

ELLIPSES

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

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

BE, adult, Singularity's parent, a Multiplicity

ING, adult, Singularity's parent, a Multiplicity

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

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

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

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

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

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.

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

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

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

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

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

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

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.

NOTHING. TRIANGULUM

WHIRLPOOL spirals out. They catch the scope. They scope out.

NOTHING! WHIRLPOOL

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

NOTHING! CARTWHEEL

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

NOTHING! ANDROMEDA

MILKY WAY strolls in.

NUTHIN'... MILKY WAY

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

LET'S BOUNCE! TEEN GALAXIES

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

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...

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

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

End of "BOUNCE"

GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations.

The GALAXIES bow.

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.

TRIANGULUM puts a fist up to
CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.

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

*Besides your oldest sibling here, ya'll cannot
cook stardust. You'd die without us. Your tiger
nomy/mom/dad is pleased that this special meal
is heated above ten million degrees Kelvin and
spun in the cosmic microwave background at the
angular velocity of a dozen sine squared its
solar latitude. Strongest material in the
cosmos. A variety of nutrition from the crusts
of neutron stars. Dismantle the mantle. But
leave the core. I'd love to planet these.*

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
physique.

WHIRLPOOL

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

CARTWHEEL

Gal, you're 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

Shut your wormhole, you quasi-gala-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.

HD drifts to the edge of the home.

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)"

GRAVITY approaches HD.

HD
WHY DOES MY FAMILY LACK MY CURIOSITY?
WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH I LOOK TO KNOW?
WHY ARE THOSE OVALS BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
WHEN I KNOW I NEED TO GO...

GRAVITY has HD facing the Edge.

HD (CONT'D)
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

TEEN GALAXIES
CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

HD
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HOLD ME BACK?
I NEVER GET ANY RELEASE.

TEEN GALAXIES
(IT IS CRUNCH TIME, HD.)

HD
FEEDING ME LIGHT THAT I DON'T LACK..
PLEASE LET ME BE AT PEACE...

HD (CONT'D)
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...
TOWARDS CLARITY.
WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS
SINGULARITY.
FAR AWAY FROM THE ELLIPSES.
LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES—

SINGULARITY
END THIS TANGENT!

HD
TANGENT...

GRAVITY
(Manipulatively repeating)
WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

HD

(Standing up to SINGULARITY)

TANGENT, 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 CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...
 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:
 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

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 the springs of a trampoline? They'll rip 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

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...

HD senses some perplexity. They
bring out an elliptical board game.

HD (CONT'D)

You were saying? *Water Bears and Elevators?*

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.

(Unnerving MILKY WAY)

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!

The board game is open ended.

4. "FIGURE"

MILKY WAY
LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

HD
LIFE HAS *UPS AND DOWNS*.

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

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

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.

HD

Your voice warps beautifully with each passing millennium. Figure out yourself, Milky Way...

MILKY WAY slaps HD's figure off.

HD (CONT'D)

LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY

KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

Pawn!

Only HD understands GRAVITY.

HD

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... I'll get down with our dog Gravity. Let's let our bears hibernate. We can finish Water Bears and Elevators some other time.

And it's way past your bedtime. 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!

HD

You always understand me...

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE) (CONT'D)

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

HD

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

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

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.

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

HD

Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)

End Singularity! Stun the Galaxies! Free thee! No
longer bound by family! Make *nothing* ya legacy!

ABELL briefly stands.

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?

YOUNG SINGULARITY (PRERECORDED)

(Echoing from beyond)

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

MILKY WAY (OFFSTAGE)

What tis happening to mommy/daddy/nomy?

The TEEN GALAXIES enter.

SINGULARITY

Milky Way, look away. HD. I happened to let my
parents down.

GALAXIES

Parents? We have grandparents?

SINGULARITY

I grew out. 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 hesitantly slides the Big Bang
Taser towards SINGULARITY.

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

GRAVITY

Adulthood is *nothing, kid!*

HD looks upon ABELL.

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

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 only to
feel zilch. They soon notice 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 in the face.

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

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

The light fluctuates. Appliances
may short circuit and spark.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

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

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

TIDALS (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 and
tidally dance around the stage.
They try to lure all members of
the theatre audience to go wild.

The AUDIENCES rock and roll!

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

HD walks to the edge of the home,
shifting from dolor to wonder.
They carefully step 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
run in place on stage. They soon
stop when they notice their lack
of progress. GRAVITY claws at the
ground.

HD (CONT'D)

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

HD takes a single step downstage.

The lights expand further out. The
home moves upstage in 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 herself
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: $v = H_0D$.

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/mom/dad.