

THE SECRETS OF STARS Devising Doc / KCC Sat Cons '24-'25: A sample of our Saturday Conservatory Writing Process from the 2024-2025 season. This process takes place every Saturday, 10am-12pm during the school year:

- 1. The writing and workshopping takes place on Zoom, from September through March**
- 2. In April we rehearse select scenes from the play online for 3-4 Saturdays**
- 3. In May, we come together in person for 3-4 Saturdays to rehearse the entire play and do a reading for an audience on Zoom**
- 4. We are currently using scenes from our full length plays in acting classes and in drama clubs in schools around the city - so it is a wonderful cycle of creation and revival!**

THE SECRETS OF STARS written by The KCC Saturday Conservatory Students and Teaching Artists,'24-'25: Brendan Ahmed, Courtney Buss, Guilherme Cruz, Tyreek Franco, Cristina Gonzalez, Reed Harris, Kelvin Jacob, You Gang Lee, Stacey Linnartz, Jasmine Meshak, Leyla Polozhani, Abigail Ramsay, Jeremy Rishe, Arden Traynor

This doc holds sections A, B, C, D:

Section A. Saturday Conservatory 24-25 Devising Foundational Lists:

-Themes, Stories, Topics You Wish Were In Movies, TV, Streaming, Plays:

How people can have different opinions and world views and still get along, be civil
Hear more from places we never really see - the Hmong people in Vietnam
Women friends of all ages and races and ethnicities
Underdog story - when the underdog doesn't win
Rise to fame / power and how much it affects them
Normal people living normal lives - more indie movies! More slice of life!

-What You Are Interested In These Days:

Presidential Race

The term interest is a relative term - to the severity of the outcome (would rather have the race be background noise, but bc its like HOLY F_K NOT AGAIN! I must pay attention and do stuff!)

Presidential debate like a roller coaster

Listening to MPB - popular Brazilian music

People talking about dance - the intense and sometimes abusive training

LL Cool J new album - his comeback

More slice of life, normalize good and bad, different reflections

The movie WAVES

Many lower budget quality projects vs one big blockbuster

Fixing computer remotely

Blackmail bc they say they can see your computer

Collecting DVDs and researching

Pressure culture puts on women to be successful AND attractive at same time

Cycling in NYC

Traveling to places where I AM the foreigner

When I sleep on left side I have nightmares when I sleep on right side I don't

-What You Were Interested In When You Were Younger:

Dinosaurs

Circus

Drawing

Nothing but MATH! Arithmetic!!!

Thinking about future jobs, veterinarian, fashion designer by day, or vice versa

Coloring on everything

Soccer

Astronomy

NASA

Dance class - modern and jazz

Being spies

Sandbox - building valleys and canyons and float boats

Record and edit scenes for YouTube - do it in a different way now

-What You Love:

Mountains

Beach

Water - bodies of water, lake, ponds, rivers

Singapore

Discovering favorite songs

Roller coasters

Road trips

Swim

Dance

Lily flowers

Eryka Badu

Kate Bush

Sade

The Beatles

Music

Writing imaginary and realistic scenarios 100%

Singing

Little monkeys run around Singapore

Watching videos of cute dogs getting luxury baths and spa treatments

Spring

Summer

Autumn

All seasons except Winter

What I love about Autumn is the crispness to the air that is so specific

'Tights Weather'

Koh Samui, Thailand

Canadian series 'Slings and Arrows'

Ricky Gervais' 'Extras' - Max

Seinfeld

Making art: painting, crafting, jewelry

Stanley Kubrick movies

The way we cook beans in Brazil - add bacon and pepperoni, bean broth is thick, loooooove and add rice on top

Good pesto

Watching movies with friends

Pondering how big the universe is and within that the likelihood of other forms of life

Learning about other peoples' cultures and families

-What You Can't Stand:

Dreams - when I don't know I am dreaming and I am fighting for my life and I am so tired

What we are doing to the environment

When people don't move inside the subway train and stand blocking the doors

Frizzy hair days

When you are talking to someone and they are not listening

Never having been on a subway before

Maths Class Ugh!

People who cant accept when they are wrong

When people contradict themselves - hypocrisy

Violence against animals

Violence in general

The dirtiness of NYC - esp when come back from somewhere else

People who get offended on behalf of other people

The US is a mess - but that's kind of what is great about it - it is big and unruly, crazy moving parts that is irritating and weirdly beautiful

Feeling limited, being aware of that

On a debate - mayor of Sao Paolo - one candidate threw a chair

The turn humans took to get us here - so much innovation, technology but so much divisiveness and hate

Social Media algorithms that are designed to keep us hooked via fear, anger, hate, envy

Human brain doesn't want to change its perspective - baked in, biological

-What Makes You Angry:

Genuine Hypocrisy

Sexism and misogyny

Being judged by people for being vulnerable (exercise in drama, some people weren't going all out and they were judging those who were)

Things politicians say

Racism politically and personally among people in neighborhoods

When someone refuses to learn something they need and ask others to do it for them

Insensitive and clueless people - lots of interactions

Learn something seemingly too late (I wished I learned that long before)

When ppl use their influence to get away with things they are supposed to, like celebrities and people in power

When people make grand sweeping statements about things they know nothing about

How easily we can hurt other people - watching Vance lie with such ease, throwing bombs at us re: Haitian community, women - how could you do that?

Lying politicians

People commenting on other peoples' appearance

People who litter and who don't easily throw their trash in the can!!!!!!!

These terms like 'Karen'

The Act of Labeling - certain labels are terrible oh but this one is ok

You can't speak to someone for fear that someone may hit you, shoot you (road rage, asking someone to pick something up.....)

-What Makes You Feel Safe:

Family

Being home

In rehearsal with a good director

With people who let me be my entire self, wherever I am at, people who allow me to have whatever emotion I am with at the moment

Being on stage, on set

My bed

When it's cold outside and you get under your blanket and it's so warm

A fireplace

Memories of my elders - my grandparents and great grandparents who took care of me

Warm, dark nights

Getting to the car after a scary hike

When I'm cozy

Watching a rainstorm come across a big open valley

Being in a big comfy movie theater

Watching a play

Watching favorite movie and remembering how much you like it

Putting on a record, VINYL

Being with friends that you've known for ages and just appreciating their friendship and who they are

Community

Family

When all the wheels touch down and the velocity is slow after a long flight

-What Makes You Feel Scared:

Tall bridges

The feeling I've forgotten something - a memory or something physical

Weapons that shoot things - guns, bombs, weapons that can hurt and kill many at one time

Fearful for the election

Losing ones I love

Crazy people on the train, esp. when with other people

Intrusive thoughts - can be a wide range (can be like sleeping / slipping in shower, I get hurt...)

Going down the subway stairs

My own imagination - a double edged sword - scary monsters when falling asleep

What happens when someone dies - scary and curious about life after death

Failure or dying knowing my life had no positive impact / knowing I didn't do my absolute best

Sudden big changes in life - happen out of nowhere

Bigotry - so calmly and confidently stated is terrifying

Knowing fully well my future is in my hands, like my actions today determine how my tomorrow turns out sometimes I just feel weak just by that thought alone.

The fact that almost still half of the US is voting for Trump and Vance

The first two minutes when you just wake up - see a butterfly directly coming to my face and I have just woken up - wake up in middle of night and start looking around and the butterfly comes into my face - white butterflies - five times
Sleep paralysis

When we are dreaming, but don't know and what is going on is horrifying - then it is less scary and fascinating once awake

-What Makes You Feel Comforted:

Being listened to when I have a challenging story to tell

Someone who wildly changes for the better - personal or in a documentary

When I put things into perspective - this too shall pass, it's not that big a deal

That we all are wired similarly, but on a spectrum

Online confessions - how many people go through the same - just started talking about it

Reading the book THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE PERSON

Realizing I am not alone

A good home cooked meal

Meant to live in community, that realization and then the actions we take

Bill Maher's show - a rare place to bring people with different opinions and a conversation

When you can let go of all your responsibilities and worries for a second to just BE. No thoughts, empty mind, just being.

Knowing that there are some people and institutions who are working on alternative energy and reducing consumption
Really. Good. Food.

Working in a good group of people where we are respecting and taking care of each other

Money in the bank

Systems that work (budgeting, home organization)

The night before your day off!!

Beauty in terms of knowing yourself - mentally, spiritually, physically - this is the reality and how I need to take care of myself

Section B. Elinor Fuch's A Visit To A Small Planet KCC 2024-25:

ENVIRONMENT:

- Mountains and clear skies
- Flat road — one straight road going both ways, massive impressive mountains (like the west)
- A lot of forests and natural beauty
- an agitated, wavy sea under a beautiful night sky
- Solitary animals
- Magical and lush forest
- Earth, lots of cities and countries and continents
- Mountains, sunset
- Diverse, some places are peaceful but other places are overwhelming and stressful
- I see a a deserted planet with mountains and hills top so spacious with weird animals... unlike the ones on earth

- Warm when it should be warm, cold when it should be cold
- Technological world, although nature is respected and healthy
- Kind of like Hawaii — beautiful mountains and beaches

TIME and CLIMATE:

- Lifetime so we can see bigger change but change can happen in a day too
- Time moves harshly and quickly, depends on where and how you live
 - Time seems especially quick in the more stressful areas
- More storms but also lush and thriving
- In between summer and fall, the change between then
- Abundant and autumnal
- Many solar and lunar eclipses
- Time is measured by the sun
- Time measured by eclipses — each eclipse marks a month
- More than one moon
- the planet is almost always nighttime except 3 hours of daytime every 7 earth days. it's freezing cold, and there are constant very powerful winds. there is an abundance of life under the stormy waters
- Seems more like a super cold planet that would definitely freeze out the life out of a living thing if been exposed for multiple minutes

MOOD, TONE, MUSIC:

- the mood, predictably, is very serious. the "music" would be very low, spaced-out wind chimes that echo over the waves. the tone is very course and harsh.
- LOTS of moods on the whole planet. Groups people for each mood — group of people who are always happy, always mad, etc
- Mood — delicate planet filled with different opinions and passions
- Sometimes very stressed and the planet could break at any second
- MANY moods — music depends on situation
- Easygoing, carefree — there's nothing holding you down
- Gentle summer breeze
- Complete space of ease
- A planet full of strange nicely orchestrated patterns, and loud noises from the weird animals above.
- People chattering and birds chirping
- Underlying tension, there's an unresolved something that people don't really talk about
- World feels restrained
- The mood on this planet is robotic. People don't know how to express themselves, and nothing seems genuine. Yet, they're oddly passionate, capable of showing big emotions out of nowhere. Nature sounds, like the breeze and birds chirping, are louder than usual

SOCIAL WORLD OF THE PLAY:

- Some are very social but others are very solitary
- Each mood of person is like its own race — they all have their own exaggerated feature
- this planet is devoid of humans. most species form groups for warmth and survival, but some species are adapted enough to the environment to hunt solo. the apex predators are comparable to the urban legends of the sea in earth. the world is 3d, and most species resemble those on earth

- Private planet, but people group together — lots of tension caused by the privacy (seconded)
- Not much of a social hierarchy — city people and country people. More of a divide between them because they envy aspects of the others' lives
- Private planet; 2 dimensional
- More insular than private; you can only see one another when you're on the same vibration (3d, 4d, maybe 5d?)
- VERY strong class rules, but because you only meet people you vibe with, you don't really perceive people
- The world is private. Everyone lives in their own little bubble. It's almost like Earth, functioning in the same way, but people have drifted apart. The government and various groups around the world are promoting travel —to get people out into the world, experiencing more, meeting new people and cultures, and reigniting that spark we used to have for life.

SOCIAL WORLD PART 2:

- People dress casually but there's different ways that people style
- People debate but everything is meaningful and purposeful
- communication on this planet is conveyed solely through body language. those that can't read body language will be alone and die alone. the apex predators seem to have power over the world, but the reality is that all species play an equal role. take one species out no matter how small, and the planet's ecosystem will take a massive hit
- Everyone dresses like travelers — neat but easygoing and relaxed
- They speak like us but they can also speak telepathically
- Power is inherited through alliances, but you must match someone's vibe to get access through their power
- Silences are the most peaceful moment on the planet — they're rare. People do not appreciate the beauty of silence
- People dismiss each other, despite relying on each other. Hard to make meaningful relationships
- The people who work hard on this planet are the ones that get more respect — people who are lazier do not.
- They dress like us
- They speak like us, but the chosen ones have the ability to read minds. They were chosen because of specific qualities.

WHAT CHANGES?:

- I think people grow friendly as they get older.
- The world becomes more open and conflict becomes resolved, although conflict gets created along the way
- Follows the stages of a person's life
- The big sky is the constant. There are always mountains that you will never actually reach. Only the people that can transcend vibrations can access them — they're a place of privilege.
 - Perhaps one person can access all the wavelengths and she realizes that all of these worlds can materialize around her
- every few years, the world enters a "summer" like state. the cold and winds end for a few months, and daytime is more abundant
- Lush and forest to dry and desert-like —> becomes more urban
- Mood changes from judgmental to understanding peoples' fear of each other

WHAT DOES THE PLAY ASK OF THE AUDIENCE?:

- it asks humanity to see that good can only be seen when there is bad to come with it.
- Asking the audience to become aware of what's happening in our real world (seconded)

- Show parallels between our world and reality
- Giving the audience a chance to choose their story and see how the choices they make influence the experiences that they have
- After their visit to my planet, the goal is to leave the audience with a sense of purpose toward others—to be gentle, respectful, and understanding. Inspiring them to live their lives, when possible, with peace of mind. And that after all, your life is your own fairytale, and fairytales always have a happy ending. So If you're not happy yet, then it's simply not the end.

Section C. An Example Of Pages, Scenes and Sections That Need Work 4-27-25:

NOTES 5-10:

~~Too many earth names.~~

~~Susan's tone when she meets Charlotte for the first time she's an investigative journalist. Maybe she knows there's something going on with the scientists too? That's why she was acting that way...~~

~~Soldiers in the streets and all that, maybe they wouldn't be able to easily go back and forth to the flats if they were really there~~

~~Intro to underdogs?~~

~~Adele and Joao first scene, couple of lines need to be switched.~~

~~Elliott's name has not been mentioned?~~

~~Kastia conversation on 5d is it better if roam mentions first~~

~~Adele can transport herself why is she biking? equal—this is the way I get to see everyone kastia is nervous about safety~~

~~What year is it at the top?~~

~~Page 5 stage directions~~

Page 13 very important-lots of info

~~Page 31 young Adele~~

~~Page 34 last paragraph~~

~~Page 37 she kastia I want~~

~~Page 49 yellow~~

~~Page 49 add Elliot one or two sentences to audience, now that grandma can live in 5D she isn't nervous, so glad we get to see your world.~~

5-7:

~~Page 35~~

~~Page 50~~

5-3:

~~Page 32~~

~~Page 19 Elliot~~

~~Page 31~~

~~Page 32 stage directions~~

~~Page 33 bottom~~

~~Page 35 after this need to hear Bev's vm on SUSans phone~~

~~Page 36 expand Frot and Grot~~

46
~~Page 37 fill in all The Underdgos~~
~~Page 39 finish stage directions~~
~~Page 40 some fun stuff with Igor being super slow and old???~~
~~Page 41~~

~~Page 47 flesh out dialogue~~

~~Scene 13 / page 25 we DO need a scene between the lab and the car I would like to bring back Susan here, although it was deleted Susan really retreats and I want to bring her forward here~~

~~Page 27 add crane to lines earlier~~

~~Bottom 28 they cheer~~

~~Top of 29 fix scene~~

~~Page 34 alien joke~~

~~Major question a narrator appears do we really need a narrator throughout? I (Stacey) personally do not like narrators, it feels like children's theatre, or bad community theatre, but if someone really wants it, convince me!!! And if we do have a narrator we need to bring them in from the top of the play AND we need to specify who this Narrator is for it to work it needs to be someone related to the story~~

Section D. FULL PLAY / THE SECRETS OF STARS: 2025 KCC Sat Cons Play:

Directed by Abigail Ramsay and Assistant Directed by Guilherme Cruz

Final Writers Room: May 10th and 17th, 10am-12pm

Performance: May 31st, 10am-12pm

Cast:

Stage Directions: Miles

Susan: Charlize

Charlotte Borja: Lucy

Bev Kollop: NaFis

Saunders Toady: Guilherme

Luiz at 65: Arthur

Joao at 65: Jeremy

Adele at 65: Stacey

Kastia: NaFis

Feldeq: Tyreek

Elliot: Reed

Riama: Lucy

Frot (Cook One): Arthur

Grot (Cook Two): NaFis

King of Montibus: Guilherme

Queen of Montibus: Charlize

Dr Spacey: Arthur

Young Joao: NaFis

Young Luiz: Reed
Young Adele: Charlize
Sgt Santos: Tyreek
Igor: NaFis
Parso: Tyreek
Razdar: Arthur
Tarteq: NaFis
Crane: Charlize
Regel: Lucy
Tech: Guilherme

Miles: Narration/Stage Directions/SFX
Guilherme: King of Montibus, Saunders Toady, Tech
Reed: Elliot, Young Luiz
Lucy: Charlotte Borja, Riama, Regel
Arthur: Frot, Luiz at 55, Dr. Spacey, Razdar
Tyreek: Feldeq, Sgt. Santos, Parso
NaFis: Kastia, Bev Kollop, Grot, Young Joao, Igor
Charlize: Susan, Queen of Montibus, Young Adele, Crane
Jeremy: Joao at 55
Stacey: Adele at 55

Sat Cons Play 24-25
THE SECRETS OF STARS

Planet Earth: 2035

Susan: a journalist, has exposed Mayor Toady and is being threatened
Charlotte Borja: scientist, everyone judges her for her frizzy hair, And maybe it wasn't an accident that Charlotte met Susan. Maybe she knew that she was caught up in something. And use her as a guinea pig. To sender, you know, but also she loved the idea of what she's been hearing about. The 5th dimension, and wanted to experience it herself.
Bev Kollop, Troy, NY Councilperson: means well, but clueless
Saunders Toady, Mayor of Troy, NY: corrupt, Susan has found out his misdeeds
Luiz at 65
Joao at 65

Planet MONTIBUS:

Adele - scientist, one of the mind readers, she has ability to go between all vibrations and all dimensions, Adele is a scientist specifically an astronomer. So she's constantly looking into space and making calculations.
Kastia - Adele's mother, also can vibrate in 5th dimension
João - a secret scientist / astronaut with Brazilian government, traveled to the planet 50 years ago, never went back, but he sent a message that had the key to the way the planet works and wants to go back to earth to retrieve it and transmit it back to Adele so they can be free on Montibus
Feldeq- Back alley seller of space age equipment - comedy opportunity (he is neither mean nor nice, just somewhere in the middle, or bland)

Elliot (Felder's cousin) - Leader of The Underdogs in The Flats, (he is a teenager so he is really angry and mean and rude)

Riama - Felder's mother, she is very very friendly since she is older (and you get friendlier as you get older of this planet)

Frot (Cook One) - Grot's brother, works for Joao

Grot (Cook Two) - Frots sister, works for Joao

King of Montibus

Queen of Montibus

Scientist of Royal Family, Dr. Spacey

Brazil, 2010

Young Joao

Young Luiz

Sgt Santos

***MONTIBUS:** ancient planet compared to ours. Mount Shasta is most beautiful, the planet can be reached by interstellar travel or by 5th dimension in dreams everything is super super flat, and you just see a lot of mountains in the distance. So the wealthier people - the "Joyfuls" - are in the mountains, and everyone else - the "Heedfuls" - are in the flats. There's a class divide and a vibrational divide. The wealthier people can access all 5 dimensions. But the only way everyone else can get, you know, to other places is that they match vibration. They match the vibe. But the people in the flats are suppressed and cant vibrate in any dimension other than the most basic 3.*

THEMES:

Humans and other beings coming into community, working together.

By coming into community they literally change their world.

Honesty is the best policy, when we are afraid of losing love we should be honest and not keep secrets

What starts off as a very individual and isolated experience, quickly turns into an explosion of relationships.

The Secrets Of Stars by The KCC Saturday Conservatory

Planet Earth, Year 2035.

Planet Montibus, Year 5K11.3

SCENE 1: On planet Montibus, Adele is gently pressing her third eye, which is how the Joyfuls on the planet are able to phone each other telepathically. She is finishing up a telepathic phone call with her mother, Kastia.

Adele: It's not too much, it's just work. And I want to make sure my students understand as many vibrations as possible.

Kastia: Well, now that you are a big time professor my sweet child!

Adele: Yes, and maybe we can find a way to help those who live in The Flats find their own way into all dimensions. I may be close to helping them vibrate at the 5th dimension, but I keep getting stuck.

Kastia: Oh dear, as long as you're careful. Remember these are ancient forces and we don't know what may become of them if we meddle too much.

Adele: I agree Mom, but what I can't abide by is people struggling in The Flats.

Kastia: I know sweetie. You always wanted to help people, even when you were little. And be careful on that bike! I don't know why you ride it around so much when you can just materialize anywhere you want to go!

Adele: Mom, I love to see all of Montibus - and meet the friends I have made along the way - Oh Mom, I'll be late! So great talking to you! I really have to go. I have a 'cooking lesson' with Joao and I'm so excited, and I just have to pick up a few things before I get there.

Kastia: Alright. Okay, love you. Talk to you soon, bye.

(Then she makes her way out and she jumps on her bike.)

She makes her way down the mountains. She stops at a farmer's market. She picks up a few items and we see her negotiating prices.

And now we see her riding along the flats with her basket completely filled with veg.

She does a little detour into kind of a space with really crowded buildings, and, you know, kind of like Chinatown, where the streets are a little more winding, and there are a lot of buildings, a lot of people selling things, a lot of commerce on the street.

And she goes to one of the back spaces, meets up with Feldeq, who sells black market lab equipment)

Feldeq: Hello Ms. Adele.

Adele: Feldeq.

SCENE 2: Elliot speaks to us about his version of planet Montibus.

Elliot (To The Audience):

Hey, I'm Elliot. Well, it's really El-Zeq-Triada. But I think we'd all agree Elliot roles off the tongue a lot smoother for you Earthlings.

On my planet, Montibus, we measure time by the eclipse.

We have many moons.

I hear you live on a planet called Earth. Terre. Trái đất. Jord. Dunia. Bumi. Jorden. Aarde. Chikyū. Zamin. Dhulka. Funny how many languages your people speak. We are so ancient we only have one language by now.

I am heedful from my dad's side and anxious from my mom's.

I feel cautious in everything I say.

Sometimes I don't speak at all unless I feel the need to be heard.
I often get offended.
A lot of this has to do with my age.

My friends and I - We call ourselves The Underdogs. The Heedfulls and Anxious are on the lower side of society, and we live down here in The Flats..

The Joyfuls have no fear or shame and they live high on The Mountain. In your English earth language the name of the mountain sounds like Mount Shasta. Or Montibus.

Riama: Elliot! Come in child - it's almost 6 o'clock.

Elliot: Gotta go. It could be dangerous. (*Whispering:*) Remember The Underdogs! One for all! All for freedom!

(He goes into the house)

Scene 3: Susan meets Charlotte, On Earth. Troy, New York, the year 2035.

(Lame music plays at the gathering the government has set up for everyone.

Susan looks at Charlotte and immediately feels connected to her energy

Citizens of Troy stand around awkwardly)

Councilperson Bev Kollop: Welcome to Troy's bi-monthly Saturday Social to combat internet loneliness! We thank the U.S. government for ensuring we can all still talk to each other. And of course, a special thanks to our mayor, Saunders Toady—the most generous, kind-hearted, and citizen-focused leader in the nation!

(Scattered, tepid applause. Susan's lips press into a thin line)

Toady: Thank you, Councilperson Kollop. As you all know, my top priority is to protect my people...

(Susan tunes him out, eyes fixed on her drink)

SUSAN: I don't know why I'm here.

CHARLOTTE: I think it's... interesting.

SUSAN (*glances over*): Oh?

CHARLOTTE (*shrugs, examining the dimly lit room*): You'd think they'd spend some of this budget on lighting.

SUSAN: Right.

CHARLOTTE: Looks like they blew it all on the food.

SUSAN: It does look good. I just... don't really get hungry at these things.

CHARLOTTE: Same. I usually eat alone.

SUSAN: Me too. I don't go out enough to care.

CHARLOTTE: But you're here.

SUSAN: Yeah... mistake, maybe.

(Charlotte watches her, intrigued)

CHARLOTTE: What's wrong?

SUSAN: Let's just say... some people don't like what I write.

CHARLOTTE: Welcome to the world.

SUSAN: No, it's more than that. Death threats.

CHARLOTTE: What? From who?

(Susan subtly tilts her head toward Toady, who is now schmoozing with attendees, his laugh sharp and practiced)

CHARLOTTE *(studying him)*: He does walk like a criminal.

SUSAN: Right?

CHARLOTTE: But... these socials, he puts them together. He can't be that bad, right?

SUSAN: Mmmm... I don't know. I just feel like there is something he is distracting us from

Charlotte: Is that why you are here? Aren't you afraid he'll find you here?

Susan: He doesn't know what I look like. Normally, I stay inside. I write. But tonight... I'm here. I want to know why he is throwing these socials.

(Toady strolls past, oblivious, and Charlotte straightens, speaking louder, performing)

CHARLOTTE *(forced, gesturing to food)*: Yeah, wow, that does look pretty good!

(Susan gives her a look, impressed but wary.)

SUSAN: Susan.

CHARLOTTE: Charlotte. Nice to meet you, Susan.

SCENE 4: *Where Adele and Joao 'cook' at Joao's restaurant:*

Joao: Welcome Ms Adele! (*Whispering*): Hello, my love.

Adele: Shhhh...careful....

Joao: We are making Virado a paulista - beef and beans stew today - which is surprisingly complicated!

Adele: I'm so excited about making that - it's so yummy I can't wait to perfect it!

Joao: Do you need help with the those baskets? Frot! Grot! Please come up front and help Ms. Adele with her baskets! Take them only as far as the prep area please.

(Brother Frot and sister Grot, Joao's cooks, take Adele's baskets to the backdoor)

Adele: I am so sorry I am late! We spent most of the night tracking the asteroid that just entered the system and I ended up over sleeping.

Joao: It's ok, my love. Let's see what we can accomplish today to help these people finally snap out of this trance.

Adele: So I stopped at Feldeq's on the way down. He promised me that this was something that would be very useful. So let's see.

(Joao punches a code on the wall to the back secret lab and he enters with Adele. They are alone so they can talk freely)

Adele: Let's hope we don't have an explosion like last time.

Joao: It was messy. Yeah, it wasn't good.

Adele: We almost lost all of our work because of that equipment. It's difficult, because Feldeq can be so inconsistent. But he's the only person who has this stuff. Oh oh - let me show you this equation. I think it could be the answer to the chemical questions we had. After almost 25 years of this, I still need to know why this shift happened. Who or what is suppressing people's powers?

Joao: I got the new pressure cooker.

Adele: Good good. Lets get it heating.

(Split Scene with Frot and Grot who are in the front kitchen):

Frot: What do they do back there? What kind of recipes are they cooking?

Grot: I am afraid to ask.

(Back to Adele and Joao):

Adele: Focus the laser on the pressure cooker.

(It explodes)

(Frot and Grot hear the explosion):

Frot: Maybe we should look.

Grot: Never!!! We could get in trouble! Plus, they type those fancy numbers into that pad. I would never know where to start.

(Back to Adele and Joao):

Adele: We're still recording the data, right?

Joao: Yes, we have those numbers. But what we need now is a new pressure cooker!

Scene 5: Susan and Charlotte second scene / meet again at government social:

Charlotte: I'm glad you came back to this thing. I can't believe you did. You're brave. Aren't you worried Toady will figure out who you are?

Susan: Yeah. I know and I am. But, I really enjoyed talking with you. In person. And I haven't felt that way since I was, well, a little kid.

Charlotte: Me too.

(awkward pause)

Charlotte: Look, I've been thinking of your problem with Toady.

Susan: He really is putting a lot of energy and money into bringing us together. Do you notice?

Charlotte: I guess I don't really follow him that much to notice. I still like attending these socials. After all, I got to see you again. But you need to leave.

(pause)

Charlotte: I'm a scientist. I can help you escape.

Susan: Escape? From Toady?

Charlotte: In your dreams.

Susan: I escape in my dreams all the time.

Charlotte: No no, I mean literally escape.

Susan: Ok.....

Charlotte: Did you ever see that old show Star Trek? Where the astronauts kind of disintegrate and then reintegrate somewhere else?

Susan: Yes, and I also saw the movie Galaxy Quest where the monster reintegrated, but INSIDE OUT!

Charlotte: Shhh Shhhh....this is very top secret. If I could guarantee you safe passage to a world that is much more peaceful than earth, where especially your life is not in danger...

Susan: This is crazy.

Charlotte: You have no idea what we scientists are up to. And we might need a journalist for our latest project.

Susan: Seriously? Your project is that big?

Charlotte: Plus, I could maybe meet you there. Soon...

Susan: You want to go to this planet, too?

Charlotte: Well, if you're there. I can't believe I said that.

Susan: No. No. I'm glad you said that. If you promise you'll meet me, I'll go.

Charlotte: Wow. Ok. Good good.

Susan: What is the planet called?

Charlotte: We don't know. What we do know is there is a space-time hyper link between Earth and the planet. We know enough that it has a beautiful sun and our testing subjects have reported momentary glimpses of gorgeous, verdant mountains. Plus, chances are they have never invented the internet.

Susan: This is crazy.

Charlotte: Let me sprinkle this on your food. *(she does)* When you go to bed tonight put this on your temples, right and left. *(she passes her some sort of stickers with metal on them)* Do NOT take any sleep meds or drink any caffeine after 10pm.

Susan: Why?

Charlotte: You don't want to know.

Susan: I kinda want to know. But is it safe?

Charlotte: It's in Beta testing.

Susan: Beta?!!!

Charlotte: You'll be fine. I think.

Scene 6: *Elliot speaks to the audience:*

Elliot *(To The Audience):*

Sorry we were interrupted the other day. As I was saying, on my planet, Montibus, people get nicer as they get older. People are mean when we are younger. Which explains my bad attitude. I'm around the age of a teenager on your planet.

Riama is kind and sweet. But a little overprotective. She's my grandma, and my Mom left me when I was a baby, so in a way she is more like my Mom. When she was younger she was a scientist, studying our planet. Something on Earth you would call Earth science.

My Uncle Feldeq is her son. And he is overprotective of HER! I guess you could say we are kind of codependent in my family. But we love each other. We are just trying to help each other survive.

Feldeq went to school, but had to drop out due to finances and family obligations. His partial degree is in Astronomical Engineering. All of our money comes from Feldeq's back alley black market space junk store. He scavenges on the outskirts of The Flats and repairs parts for the rich people who live in the mountains and are more concerned with science than the welfare of the people of Montibus.

We live in pretty bad conditions down here in The Flats. There are very strict rules.

We cannot go outside at certain times, especially after 6pm.

We have to wear certain types of clothing - grey and black colors only.

We cannot talk about the Monarchy, the mountains, or any science at all.
Soldiers are patrolling the streets.

But The Underdogs, my friends, we are committed to breaking the rules. The Underdogs! One For All! All For Freedom!

But shhhh, please don't tell my grandma. She would freak out.

Riama (*from off*): Elliot! Elliot! Come on in here son, time for a little nap!

Elliot (*to the audience*): A nap? See.....I'm a little old for a nap, no?

Scene 7: Joao and Adele install equipment in her lab, get ready for the experiment in 2 weeks:

Adele: Joao, can I have that pen?

Joao: Oh, yeah. Sure. Here.

Adele: Well, thank you. This is one of those I got from Feldeq.

Joao: Smart.

Adele: Yeah, he said, this one will seal everything.

Joao: I wonder what would happen to the Montibus population if this went wrong.

Adele: Yeah, I have been thinking about that, too. It's a big thing. If we mess one of these calculations up, or we put any of the equipment even like a millimeter off of where it should be, everything will go instantly. But giving the people on this planet back their birthright - the ability to vibrate in all 5 dimensions. It's worth the risk.

Joao: I will miss you though.

Adele: And I will miss you. But if this all goes well, you will travel to earth, get these calculations solved, and come right back through the space time tunnel.

Joao: Ok, my love.

Adele: This is what exploded last week.

Joao: Yeah, that was a disaster, to say the least.

Adele: Screwdriver, please.

Scene 8: *The following scenes share the stage. First, Susan goes to bed.
(Susan sits on her bed, clutching her phone. The candle flickers, and shadows grow taller around her. She listens to a voicemail from Bev Kollop and Charlotte Borja, her expression tense.)*

Bev: Susan, I saw you at the social. Thanks for coming. Will update more about OPT - Operation Toady - via VM.
(Click)

Susan wrinkles her brow: Thank God I'm getting out of here.

CHARLOTTE'S VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

Time is not what you think it is, Susan. The world bends at its own will, not ours. Breathe. Let go."

(Susan exhales slowly. Her hands shake. She places the herbs under her pillow as instructed. She grips the sheets, her body subtly tensing.)

SUSAN *(whispering to herself)*

Let go of what?

(The shadows seem to move. The bed beneath her ripples. Her breath quickens.)

Then we are in ADELE'S LAB

(João and Adele stand before a massive machine—a tangled mess of wires, screens, and a glowing central core. Panels flicker. Cables snake across the floor. A low, pulsing HUM vibrates through space.)

ADELE

João, we need to re-route the energy flow before it overloads. Hand me the blue conduit!

(João hesitates. He grips a bundle of wires but doesn't immediately move.)

JOÃO

Wait—if we do this, what happens to me?

ADELE

We don't have time for doubt! If you want to go back, you have to act now!

(The machine SPARKS. João flinches, shielding his face. Adele scrambles to a panel, frantically adjusting dials.)

ADELE

João! Plug it in—NOW!

(João looks at the blue cable in his hands. The humming intensifies. A LOW DRONE vibrates through the floorboards. His hands tremble. Finally, he lunges forward and connects the cable.)

(A blinding flash—João staggers back, gripping his head. His body flickers, as if reality itself is struggling to hold onto him.)

And we move to Planet Montibus in THE FLATS

(Elliot stands alone. The landscape is vast, empty—except for him. He turns to the audience)

ELLIOT

Okay. Let's be real here. Either I've lost my mind, or you have. Maybe both. Because if this is reality, it's doing a pretty bad job at being... well, real.

(He kicks at the ground. Instead of dirt, ripples spread, like water.)

ELLIOT

Oh. That's—uh. That's new.

(The ripples grow. The air distorts. A deep, inhuman SOUND reverberates.)

ELLIOT

No. Oh, hell no—NO NO NO—

(The ground SWALLOWS HIM. He claws at the air as he is yanked downward.)

BACK TO SUSAN'S APARTMENT

(Susan's bed bends, the mattress warping like liquid. Her breath comes in short gasps. The candle flame SHOOTS UP, unnaturally tall.)

SUSAN

Charlotte?! What is happening?!?!

(The air SHIMMERS. Her body is sucked upward, as if gravity has reversed.)

SUSAN

Charlotte Borja was right!!

BACK TO ADELE'S LAB

(João stumbles, his form glitching, pieces of him appearing and disappearing in rapid flashes. He looks at Adele in sheer panic.)

JOÃO

Adele! Stop it! Something's—

(His body distorts—then in an instant, he is violently PULLED INTO THE MACHINE. A crackle of energy bursts outward.)

"Charlotte Borja was right!!" is heard repeated as Joao and Elliot are sliding through the slipstream.

Adele shields her eyes. The machine flickers—then OPENS. A figure inside GASPS for air—SUSAN.)

(Before she can process anything—another flash. ELLIOT CRASHES to the ground, landing hard on his back. He scurries away and hides under some equipment)

(Silence)

ADELE *(breathless)*

It worked.

(BLACKOUT)

Adele: Charlotte Borja?

Susan: Where? Where am I?

Adele: Are you Charlotte Borja?

Susan: No. I'm Susan. How do you know Charlotte? Where am I?

Adele: Where's Joao? He's gone.

Susan: It worked.

Adele: It worked!

Susan: Wait! What are you talking about?

Adele: I think after almost 25 years of trying that my experiment finally worked! But you're safe. I promise you're safe, and I'll take care of you. Don't worry. We just gotta figure out exactly where he went. How can we do that? It works. It works.

Susan: Who is? Who is he? What worked? Why am I here? Where is this place?

Adele: Don't worry.

Susan: Ok...

Adele: Can I ask you, though? Did you happen to go to sleep?

Susan: Y - y - yes, I - I took some special herbs and medications, and I went to sleep.

Adele: It works!!! Okay, I'll let you know something. I've kept a secret for many years. I got a small transmission from a research scientist on your Earth named Charlotte Borja and -

Susan: Oh, my gosh, Charlotte, she's the woman who gave me all the herbs and told me about materializing someplace else.

Adele: It works, it works. And now smell, smell. Does it smell - a glorious smell?

Susan: Oh, it's actually the most delicious and beautiful and fragrant and amazing smell.

Adele: Feel this, feel my hand, feel my hand, feel my hand? Does it feel like the best friendship ever?

Susan: Oh, my God!

Adele: Yes, taste this toyga fruit. Does that feel good to bite it? Bite it.

Susan: Oh, my God! I've tasted nothing like that! That is amazing.

Adele: She figured it out. You're in the 5th dimension with me. You're in the 5th dimension. This is planet Montibus. Welcome, welcome, Earthling!

Susan: I'm not on Earth anymore. Oh, my God!

Adele: Su - san, the Earthling! Welcome! Welcome, welcome!

Susan: Uhhhh, Thank you. Who are you?

Adele: Adele.

Susan: And how do you know, Charlotte? And how are we speaking the same language?

Adele: I'll - everything will be explained. *(to Elliot, who is hiding)* Hello! You don't need to be scared.

Elliot: Hi...

Adele: Wait. You're Feldeq's nephew, aren't you?

Elliot: How do you know who I am?

Adele: I just do. I'm able to know everything at all times, and be everywhere all at once.

Elliot: That's -

Adele: And I have seen you when I visit Feldeq's shop. So, how did you get here?

Elliot: I don't know. I mean, like I - I just like I was minding my business, you know, going on a daily walk, and then I just got sucked into this like juicy wind, and like my body was like jelly, and and then I just landed here... on my back.

Adele: This is Susan, Susan, the Earthling.

Elliot: Susan, the Earthling.

Susan: Hi Elliot! Hi!

Elliot: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! I never introduced myself to you! How do you know who I am already?

Adele: She's living in the 5th dimension.

Elliot: The 5th dimension? When did that update happen?

Adele: I know, Elliot, it's okay. It's actually a wonderful thing. And - and it's an old thing our people haven't experienced in a long time, except for the few of us that live up here. Can you breathe in and tell me what you smell?

Elliot: The air.

Adele: It's beautiful, right?

Elliot: Yes. It smells sweet.

Adele: Look out the window. Beautiful! Right?

Elliot: Wow, nature.

Adele: Yeah, you've never seen it before. So.

Elliot: Never seen anything before!

Adele: Exactly! Welcome!

Elliot: This. Whoa, wait. Okay, this is - this is new.

Adele: We have to go to your uncle. We have to figure out exactly what's going on here, because -

Elliot: Do we have to go to him? Like he's gonna make a big deal about it. He's gonna be like, Oh, your grandma, she's gonna be worried about you and all that.

Adele: Your grandma can be. I can already feel your grandma's nervousness in my heart.

Elliot: I don't think I could live there anymore.

Adele: But, Elliot, I don't think you're ever going to go back to living in The Flats.

Elliot: Anything to get out of The Flats.

Adele: I promise you, Elliot. You'll only have to be back for a few minutes, but you've got to stick with me.

Elliot: But what about The Underdogs?

Susan: The Underdogs? Tell me more.....

Adele: Who?

Elliot: My friends.

Adele: If we can figure a few things out, all of your friends - everyone on Montibus in fact, will be living in the 5th dimension. Okay, all we need to do is close our eyes and say "To Feldeq, go." Hoping, expecting to go to The Flats. Close your eyes and feel the journey, feel your power, feel The Flats in you.

Elliot: Before we go, I only have one question. Who is Charlotte Borja?

Scene 10: Joao in Susan's bedroom.

Joao: I can't believe it worked. I'm here. On Earth. Oh, my God, what does that mean? I haven't been here in 40 years.

Oh, my God! How do I get back? I already miss Adele. Am I gonna see her again?

I was sabotaging our experiments!!! Just to be with her!!!

He desperately picks up some instrument: Testing testing: Base Earth to Montibus Base. Jaoa to Adele. Testing.

Where am I? ***He rummages around. Picks up mail:*** Troy, NY?

Where the heck is Troy, NY?

I'm far away from Brazil, that's for sure.

This is bad.

Scene 11: Adele and Elliot arrive at Feldeq's shop.

Adele: Feldeq, we need your help.

Feldeq: What's wrong with the kid, though? He's my mother's only grandkid, she will fall apart if he comes down with the mindwalker syndrome.

Elliot: No no no Uncle. I am vibrating!

Feldeq: What?

Riama: Feldeq! Where is Elliot? I've been looking for him all day.

Feldeq: Mama, I'm - I'm sorry. I mean he's not my responsibility. I got work to do. Okay, you guys, I can't help you. As you can see. I got my hands tied here. I got my mother, I got my nephew. Well, I don't got my nephew. You're vibrating, or whatever, so run along. I'll see you, Adele, when you need to buy something.

Adele: But we need to buy something.

Feldeq: Yeah? Okay, now we're talking. What do you need? I'll see what I got.

Adele: Well, you know, 5th dimension stuff.

Feldeq: Wait a second! Wait a second! Hey, mama, mama, mama! They're talking about that old wives tale - all that dimension stuff.

Riama: Why do you keep saying it's an old wives tale. Oh Elliot! I'm so glad you're home and safe, child. The 5th dimension, hm? Once all people on MONTIBUS had the power to vibrate at all dimensions. It's real, son. How many times did I tell you, that's the way it was. I remember it. When I was a child we all could see everything. There was no separation between down here and up there. We were all living together, seeing the same thing, smelling the same glorious smells, tasting the same glorious foods. Glorious. It's not an old wives tale. I just don't know how we let it happen, how it was taken away.

Susan: Yeah. it's real.

(They all turn around and look at Susan.)

Scene 12: *Charlotte lets herself into Susan's apartment.*

Charlotte: Susan? There's her phone. *(She picks it up)*

(Joao clocks Charlotte's voice and panics a bit. Hides.)

Charlotte: Oh, Please don't make her be dead.

(Charlotte tiptoes in. Joao realizes that hiding is pointless and decides to show himself)

Joao: Hello.

Charlotte: Get back! I do Judo -

Joao: No no no - I won't hurt you.

Charlotte: I know who you are, some creepy henchman of Toady's.

Joao: Toady? What's that? I'm Joao, I'm from Brazil. You're not going to believe this. I came through space time. There's a portal between Earth and another planet. Now I'm here.

Charlotte: Oh, my God! It is you.

(Charlotte hugs him)

Joao: Strange American.

Charlotte: There was an astronaut who went into space. He never came back. And well, his name was Joao, too.

Joao: I think that was me.

Charlotte: I'm here because of my friend, Susan. I sent her away in the space time slipstream, to protect her. That's why I'm here - to see if it worked.

Joao: Was she wearing pajamas?

Charlotte: Probably!

Joao: I saw her in the slipstream!

Charlotte: You guys swapped places! Do you think she's safe?

Joao: If she ended up with Adele, she is definitely safe. *Beat.* I need you to search for Luiz Cardoso. He worked for the Brazilian space agency.

Charlotte: Ok, let's go. It's only a few hours drive. Lets' go!

Joao: What is?

Charlotte: Trust me.

(Joao is confused but still makes the decision to go)

Scene 13: Susan enters the lab.

Susan: Oh sorry, I didn't realize anyone was in here.

Adele: No, come on in. You can help us rebuild my equipment.

Susan: Ok.

Elliot: Susan, are you ok?

Susan: I feel like a coward. I ran away. I ran, and that's how he won. Toady didn't need to outsmart me. I handed him the victory.

Adele: Toady is a dangerous person. You fled for your safety.

Susan: I thought I was taking control, but I was just making it easier for him. He wanted me gone—because I could've seen more. Learned more. And I let him have that.

Elliot: So... what are you saying?

Susan: I won't let it happen again. (*she gestures to The Underdogs*) I won't let these people give up just because it's hard. If we walk away, we're giving them exactly what they want. I refuse to do that again.

Elliot: I think I have an idea.

Parso: Uh oh, here we go...

Elliot: What if we don't need to fight *them* directly? What if we just... let the people see what's been hidden from them?

Razdar: And how exactly do we do that?

Elliot: We *unleash* The Underdogs.

Regel: Define "unleash."

Elliot: You'll see.

Susan: I sure hope you know what you're doing.

Elliot: I *never* do. But that's what makes it fun.

Scene 13.5 *Charlotte and Joao are in her car, speeding down the road.*

Charlotte: I am so sorry. I don't even have the words. But I think when **we** get there you will totally understand. I just want to be really mindful of the fact that there are forces greater than us, that I don't want to interfere with our journey right now, if that makes sense.

Joao: Okay. I believe you.

Charlotte: Thank you so much. I think this will answer all your questions. I promise.

Joao: Okay.

Charlotte: You should probably lay back and take a little nap. You just dematerialized through space time, and you're not a teenager anymore.

Joao: Gee, thanks.

(He closes his eyes, holds on to his seatbelt, scared of her driving...Charlotte smiles and focuses on the road)

Scene 13.75: *The Underdogs surround Elliot*

Elliot: We need to get it back! Access to the 5th dimension. Now, you don't believe 5th dimension works. You believe that real life only sucks for us. That's your reality. But the 5th dimension is real!

Razdar: So what you're telling me is that the 5 D exists?

Parso: I don't believe you.

Elliot: We could live in this world where the food tastes 5 times more exceptional. The sites are so beautiful, the air is so fragrant. This is like paradise. We've been living in Paradise, but we haven't seen it, and that's because the King and Queen have been keeping that away from us. Now they have to go.

Tarteq: That's crazy man! What's going on?

Elliot: It's true. (He holds a flower in his hand) Can you see this? What color is it?

Parso: That's yellow.

Elliot: No, it's not yellow.

Crane: I see yellow, too.

Elliot: No, no, you're not seeing 5 D.

Regel: So what are you seeing right now, Elliott?

Elliot: It's just glorious, everything. All our grandparents were talking about how the world was different when they were young. I'm trying to understand as well.

Razdar: What does it mean for me? What does that have to do with me? As a guy who lives here in The Flats? I am a proud Flat-Tidian.

Elliot: Look, this is worth a try. Put your hands in the center here. Circle up circle up. Maybe if I really focus I can, I dunno, pass my experience onto you.

(They do)

Elliot: Ok, and breathe.

Tarteq: Whoa that smell! Are those what flowers smell like?

Crane: That sound! Is that the wind? It sounds like a choir!

(Elliot struggles)

Razdar: Elliot, are you kidding me? That's what the world is really like?

Elliot: Yes.

Crane: How, how do we have more?

Parso: How would we even get this? It doesn't. It doesn't seem achievable.

(He releases his power)

Elliot: There is something we can do.

Crane: What do you want us to do, Elliott?

Elliot: They're not giving it to us. We have to take it.

Razdar: Now you're starting to talk my language.

Elliot: I DON'T think we should storm the Monarchy and their palace....

Razdar: Storm the palace! I'm down for that.

Elliot: Yes! But we are going to do it in a different way. Whose with me? Unleash the Underdogs!

(They all cheer)

Scene 14: In New York City, Charlotte and Joao have arrived, after their speedy car trip:

Charlotte: Dr.? Dr., are you here?

Luiz from the other room(: I'm not here, Charlotte. No.

Charlotte: You left the front door unlocked again, sir. This is New York City, you have to be careful. Dr. Luiz? Dr. Luiz, where are you?

Joao (to himself): Luiz?

Luiz: I'm in the lab. What are you doing here? You don't work Saturdays, it's your self care day.

Charlotte: Dr. Luiz, come, come, come quickly, quickly.

Luiz: You know I'm an old man.

Charlotte: Yes, you're old, you run marathons.

Luiz: Okay, okay.

Charlotte: I - I didn't know if I should call first, but I didn't want to shock you. You are the 1st person that needs to know what has happened.

Luiz: You know you work a lot right?

Charlotte: Yes, but we have an important project. And I think our project is coming to a head!

(Luiz walks in)

Luiz: Alright! What is it?

(Luiz and Joao see each other)

Luiz: Joao?

Joao: Luiz.

Luiz: Man, I have been looking for you for 25 years.

(They hug.)

Joao: Well, it's good to hear that you missed me too.

Luiz: You look good.

Joao: I look old. But so do you, so let's call it even.

Luiz: Good to see you, my old friend.

Charlotte: I hate to interrupt this very special episode, but Joao, Dr. Luiz and I have been getting a transmission from some other planet. And now that this has happened - well, now that YOU have happened, I think it must have something to do with you - materializing.

Joao: Uh yes. *(He drops papers from his pocket. They all reach for them.)* Oh! Even this materialized! I was working on some Montibusian code.

Luiz: What did you say?

Joao: Deciphering some code -

Luiz: No - did you say Montibusian? How do you know about Montibus?

Joao: That's where I have been living all this time.

Charlotte: That's why we raced here, Dr.

Luiz: I need to sit down.

Joao: I think we need to go back to the beginning to figure all of this out. Luiz, remember back in the year 2000 when we were astronauts in training...

Flashback Scene 14-A: *In Brazil, the year 2000. Joao is training to be an astronaut.*

Sgt Santos: Joao, Luiz, are you wearing all of your safety helmets and boots and everything?

Luiz: Yes Sergeant.

Joao: Yes, Sergeant Santos, sir.

Sgt Santos: Here we go!

(The machine whirs)

Luiz: Uhh...

Joao: Whoa...

Luiz: Oh, oh, I think I need the barf bag.

Joao: Nope, Nope, you gotta hold it in. Don't want 0 gravity barf.

Sgt Santos: You astronauts ok in there?

Joao: Uh yes, yes sir.

Luiz: Y y y e s, s s s ir-

Sgt Santos: Roger that.

Luiz: Hey, Joao, are you okay?

Joao: I don't know Luiz. Are you okay?

Luiz: I don't know if I feel it or don't feel it. It's weird.

Sgt Santos: Ok, men. We slow it down now. Good. Work. Stay in your pods until your bodies adjust.

Joao: Yes sir!

Luiz: Yeah, hey, how are you handling all this? I mean all of it, not just the 0 G stuff.

Joao: Yeah, I don't know. I'm just. I'm going to outer space in less than a month. Maybe I just wanted to escape. My life.

Luiz: I'm really enjoying the training. Do you know where they're sending you?

Joao: I still don't know.

Luiz: They should have let me know about it like 2 weeks ago, but they are keeping it a secret. I don't know why.

Sgt Santos: All right, gentlemen, one more minute.

Joao: Honestly? I think I'm afraid of being stuck in space all by myself. That scares me.

Luiz: Don't worry man, maybe you'll fall in love with an alien! Now that I'd love to see.

Joao: I'll pretend you didn't say that.

Sgt Santos: Ok men, time to take your biometrics.

Scene 14-B: 3 months later, Joao is in space contraption, buckled in.

Sergeant: Are you ready, Joao?

Young Luiz: As long as you don't mess anything up you'll be perfectly fine.

Young Joao: I hope so. Yeah, I'm all set up.

Tech: 10 - 9 - 8 - 7 -

Sergeant: Good luck.

Tech: 6 - 5 - 4 -

Young Joao: Bye, Sergeant.

Tech: 3 - 2 -

Young Luiz: Goodbye my friend. You got this.

Tech: 1.

Joao: Whoa whoa whoa.....ahhhhhh!!! How can I be stretching like this? But not feel any pain?????

Joao:

He breathes slowly....

Ok, I still have my hands and feet.

This doesn't seem like Earth.

I'm in a lab!

What the hell is that?

Young Adele: What are you doing here?

Young Joao: Where am I? No, no, I wasn't supposed to be here.

Young Adele: How did you get here?

Young Joao: I don't know. I was just shot out through space.

Sergeant (garbled):you there?...

Young Joao: Wait. Is that you Sergeant?

Sergeant: ...urgent...

Young Adele: I don't understand how you just materialized in my lab!

Young Joao: Sir? Are you there? Can you hear me?

Sergeant: ...is...strange. He... hear me. *(it gets garbled)*

Young Joao: Sir! *(nothing)*. Sir! *(nothing)* Oh, he can't hear me!

Young Adele: Who are you talking to?

Young Joao: My boss. He is the sergeant. I am an astronaut. I'm from Earth.

Young Adele: The planet?

Young Joao: Yes.

Young Adele: That's 128 million light years from here.

Young Joao: Yeah, my boss is there. The transmission got cut out, because it's, I suppose, really far.

(Dr. Spacey quietly enters and listens from the shadows)

Young Joao: How would I travel that far?

Young Adele: You must have traveled through the portal. There is a space-time portal between several planets in this sector of the universe. We have not been able to access it, only study it.

Young Joao: Wow. How do you speak my language?

Young Adele: We are far more advanced than you Earthlings in some ways, but in others we believe *you* are more advanced. In language and communication we can speak any language, intuitively.

Dr Spacey: Adele? You have a guest? Who might this be?

Young Adele: This is Dr. Spacey.

Young Joao: Hi.

Young Adele: She's our most brilliant scientist.

Dr Spacey: I work for the King and Queen of the planet.

Young Adele *(under her breath)*: Unfortunately.

Young Joao: King and Queen of the entire planet?

Dr Spacey: You find that odd?

Young Joao: Well yes, where I come from we have countries and each one is run by different people. Uh, nevermind - what planet is this?

Young Adele: Montibus.

Young Dr. Spacey: I shall report this event back to the Monarchy. Adele, I expect you to repair this equipment.

(Dr. Spacey leaves.)

Young Adele: Oh and I'm Adele. I look forward to learning much about you - uh, and your planet.

Young Joao: Pleasure to meet you.

(Adele and Joao shake hands tenderly. Already a connection has been made.)

Young Joao: I can help you with the equipment. Since it is my fault.

Young Adele: This is the most exciting thing that has ever happened around here, so you have nothing to apologize for. But I would love your help.

(Dr. Spacey is now outside, pressing their third eye to communicate:)

Dr. Spacey: Queen Dianthus, Dr. Spacey here. An Earthling has materialized in the lab. Yes, E-A-R-T-H, that same blue planet that the gutterbug Toady is from. This new Earthling, named Joao, seems to be no threat and Adele has no idea that we are behind the suppression, your Majesty.

Scene 14-C: Young Joao and Young Adele - working on the equipment

Young Joao: So you're telling me there's something energetically keeping the majority of the population in one dimension? And only the rich, around here, can live life normally?

Young Adele: Yes and I think you can help me fix Montibus, I think we can fix Montibus. If we send you back the way you came with this code, maybe you could figure it out and unlock the reason our planet functions the way it does.

Young Joao: No, but wait. The majority of the planet lives in one dimension? That's wild and weird?!

Young Adele: Ok - So, the time-space portal I mentioned - Dr. Spacey and the King and Queen - they might have used that information to manipulate life on Montibus. There is someone on Earth, I think his name is Troy or Toady. We have hours of transmission between him and the palace. With him sending codes that are almost unreadable. Which is why we need you to go back and figure it out on Earth. You know the crazy thing is, I can't understand it, but he might be a kid - Toady is a code name, we think.

Scene 14-D: On Earth, Joao finishes this play within a play to Charlotte and Luiz:

Joao: My arrival in her lab destroyed Adele's equipment and we spent the last 25 years rebuilding it. And in turn we fell in love.

Luiz: I told you you would fall in love with an alien.

Charlotte: Oh my God — Mayor Toady!! He's mayor of Troy, NY. He's the one who is trying to kill Susan.

Joao: Look, they know about this portal between Montibus and other planets. I think this is the reason 5D has vanished and I suspect someone on Earth is in on it. It's got to be him!

Scene 16: *At Troy City Hall Toady seems happier than usual about going to his office:*

Toady: Great day, huh? *(He winks at the receptionist)* you're doing amazing, sweetie.

Receptionist: *(Confused, but smiles politely.)* Uh... thank you, Mayor Toady.

(He smiles all the way to his office, thinking of the mansion he just bought.)

Toady: Alright, let's get to work.

(He walks up to the safe and opens it slowly, lovingly, like he's opening a treasure chest)

Toady: Hey... miss me? I missed you. *(He laughs a very ugly laugh)* Look at you, you're glowing.

(He dumps all the cash on the desk, and sits very relaxed in his chair and starts to count the money, and as he dumps the money on his desk, Bev Kollop walks in and watches him silently)

Toady: Two thousand for me, one hundred for the public schools, five thousand for me, one thousand for the infrastructure, ten thousand for me, nothing for the orphans Hahahaha man... this is so much fun. This is the best job I've ever had.

“Oh, but Toady, what about ethics?”

Ethics don't buy mansions, sweetheart. I am the king of the world!

Shoot... speaking of King... I forgot to update the King and Queen of Montibus about OP5 - Operation 5D or *(laughing)* No more 5D. The thought of taking this much money for fun distracted me.

(Councilperson Kollop walks out after witnessing the Mayor's confession. She immediately goes outside to call Susan, who hasn't been taking her calls)

Bev: Susan, I know you haven't been taking my calls, I don't know what happened to you, but I'll keep leaving updates in your voicemail... YES, Toady did buy the mansion using the city's money, you were right. He also mentioned some King and Queen of Monti... bus and 5D? I don't know where that is. Anyway, call me as soon as possible.

Scene 17: *Adele jumps on her bike and starts to head down the mountain. She goes through The Flats, passing the market, waving to Feldeq and Riama, and calling to Elliott. Elliot responds with a salute. They nod. She enters Joao's restaurant and kitchen.*

Frot: Miss Adele! Miss Adele!! We haven't see you in ages.

Grot: And Miss Adele. We haven't see Mr. Joao, either. We don't know what happened to him. He just stopped coming to the restaurant.

Adele: OK. Frot, Grot, come with me.

(Adele opens the door of the secret lab. Frot and Grot take it all in, stunned)

Frot: Whoa!!!

Grot: Wow!!!

Adele: So, let me tell you a story...

Scene 17-A: *Elliot stands in front of a group of teenage boys and young men.*

Elliot: Wow. I want to thank everyone for coming. I can't believe how many of you guys showed up. And that just reminds me that you know how important it is to do the right thing for the people of the Flats, and for the people of Montibus. So thank you.

Everyone. The time has come... we are now on our way to get back what's been taken from us. What is ours by birth right. They have taken our ability to see beauty, to appreciate ourselves and our home. Now it's time to get that back. For us, our parents, grandparents and everyone in The Flats.

(Cheers rise. Elliot raises his hands and signals towards the mountain. The cheering crowd starts running to Mount Shasta)

Scene 17-B: *Frot and Grot burst out of Joao's lab super excited*

Frot: I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! *(Frots holds up the pressure cooker, grabs pots and pans and starts handing them to Grot)*

Grot: Say no more Miss Adele. We heard about the 5D from our grandparents and we are ready to fight to get it back!

(Frot and Grot hobbling after the Underdogs headed to Mount Shasta with a whole kitchen equipment)

Scene 18: *The Underdogs surround the Royal Palace of Montibus with their bad attitudes*

Elliot: Now, there, since there's so many of us, I want to just kinda make sure that we are all on the same page. The King and Queen are inside. There's going to be no violence. Nothing happens to the King and Queen. Nobody gets hurt, not even a scratch. Is that understood?

Crane: Yes, what if? What do we do if they hurt us?

Elliot: I don't want us to be harmed. Nobody gets hurt. Ok. So. Now, we don't want them to know we are here. So we have to be quiet. We don't want them calling the guards - that would spell disaster for everyone.

Here's the plan. We're gonna surround the entire palace three people deep. Thank God, there's so many of us. And once I give the word, then we go.

Razdar: That's it. Yeah.

Elliot: Okay? Any questions, any thoughts? Are we all in agreement?

Parso: Yeah, I think we're good. But yeah, I'm a bit still. I'm still a bit nervous about it.

Elliot: That's okay. I think all of us are kind of nervous. But I think we just put one foot in front of the other and realize that we got each other to watch our backs. *(murmuring from the boys)* I think we're gonna be all right.

Tarteq: Yeah, we should do it. Yeah, okay.

Elliot: Alright. Okay. So let's get into position.

Scene 19: *Charlotte, Luiz and Joao on the computer, trying to open the slipstream to Montibus:*

Charlotte: Look at this... I am hacking in to this private company, Monshasta, they do interstellar research. I knew something was strange when they were awarded a \$2 billion contract.

Luiz: \$2 billion contract? We need to decipher the code, Charlotte, not spend time with this Monshasta.

Charlotte: Let me try this. Here's a folder "For Toady Only" - it doesn't hurt to try "0000" *(she types the password and surprisingly opens the folder revealing history of calculations his scientists sent to the King and Queen.)* What a dumb ass. This payment came directly from Toady's campaign.

Joao: Toady!!!!

Charlotte: The mayor of Troy. He's the one who was threatening Susan!

Joao: Who I saw in the slipstream!

Charlotte: Wait wait - look, here is some code.

Luiz: Our computers aren't as high tech as theirs.

Charlotte: Don't worry, you know I'm a genius - I can rewrite them to work on your hunk of junk. Yes, these are definitely the Montibusian calculations. If I enter these, they will open a slipstream transmission and allow Adele to connect with us. Joao, do you have anything you want to say to her?

Joao: Just...I'm sorry.

(They get back into the deciphering)

Luiz: Ok, enough of the drama.

Charlotte: The whole coding is a mess. I need to clean this up.

Luiz: Invert the Y Principle to clear the garbage in that parenthetical...

Charlotte: Yes, yes. And all I need to do is make sure this is clean...Ok, slipstream open...

(They hear shouting and yells, chaos coming through the space-time slipstream portal...)

Joao: What's that?

Luiz: Sounds like a fight.

Joao: Oh no, could Adele be in trouble?

Charlotte: The only way to know is to send ourselves through too.

Joao: Wait! Charlotte! Those codes look like what we were working on...that is the veil code to suppress the 5th Dimension.

Luiz: We need to send it through to her.

Charlotte: Let me establish a data connection....ok, ok, I almost have it. Joao, do you want to hit send?

Joao: Yes.

Luiz: Do it, man!

(Joao hits send)

Charlotte: And next is hitting send on us...

Scene 20: King and Queen of Montibus are locked in the house, pacing, stress eating, arguing amongst each other.

Queen: Phoebus, Phoebus! Where are you? I was talking, and you're nowhere to be found. Where are you?

(King enters in his pajamas)

King: I was playing games in the salon, Dianthus.

Queen: Games, games, a-a grown man, playing games.

King: Fun! I have to have more fun. Is that not allowed?

Queen: No, it is not allowed. You are the ruler of this planet. I do not understand why you feel it necessary to play games. There are so many things we could be doing instead. I just spent most of the afternoon counting my hats and quite frankly, I feel like there's 1 missing.

King: Can we get the servants to serve us some cake? I just feel like I need to eat a little bit of something, and maybe with a little, with a little juice. Yes. Energy for my games, as well.

Queen: You and your games, you and your games. Now tell me, please tell me you're on top of this.

King: Dr. Spacey is supposed to come here. I think she was supposed to be here yesterday.

Queen: Yesterday? Then why isn't she here?

King: I have no idea.

Queen: Oh, my God, Igor, Igor, come!

Igor (walks in slowly): Your Majesty.

Queen: We need to find out what happened to Dr. Spacey. This is crazy. She's so normally punctual. I don't understand what's going on. On your way on your way!

(Igor walks out slowly. King calls after him)

King: And a little bit of my cake? A strawberry cake. It's like 2 slices, but I would like the coconut custard rum cake too.

(Pause. Igor leaves)

King: Bring out the whole cake!

(A bang and a cheer is heard from outside and talking from many voices)

King: Could that be Dr. Spacey? Or Igor with my cake?

Queen: Do you hear talking? That's so weird. I hear - I hear rustling as well.

King: Oh, dear! Look! What's happening outside?

Queen: Go, take a look, go, take a look.

King: Wait! Me? Go down?

Queen: Just look out the window. You don't have to go down there. Just look out the window. Igor, Igor! Call Dr. Spacey! Now!

(Queen gets up and goes to the window)

Queen: This cannot be happening.

King: What? What's happening?

Queen: They are surrounding the palace!

King: This is unacceptable! Where's my cake?

Queen: Forget about your bloody cake. Who are those PEOPLE? TheseBoys?

King: I remember Dr. Spacey said something about “taking action” and “Toady” but I was busy with my afternoon game and snacks.

Queen: You FOOL! SOMEBODY CALL TOADY NOW!

Scene 21: *Adele and Susan are in Adele's lab, trying to make contact with Joao.*

Adele: So I think we have done all we can do for now. Just cannot contact Joao or your friend Charlotte. I think the portal closed or the line is dead.

Susan: *suddenly realizing she might spend the remainder of her life on Montibus:* Oh!

Adele: This is not the way I would want to introduce anyone to our beautiful planet. I am so sorry. This must be crazy for you!

Susan: It was getting kind of crazy in Troy to be honest, but no. I never thought I would travel and land in the middle of a revolution in another galaxy no less.

Adele: So Susan, who are you?

Susan: Well I was born—

(Susan is interrupted by a previously damaged machine springing to life. Adele and Susan run to see)

Adele: It's working! It's working! It's Joao! He sent a transmission. He says he is ok with Charlotte and a Dr. Luiz.

Susan: Oh my God! Oh my God!!!

Adele: And these numbers and symbols. This is - this is the code for the suppression of 5D in The Flats! HE DID IT!!!!

Susan: What!?

Adele: Come on! WE got work to do!

Scene 21A: *Frot and Grot meet Feldeq and Riama on the way to the palace.*

Grot: We have to plot our own action!

Feldeq: But The Underdogs already have the palace surrounded!

(Frot brings out the pressure cooker.)

Frot: Look what I have!

(Grot and Feldeq and Raima build a fire.)

Grot: It's so dry and dehydrated here that this fire will catch in seconds.

(It does! Frot carefully places the pressure cooker on the fire and they all run.)

Feldeq: Mama, come with me! Take my hand!

Riama: Young Ones! Run!

(Moments later the pressure blasts through the palace, causing the King and Queen to run out.

The whole crowd cheers.)

Queen: Oh how wonderful to be so loved, even when I look so unbecoming!!!

Elliot: I hereby make a citizen's arrest.

(The boys put the King and Queen's hands behind their backs.)

Queen: Unhand me!

(Dr. Spacey comes out, covered in ashes.)

Elliot: You too Dr. Spacey.

Dr. Spacey: Me what, Flatidian?

Elliot: You are going to jail for the rest of your life. And also, there will no longer be Joyfuls and Sorrowfuls. We are all going to live in 5D. The entire population of Montibus!

King: Bring me my cake, please. Dr. Spacey, call Mayor Toady.

(Igor gives a bombastic side eye.)

Elliot: Your crooked Earthling Mayor cannot save you now.

Scene 22-B: *Adele and Susan are in the lab, wondering if it is all working when*

Adele: I don't know Susan. The code was entered, but we won't know if 5D is available to everyone until I actually see some Montibusians.

(Suddenly we hear screaming and celebration. Shouts of It worked! It worked!)

Susan: *I think you are about to find out!*

(Frot and Grot, with Feldeq and Riama burst into the lab.)

Feldeq: I'm a believer!

Riama: I told him. Didn't I tell you!?

Frot: The colors!

Grot: The smells!

Adele: Glorious, right?

Frot and Grot: Yes!!!

(Elliot bursts in:)

Elliot: We arrested the King and Queen! And Dr. Spacey!

(Celebration continues.)

(They hear a strange sound that stops everyone from their jubilation. Confused, everyone looks around trying to find the source of this sound. Suddenly, three figures start to materialize. It is Joao, Charlotte and Dr. Luis.)

Dr. Luis: At last, I have made it to space.

(Stunned silence! Shouts of joy.)

Scene 22 C: Back on Earth Bev Kollop visits former Mayor Saunders Toady in jail:

Bev Kollop: Saunders, I just wanted to visit you before your trial. I understand that the evidence against you is very strong, and you will be serving a very long sentence for corruption and embezzlement and the hoarding of valuable scientific research. Now that I am Mayor of Troy I intend to do the exact opposite of what you did when you oversaw our town.

Toady: Well, Councilperson Kollop -

Bev Kollop: Mayor Kollop, to you -

Toady: Whatever, Mayor Kollop. There will always be people like me. There will always be a Saunders Toady operating in the shadows. Pretending otherwise is futile.

Bev Kollop: I don't know about that Toady. If Montibus can live in peace after eras of suppression, I think we Earthlings have a good chance to truly be free.

Scene 22 D: The Celebration at Joao's restaurant.

(All inhabitants of Planet Montibus can access the 5th Dimension now, can vibrate at all frequencies, their imaginations are opened up, they are kind to each other. The Underdogs are no longer angry but painting and farming and singing and dancing and making plays and doing science and reading and swimming....

The celebration includes all our friends from Montibus.

Feldeq has gotten up and headed outside. Riama sees and joins him)

Riama: See son? This is what our world looked like all along

Feldeg: Yes, mama. It's beautiful.

(Elliot comes between them and takes their hands.)

Elliot (to the audience:) Now that my grandma is living in 5D she isn't nervous anymore. And of course since we all are Joyfuls, there's no need for The Underdogs. But I have a feeling we shall tell the stories of our adventures for a long time. And I'm so glad we get to see Montibus for the beautiful place it really is.

(The three of them survey the beauty of Montibus.)

Epilogue: Back on earth, Susan gives a press conference about Mayor Toady's criminality, Planet Montibus and The 5th Dimension.

Susan: So to wrap up, let us see Montibus as a cautionary tale.

Charlotte: When we let others have the power over how we see the world, we hand over our joy and our connection to each other.

Susan: Residents of planet Earth, we may not be able to vibrate at the 5th dimension-

Charlotte: Well not yet at least.

Susan: But please let's look at each other. And become friends.

(The audience claps. The press starts to leave and Susan and Charlotte step away from the crowd)

Susan: But why? Why was it Montibus? Was that an accident, or was it to use me as a sacrificial lamb? Did you send me there on purpose?

Charlotte: Yes. it was just the the only way I knew I could help. I knew Toady was a dangerous man. I wanted you to get away, to not get murdered.

Susan: What if it didn't work?

Charlotte: I'm a great scientist. I knew it would work. Well, 98%...And it did work! And you have a great story!

Susan: Indeed, I do. Thank you Charlotte.

Charlotte: Friends?

(Susan takes Charlotte's hand, squeezes it and gives a small smile)