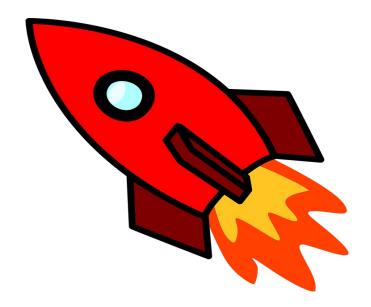
THE BIG SOLAR STORM



children's play about SPACE

By Olga Gavrilova

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THE BIG SOLAR STORM

A play by Olga Gavrilova

Characters

Narrator (a comet, roaming around)

Sun

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

The setting is space, the Solar System. The Sun stands to the left of the stage and all planets stand in a line in their correct order: Mercury, to the right of the Sun, followed by the other planets with Neptune, at the very end of the line, furthest from the Sun. Planets periodically rotate in one spot to demonstrate spinning. The **Narrator** (comet) moves freely around the stage.

Narrator: In freezing cold and silent space,

> A family of planets and a star rotate. The star is called the Sun and it is hot, Its planets can be too, somewhat.

For billions of years it has been this way,

Imagine the excitement, when all that changed one day!

[Neptune spots something far away and tries to see it better.]

Neptune: Could this be true!? I can't believe it!

Wake up, Uranus! Do you see it?

[Uranus wakes up from sleep.]

Uranus: What? Where? Another comet comes our way?

We'll stand against it. Don't you be afraid!

Neptune: No, sleepy head! It's not a comet.

It's smooth and shiny, like a rocket.

[Saturn is annoyed, trying to get a good look at whatever Neptune is talking about.]

Saturn: Oh hush, you two. /Squints to see better./Why, I could flip!

Everyone, we have visitors on a space ship!

[All **Planets** and the **Sun** gasp with excitement, trying to get a better view of the approaching space ship. They can spin around to show their excitement.]

Earth: Oh, asteroids and meteors! What an exciting gift!

My living creatures have new friends! They'll have a fit!

We'll have a welcome party right away! Oh, magic star dust, how I hope they'll stay!

Mars: Hey, hey, hold up on opening your doors!

Why do you think the visitors are yours? You're not the only one with water. I also have some oceans I can offer. Mine may be icy, cold and hard, But you know what, it's not so bad. I have two moons, and not just one. That makes my night skies twice as fun!

I'm also half your size, you know.

It's faster, then, for anyone to come and go.

Mercury: Oh, if you are comparing speeds,

The winner should and must be me!

I am the smallest and the closest to the Sun.

So I'm the fastest one to orbit it – just see me run!

[Mercury runs quickly around the Sun to demonstrate. The Sun smiles in appreciation of how fast Mercury is.]

Mercury: And if our visitors should choose to live here,

They'll have their birthdays three times each Earth year!

Not only am I fast, but I am also hot! They'll have a blast here, will they not?

Venus: Oh, if it's heat our visitors are after,

You, Mercury, just fill me up with laughter! This Solar System's heat spot is right here!

I am the hottest planet with the heaviest atmosphere!

I've got craters and volcanoes by the thousands, And I am also covered by super high mountains. And if that's not enough to get our visitors' attention, I'm also the only one to spin in the opposite direction!

[Venus spins around and finishes up with a little victory dance to prove the point.]

<u>Uranus:</u> Oh, whoop-dee-doo!

You spin in the opposite direction.

Well, me too!

But I orbit on my side, if that's worth a mention!

I'm blue and big – call me an ice giant!
I've got water and a gaseous climate.
I am a space traveler, always on the run.
It takes me eighty four years to orbit the Sun.

Twenty seven moons travel with me.

I'm the twisted fun place any tourist should see.

<u>Saturn:</u> The tourists can see you from my gaseous heights.

I am a gas giant with beautiful nights.

I have got rings made of rocks and some ice.

Only on me can you look at such sights.

Along with the rings, sixty two moons surround me.

One's bigger than Mercury, I can say proudly.

It is called Titan and it has got water,

Like early Earth, though Earth's always warmer.

<u>Jupiter:</u> Oh, look everyone, when it comes to size,

I am the largest and I get this prize.

By far, I am bigger than any of you.

I'm also the owner of the largest moon.

I have got rings, but they're too faint to see,

You need three hundred Earths to make one of me.

Of moons I've got plenty – all seventy nine!

Our dear visitors are surely mine!

I'll show them the finest and biggest of storms, I have got one, more than three hundred years old!

Neptune: Oh, what's an old storm, compared to mine?

I've got a storm that will so blow your mind!
It has the most powerful, speedy of winds.
Our tourists will love it! We'll go for a spin!
And if they are looking for something extreme,
I could very well be the coldest they've seen!

[Mercury scoffs at Neptune.]