

CHARACTERS

ARIANNA	A bunraku puppet moved and voiced by 3 people. She is about 11 and has autism. She loves space travel and Neil deGrasse Tyson.
SPACE CREW	The ensemble that helps her on her adventures both in space and right here at home. They also play the other characters that appear. The Crew helps bridge communication between Arianna and the audience.
MRS. HEYWOOD	a well-meaning teacher that gets a lot right, but a few things wrong too
WHIRBIT	A spinny, floaty alien (puppet) that lives on The Misty Moon.
SKIRRRRRUP	A stretchy alien (puppet)that lives on Squish Squash.
DAD	Arianna's father, a very kind and patient guy
ORBIT	A fun caring alien (puppet) that is squishy and bouncy.

SETTING

This takes place in the reality of Arianna—whatever that is/means. She takes the crew and the audience to her imaginary planets that she visits to help her cope.

TIME

Right this very second

*This play is for Jedieofor, Jaidyn, Anissa, Eli, Daniel,
Jarra, and Tracelle.*

Thank you for letting me visit your worlds.

*"There's as many atoms in a single molecule of your DNA as
there are stars in the typical galaxy.*

We are, each of us, a little universe."

Neil deGrasse Tyson

—

PROLOGUE

(a colorful parachute is spread out in the center of the performance area. there is space for audience to sit around the whole parachute either on the floor, on pillows or chairs)

(ARIANNA, a single bunraku puppet stands center looking at the audience.)

ARIANNA

Hello. My name is Arianna...

(Long pause as she continues to see the audience.)

ARIANNA

Mrs. Heywood says it's not polite to stare...

But I think this one of those "grey" moments. One that's not black and white.

We just met so I'm supposed to make eye contact with you and tell you my name. I did that. But there's a whole bunch of you so eye contact with every single one of you is exhausting! I could practice my handshake with some of you. Mrs. Heywood says I'm getting very good at it.

(ARIANNA moves through the audience, shaking hands and meeting a few people.)

(ARIANNA stops suddenly and retreats to the stage flapping her arms and humming.)

SPACE CREW 1

(to audience)

Don't be worried, don't be scared. Arianna is ok, she just needs a minute when things get to be too much.

ARIANNA

Let's go.

SPACE CREW 2

Not yet Arianna, they aren't ready. Why don't you tell them a little about yourself?

ARIANNA

No.
I don't like that.
No.

SPACE CREW 3

Well, ummm, is there something else you'd like to talk about?

ARIANNA

Yes.

SPACE CREW 3

OK...

ARIANNA

Neil deGrasse Tyson.

SPACE CREW 3

We figured...

ARIANNA

Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist, writer, television personality discovered his love for the stars at an early age. After studying at Harvard University, he earned his doctorate from Columbia University in 1991. Tyson went to work for the Hayden Planetarium in 1996 and still serves as its director. He hosted the NOVA ScienceNow series from 2006 to 2011. Tyson remains a popular TV science expert today and has amassed over 3.6 million followers on Twitter.

SPACE CREW 4

Wow! He sounds pretty cool.

ARIANNA

And he's appeared in a comic book.

SPACE CREW 5

No way!

ARIANNA

But what he's really good at is explaining super-complicated stuff to regular people. I like that. Sometimes I try to explain stuff about myself to Mrs. Heywood and it gets all jumbled from my brain to my mouth and she just doesn't get it.

(The SPACE CREW turns the scene into a small classroom.)

MRS. HEYWOOD

Arianna, tell me about what happened in class today...

ARIANNA

(She rocks back forth but doesn't speak)

MRS. HEYWOOD

Did you get scared?
Did someone upset you?

ARIANNA

No...

MRS. HEYWOOD

But you were upset..

ARIANNA

Yes...

MRS. HEYWOOD

Can you tell me why?

ARIANNA

I didn't like it. We were supposed to go to specials. It's Tuesday, Tuesday is art.

MRS. HEYWOOD

But you didn't get to go to art?

ARIANNA

No. And everyone kept saying it was a special pizza party, but that doesn't make any sense. Specials are art, music, PE, and dance--NOT pizza.

MRS. HEYWOOD

I see.

ARIANNA

I don't get why everyone thinks pizza is so great. It smells bad and is really gooey and gross.

(she begins to get physically upset,
she is rocking, humming to calm
herself)

MRS. HEYWOOD

I'm so sorry that was hard for you, but we've talked about this, it's not acceptable for you to scream and knock things over. We need to find a different way for you vent your frustrations. Are you using your fidget toy?

ARIANNA

Yes, but that doesn't help me when it's time to go to specials and we don't go to specials.

MRS. HEYWOOD

Ok. Let's see if we can find something that will help. How does that sound Arianna? Arianna? Arianna, please sit down. We are having a good conversation and I think we should continue.

(Arianna has left her seat and is
exploring the room, grabbing things off
shelves, shaking them, smelling them,
etc)

Maybe we should take a break.

ARIANNA

What's this?

MRS. HEYWOOD

Oh that's just a bucket I use to carry supplies in-- markers, scissors, glue sticks.

ARIANNA

It's empty.

MRS. HEYWOOD

Yes, I got a nice new basket to use instead.

ARIANNA

What are you going to do with it?

MRS. HEYWOOD

Well, I don't know...would you like it for something?

ARIANNA

Yeah...ummm yes...yes please thank you. It fits on my head.

MRS. HEYWOOD

Oh it sure does.

ARIANNA

Like a space helmet.

MRS. HEYWOOD

Huh, I suppose it is.

Would you like to go to outer space Arianna?

ARIANNA

Of course. Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson says "There are a lot of things you can do in space, and space essentially is unlimited resources. We are climbing over ourselves here looking for the next source of energy. The universe has an unlimited source of energy." I think it would be awesome if I could find him a new source of energy.

MRS. HEYWOOD

Wow, that is a great ambition Arianna...but maybe we just start with finding a way to keep you calm when things get changed around.

ARIANNA

Maybe I could just explore outer space!

(The SPACE CREW returns back to the opening space.)

SPACE CREW 2

Is that where your space helmet came from?

ARIANNA

Yup. I just added some glitter, some tinfoil, some paint and here it is.

(ARIANNA reveals her sparkly helmet made from a bucket.)

SPACE CREW ALL

SOME GLITTER! SOME TINFOIL! SOME PAINT AND HERE IT IS!

SOME GLITTER! SOME TINFOIL! SOME PAINT AND HERE IT IS!
SOME GLITTER! SOME TINFOIL! SOME PAINT AND HERE IT IS!

(they create an impromptu chant/dance.
It's very loud.)

ARIANNA

Tee. Tee. Tee. Tee....

(She covers her ears and rocks.)

SPACE CREW 3

Sorry Arianna, we got excited.

SPACE CREW 1

Maybe this would be a good time to put on the helmet!

(they all agree and prepare for
takeoff)

(ARIANNA is still agitated while the
CREW is in ready positions around the
parachute and still. When she puts the
helmet on she is calm and still and the
CREW begin to shake and act as though
they are blasting off)

SPACE CREW

10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1..

ARIANNA

BLASTOFF!

(SPACE CREW move the parachute up,
down, around, as though it's floating
through space. ARIANNA follows suit.)

(They sing a space song...)

SPACE CREW

*Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.
When she puts on her helmet
It's a signal we know
We all start the countdown
And we're ready to go!*

*Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.*

ARIANNA

Follow me everyone.

(they all fly and take the audience
with them)

THE MISTY MOON

(everyone lands on the Misty Moon as though lowered by a cloud. everything is dreamy and quiet and blue.)

(The SPACE CREW helps create the environment with fans, gentle water spraying, floating blue cloth and other soft and soothing things. The CREW helps the audience experience the Misty Moon.)

SPACE CREW 1

Arianna...

SPACE CREW 2

Wake up Arianna...

SPACE CREW 5

We're here...

SPACE CREW 4

On the Misty Moon...

SPACE CREW 3

It's your favorite place to visit...

ARIANNA

We made it. My calculations were correct.
Yessssss! Let me show you around.

(ARIANNA moves off of the parachute into the chill out crater created by some of the CREW. Lightly misting water.)

SPACE CREW 5

This is the chill out crater. It's where Arianna doesn't have to think about anything like Specials, or eye contact, or sitting still.

ARIANNA

Water please.

(she is lightly sprayed)

SPACE CREW

Raise your hand if you want water!

(CREW sprays audience that want it as
some cool trip hop plays)

ARIANNA

Ahhhh.

SPACE CREW 2

That's getting better.

SPACE CREW 4

Yeah, it's so cool here! I feel better too.

SPACE CREW 3

Were you feeling bad?

SPACE CREW 4

Nah, but this is better.

ARIANNA

Whirbit!

SPACE CREW 1

Whatsit?

ARIANNA

Whirbit.

WHIRBIT

Whirbit!

(a puppet made of scarves appears and
spins and spins)

ARIANNA

Let's go!

SPACE CREW 1

Where are we going?

ARIANNA

Whirbit is taking us to a fun spot.

WHIRBIT

Whirbit!

SPACE CREW 3

Uhhh, ok. Is it safe?

SPACE CREW 5

Yeah, I mean who is this Whirbit anyway?

ARIANNA

Duh, Whirbit lives here...on the Misty Moon. We hang out all the time.

SPACE CREW 1

Seems legit. But, Whirbit? Where are you taking us?

WHIRBIT

Whirbit!

(WHIRBIT spins faster and laughs)

ARIANNA

Yes! The Windy Wormhole!

SPACE CREW ALL

Ooooh, the Windy Wormhole sounds fun. Let's go.

(ARIANNA and the CREW follow WHIRBIT on a complicated journey until they arrive at The Windy Wormhole)

(they use fans, scarves, and the parachute to create the WW)

ARIANNA

Wheeeee! (She laughs and spins)

SPACE CREW 2

Would you like to go through the Wormhole?

(The SPACE CREW helps people move through the Wormhole)

(The Wormhole can also move to audience members that have mobility issues or are not comfortable on stage.)

(Many people are laughing and spinning and finally lying on the ground catching their breath, including ARIANNA. There is quiet...)

ARIANNA

Again!

SPACE CREW 2

We can't Arianna. It's time to go back.

ARIANNA

Again. Again! Again!

(She starts spinning and laughing
again.)

SPACE CREW

Wait Arianna. Wait.

(ARIANNA's helmet flies off)
(The CREW clears everything from the
space and transform into teachers,
parents, etc.)

INTERLUDE 1
(They are back to the empty stage/
setting of Prologue)

SPACE CREW 1
Arianna stop.

SPACE CREW 2
Arianna sit down.

SPACE CREW 3
Arianna no.

SPACE CREW 4
Arianna enough.

SPACE CREW 5
Arianna stop.

ARIANNA
Hello. My name is Arianna-No-Arianna-Stop.
Sometimes it takes me a while to really hear it when
someone is talking to me. That seems to make people
upset. I can tell they are upset because their faces
get red and voices get really loud and that makes me
nervous and it's even harder to listen and understand
what they are saying. Mrs. Heywood says it's a "Catch
22" which makes me wonder what Catch 1-21 are.

SPACE CREW 4
That's a good question.

SPACE CREW 2
You always do that.

ARIANNA
Do what?

SPACE CREW 2
Say stuff like that.

ARIANNA
Like what?

SPACE CREW 2
I don't know...say stuff that I never would have

thought about.

ARIANNA

Is that bad?

SPACE CREW 2

NO! We love it. It gives us a whole new way of looking at things.

SPACE CREW 3

Yeah, you are so creative!

ARIANNA

OH! Like Neil deGrasse Tyson said, "Creativity is seeing what everyone else sees, but then thinking a new thought that has never been thought before and expressing it somehow."

SPACE CREW 4

Exactly. You're right, this Neil guy is pretty cool.

ARIANNA

I definitely think so.

SPACE CREW 5

You're friends at school must learn a lot from you.

ARIANNA

Well...

SPACE CREW 5

What is it?

ARIANNA

I don't always know how to make friends. Other kids don't talk to me so much and they don't like it when get really into something.

SPACE CREW 5

Like astrophysics?

ARIANNA

No. More like the little things...

(ARIANNA and the CREW become kids on a playground playing tag. One starts "Go bananas, all join in including Arianna and the audience)

SPACE CREW 1

Hey everybody, let's Go Bananas!

SPACE CREW

First you form the corn, form form the corn
 First you form the corn, form form the corn
 And then you husk the corn, husk husk the corn,
 And then you husk the corn, husk husk the corn,
 And then you POP the corn, POP POP the corn,
 And then you POP the corn, POP POP the corn,

First you form potato, etc
 And then then you slice potato, etc
 And then you MASH potato, etc.

First you form the orange...
 And then you peel the orange...
 And then you SQUEEZE the orange

First you form the squash...
 And then you pick the squash...
 And then you SQUISH the squash...

ARIANNA

And then you SQUISH the squash
 And then you SQUISH the squash
 And then you SQUISH the squash
 And then you SQUISH the squash...

SPACE CREW

(trying to continue with the game but
 ARIANNA is stuck on squish.)

First you form the onion...
 And then you dice the onion...

SPACE CREW 1

Arianna stop.

SPACE CREW 2

Arianna sit down.

Arianna no. SPACE CREW 3

Arianna enough. SPACE CREW 4

Arianna stop. SPACE CREW 5

HELMET! ARIANNA

What? SPACE CREW 3

HELMET HELMET HELMET! ARIANNA

SPACE CREW 1
She wants her helmet! It helps her. She wants to take
us somewhere new!

SPACE CREW
10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1..

BLASTOFF! ARIANNA

(SPACE CREW move the parachute up,
down, around, as though it's floating
through space. ARIANNA follows suit.)

(They sing a space song...)

SPACE CREW
*Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.
When she puts on her helmet
It's a signal we know
We all start the countdown
And we're ready to go!
Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.*

(they all fly and take the audience
with them)

SQUISH SQUASH

(EVERYONE lands on the planet and pretends the surface is made of sticky mud/gum. They can invite the audience to explore with them.)

ARIANNA

Squish the squash, squish squish the squash

SPACE CREW 2

Where are we?

SPACE CREW 4

Everything is so...squishy

SPACE CREW 5

And stretchy!

ARIANNA

I know! I love it!

(She stands on the edge of a big piece of spandex that the CREW stretches out in different directions. Maybe they can make a swing???)

SPACE CREW 1

Me too!

SPACE CREW 3

I don't know why, but this feels awesome.

SPACE CREW 4

Yeah, planet Squish Squash is pretty great.

SPACE CREW 2

Look at this!

ARIANNA

This is the best part. It's the squishiest and squashiest!

(She finds a motherlode of slime/putty and everyone takes a handful and it stretches in every direction. They break it up and bring some to the audience)

SPACE CREW 5

How did we get here?

SPACE CREW 1

Arianna of course.

ARIANNA

Yeah me of course. Sometimes I get really focused on something and can't let go of it. People think I'm being stubborn, but I can't help it--I'm exploring!

SPACE CREW 4

This is my favorite planet!

(CREW can introduce stretchy bands, smaller spandex pieces, etc.)

ARIANNA

(Making a stretching sound) Bowwwwwwwooooop!

SPACE CREW 3

Bowwwwwwwooooop

SPACE CREW

Bowwwwwwwooooop, Bowwwwwwwooooop, Bowwwwwwwooooop

SKIRRRRRUP

(A puppet appearing out of the spandex)
Skirrrrrrup!

SPACE CREW 1

Whoa

SPACE CREW 4

What the?

SPACE CREW 2

What is that thing?

ARIANNA

Hi there. My name is Arianna. It's a pleasure to meet you. What's your name?

SKIRRRRRUP

Skirrrrrrup.

ARIANNA

That's a cool name. Skirrrrrrup! It's really fun to

say. Skirrrrrrup.

SKIRRRRRUP

Skirrrrrrup.

ARIANNA

Um, where are your eyes? I'm supposed to make eye contact with you but I can't really.

SKIRRRRRUP

Skirrrrrrup.

ARIANNA

Oh, Space Crew meet my new friend Skirrrrrrup.

SPACE CREW

Hey! Hi. Skirrrrrrup. Wow. How are you? I'm [name], nice to meet you. Etc.

SPACE CREW 3

Whoa, he really stretches.

SPACE CREW 5

How do you doooo that?

(They all try to stretch themselves across the stage as Skirrrrrrup has done.)

ARIANNA

It's no use. I'll never be able to it.

SPACE CREW

Nope. Me either.

SPACE CREW 2

I'm pretty flexible though, watch this.

(She does a cool back bend or other bendy move.)

SPACE CREW 3

Let me try!

(He falls over.)

I guess I'm not as flexible as I thought.

SPACE CREW 2

That's ok, it's something you can work on. You know, get better with practice. And some people's bodies just bend better

ARIANNA

Maybe you and Skirrrrrrup can help me be flexible. My teachers are always saying "Arianna, you need to be more flexible." But honestly I can't figure out why that would help me.

(Skirrrrrrup wraps around her giving her a big hug.)

SPACE CREW 4

I don't think they mean you should be good at yoga.

ARIANNA

Then why do they always say it?

SPACE CREW 1

It's like earlier when you got upset because instead of going to art, there was a pizza party.

ARIANNA

Yeah, I didn't like that.

SPACE CREW 5

I think the flexible they mean is being more bendy in your brain instead of your body.

ARIANNA

But how?

SPACE CREW 3

I don't know, I guess some people have bendier minds than others.

ARIANNA

Maybe I can take a class in brain yoga.

(Everyone thinks that's pretty funny.
Even SKIRRRRRUP.)

(they all continue trying new stretches, incorporating the fabric and stretchy bands, etc.)

(One by one the CREW stops stretching and tries to get ARIANNA's attention.)

INTERLUDE 2

SPACE CREW 1

Arianna can you hear me?

SPACE CREW 2

Arianna?

SPACE CREW 3

Arianna are you listening?

SPACE CREW 4

Arianna are you ignoring me?

SPACE CREW 1

Arianna?

SPACE CREW 5

Arianna do you hear me?

(All of the stretchy things get gathered up, they remove ARIANNA's helmet, and they are back to the start.)

ARIANNA

Hello. My name is Arianna-are-you-listening-can-you-hear-me? I sort of hear you, but other things are louder in my head. My brain works differently than a lot of people.

SPACE CREW 2

Is it different than mine?

ARIANNA

Yeah, I guess so.

SPACE CREW 1

Mine too?

ARIANNA

Maybe...I don't know why. Nobody really does. The brain is a big mystery. It's like Neil once said, "Everything we do, every thought we've ever had, is produced by the human brain. But exactly how it

operates remains one of the biggest unsolved mysteries, and it seems the more we probe its secrets, the more surprises we find."

SPACE CREW 4

Ugh. That's a lot to think about. I'm starting to get a headache.

ARIANNA

I know how you feel. I feel like that a lot.

SPACE CREW 5

That must be hard.

ARIANNA

Sometimes it's really bad. Like one time I went shopping with my dad...

(The CREW becomes a busy grocery store. One becomes her dad as they move down the aisles.)

DAD

OK, Peanut, do you remember what we need?

ARIANNA

Strawberries!

DAD

Yup yup, but that's not all.

ARIANNA

More strawberries?

DAD

Ha! Yes, we'll get gallons of strawberries. So many strawberries that our fingers will turn red, and our clothes, and the kitchen table--all strawberry red.

ARIANNA

Yum!

DAD

But remember we need to find something for dinner as well.

ARIANNA

Remember, nothing too crunchy.

DAD

Got it.

ARIANNA

And nothing too crumbly.

DAD

No crumbly, check.

ARIANNA

And nothing too chewy!

DAD

I know peanut. I'll find us something.

(It starts to get very busy in the store. There are babies crying, cell phones ringing, p.a. announcements, people rushing by, people stopping abruptly to look at shelves, etc. ARIANNA is walking with her dad but the crowd and the noise separate them and she panics.)

ARIANNA

Dad? Daaaaaad? Tee tee tee tee...

SPACE CREW 3

Quick, get the helmet! She'll feel better if we can go on an adventure.

SPACE CREW 1

Are you sure?

SPACE CREW 2

I think so. She always puts this on when her head gets too full.

SPACE CREW 4

Hurry.

(they put the helmet on ARIANNA)

SPACE CREW

10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1..

ARIANNA

BLASTOFF!

(SPACE CREW move the parachute up,
down, around, as though it's floating
through space. ARIANNA follows suit.)

(They sing a space song...)

SPACE CREW

*Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
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Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.*

(they all fly and take the audience
with them)

BOUNCY BUBBLES

(a planet of bouncing balls,
balloons, and bubbles of course)

(ARIANNA remains still in the center as
the balls etc bounce randomly around,
some fast, some slow, in every
direction)

(The CREW moves as though being pulled
but the balls--they are not in
control.)

SPACE CREW 2

What's happening?

SPACE CREW 4

Good question!

SPACE CREW 5

Where's Arianna?

SPACE CREW 1

There...

(She flies across the room)

I mean there...

(and again)

Ugh, I mean THERE!

SPACE CREW 3

I've never seen her like this.

SPACE CREW 2

Arianna?

SPACE CREW 5

Arianna, are you ok?

SPACE CREW 4

What's happening?

ARIANNA

STOP!

(all of the balls and bouncing freeze

in mid air.)

ARIANNA

Wow. I wish I could do that back on earth. I just want to organize all things flying around in my brain. Like put all the icky smells over here.

(She moves her hand and all of one type of ball/balloon move together, i.e. all the yellow balls)

And all of the crunchy foods over here.

(same)

And all of the loud sounds could go way over there.

(again)

And all of the different people I see, and the stuff and the lights could just slowwww dowwwwwwn.

(all in this group start to move slowly but not in the same random way as before.)

SPACE CREW 1

Nicely done Arianna.

ARIANNA

Shhhhh. This is really hard to keep up.

SPACE CREW 2

What do you mean Arianna?

ARIANNA

Keeping everything in its place is super difficult for me. I have focus my thoughts on it and it takes a ton of energy.

SPACE CREW 5

I get that. My teacher tells me I have to focus more too.

SPACE CREW 4

Yeah, my teacher tells me I talk to much. But it's really hard to stop.

ARIANNA

You guys get in trouble at school too?

SPACE CREW 3

Yeah...sometimes.

(the balls are starting to vibrate,
bounce, and get out of control again)

ARIANNA

Oh no!

SPACE CREW 1

What's happening?

ARIANNA

I got distracted.

(The balls start their random bouncing
again, but this time they gather to
form ORBIT)

SPACE CREW 5

Whoa.

ARIANNA

Who are you? You're new...

(she tries to hide)

SPACE CREW 3

It's ok Arianna...I think it wants to be our friend.

ARIANNA

How can you tell?

SPACE CREW 2

Oh, I don't know.

SPACE CREW 4

Well, I think the way it's moving seems...nice.

ORBIT

Coooo....

SPACE CREW 5

Awww, it's making a cute sound.

SPACE CREW 1

And it's got a funny face!

ORBIT

Coooo...

ARIANNA

It does kind of look like a smile, and Ms. Heywood that's a way I can show people that I want to be friends.

SPACE CREW 3

Let's try it.

ARIANNA

Hello, my name is Arianna...Arianna Astronaut. What's your name?

(She puts out her hand to shake.)

ORBIT

Wow! You talk? Me too! My name is Orbit.

(ORBIT creates a hand of sorts for ARIANNA to shake.)

ARIANNA

Ha! You're so soft!

ORBIT

Thanks! You're really nice!

(ORBIT engulfs her for a big hug.
Everyone joins in and laughs a lot.)

SPACE CREW 5

Arianna, I like your new friend.

ARIANNA

What friend?

ORBIT

Meeeeeee!

SPACE CREW 2

Exactly!

ARIANNA

Oh, did I make a friend? I didn't even notice...I thought it would be harder than that.

ORBIT

Yes, we are friends! Wooooo hoooooo!

ARIANNA

I can't wait for everybody at school to meet you.

(The CREW look at each other, a bit worried.)

ORBIT

Arianna...

ARIANNA

Maybe we could have a sleep over...do you sleep?

ORBIT

Arianna, I can't.

ARIANNA

That's ok. Sometimes it's really hard for me to sleep too. There's just so much happening in brain and my body feels like there's rocket boosters firing in it.

SPACE CREW 1

Wait Arianna...

ARIANNA

Why do you all have those funny looks on your faces. I don't know what that means, but I know it means something and I'm guessing it's not something good.

ORBIT

It's ok Arianna. They just don't want you to be sad.

ARIANNA

Why would I be sad?

ORBIT

Because they know that I can't come with you. They know I can only live here on the Bouncy Bubbles planet.

ARIANNA

No.

SPACE CREW 2

It's true.

ARIANNA

No. No. No. No. No.

ORBIT

I'm sorry Arianna. You can visit me here anytime you like.

ARIANNA

NO!

(She starts rocking and shaking. She is very upset.)

SPACE CREW 4

What do we do?

SPACE CREW 3

I don't know.

SPACE CREW 5

Me either.

SPACE CREW 2

Guys, I'm kind of scared.

SPACE CREW 1

Yeah, this is normally when she would put her space helmet on...but what happens when it's already on?

ORBIT

You're ok Arianna.

(ORBIT tries to give her another hug, ARIANNA refuses and it makes her more upset. She finally pulls her helmet off--all the balls drop, the CREW flies offstage/into the audience.)

EPILOGUE

(ARIANNA is alone on stage. The floor is covered with leftovers from Bouncy Bubbles, Squish Squash, and Misty Moon.)

ARIANNA

My name is Arianna...Arianna Monster. I scare away all of my friends. I'm all alone. I mean, yeah, I have my Dad, and Ms. Heywood, but they have to like me. And they don't really understand me. Sometimes I just get so lonely, like I'm the only one in the universe that feels and acts this way. I try to change and act right, but it's so hard. Sometimes I just need a break from all that. I don't know why my brain is so different than everyone else. Even Neil deGrasse Tyson doesn't know and he's probably the smartest man on the planet. He said, "Everything we do, every thought we've ever had, is produced by the human brain. But exactly how it operates remains one of the biggest unsolved mysteries, and it seems the more we probe its secrets, the more surprises we find." But I don't want to be a mystery, I just want to be Arianna. Plain and Simple.

SPACE CREW 1

Arianna!

SPACE CREW 2

She's here!

SPACE CREW 3

Yes!

SPACE CREW 4

Oh Arianna, we were so worried.

ARIANNA

What were you worried about?

SPACE CREW 5

Well, you of course.

ARIANNA

You were?

SPACE CREW 1

Of course. Nobody likes to see their friend upset.

ARIANNA

Friend?

SPACE CREW 2

Uhhhh, yeah. Duh.

ARIANNA

Are you all my friends?

SPACE CREW 3

What did you think?

ARIANNA

I guess I didn't think anything. I'm kinda confused right now.

SPACE CREW 4

That's ok. We've done a lot today.

SPACE CREW 5

Maybe we should just clean up this mess!

SPACE CREW 1

Ouch. Look at this place.

ARIANNA

Hmmm. Are you helping me because you are my friends.

SPACE CREW 2

Yup.

SPACE CREW 3

And because we helped make the mess!

ARIANNA

Oh right! Thanks!

SPACE CREW 4

Ooh look, here's a little bouncy ball! It's like Orbit's nose or something.

ARIANNA

Orbit didn't have a nose!

SPACE CREW 5

Well, whatever it looks like a part of them.

SPACE CREW 1

Here Arianna. Why don't you carry this with you.

ARIANNA

Why?

SPACE CREW 2

Oh that's a good idea.

ARIANNA

It does remind me of my friend Orbit. And that makes me happy.

SPACE CREW 3

Ooh, here, some of this stretchy stuff like Skirrrrup.

ARIANNA

Oh wow, this could definitely help me when I start getting overwhelmed with things.

SPACE CREW 4

Yeah, can I have some of that too?

ARIANNA

Sure. I think there's plenty.

SPACE CREW 5

Remember how good it felt on the Misty Moon? When we were spinning in that wormhole?

ARIANNA

That's my favorite place.

SPACE CREW 1

Well, I've got this thing. It spins in your hand. My mom says it helps people with the fidgets...like me.

ARIANNA

Cool, can I try?

SPACE CREW 1

You bet.

ARIANNA

Nice. This kinda helps too.

SPACE CREW 2

Why don't you keep these things with you Arianna?

ARIANNA

That's a great idea, I bet these will help me.
Especially when I can't put on my helmet and explore.
These are kind of a reminder of all the places I love
to go and all of my friends...ALL of them.

SPACE CREW 4

You mean us?

ARIANNA

Duh.

SPACE CREW

Cool. Does that mean more adventures?

ARIANNA

Yup.

SPACE CREW

Yes!

ARIANNA

You all are my space crew! You help me get to new
places. But even when we can't go somewhere else, we
can keep it with us as well. Inside.

SPACE CREW

Wow, that's pretty deep Arianna.

ARIANNA

Well, as Neil deGrasse Tyson once said, "We are part of
this universe; we are in this universe, but perhaps
more important than both of those facts, is that the
universe is in us."

SPACE CREW

Maybe Mr. Tyson will come on an adventure with the
great Arianna Astronaut.

ARIANNA

Yeah, or maybe he already has.

(They sing a space song.)

Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.
When she puts on her helmet
It's a signal we know
We all start the countdown
And we're ready to go!
Arianna Astronaut
Is going to explore,
A special kind of universe,
With lots of fun in store.