



THE GALAXY FAMILY

The Junior Musical
of ELLIPSES
by
David Quang Pham

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

WORKING TITLE PLAYWRITERS

THANK YOU

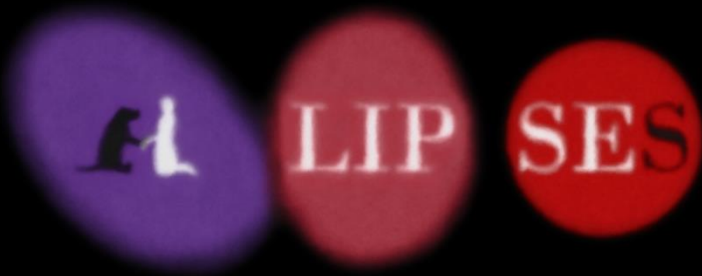
Name	Role
Edward Brown, Danny Caballero, Professors of Physics and Astronomy Dionne O'Dell, Denise Troutman Professors of Theatre or Writing	
Janelle Lawrence	Musical Theatre Mentor
Amber Bradshaw	Apprenticeship Facilitator
Emily McClain	First Reader
Alexis McKay	Fireworks/Stage Manager
Jordan Alexandria Ealey	Hat/Dramaturg
Aliyah Curry	Butterfly/Director
Parris Sarter* , 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	Tidals
Sofia Palmero*	Narrator
Kate Leanne Jacoby*	Understudy
Isake Akanke, Robert Davis, Jeff Hathcoat ² , Ebony Jerry, Tina Mitchell, Bryan Montemayor ² , Lee Osorio ² , Mary Lynn Owen, Lau'rie Roach, Imani Vaughn-Jones ²	Monday Night Development Workshops Readers*



DEVELOPMENT

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

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

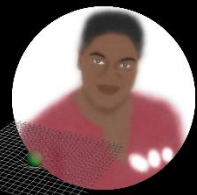


Book, Music, and Lyrics by DAVID QUANG PHAM
 Dramaturgy by JORDAN ALEXANDRIA EALEY
 Directed by ALIYAH CURRY
 Managed by ALEXIS MCKAY
 Moderated by AMBER BRADSHAW
 Narrated by SOFIA PALMERO
 Performed by the Star-Studded Cast

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



PARRIS SARTER
Singularity



VALLEA E. WOODBURY
Gravity



DANIELA COBB
SPT0615-JD



JASON-JAMAL LIGON
Cartwheel



SKYE PASSMORE
Whirlpool



ABBY HOLLAND
Triangulum



DANIEL SAKAMOTO-WENDEL
Andromeda



EVAN PHILLIPS
Milky Way



KAIT RIVAS
Tidals

PLOT SUMMARY

A science fantasy comedy, THE GALAXY FAMILY centers Singularity, their kids, and tidal pups. Singularity has birthed a brand-new cluster of stars: Milky Way. When JD accidentally knocks out Singularity while playing fetch with Gravity, Milky Way is left in the care of their siblings. The supermassive heart of this children's story is caring for one another.

From outer space, Singularity returns to the Ellipse with a baby Galaxy. They place them in the crib on the rug. The Galaxies gather around ("Jump").

"Have it your way with my celestial milk..."

JD plays fetch with Gravity. Their star knocks out Singularity. Milky Way is left in the care of the Galaxies, who have no idea what to do. Cartwheel and Whirlpool are to take shifts monitoring the crib. They take their eyes off Milky Way to play Tardigrades and Elevators.

Triangulum locks them in their room.

Andromeda must change the diaper.

SPT0615-JD cooks the baby formula.

Triangulum handle the tidal dogs.

Singularity barfs up their Crunch. "We're a family."



CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Astronomy ○

○ Casting from historically excluded racial minorities is recommended. ○

Character	Nature	Identity
SINGULARITY The relativistically impossible single parent.	Super Infinite Black Hole	Adult
GRAVITY A tidal puppy.	Tidal Force	Any
SPT0615-JD A galactic kid.	Embryonic Galaxy	Preteen
CARTWHEEL A galactic kid.	Ring Galaxy	Child
WHIRLPOOL A galactic kid.	Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy	Child
TRIANGULUM A galactic kid.	Spiral Galaxy	Child
ANDROMEDA A galactic kid.	Spiral Galaxy	Child
MILKY WAY A nebulous newborn.	Barred Spiral Galaxy	Baby

TIDALS

Tidals are tidal forces personified as dogs.

The barks and woofs of Tidals are uttered by barking: "Force."
Their howls are uttered by howling: "Fall."

MUSICAL NUMBERS

♪ #	Page	Title	Characters	◦Present but unvocal
1.	16	<u>Jump</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES	
2.	23	<u>Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY GALAXIES GRAVITY tidals	
3.	45	<u>Collapsar</u>	GRAVITY JD	
8.	48	<u>Verse</u>	JD GRAVITY	
9.	50	<u>Rip</u>	TEEN GALAXIES SINGULARITY	
10.	56	<u>Anomaly is Everything</u>	TEEN GALAXIES	
11.	65	<u>Time is Relative</u>	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL	
12.	71	<u>Big Rip</u>	CARTWHEEL WHIRLPOOL tidals SINGULARITY	
13.	77	<u>Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</u>	MILKY WAY solar systems	
14.	82	<u>Globular</u>	ANDROMEDA TRIANGULUM	
15.	84	<u>Fabric</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals	
16.	91	<u>Far-Fetched</u>	GRAVITY tidals JD	
17.	94	<u>Point</u>	SINGULARITY tidals multiplicities	
18.	97	<u>Heat Death</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities	
19.	109	<u>Parallax</u>	GRAVITY JD	
20.	112	<u>Tangent</u>	JD GRAVITY	
21.	116	<u>...</u>	JD	
22.	119	<u>Bounce Back</u>	GALAXIES GRAVITY tidals	
23.	125	<u>Everything</u>	GALAXIES	
24.	133	<u>Apparent (Shed Light)</u>	GALAXIES SINGULARITY GRAVITY tidals	
25.	136	<u>Spacetime</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES	
26.	136	<u>Liminality</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities GALAXIES ABELL	
27.	138	<u>(The Big Rip of) Zenith</u>	GRAVITY SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES tidals	
28.	145	<u>Big Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TEEN GALAXIES tidals	
29.	148	<u>Big Bounce</u>	COMPANY	

Legend: Recorded | Scored | Not Yet Scored



MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS

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

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

TRIANGULUM| Associative Instruments: Triangle, Handbell

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

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

CARTWHEEL| Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine, Jingle Bell

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

SCENES

Act	Page	Location	SET props
Ii	15	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME FIELD EQUATIONS RUG SEATS (7) TABLE Big Bang Taser dishes knapsack monocular snow globe whoopie cushion
Iii	48	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $f=ma$, $v=H_0*D$) knapsack
Iiii	50	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE Singularity's body
Iiv	60	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}$) magnolia flowers(2) monocular
Iv	71	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE Singularity's body
Ivi	72	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS balls knapsack
Ivii	94	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE
Iii	97	Singularity's Past Universe	DOME HOME Big Bang Taser black fabric
IIiii	106	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $d = 1 / p$) knapsack
IIiii	112	The Edge of the Universe	ENCHANTED AND SOFT UNIVERSE knapsack
IIiv	118	The Continuum Checkpoint	3 DOMES [left: doghouse, central: sleeping quarters, right: command post] knapsack snow globe
IIv	128	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS (6) TABLE Big Bang Taser dishes mirror snow globe whoopie cushion
III	148	A Fresh Universe	DOME HOME RUG SEATS TABLE balls knapsack snow globe

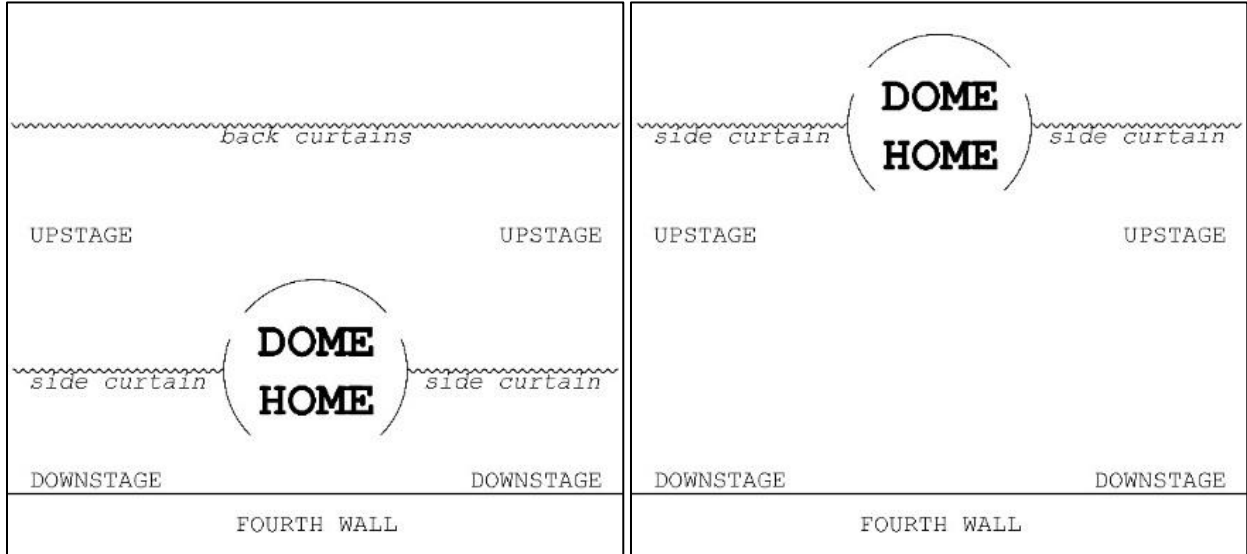


SETTINGS

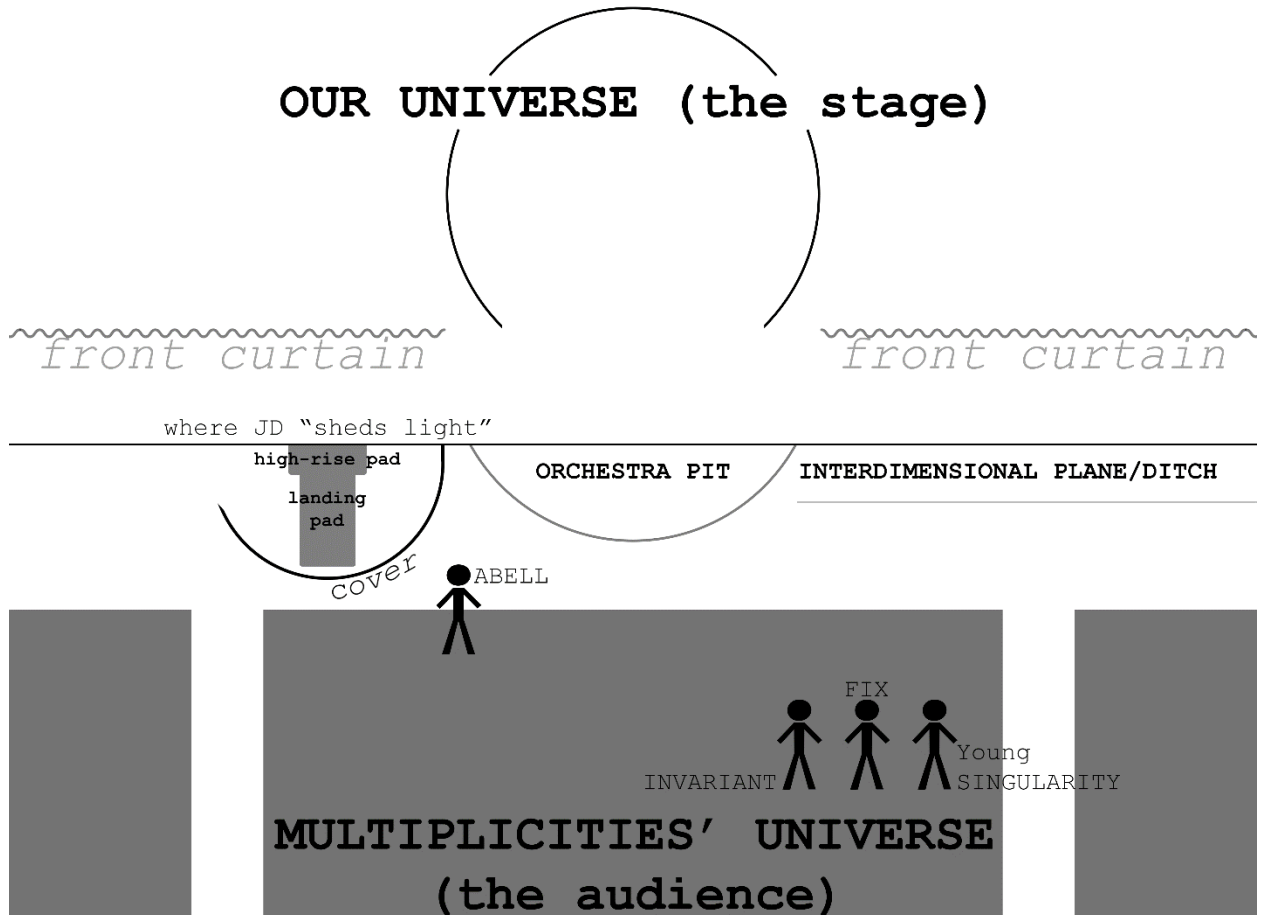
THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce

Post-Big Bang

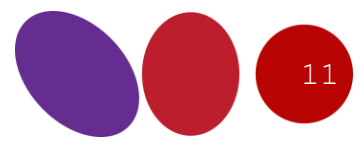


OUR UNIVERSE (the stage)



SET DESIGNS









[The Ellipse]

[The stage contains a table with seats, and a crib on top of the spacetime rug.]

(SINGULARITY approaches the stage from the audience, clutching the newborn Galaxy: MILKY WAY. They place them in the crib.)

SINGULARITY

Everything...

1. JUMP

(The GALAXIES enter. They gather around the crib.)

JD

EVERYTHING.

TRIANGULUM

EVERYTHING.

WHIRLPOOL

EVERYTHING.

CARTWHEEL

EVERYTHING.

ANDROMEDA

EVERYTHING.

(MILKY WAY giggles like a baby.)

(GALAXIEs jump for joy.)

GALAXIEs

LET'S JUMP!

SINGULARITY

ANDROMEDA. TRIANGULUM. WHIRLPOOL. CARTWHEEL. JD.

[End of "Jump".]

(All TIDALs crawl in and surround the crib.)

2. CRUNCH

(SINGULARITY bows. They pick up MILKY WAY. They may pull out a baby bottle. They may breastfeed MILKY WAY.)

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family. Let's rise for our newest member of the Galaxy family.

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

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

[End of "Crunch".]



(GRAVITY narrates.)

GRAVITY

Babies are everything... And so are puppies. I'm Gravity. I've been around for infinite dog years. I've seen all these Galaxies grow old, but watching newborn nebulas never gets old. Most kids here are only several-eternities old, but one is about a dozen. I love this one. SPT0615-JD? Force!

(MILKY WAY suddenly cries.)

TIDALS

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

(JD embarrassingly holds GRAVITY close.)

JD

Gravity...

TRIANGULUM

Dumb tidal force you got there, JD.

ANDROMEDA

Doggone 'a force, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

Now we got ourselves a loud nebula, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

Babies will cry and we might as well get used to it, Cartwheel.

(SINGULARITY motions for the TIDALS to leave.)

(All TIDALS exit.)

(SINGULARITY calms down MILKY WAY.)

SINGULARITY

I went through this phase five times and it doesn't get any easier. Certainly, this one can be content like Whirlpool...

WHIRLPOOL

You ain't gonna give them a dumb name like mine, Singularity?

CARTWHEEL

Don't spiral out of control with names, Singularity.

ANDROMEDA

We trust your judgment, Singularity.

TRIANGULUM

Give a 4D shape to this one like you did mine, Singularity!

(JD mocks TRIANGULUM.)

JD

We already got a *square* in this family, Singularity.

SINGULARITY

Gals! Your hearts are all vigorous. Milk of celestial kindness.

(Placing MILKY WAY in the crib. They bow.)

Declinations. Let's say our graces. Let's give us some space.

(The GALAXIES but JD head off to bed.)



SINGULARITY (cont.)

Be in my good grace, JD... Declinations, SPT0615-JD.

JD

I'm now twelve eternities old. I can stay up a few more millennia past my bedtime. Speaking of names, you gave me such a weird one... What does SPT mean...? Am I zero 615th of something? What does JD stand fo-

SINGULARITY

SPT0615-... Just drop the subject.

JD

Nomy/Mommy/Daddy... Where do nebulas come from?

SINGULARITY

They come from nothing, Galaxy.

JD

What is nothing?

SINGULARITY

You'll know in a dozen eternities.

JD

Getting to my age of twelve eternities felt like forever.

SINGULARITY

If you want to know what forever feels like, you can look over our nebula...

JD

Am I hearing what you said loud and clear? Um, being a parent shouldn't be too hard...

SINGULARITY

Apparently, beingly nearly a teenager has made you arrogant.

JD

I can take care of this nebula than you ever can. I've watched you raise the four others. I understand babies real well. I'm closer to a them than you are.

SINGULARITY

So you're no adult. You're more of a baby.

JD

I'm no baby.

SINGULARITY

Then prove it. Watch over the nebula.

JD

What has gotten into you?

SINGULARITY

I have raised five of you, Gals. The nomy/mother/father Galaxy needs a vacation.

(Exiting.)

(JD sneaks out.)



JD

The best thing about babies... You can't tattletale on me when I break the laws of physics.

(GRAVITY barks, offstage.)

GRAVITY

Force!

(JD shushes GRAVITY, offstage. They reenter with GRAVITY. They grab balls, embodying stars. They toss the star.)

JD

Fetch! Fetch the star!

(GRAVITY retrieves the star.)

(MILKY WAY loudly giggles.)

Not so loud... Okay, one more toss and I'

(SINGULARITY remains offstage.)

SINGULARITY

See. I knew you can't handl-

What do you know about family...?

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING I KNOW.
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. WE KNOW
EVERYTHING'S A NO-NO.
WELL THE THING IS THAT WE'RE STILL FAMILY!

FAMILY'S IN EVERY CELL,
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.
FAMILY'S IN EVERY VEIN,
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.
FAMILY'S IN OUR HEARTS.
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US WITH NO ENDS IN OUR STEMS.