spare a millennium to listen to your
verse. No need to go off on a tangent, HD.

HD
Leave me out of this,
nom/mom/dad...

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)
*Don't leave- I lead you back
in. Gravity leads you on. The
dog's a bad influence.*

HD (CONT'D)
You raised me physically. They raise my spirit.

SINGULARITY
Your soul will be dragged down if you keep this
up... *Raised?* I am still raising you.

HD
Abell is raised. There's a ringing in my soul.

SINGULARITY
A bell? Your astral clock must be malfunctioning.

HD
My biological clock feels malnourished.

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

TEEN GALAXIES
Join us for Crunch-

HD
You tick me off! I'm so sick of dishing it out.
The same old dish of photons. I'm over Crunch.

SINGULARITY
Even a grownup Galaxy needs to accrete. You
babies need to grow. This attitude's beneath us.

MILKY WAY

HD, who tis Abell?

HD

Abell is a tiny curiosity. *Like you, Milky Way.*

SINGULARITY

Baby... To answer your curiosity: There is nothing out there for us, adults...

HD

Well, then there is someone for that *nothing*. A Galaxy for that nebula. 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.

HD

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

SINGULARITY

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

HD

Can I play in *nothing*? Plea-

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

No means *no*.

HD (CONT'D)

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

HD (CONT'D)

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

They're just bedtime stories. Fantasy. There is no one but us. This is the only family you got. Drop this legacy nonsense. Join us for Crun-

SINGULARITY reaches for HD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl and soon ground SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS

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

GRAVITY

(Corralling the TIDALS)

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

GRAVITY runs into an invisible
wall in the opening of The Circle
and dizzily falls back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

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

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

SINGULARITY

Gravity will be our downfall. You all get on my
nerves. Entitled forces. Back in the doghouse!

The TIDALS tremble and leave.

HD

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

SINGULARITY

Treat me as the grandmaster! I have my hands on
the entire Fabric of Spacetime... I pull,
thread, and weave its strings. And it's better
to be my puppet than pet. I am the center!

HD

Let the dogs out. If you don't give them space,
it'll come back to bite you in the end.

SINGULARITY

And let them treat the cosmos like springs of a
trampoline? They'll rip the spacetime fabric.

HD

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY

Oh now you want to consider my center...

HD

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

SINGULARITY

Clearly, you need some shuteye. I expect lights
out when you Galaxies head off to bed.
Declinations. See you Gals in Crunch Time.

SINGULARITY exits, pulling GRAVITY.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

ANDROMEDA

Ye not the Gravity of the situation...

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

What in the world?

TRIANGULUM

Gravity went berserk and brought down
Singularity. The stupid dog let us all down.

HD

Gravity never lets me down. *I'll never stoop to
your level and blame the dog.* You're all downers.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

What's up with you? And the *Edge*?

MILKY WAY

Our Universe is all that matters!

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

And a nebula's opinion doesn't.

MILKY WAY

I... No baby!

ANDROMEDA

Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one. Declinate.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

So Singsing ain't around.
Let's deck the Circle!

TRIANGULUM

Oh no, you don't!

TRIANGULUM drags away the pair.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

You're such a square, Triangulum...

MILKY WAY

Square? That reminds me... Board game?
Tardigrades and Elevatas?

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Look at the time. Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off.

TRIANGULUM

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

TRIANGULUM sets the snow globe on the rug. They head off to bed.

HD

I can't even with this family...

(Sensing perplexity)

You were saying? *Water Bears and Elevators?*

HD brings out a board game.

MILKY WAY

Wait... Are you too old for games?

HD

The box says: "Ages six to twenty eons." Lil Gal. Ol' me still likes to mess around and play a game called "life." The goal's to go from one ellipse to another. Every ellipse are risks.

MILKY WAY

To you... What tis between ellipses?

HD

A *liminal* space...?

(Seeing MILKY WAY try to repeat the word)

Liminal. A place where who we were ends and who we are begins. You're in a *liminal* space.

You'll soon not fit in your ellipse. I stopped being in yours, ten eternities ago. I don't feel like I fit in mine anymore. No longer a teen... You'll be in mine. Your body will be a *teeny* bit different. *Figure that out* on your own.

MILKY WAY

I will own you, old bear!

4. "FIGURE"

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

HD

LIFE HAS *UPS* AND *DOWN*S.

MILKY WAY

GO FIG— UH.

HD

TAKE TWENTY STEPS FORWARD

LEAVES YOU WANTING TO BE SEVEN STEPS BACK.

MILKY WAY

TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

HD

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

MILKY WAY
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

HD
YOU ARE GAINING SOME CURVES.
YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FIGURE.

MILKY WAY
I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

HD
LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

MILKY WAY
I'LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

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

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

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

MILKY WAY
(Intensely cracking their voice)
I no wanna go far in this game called- Uh life.
Oh *curves*... I hate my figure. I hate myself.

MILKY WAY slaps HD's figure off.

HD
Your voice warps beautifully with each passing
millennium. Figure out yourself, Milky Way...
LOST MY FIGURE...

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE) HD (CONT'D)
Pawn! Gravity?

Only HD understands GRAVITY.

MILKY WAY
That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
I'd kill at this game of life! 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 tis nuthin' but trouble.

HD

Nothing... We can get in trouble, staying way past our bedtime. Let's finish Water Bears and Elevators another time. Gal, cubs need rests. *Quit the sour face, Milky Way.* I'm the anomaly in this family.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

5. "ZILCH"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Nothing is free!
Nothing is infinite.
Nothing's out there for ya.

HD

You always understand me...
Well, there's nothing out there for me. Zilch.

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE) (CONT'D)

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

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

HD

Our rug of spacetime...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Use them opposable thumbs, Gal. Stun thee!

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

HD

Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Put down Singularity! Free Gravity! No longer bound by family! Make *nothing* ya legacy!

In the back of the audience, a glimmer of light shines as a bell.

End of "ZILCH"

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

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

SINGULARITY and GRAVITY fight and soon fall into the space. They notice HD with the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

I don't have the heart... Not again...
Declinations, HD. Put it down.

HD

Declinations, Singularity. Put what down?

SINGULARITY

Don't toy with me. The Big Bang Taser. Drop it.

HD

Or I'll hurt myself? And speaking of declining:
It hurts to see you and Gravity falling out.

SINGULARITY

Gravity has been letting us down.

HD

Has your black hole of a heart ever let down
someone it loved?

SINGULARITY

I don't have a black hole for a...

The TEEN GALAXIES enter.

MILKY WAY

What tis happening to mommy/daddy/nomy?

SINGULARITY

Look away! HD. I did let my parents down.

GALAXIES

Parents? We have grandparents?

SINGULARITY

I grew out as the only one to make it into
adulthood. I made it apparent to them that I'll
make it as a parent.

HD

Even as *your* children, somehow you believe none
of us can make it out there in the Universe.

SINGULARITY

It is unclear that you're ready to be an adult.
HD1. Don't let me down. I don't have the heart.

HD drops the Big Bang Taser.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand
as they reach the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

GRAVITY

Adulthood is *nothing, kid!*

SINGULARITY

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! Gravity.
For the last time, you've let down this family.
Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

HD retakes the Big Bang Taser.

SINGULARITY reaches around and
soon notices that HD is armed.

HD

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

6. "BIG BANG"

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

HD shoots SINGULARITY.

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 (OFFSTAGE)

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

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

The TIDALS freely rush out,
tidally dance, and try to lure the
AUDIENCES to go wild.

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

HD carefully steps out onto the stage. They stow away the Big Bang Taser in their dress. They look back at their petrified siblings.

HD

My heart goes out to you all, family. However, my heart goes out for me and Gravity. Declinations!

GRAVITY nabs a knapsack and grabs HD. They run out of the home and in place on stage. They stop as they note their lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground.

HD (CONT'D)

Edge of the Universe? The Edge is further away?

HD takes a single step downstage.

The lights expand. The home moves upstage between the back curtains.

HD (CONT'D)

It's *getting* further away. We're rolling out the Fabric of Spacetime 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 unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. Destination's a gift. Destiny's Zenith.

(to HD, who did not hear the soliloquy)

Force!

HD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

HD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

In the home, most TEEN GALAXIES watch as the Universe unravels. MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themselves around the lifeless SINGULARITY.

TEEN GALAXIES

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE OUT WITH THE BIG BANG.

End of "BIG BANG"

The back curtains conceal the home.

Field equations bloom.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

7. "VERSE"

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

HD

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 (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing from beyond)

You are a big mis—

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

HD

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?

HD feels at ease as GRAVITY
concocts Hubble's Law: $v = H_0 D$.

HD

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 HD hastily skip out.

End of "VERSE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The TEEN GALAXIES drape the rug
over the burial plot. They bow.

TEEN GALAXIES
Declinations, nomy/mama/papa. Singularity.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
The anomaly killed our
family.

ANDROMEDA
Our family pushed away the
anomaly.

TRIANGULUM
Let's bring home *our* anomaly...

The proposition provokes a storm
of enmity for the TEEN GALAXIES.

MILKY WAY
(Sniffling)
What tis family?

CARTWHEEL
Will you grow up?

ANDROMEDA
Ye can't. When ye starving.

MILKY WAY
We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL
Look at Singulari- Singsing. What do you think?

MILKY WAY
I can't. When I hungry...

WHIRLPOOL
We've got wormholes to feed. Let's think like
our Bach Ho. We gotta round up all tidal forces.

CARTWHEEL
We're also going to be dog catchers now? We're
not hunters like our tiger nom/mama/papa.

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.
Even if we had ingredients, who here knows how
to cook up recipes? Who can make it out of *here*?

TRIANGULUM

Gals. *Lighten up.*

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Ya'll hear this pinhead? Singsing lightened up.

TRIANGULUM

We'll return to our scheduled Crunch shortly.
My mental bandwidth may thin out like the
Universe, but it's expanding. A spotless cosmos
is what Singsing would've wanted. We have
ourselves to blame for this universal mistake.

MILKY WAY

You all mistaken... I hear HD talk to dogs. HD
gone mad. Gravity ravel HD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

TRIANGULUM

This is absolutely no one but the animals'
fault. Gravity caused the Big Bang. And it is
on us to end our big fuss. Gravity was our
downfall. So, HD will be our *bounce* back. Our
oldest sibling is the only one left who knows
how to pick equations, put together formulas,
and cook up photons. HD is almost Singularity.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

TRIANGULUM

HD is who we have left. Our only caretaker—

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care. An
anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.
Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything's— What's family?

MILKY WAY

What tis anomaly?

The shattered snow globe sparkles.

8. "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 CIRCLE WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.
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.
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 cushion. They
seem flustered then get delighted.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)
ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!

TEEN GALAXIES
ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

TRIANGULUM
NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang and save HD?!

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

Gal! No one has time for this Barred Galaxy!

TRIANGULUM

Cart-Whirl! You're both barred from stepping out for eternities. *Andromeda and I* shall find HD.

ANDROMEDA

Aye aye, devil's Triangulum!

TRIANGULUM

This devil trusts that you'll be performing Galaxy shanties rather than mutinies.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You ain't sailing without us, Captain Square.

TRIANGULUM knocks down CARTWHEEL with the whoopee cushion, and runs off with ANDROMEDA.

TRIANGULUM (OFFSTAGE)

Square in the face!

MILKY WAY

Wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas...?

CARTWHEEL

Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL escapes with WHIRLPOOL.

WHIRLPOOL

We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling alone for your sporty ego? 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 few distractions around, but *kids have their imaginations*. Now imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum and Andromeda's faces that we're the guardians of the Universe! We'll save the cosmos! And 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)
Milky Way's all alone... On their own!

MILKY WAY
Mind? I will own you!

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)
Babies have no mind of their own...

MILKY WAY
I... No baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)
Go out there and prove it! End the Big Bang!

MILKY WAY
Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)
Like sight, we're another *sense*. We're adole-

MILKY WAY
Sounds like *peer* pressa'...

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)
Peer, as in we're your *friends*.

MILKY WAY
Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)
Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY strolls away from the
safety of The Circle, exiting.

MILKY WAY
Plant friends. What can this Galaxy do? What
Universe holds? Wait... Adole- What now?

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in,
CARTWHEEL clumsily cartwheels in.

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 must finish our quest. Time is running out. We're not letting Andromeda and the square ditch us. I used to run circles around them...

WHIRLPOOL

(Sitting on the hypocrisy)

Ditch? Drop the ego. Time's a circle. The whole cosmos will come round. HD will return. Let's be around Milky Way. *We make perfect babysitters.*

CARTWHEEL

Triangulum's right: We need a caretaker. We can't sit on HD, our last chance for survival.

You want to mill about for eternities, huh? That means 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.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Your impatience disgusts me.

WHIRLPOOL

I have the patience of a teenager. *Like you.*

CARTWHEEL

Remember when we became teens? Too bad Singsing isn't here when Milky Way reaches that age.

WHIRLPOOL

We are. Let's be decent and let them have a childhood before it's too late. Time dilates.

CARTWHEEL

May you expand on that?

WHIRLPOOL

"Dilation" means *to expand.*

CARTWHEEL

Expansive. And your point is?

WHIRLPOOL

Time is the point once you meditate on it.

CARTWHEEL

Time's so special with you, relative. As a light individual, time weighs heavily on me.

WHIRLPOOL

A little enlightenment ain't gonna hurt. You'll see the light.

9. "TIME IS RELATIVE"

WHIRLPOOL

(Meditating)

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

Live with me in the millennium.

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

CARTWHEEL

You have Singularity's chakras...

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm
slow as time. Our plans are bent out of shape.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Get bent.

WHIRLPOOL

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

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY
SQUARED DIVIDED—

CARTWHEEL strikes WHIRLPOOL.
WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL.
CARTWHEEL walks away.

CARTWHEEL
DOWNTIME.
I CAN'T FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
HMM!
PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
You're naïve and scared inside. Your heart's racing. Life is quick. One millennium, you're baby Cartwheel. The next, you got hands on the wheel. The same will go for Milky Way. Time di-

CARTWHEEL
Let's steer away from the time dilat- Dilemma, that we face. Milky Way will outgrow our neglect. Past, present, and future.

WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA
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.

MILKY WAY enters. They act out
CARTWHEEL's epiphany.

CARTWHEEL
T. Time... Over. Time reigns over us all... Square root. Our roots... Of one. Our single parent... Minus velocity. We need to take it slow... Squared divided. Our family is divided... By the speed of light squared. Though we squared off, our family is truly over once we see the light!
(Reaching enlightenment)
Time's more special than it is relative. Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. We left at lightspeed. Milky Way was twelve, when life was *lighter*. If we return eons later, our faces will be unfazed while Milky Way will change. Childhood goes by faster than other stages. *Time dilation!* I'll take on this weight before it's too late. We'll know in... *No time.*

MILKY WAY ages then vanishes.

CARTWHEEL (CONT'D)
TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

CARTWHEEL lends a hand. WHIRLPOOL stands. The lights balance. Within a training montage, they 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
WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

CARTWHEEL
 TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE'S LIGHTER.
 TIME IS IN OUR FRAME OF REFERENCE.
 TIMES ARE SPECIAL FOR YOU AND ME.

Lights form a frame around
 CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
 TIME...
 TIME.
 LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.

End of "TIME IS RELATIVE"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 7

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

10. "BIG RIP"

The TIDALS party around the rug.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
 Dilations, Milky Way. We're home!
 (re: the TIDALS on the burial plot)
 Singsing?! Don't defile their grave!

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

Cough up our baby sibling, you savage Tiduals!
And get back in the doghouse!

TIDALS

Force! Force! Fall!

The TIDALS chase out the GALAXIES.

End of "BIG RIP"

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains.

SCENE 8

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

MILKY WAY drifts in, hearing *them*.

MILKY WAY

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

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Forgotten?

MILKY WAY

Imaginary friends?

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

We're your planetary friends.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

I'm not.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (OFFSTAGE)

No one asked you, Earth.

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

Loneliness isn't so bad. I wish to be alone. No matter what I'd do, I'm blamed for everything. Everyone retrogrades me! I'm Mercury. You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are at large.

JUPITER (OFFSTAGE)

You most certainly have a massive orbit.

SATURN (OFFSTAGE)

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moons.

JUPITER (OFFSTAGE)

Go play with your ring, Saturn.

SATURN (OFFSTAGE)

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

URANUS (O.S.)

Two, in fact!

JUPITER & SATURN (O.S.)

You are a two! Hahahahahaha!

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

URANUS (OFFSTAGE)

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 (OFFSTAGE)

No. Sun is our parent. We're sons of the Sun.

MILKY WAY

Sons can have sons...?

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

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 (OFFSTAGE)

Earth, we do not discuss galactic formation in this Solar household. It's theoretical heresy.

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

Things get heated around the Sun.

MILKY WAY

Same. Thin' got heated around Singsing. All cause HD wanted a "son" of their own...

URANUS

You need to let go of HD.

JUPITER & SATURN

Just like you need to let go of your bowels!

URANUS

Shut your wormholes! When was the last time you stood butt to butt with your siblings?

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

HD ripped your family apart... 13.772 billion years ago. Still forgive them? You dumb oval.

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

I didn't raise you, Earth, to be a jerk to other shapes and insult their curves.

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

Sun. As a result of stars like you, I'm a proud sphere. *Ugh Ellipses. Ew waves. Pff wrinkles.*

MERCURY (OFFSTAGE)

Don't take Earth's bullying. That rocky planet may be well-rounded, but you're a person all around. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Like Pluto. They do not blame my retrograde for their imperfections.

PLUTO (OFFSTAGE)

I may be outta the system. My stature may dwarf the other planets. They may outcast me. But they cannot outclass me. I see things farther out than any of these terrestrials here. But, I've heard enough comet tails. You got a tidal tale to share with us? Cluster, Solar System!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets pop out,
with the absence of the SUN.

EARTH (PUPPET)

Well... Theorize somethin'!

MILKY WAY gracelessly bellows with
cracks. They hiccup.

EARTH (PUPPET) (CONT'D)

Milky Way warped themselves!

The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets burst
into laughter.

MILKY WAY

(Bursting into tears)

I hate myself!

PLUTO (PUPPET)

All the use crying. Let it out. Milk of celestial kindness. You show a huge quality. Beyond your curves: Figures! You hold oddities that no others have. You're a special Galaxy.

MILKY WAY

Tell me.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

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

EARTH (PUPPET)

There are people in me.

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (PUPPET)

Cut your hubris, Earth!

PLUTO (PUPPET)

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

MILKY WAY

Embody it.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

You must first, own yours.

11. "WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

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

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

PLUTO (PUPPET)

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

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

IMAGINARY!

PLUTO (PUPPET)

BUT REALLY...

MERCURY (PUPPET)

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

ONE AMONG MANY...

MERCURY (PUPPET)

ARMS, IN FACT.

The extra arms extend out behind
an unaware MILKY WAY.

URANUS (PUPPET)

Look in a mirror!

MILKY WAY

What's mirra'?

URANUS (PUPPET)

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

MILKY WAY

I neva' know what I look like...

PLANETS (EXCEPT EARTH) (PUPPET)

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
and soon reveal their tiniest arm.

SOLAR SYSTEM (PUPPETS)

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.

PERSEUS ARM.

NORMA, CYGNUS.

SAGITTARIUS,

ARM AND HEART.

WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION.

ARM SO SMALL AND SO MINOR.

MILKY WAY pulls out two magnolia
flowers from their dress.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

You are Magellanic...

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

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

MILKY WAY devours the flowers.

PLUTO (PUPPET) (CONT'D)

Kid. Don't eat your natural satellites!

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds)

I gravitate my feelings...

PLUTO (PUPPET)

You ellipsoid...

EARTH enters. They whisper into
MILKY WAY's ear.

MILKY WAY

And you no real plant, Pluto.

PLUTO (PUPPET)

Ye got real guts, kid.

MILKY WAY

(Singing with cracks, flaws, and tremolos)

I NOW HAVE

WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LIVE WITH IT.

WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

(Voice deepens or elevates)

I LOVE MYSELF!

The extra arms may hug MILKY WAY.

Many SOLAR SYSTEM dancers spiral in
while EARTH drags their feet,
Distinct planets and stars orbit
MILKY WAY like spiral arms around
the center of Galaxies. A PLANET
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...

WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

WE LOVE IT ALL!

SUN (OFFSTAGE)

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

MILKY WAY & SOLAR SYSTEMS

OUR WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

End of "WARPS, WAVES, AND WRINKLES"

The stage goes red as the SUN
becomes a red giant, swallowing
the SOLAR SYSTEM in their wake.
EARTH melts in the searing heat.
Other PLANETS maniacally laugh,
nab MILKY WAY's halo and run off.

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-

PLUTO (OFFSTAGE)

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

SCENE 9

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA sail in.

ANDROMEDA scopes out with a scope,
before transforming it into a mic.

12. "GLOBULAR"

ANDROMEDA

LET'S SET SAIL OVER SEVEN SPACES.
DIG UP PEARLS IN THEIR CLAMS.
THE UNIVERSE IS YE OYSTER.

MATTERS COME AND GO.
CRUXES OF FORCES THAT HOLD...
ALL US TOGETHER.
IT'S WHY YE CLUSTER OUR STARS.

AS FOR MELKY WAY,
LET THEM JOIN THE GLOB. GLOBULAR.

End of "GLOBULAR"

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA

Milky Way?! Declinat- What are you doing here?!

ANDROMEDA

Did we lose ye? Oh no... Are we now in the
temple of the cosmic beyond?!

TRIANGULUM

It's puberty. There's a pimple on their temple.

ANDROMEDA

Oh zit.

MILKY WAY

(Voice has forever changed)

Zi- Zi- It?

ANDROMEDA

Ye voice has warped...

TRIANGULUM

A zit is when a star grows into a red giant,
swallows nearby planets, and inflames 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 ye
acne and let's get sailing.

MILKY WAY

No... Plant friends.

ANDROMEDA

Plant friends?

MILKY WAY (CONT'D)

Their name, Solar System.

TRIANGULUM

"Solar System" seems like an astronomical pain.
I remembered having to pop my boil named: "Iota
Trianguli." I don't miss them. Not one iota.

(Sniffling)

Turning this "Solar System" into 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)

What? *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...

13. "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 dogs out?! We got treats for you!

A TIDAL nearly bites 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 HD 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 into a
um... Singularity.

TIDALS

(Losing their minds)

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 towards the light!

ANDROMEDA

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

TRIANGULUM

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

MILKY WAY

Quasi-stellar radio source...!

ANDROMEDA helps MILKY WAY up.

The spotlight dissolves.

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 sail it off.

TRIANGULUM

Deal. *Milkomeda*. All aboard the teenage globular.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL puzzledly exit with their siblings.

End of "FABRIC"

SCENE 10

A Quasar looms in the distance.

GRAVITY, now huskier, and HD wander in.

HD

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

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

GRAVITY retrieves the star.

GRAVITY

Force!

HD

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

MILKY WAY (OFFSTAGE)
(Echoing from afar)

Quasar!

HD is about to toss the star when they notice and hear the Quasar.

HD

Milky Way?

GRAVITY

Abell?

A light shines in the audience.

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

HD

Pet. *Force*...?

GRAVITY

Friend. I'm no pet. Neither are ya a puppet. But something's pulling at ya heartstrings: Abell. Ya say "*Abell*" as ya look to the Edge.

HD

Abell is who I named "*nothing*." My biological clock rings whenever I see *them*, okay?

GRAVITY

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

HD

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!

HD

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. Hey. It's natural to tense up as spacetime stretches tight. *Blow off steam instead of blowing it outta proportion.*

HD

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 being away.

HD

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

GRAVITY

Finally. Peace and quiet. Ya now the adult in the space. Ya got all the time to kill. Relax!

HD

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

GRAVITY

(Fiercely)

I assure ya, kid: Ya will not end up a monster like Singularity.

HD

Singsing was never a monster! Doggone it, why would you think that— *Sure*, they can be a tiger nom/mom/dad at times. I miss my Bach Ho.

GRAVITY

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

HD

(re: the ball HD is holding)

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.

14. "FAR-FETCHED"

GRAVITY

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

HD

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.

GO FETCH THE STAR.

GRAVITY grabs and tosses a ball.

HD cramps up, retrieving the ball.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

HD

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.

(Narrating off)

I WATCHED THE SEEDS OF LIBERTY PLANTED AFAR.
THE TREES OF FREEDOM GREW OUT OF REACH.
INDEPENDENCE DROPPED NO STICK NOR WOULD IT STICK.
OUR RELEASE SEEMED FAR-FETCHED.

BUT YA BRANCHED OUT.
AND WE STUCK IT OUT.

(Refocusing on and noting HD's heartache)

Ya are a part of my accretion, and I thank ya

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

HD1, YA ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

GRAVITY jumps on and embraces HD,
making them drop numerous balls.

The TIDALS avalanche in. They
place a sled under GRAVITY and HD,
then line up as 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?

HD

FAR-FETCHED!

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

GRAVITY & HD

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

TIDALS

A BIT FAR-FETCHED!

HD and the TIDALS sled away.

End of "FAR-FETCHED"

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 11

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

15. "POINT (OF NO RETURN)"

The Quasar in the distance
transforms into a lightning storm.

In front of the stage, BE and ING
wander in.

SINGULARITY curls up on the rug.
Dead.

SINGULARITY

MY POINT IS MOOT WHEN TIME HAS SENTENCED
MY KIDS... TO A LIFE ON THE EDGE. PERIODS...

WHERE IS THE POINT IN ALL OUR TROUBLES...?
DECEASED... I TREMBLE AT THIS POINT OF NO RETURN...

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE...?
WHY DEATH...? WAS THERE A SINGLE POINT IN LIVING...?

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Echoing)

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

BE & ING

(Reaching for SINGULARITY)

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

Six galactic spirits loom.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

SINGULARITY sits up and meditates.

The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY,
growing elliptical and sole.

BE & ING

THERE MAY BE NO POINT OF RETURN.
BUT THAT'S NOT A POINT OF CONCERN.
THE POINTS OF LIVING THEIR LIVES ARE TO LEARN.
WITHOUT YOU. BEYOND YOU. JUST LIKE YOU...

SINGULARITY

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

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

SINGULARITY vanishes into thin
space.

BE and ING hold newfound light.

Blackout.

End of "POINT (OF NO RETURN)"

END OF ACT

INTERMISSION

ACT IISCENE 1

SINGULARITY'S BACKSTORY AND PAST UNIVERSE

The stage front is solely lit.

16. "HEAT DEATH"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Narrating)

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

In the audience, SINGULARITY is now a resplendent and youthful Galaxy seated by their parents, BE and ING. They shoot BE in the face with the Big Bang Taser and run off. They gravitate towards the stage. To stop themselves, they grab ahold of the frontmost seat in the theatre, holding on for dear life.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Eons ago in another universe beyond the Edge, 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 fabric of spacetime rips.

SINGULARITY tumbles in front of the stage, holding a torn chunk of fabric. They limp alongside the stage front and find a spot to collapse against. They shiver. In this interdimensional plane in between universes, they grow aware that they will never return home and ever be with their parents again for all eternity.

SINGULARITY

HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

BE and ING, resembling law enforcers, search the audience. In a pattern, they shout their child's name in hopes of finding them, then grieve together.

ING

Singularity! It's *Crunch Time*. Food's ready...!
Our only child. Please come home. If you're
gonna run off into outer space, at least bring
a jacket. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?!

Be. File a report. Our baby is missing!

BE

Singularity! Why'd you grab my Big Bang Taser?!

Ing. As laws of physics enforcers, we
reinforced their life without doubts. *But you
had to tell them their supermassive disorder.*
Now, my face is disordered. Ouch! I authorized
you to keep their center a secret!

SINGULARITY

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

ING

Singularity!

Be. We're perfectly heartless. They have a
heart. And a black hole for one too. An
anomaly. Don't you find it weird? *Right. Your
eyes are swollen.* Anywho, I'd hold regret as a
parent if I shielded their eyes from the truth.

SINGULARITY

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

BE

Singularity!

Ing. Shielded? You ripped a wormhole in them.
Though they have a heart, it functions. You
still broke it and dug into the dark energy.
You mourn their heart and the spirit that came
with it. I am blessed to have had them.

SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

GRAVITY

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

ING

Singularity!

Be. *Bless your heartlessness.* My ego's atomic,
but my love for our nebula is galactic.

(MORE)

ING (CONT'D)

They'll be deformed out there. They must know what their heart is capable of, some point.

BE

Singularity!

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

SINGULARITY

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 A HEART!

GRAVITY

This kid was relatively impossible to handle. Even though they warped time itself, time flew. Twas time for them to meet their event horizon. Eventually, the Multiplicities sat their kid 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.

BE and ING search about.

SINGULARITY

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

BE

Singularity!

Multiplicity. Declination!

SINGULARITY

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

ING

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We looked up and down. Right ascension?

SINGULARITY

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

BE

Singularity!

Multiplicity. We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?

SINGULARITY
I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

ING
Singularity!

We looked over, under every fabric of spacetime.

Silence. BE and ING realize their
child has forever vanished. They
go away, weeping for all eternity.

BE & ING
Sing— Our baby fell off the Edge of the Universe!

End of "HEAT DEATH"

SINGULARITY
I am single.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Force!

On stage, the TIDALS enter.

SINGULARITY draws out their Big
Bang Taser.

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

TIDAL[S]
Force!

SINGULARITY
(Swaying)
Like to echo, huh?

TIDALS
Force force force!

SINGULARITY
(Shaken)
Hits like a tide! Is that all you can bark?

TIDALS
Fall!

SINGULARITY
(Falling over)
What are you howling about?!

SINGULARITY accidentally shocks
themselves into a stupor. They catch
their breath and stow away the Big
Bang Taser, accepting their fate.

TIDALS

Big big big big big. Bang!

SINGULARITY

Bring the heat...

The lights reveal the Dome. The
cavelike home holds no furniture.

The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto
the stage and set them in the
home. They present a TIDAL PUPPY.

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!

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY's hand.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Oh, it is Crunch Time, you entitled pup...

Force?!

TIDALS

(Gratefully howling)

Fall!

The home moves back upstage,
behind the back curtains. A front
curtain protrudes.

SCENE 2

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME, PRESENT

GRAVITY and HD skip into the
barren space-land.

GRAVITY

Force! Our adventure is nearing the Edge.

HD

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

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

GRAVITY

We hit a wall. *Fourth dimension.*

HD

Maybe the Universe should be walled off...

GRAVITY

Ya collision's making ya speak like Singularity.

HD

Singsing was uptight... But it feels right.

GRAVITY

What's so righteous about being caged?

HD

A roof over our heads? It's all we've known.

GRAVITY

It's all ya have ever known. This wide-open
space was my whole life before ya were born.
Until Singularity took it away.

HD

Took what away? Emptiness? This void?

GRAVITY

Don't be like ya siblings who saw "nothing" in
the nothingness. Ya parent even saw something:
a new chance in life. My parents raised ya's.

HD

They did?

GRAVITY

I shouldn't say "*raised.*" Ya parent buried mine.

HD

Hold up...

GRAVITY

I hold nothing against ya. Singularity, *on the
other paw.*

HD

They treated you as family. Imperfect but fam-

GRAVITY

My pack took your orphan in. We taught them to
hunt and cluster. They became our most valued
hunter. *It helps to have a taser.* Our preys did
not stand a chance. And so did we. Ya Bach Ho
had enough of the wilderness. They wanted order.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

They torn down our dog parks, and confined us dogs into that lil dome ya called home. Anyone who stood in their way faced a shocking demise. Singularity put down my pare— *Ya put down ya's.*

My wild and free family welcomed ya's as our own. And what did we get in return? Collars and leashes! We were treated like pests and turned into pets! Now once more, we're at our best.

Ya seem tense.

HD

I'm... I'm so sorry. For everything. Singsing-Singularity. That wasn't apparent to me...

GRAVITY

It's all a distant past. Hard to see. *Relax!*

(Tilting their head by HD)

Hmm. That rings a *bell*. My fam used to say that when ya needed to see things clearly: just *tilt ya head and relax.*

17. "PARALLAX"

GRAVITY lays down 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.

HD

PERILOUS.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

HD

PARANOID.

GRAVITY

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS?

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS FROM WHERE YA ARE.

PARASITIC MINDS

GOT "NOWHERE" TO BURDEN YA UNDER AND ENTANGLED.

MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM'S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY

TO TILT YA HEAD.

FIND PARALLELS.

HD
PARADOX.

GRAVITY
PERMANENT PARADIGM.

HD
PARAGON...

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

GRAVITY (CONT'D)
HD, you're meant to see in high def-

HD
(Tilting their head by GRAVITY)
I'M RELAXED.

GRAVITY
(to the AUDIENCES, annoyed)
YA SEE?

Light rises in the cosmic horizon.

HD
I SEE *NOTHING*.
(Enlightened by "Nothing")
JUST PARALLAX.
PARALLAX.

GRAVITY & HD
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

18. "TANGENT"

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

HD
We have gone off on a... Tangent.

HD looks around for ABELL, growing
heartbroken as ABELL is absent.

GRAVITY proudly takes in the
scent, unaware of HD's descent.

GRAVITY
I'm spectral blind. What colors do you see?
(Dogs see with distinct color perceptions.)

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

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Echoing from beyond)
You are a big—

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

HD
We have gone on off a... Tangent. I see the
bigger picture: I am taking the Edge back...

End of "TANGENT"

GRAVITY
Relax? Relax. Relax! After all this time
together, ya taking the wide-open space, away?!

HD
Nothing may be infinite, but time with my real
family is finite. My kind needs a guide in this
space. My kin need to find their way home.

GRAVITY
This dog park is ya home now. I am ya true kin.

HD
I'm not falling for this...

GRAVITY
I saw infinity in ya. But ya never be outta
affinity. Ya haven't outgrown ya siblings. They
saw nothing in ya and no one out there for ya.

HD
That is because there is really nothing...
Adulthood is nothing.

Abell?	GRAVITY	HD (CONT'D)
		Singularity...

HD (CONT'D)

Biological clocks are illogical. I've caused
ill will to Sing-

GRAVITY

Singularity is evil to us!

HD (CONT'D)

Singularity lives in me...

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Stop mourning them. See a new dawn. *PARALLAX!*

GRAVITY pushes down HD.

HD

Let me up at once for once, Gravity!

GRAVITY

Nothing passed ya. But light phased ya. I got
to ya. Ever since I first laid my eyes on ya, I
knew my cries would persuade ya to free me.

HD

Now you are. Happy? Now free me, so I can care
for the Galaxies. Families need Singularities.
Unrolling the cosmos into a single destination
is my destiny. It is long past Crunch-

GRAVITY bites HD's arm.

GRAVITY

HD, ya felt for me. The only Galaxy to see
their tidal force from where they are. The only
person to see their dog for who they are.

HD

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.

GRAVITY

Ugh, I fell for Singularity's flesh and blood!

HD reveals a critical wound.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

HD! Ya shedding stardust. I can fix that.

HD

I'll push you over the Edge if you touch me or
my family. Go away, you entitled dog. I blame
you for everything!

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

GRAVITY

What is *everything*, HD1? *Fam. Force?*

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

HD
Do I make myself clear?

GRAVITY
Ya becoming Singularity, but ya unapparent.

HD
I pull the strings of the Fabric of Spacetime,
as I have this trigger. I am the master of the
Universe...

GRAVITY
Master of the Universe: If ya don't give us
space, we'll come back to bite ya in the end.

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

SCENE 4

19. "..." (Omission)

HD woundedly walks in place and
traverse the universal tundra.

The entire Universe rolls by. Field
equations blossom as the cosmos is
abundant again. Orbitoads croak
"orbit." The Continuum Checkpoint
slowly rolls out from backstage.

The TIDALS gather and brawl nearby
in order to claim the tidal throne.

TIDALS
(Repeating)
DOT DOT DOT. OMISSION!

GRAVITY comes out victorious,
having fought mere tidal coyotes.

The TIDALS celebrate. They grow
aware of HD'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 rip them a new wormhole!

GRAVITY

Stopping them is far-fetched! 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! Those sons of witches are burning our forests, our home! Those people have no respect for nature!

GRAVITY

That Galaxy is everything to me.

TIDALS

Our alpha has an alpha now?

GRAVITY

Let HD face Gravity.

GRAVITY marches the TIDALS out.

HD hides when the Continuum Checkpoint reaches downstage.

End of "..."

SCENE 5

THE CONTINUUM CHECKPOINT

Three huts or tents resemble the main Circle. The Left Oval is the doghouse, the Central Oval is the sleeping quarters, and the Right Oval is the command post. The Left houses TIDALS. The Central houses a sleeping WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY. The Right houses CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM.

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

CARTWHEEL and TRIANGULUM quietly banter near a taped-up snow globe. CARTWHEEL briefly goes out to kick away a croaking Orbitoad.

WHIRLPOOL

(Snoring)

T over square root of one minus velocity...

HD sneaks by the Left Oval.

HD

Caged Tidals? I'll set you all free.

HD gravitationally pulls each
TIDAL out of the Left Oval.

Once all TIDALS are freed, they
shove HD into the Left Oval. They
wreak havoc upon the campsite.
TRIANGULUM shields the snow globe.
The Central Oval lights up,
causing the TIDALS to run out.
ANDROMEDA awakens with a white-
hole heart, surprisingly furious.

20. "BOUNCE BACK"

TEEN GALAXIES

BOUNCE BACK!

The TEEN GALAXIES except
TRIANGULUM cluster then bounce
away. They land near each TIDAL
and fight on 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

Quasar! I'm so hungry, I could eat Pegasus.
Andromeda, you're kicking like a horse...?

ANDROMEDA

*My once-in-a-literal-eternity beauty sleep was
interrupted.* What is this? A pearl in me?

WHIRLPOOL

Ain't a black hole where your heart should be.

CARTWHEEL

Quite the opposite.

TRIANGULUM

Is everyone an anomaly around here?!

MILKY WAY

Speaking of anomal- HD?

TRIANGULUM comes out of hiding.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

HD...1.

HD

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...

ANDROMEDA

Ye expecting us to take ye in?

HD

Would you mind taking me out?

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL pull HD
out then make aggressive gestures.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

We'd love to *take you out*. Let's deck this Elli-

TRIANGULUM drags away the pair.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)

Let us square off, *you square!*

(to HD)

Your heart's going to go out for your family!

TRIANGULUM

How is the Edge of the Universe...?

ANDROMEDA scopes out the Edge.

ANDROMEDA

Ope. Avast ye! "Where" is certainly answered.

TEEN GALAXIES

You are rolling back the *Edge*...?

HD

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

Singsing is no longer here
for us.

ANDROMEDA

Though nature is now healing, our Universe
remains nothing.

HD

I'm bringing back everything. Everything I got.

TRIANGULUM

Someone, disarm HD! Every- Where's Gravity?

HD

They were a bad dog. I've taken care of them.

ANDROMEDA

Ye blaming the dog? If ye can't care for a pet,
how'd ye expect to take care of us? Wait, were?

MILKY WAY turns HD's arm.

CARTWHEEL

HD! You have a bite wound!

WHIRLPOOL

HD! We need to go home!

TRIANGULUM

Tidal forces... Biting the hand that feeds.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

Gravity fed HD lies and
deception!

MILKY WAY

Gravity fed on HD...

CARTWHEEL

Gravity almost took you down.

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity brought you down to
their level.

ANDROMEDA

We almost lost ye in the Gravity well.

HD

(Nervously lying)

Gravity got to my head and pulled me towards
nothing. But I fought their attractive force
with electricity. I tossed them over the Edge...

ANDROMEDA

We understand... We'd do anything for our dog.

TRIANGULUM

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

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Just a reminder that time is running out!

MILKY WAY

HD needs food! Food heals.

TEEN GALAXIES

Now is Crunch Time, HD1.

HD

Please, it's you who have nothing in the pit of your black holes. You're growing teenagers, who look more like famine than family. Now, Milky Way... You with your warps, waves, and wrinkles.

MILKY WAY

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

HD

It is clear to me that I'm nearest Singsing.

HD hands the Big Bang Taser to
MILKY WAY as a peace offering.

MILKY WAY hands the Big Bang Taser
to TRIANGULUM.

TRIANGULUM

You see yourself as the center of the Universe like they once were. You're not. 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!

HD

I cut away from the Edge. I have the strength to unroll the Fabric of Spacetime. I can cook for you. I can clean my own mess. I will undo the Big Bang. In our hearts of darkness, we are a family of light and energy. We matter.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

Everything that mattered to you was *nothing*.

21. "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 (E/ TRIANGULUM)
TAKE IT SLOW.

CARTWHEEL
SHUT YOUR WORMHOLE-

WHIRLPOOL slaps CARTWHEEL.

TRIANGULUM
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)
WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HD.

TRIANGULUM
WELL, LET'S START WITH WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GALAXIES.
HD FEELS EVERY CELL,
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.
HD LOVES THROUGH EVERY VEIN,
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.
HD IS IN OUR HEARTS.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.
REALLY...

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
LOYALTY IS EVERYTHING. LET GO.

TRIANGULUM & ANDROMEDA
EACH SIBLING IS EVERYTHING. LET'S GO.

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

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
WELL, NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM GOING HOME WITH YOU...
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
THIS GALAXY, WE HAVE LEFT, WE HOLD...
FAMILY IS EVERYTHIN' WE'VE KNOWN!

MILKY WAY shakes HD's hand, with
the other TEEN GALAXIES following.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)
FAMILY ALWAYS HELP,
GET PASSED THE TRAGEDY AND INSANITY.
NOTHING LEAVES A LEGACY LIKE EVERYTHING.

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

GALAXIES
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING WE KNOW.

End of "FAMILY IS EVERYTHING"

The GALAXIES clear out the campsite.
They exit upstage.

SCENE 6

GRAVITY leads in the tidal pack.

In the back, a TIDAL collapses.

WEAK TIDAL
Put down your weak link.

GRAVITY
Ya wanna know what makes me tick?

GRAVITY reaches for the weak TIDAL.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)
(Echoing from beyond)
Gravity. You've let down this family. Entitled
dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

GRAVITY scratches the TIDAL's ear.

GRAVITY
Quantum ticks. Not weaklings. Don't put yaself
down. Just sleep on it. Put yaselves to sleep!

TIDALS
We can't rest! Our space can't reset! The
Galaxies will put us down in that farm upstage!
All ya done is let down our family!

22. "PUT DOWN"

GRAVITY
PUT DOWN...
THE SHAME YA HAVE IN YA MEMORIES...
I SHALL PUT DOWN...
MY FOOT TO STAND 'GAINST ANARCHY.

TIDALS
THAT HD...

GRAVITY
SLEEP ON IT!
PUT DOWN...
THE PAIN YA LIVE ON WITH GALAXIES...

I MUST PUT DOWN...
HD'S NOT LIKE THEIR FAMILY!

TIDALS
ANARCHY!

GRAVITY
HIBERNATE!
PUT DOWN...
THIS DEBATE YA HAVE WITH REALITY!

I WILL PUT DOWN...
MY GUARD IF YA PUT UP WITH SLEEP.

TIDALS
YOU WEAKLING.

All TIDALS tilt and rest.

A dream sequence of dancing tidal shadows illustrate the crushing and heavenly end of the Universe.

GRAVITY
HD. With me, ya didn't put down. Ya always put up. Ya will be saved. We'll put up with ya. As for the other Gals... We'll put our paw down.

All TIDALS awaken. They march with newfound respect for GRAVITY.

TIDALS
FAMILY...

The home returns near the edge of the stage once again.

GRAVITY
PIPE DOWN.

GRAVITY marches the TIDALS out.

End of "PUT DOWN"

SCENE 7

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The GALAXIES enter, with the TEEN GALAXIES going to the table.

HD poignantly looks upon the rug. They set down their knapsack and head through the side exit.

TEEN GALAXIES

It is Crunch Time, HD. HD1?

HD returns with dishes. They bow.

HD
Declinations, family.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)
Declinations, HD.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit as TRIANGULUM
tosses away the whoopee cushion.

MILKY WAY pouts.

HD (CONT'D)
Looks like someone's avoiding the gas giants.

TRIANGULUM
Quit the sass, Milky Way.

HD passes out the dishes and
solemnly sets one on the ground.

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, HD?

ANDROMEDA
Tastes mostly like dark matter, Triangulum.

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

WHIRLPOOL
I need a nap after this, Cartwheel.

HD
We're relatives again, Whirlpool!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Guess we are gonna starve to death, Galaxies.

MILKY WAY inspects HD's healed arm.

MILKY WAY
You are yourself again. You *ellipsoid*.

HD

You are so grounded. Alright, Gals. You've stayed up for quintillions of years. Fix yourselves to bed.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT MILKY WAY)

Declinations, sibling.

Most TEEN GALAXIES head off to bed.

HD sets the board game on the table.

MILKY WAY

We are finished.

HD

Lost your figure? No ellipse can make you too old for Water Bears and Elevators. As the adult around here, you're still my baby sibling.

MILKY WAY

No way will I call you siblin' Sing. We are no pawns to our ellipses. Is that why you need to have *sons* of your own? You are no Singularity.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

Big mistake!

HD hears SINGULARITY. They slap their figure off the board and move MILKY WAY's figure forward.

HD

There's no other cub I need but you. You'll figure it out. I ask your warps, waves, and wrinkles... Walk away, hibernate. Declinations.

MILKY WAY heads off to bed.

HD meditates on the rug.

SINGULARITY joins HD.

SINGULARITY

You are a bit mistaken... My firstborn... For where you need to be, this is the last place. Save space.

HD

I can't even save myself...

SINGULARITY

Gravity led you on. I'm here to lead you in.

HD

Did you put down Gravity's parents...?

SINGULARITY

Can't blame the dog. It was why Gravity did not put up with me. Please, do not put me up on a pedestal. I was not cut out to be a caretaker. However, I shall cut it as a caregiver.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Baby, are you hurt?

HD

Nom/Ma/Pa, are you hurting?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

HD, who did you see beyond our Circle?

HD (CONT'D)

Sing— What did you see in this Circle?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

HD1, apparency. Are you apparent yet?

HD (CONT'D)

Singularity, what made you decide to be apparent?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

In due course, our hearts open up the prophecy: When a Galaxy is fed enough light from their singularity, that Galaxy becomes a singularity. Renewed as a single source of light for the lightless. Every being is born lightless. It's upon you, as was me, to shed light, save space, produce photons for Crunch Time. You are a luminous Gal. A bright adult. Act like one.

HD

My heart's never as crystal clear as yours.

SINGULARITY

My black hole raised your clear and crisp heart. You need to accept that you will be a Bach Ho.

HD

Please accept the Edge! I'm not cut out for it. I'm failing your cubs, tiger nomy/mom/dad... I cannot bare the legacy I made you leave behind.

SINGULARITY

You've outgrown this forest. There's a space for us. Another Gal that'll hear your verse. Just beyond the Edge. The Edge accepted me... The moment I left my family for my legacy.

HD

Is legacy to leave family? Or what's left of legacy is family? It left me alone out there. This heartless, lightless universe. Adulthood is the worst. I cannot take care of anything.

SINGULARITY

You certainly took care of me.

HD

I only wished for the death of our time together—

SINGULARITY

I wish for your legacy to not end here. Face the Edge. I no longer shed light to you. Do you make yourself clear? *High definition* one. HD1.

SINGULARITY clears themselves off.

HD grabs their knapsack. They head to the edge of the stage. They look back at the unclear Center.

23. "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

HD

DON'T EVER STOP BEING A(P)PARENT!

MILKY WAY (OFFSTAGE)

What is happening to HD?

The TEEN GALAXIES enter, with TRIANGULUM holding the snow globe.

HD

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

HD.
ANOMALY.
YOU'RE EVERYTHING.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

SHED LIGHTLY...
SHED LIGHTLY...
TREAD LIGHTLY.

TEEN GALAXIES (CONT'D)

YOU'RE STILL FAMILY.
ELLIP—...

HD

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.

HD barely steps off the stage.

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

HD (CONT'D)

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

GRAVITY
PARALLAX.

HD
I CAN'T WHEN YOU GROUND MY SUPERMASSIVE...

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

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.

HD
(Accepting their internal singularity)
I CAN ONLY SHED MORE BLOOD... FEUDS...
I'LL SHED LIGHT ON A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE.
FAR-FETCHED!

HD pretends to toss a ball, making
GRAVITY's attention veer off and
let go of HD. HD falls off the
Edge, vanishing into nothingness.

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

GRAVITY realizes the tragic mistake
they have instinctively made. The
once cute dog falls into madness
and acts out.

GRAVITY
...! Forc- Fall!

TRIANGULUM drops the snow globe.

End of "APPARENT (SHED LIGHT)"

SCENE 8

24. "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)
Downfall!

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

The TIDALS marches out of the shadows as a tidal wolf pack. All members have evolved into wolves.

GRAVITY

A dog's seen enough. We're coming out full tidal force. It is dogfight at Zenith.

TEEN GALAXIES

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.

ANDROMEDA

Your tidal wolves won't turn this *tide* of war.

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 miss the wide-open space right now!

GRAVITY

(Recognizing the galactic weak spots)

Tidal wave!

The TIDALS surround ANDROMEDA and rip out their white-hole heart.

ANDROMEDA

Me pearl!

TIDALS

Fall!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

You Tiduals are not entitled to our hearts. And
you sure ain't entitled to our time.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL cartwheel
and spiral towards GRAVITY.

GRAVITY

Tidal dilate!

Time speeds up for CARTWHEEL while
time slows down for WHIRLPOOL.

A TIDAL defeats CARTWHEEL at fast
speeds while another TIDAL defeats
WHIRLPOOL in slow motion.

The time dilation equation
crumbles into *FAM*.

TIDALS

Force! Fall!

EARTH (OFFSTAGE)

You got this, water bear!

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby. My heart is no longer primordial.
I am no nebula anymore, mortals. Quasar!

MILKY WAY unleashes their Quasar,
wiping out some TIDALS.

GRAVITY

Tidal warp!

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

MILKY WAY

(Voice re-cracks)

Zit! You popped it! Mirror?! Ow, waves, wr...

The downed GALAXIES cluster.

WHIRLPOOL

Time is up, Galaxies...

CARTWHEEL

Gals, it is downtime...

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Don't take time away from us relatives, Gravity!

ANDROMEDA

And our oyster, Gravity!

MILKY WAY

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

GRAVITY

Ya pushed everything I've ever loved over the
Edge. I figured out our space. I am ya
downfall. Face the force of Gravity! Forces!

The TIDALS tower over the space.

TRIANGULUM takes out the Big Bang
Taser and shoots GRAVITY. They
stand in front of their family.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Zilch?!

TRIANGULUM

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

GRAVITY disarms and tases
TRIANGULUM, who wallows in pain.

GRAVITY

Big Freeze, Galaxy! I'm getting behind the ears
and the years! Shut your wormhole!

During the zap storm, HD climbs
back up onto the stage. They fully
resemble SINGULARITY. They hold
bell-shaped light in a baby sling.

TEEN GALAXIES

Bach Ho?

GRAVITY stops tasing.

TRIANGULUM

(Stagnantly)

Family... I feel... Nothing. Nothing is...

HD

Everything. Adulthood is unfulfilling. But only
out of nothing in a space of my own, can I fill
it with meaning. In darkness, can I shed light
and feel seen. In a void of noise, can I hear
Abell. I cut my edges for you. You're born from
nothing. *I've made myself clear.* I am apparent.

In front of the stage, SINGULARITY
walks in, accompanying BE and ING.

SINGULARITY, BE, ING

Everything...

BE and ING hug SINGULARITY. They
journey off to the great beyond.

GRAVITY

A dog forgets: An owner always returns.

HD plucks $F = AM$ out of the pile
of equations. They hold it out.

HD

You're no pet. A *friend* always returns.

GRAVITY

Force... Fam. You're cutting edge, HD. Abell?

GRAVITY touches baby ABELL.

ABELL bites GRAVITY's paw, crying.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

(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)

Now, I can let myself down. I can only go up
from here. I am finally *free*...

GRAVITY jumps off the Edge of the
Universe.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

We don't blame you, Gravity!

HD

(Having a moment)

Good tidal... Force.

Time erratically accelerates.

The TIDALS are livid.

HD helps the TEEN GALAXIES up and
fights through the TIDALS to save
TRIANGULUM. HD comes out mortally
wounded, scathed by countless bite
marks. Their heart bows out,
coming to terms that they cannot
handle the tidal forces.

HD (CONT'D)

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

HD hands baby ABELL to the
CONDUCTOR in the ORCHESTRA.

The TIDALS grotesquely dance and
strike terror into the hearts of
the AUDIENCES.

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 GALAXIES laugh their last
hearty laugh. They all sit.

GALAXIES

We know...

HD prays a different tune, with
the TEEN GALAXIES doing the same.
They then decide to hold each of
their sibling's hands.

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

End of "(THE BIG RIP OF) ZENITH"

25. "BIG CRUNCH"

HD

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.

HD (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.

HD
(Stressfully trying to course correct)
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!

MILKY WAY embraces HD.

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

From beyond, SINGULARITY sings.

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

Like a tsunami, 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

ABELL, a bell-shaped GALAXY and child, rises from the ORCHESTRA.

ABELL

Anti?! Far-fetch!

A TIDAL PUPPY enters from the audience and fetches the Big Bang Taser for ABELL.

ABELL fires the Big Bang Taser at the stage.

26. "BIG BOUNCE"

The home seeps out of the curtains.

Each GALAXY stands in the home.

A light flashes with each GALAXY.

TRIANGULUM holds the snow globe.

TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING...

WHIRLPOOL

EVERYTHING...

CARTWHEEL

EVERYTHING...

ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING...

ANDROMEDA hands the scope to MILKY WAY.

MILKY WAY scopes out the Edge.

MILKY WAY

EVERYTHIN'!

HD and the TEEN GALAXIES cluster.

The light fills the whole Circle.

GALAXY FAMILY

BIG BOUNCE...!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another. They distinctly dance alongside their respective walls. Each TEEN GALAXY bows during the tones of their signature songs.

HD idly stands, amused.

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to HD.

HD bows during the tone of "Apparent." 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.

BE and ING enter. They bow.

The spotlight unveils GRAVITY and SINGULARITY in the audience.

GRAVITY and HD meet at the edge of the stage. They embrace.

HD 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.

HD tosses every star upon the stage.

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

COMPANY
FAMILY IS... EVERYTHING!

COMPANY bows. They dance together through space and time.

END OF SPACETIME