



CONCEPT

The Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland makes four people from different times and places start behaving like protons in the collider, and they go crashing into each others' lives across time and space.

Comparable to shows like OUTLANDER, SENSE8 and THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY where people travel through time, bridging the gap between important historical eras and their profound spiritual journeys.

Theater teacher, DANIEL ASH, gets sucked into a hole in the space time continuum and collides with three historical figures: Walt Whitman (yes, the poet), a classical Indian dancer from the 1930s, and a contemporary Black physicist/cultural icon.

Each of them has a fundamental life problem that this wormhole world brought them together to solve. The Teacher recently lost his family, lost his marriage, and lost his mojo; and now he has to dig inside to find a courage he's never had before. The Dancer has to heal her battered and beautiful sexuality; The atheist Scientist has to find grace after coming face to face with a son from an affair he has denied for years; and The Poet, Walt Whitman, has to come to terms with the fact that his intention to create a more perfect union through his poetry cannot prevent the bloody carnage and pointless destruction of the Civil War.

United, they can realize the greater purpose for which they have been brought together. But one man stands in the way.

KEVIN BATES...a science hating religious zealot bent on destroying the world.



CONCEPT

The discovery of the so called "God Particle" which gives everything in the universe its mass at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland becomes the symbol of everything Kevin sees wrong in the world. He wants to take God back from science and prove that this "God Particle" is nothing but Fake News. He is the avenging angel in a war between science and religion which shouldn't even be happening.

Each of the main characters in Collisions is broken, and with their jagged edges they fit together like a puzzle and complete each other. But it's Daniel going into the wormhole that brings them all together. He is the thread that connects them. These three icons in some strange way are all parts of him. Daniel's thrilled by the science, thrilled by the dance, thrilled by the poetry. They all need each other to fulfill their individual destinies and must work together to get out of the wormhole and back home. The brilliant mind of the Scientist, the sensuality of the Dancer, and the heart of the Poet are woven into a full Human Being through the intuition of the Teacher.

It's a Wizard of Oz story, and Daniel is Dorothy.

The wicked witch, Kevin, uses his mastery of the wormhole world to crush our heroes' growing coalition. Through microchips he has placed on each of their unconscious physical bodies, he sends their souls into a visionary hellscape of their greatest fears and nightmares. Daniel and Kevin are at war with each other, crashing through time and space, fighting for the soul of humanity.





"It's only by giving myself over to the fantastic that we can actually get to the real."

Colson Whitehead, Author of "The Underground Railroad" on Amazon Prime Video

It is sometimes said that science fiction provides people a safe enough distance to give them a fresh perspective on their own lives and the state of the world. COLLISIONS is a sci fi adventure story which takes today's headlines, sucks them into the Large Hadron Collider proton stream, and smashes them into each other.

Anti-science, anti-vaxxer, conspiracy theory anarchists have received support and encouragement from the highest office in the land, flouting facts, hurling their righteous venom during elections and during this pandemic which is ravaging the world. These same folks have plotted to kidnap a governor, have beaten up capitol police, and stormed the capitol all in the name of patriotism.

In COLLISIONS, a science denying religious zealot tries to disprove the "God Particle" by using that self same science to perform a reckless experiment which puts hundreds of millions of lives into jeopardy.

The volatility of our times is reflected by the volatility of each setting and time period in COLLISIONS. The science being explored at the Large Hadron Collider gives a felt sense of both the possibilities and the dangers of the work being done there. The scientists are playing God by recreating the volatile conditions just moments after the Big Bang at the very beginning of time.

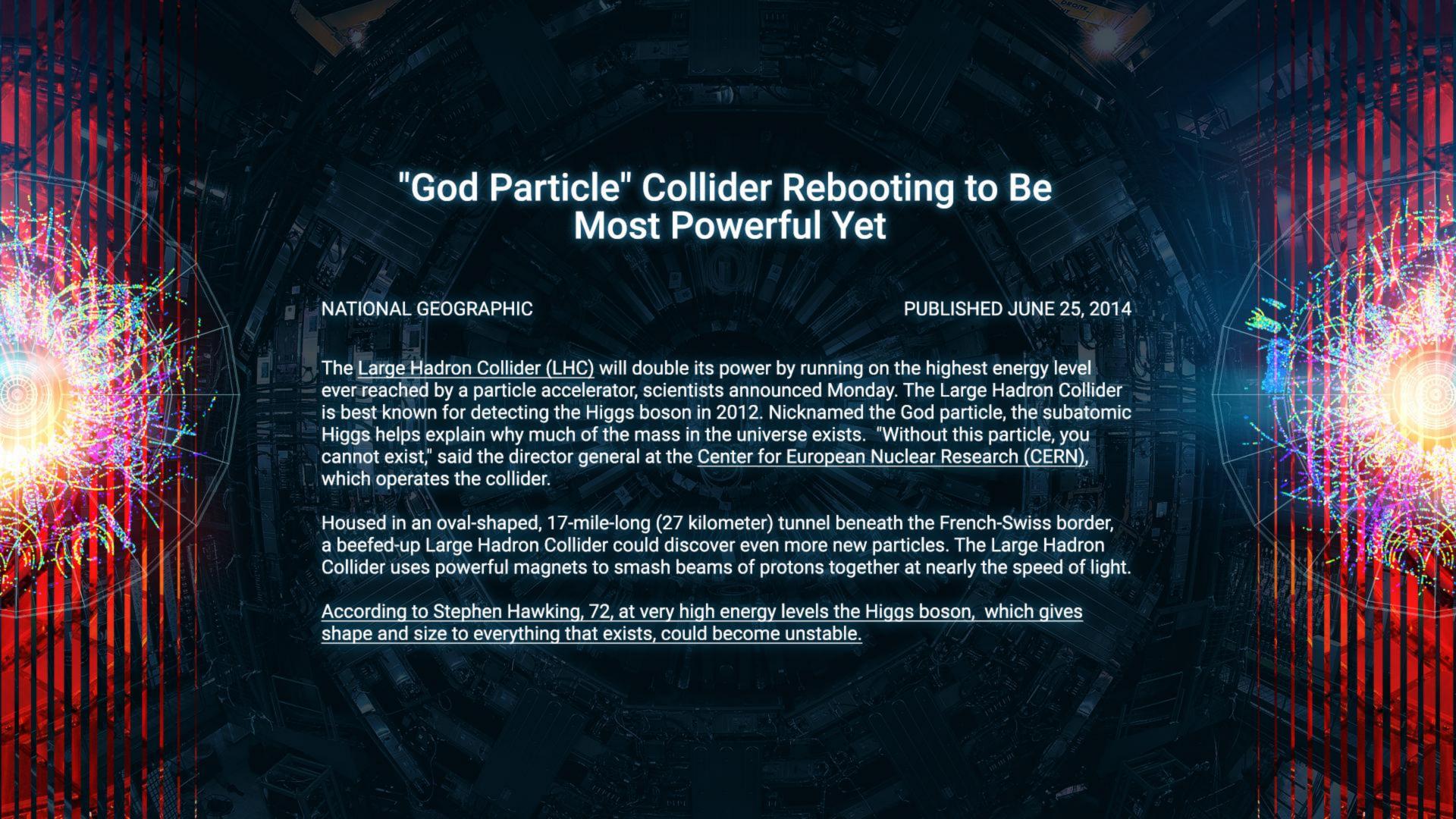


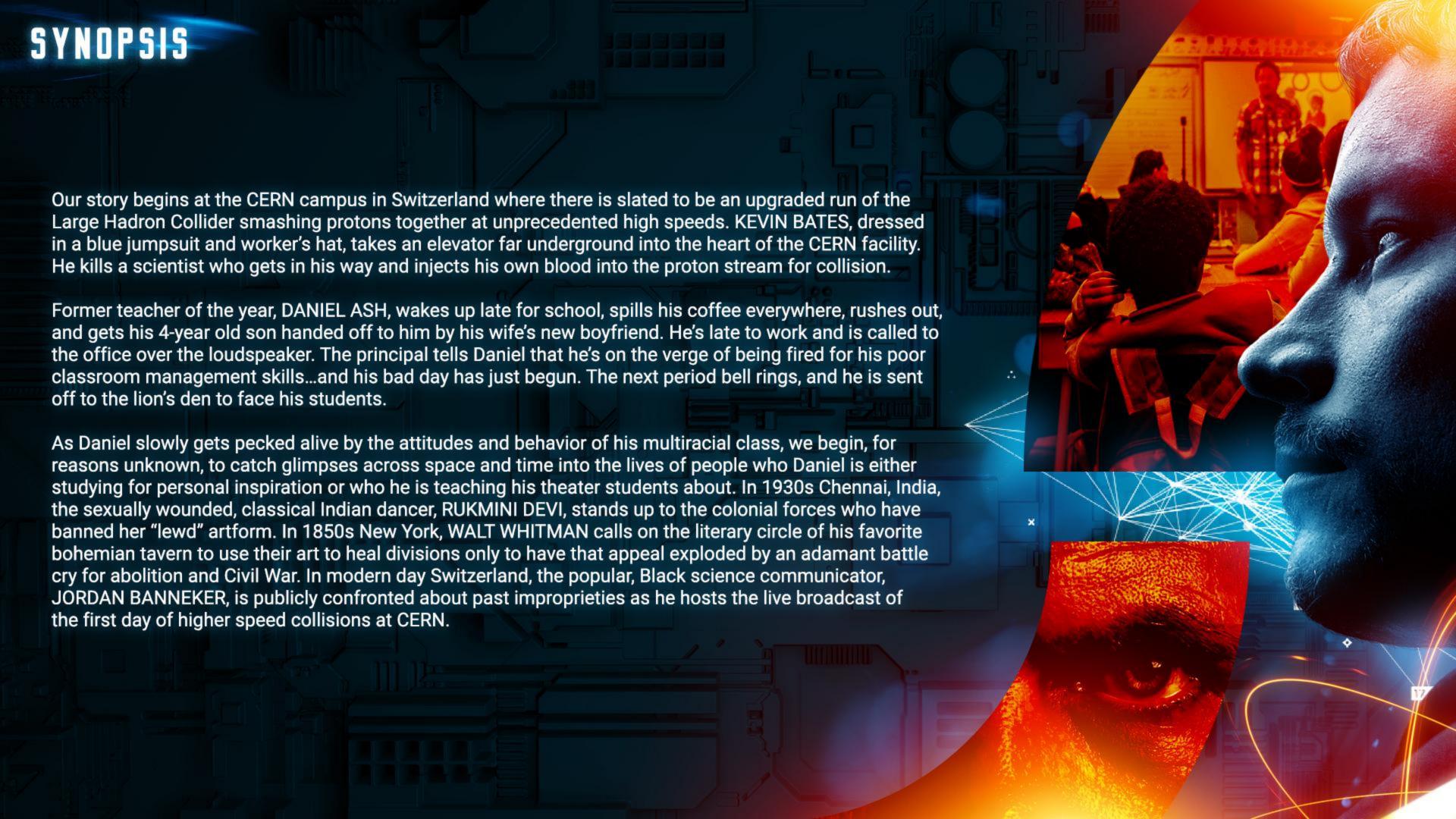
Our chaotic times are reflected back to us by the show's exploration both of India during its struggle for independence and of pre-Civil War America. In India, Kevin as an Anglican priest, is enforcing a ban on a colorful, cultural dance movement in the 1930's even as the nonviolent movement there clashes with British colonialism. In the 1850s the carnivalesque, bohemian vibe of Walt's favorite tavern is upended by Kevin in disguise making angry calls for abolition. A Black Physicist is chased by a racist mob through the Gangs of New York streets in Little Five Points. In the 1890s Kevin fires the shots which set in motion a proud Lakota tribe being massacred at Wounded Knee.

This volatility is seen in the unsettling, multiple personas embodied by Kevin. And also in Daniel's students as chaos reigns, and he is unable to inspire them or keep them in line.

It's a reflection of the current state of America. We are in the midst of a war for the very survival of our democracy. It is a time of tectonic change and unrest as we seek to redefine ourselves and decide which side of history we want to be on. The murders of George Floyd, Sandra Bland, and Trayvon Martin put a mirror up to the racism inherent in our systems and in the traumatized bodies of individual citizens who make up these systems. The sci-fi prism of COLLISIONS shines a light on this collective reckoning.

COLLISIONS is a series about Divisive Politics, Racial and Cultural Inequities, Self Worth, and Facing your Fears. Kindred Spirits joining together to build a Brighter World in spite of the worst efforts of the forces of fear and hate.





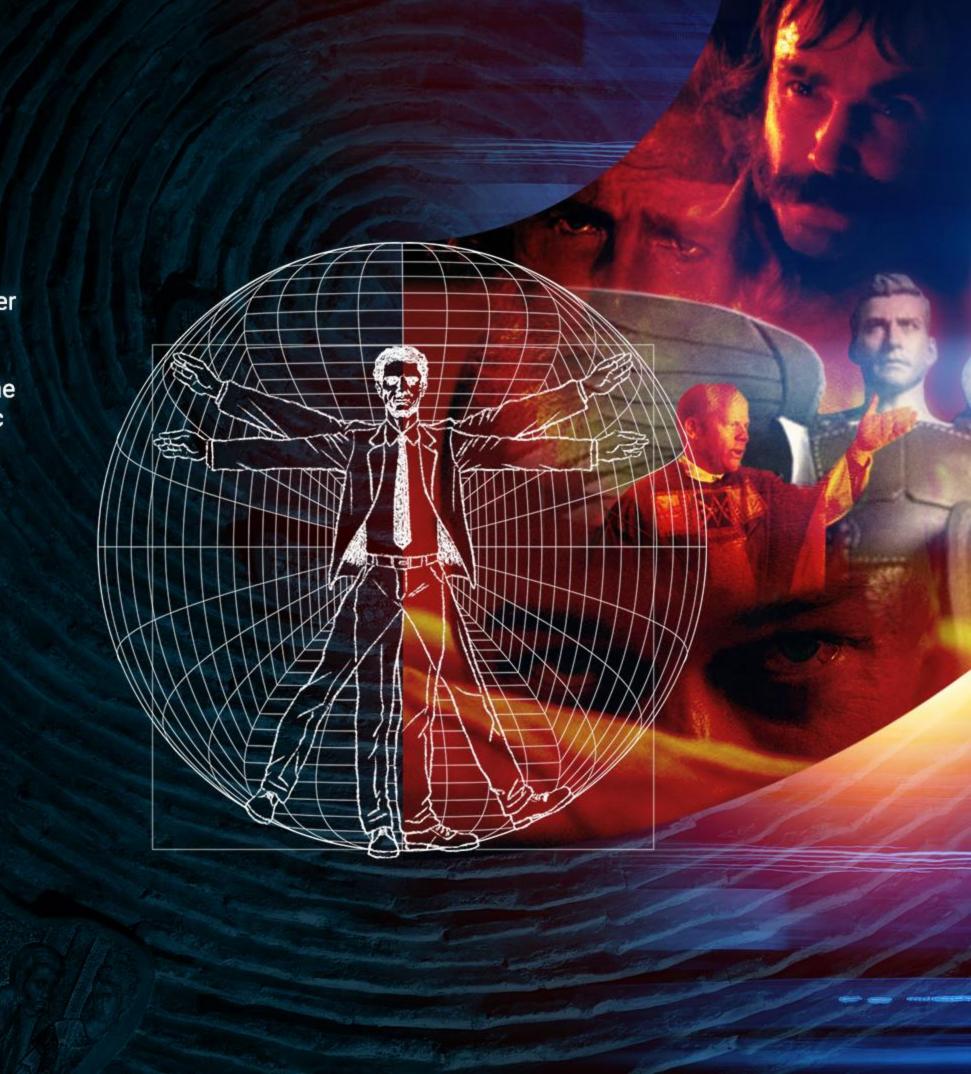




THE MASTER OF DISGUISE

KEVIN BATES, 40s, an actor and criminal mastermind who has played a character with Multiple Personality Disorder in a TV series and who actually has Multiple Personalities himself. Kevin is a sadistic, sociopathic, fundamentalist Christian willing to do anything to debunk science. He pretends to be multiple people in the main characters' lives in an attempt to undermine their growing pagan/scientific coalition. He's afraid that these faithless pagans are going to render Christianity obsolete with their exciting ideas and creative ways to express it. He had an atheist father and a devout Christian mother. When he got big enough, he made sure his father never abused his mother or her faith ever again. These pagan, science lovers, like his father before them are going to pay for trampling on true faith. Kevin has dark, ultra-right wing money ties which fund his exploits. His climactic final episode persona is as the Archangel Michael using mighty steel to protect religion. Will Kevin ever be able to access the love shared with the world by Christianity's founder?

Kevin wants to vanquish the enemies who would abuse his saintly mother and destroy the one true faith.







THE SCIENTIST



JORDAN BANNEKER, 40s, is a famous African American Physicist who brings our heroes to the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth and Space in New York City where his good friend is the director. Jordan is a top-tier science communicator who makes science relevant, understandable, and full of awe and mystery for general audiences. As a person he is charismatic, very intelligent, passionate about the universe, and smooth in demeanor. He is very funny and has something of a snarky sense of humor. He is also something of a flirt which has created a skeleton in the closet of his international persona. He cheated on his wife several years ago and had a child out of wedlock with a graduate student who had came to one of his public lectures. That grad student is the mother of Jules, the student Daniel has the most trouble with in his theater class.

Jordan want to make amends so that his moral compass becomes as strong as his universe compass.





THE SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Fredrick Douglass

In 1850s New York, Walt comes to this famous abolitionist's aid in Pfaff's Tavern when the bouncer tries to kick him out of the bar. He becomes a slave on the auction block in one of Walt's visions and challenges Walt to remove his rose colored glasses to see the pervasiveness of racism in America. He faces off with a slave owner on the battlefield of Walt's nightmare war vision.

Jules

Jordan Banneker's son and a student in Daniel's theater class. His estrangement from his father creates a fertile ground for him to act out and lash out in Daniel's class. His latest rap song that he films on his phone in Daniel's class as Daniel loses complete control of his students goes viral on YouTube.

Molini

A temple dancer who studies with Rukmini's dance guru. Under British colonial rule these impoverished dancers have lost their local patronage and have resorted to prostitution to survive. Molini is enthralled with the beauty of Rukmini's dancing and spirit but betrays her to Kevin who offered Molini protection and a new life.

EPISODE 1

KEVIN BATES, a religious zealot with multiple personality disorder, injects his own blood into the hydrogen proton stream of the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland where protons are smashed together at nearly the speed of light.

DANIEL ASH, a recently divorced teacher in a tough urban school, can barely keep a semblance of order in his classroom. He prays to God just to give him the strength to get through his shitstorm of a day. Daniel is teaching about or researching for his own inspiration three amazing artists and thinkers: poet extraordinaire, WALT WHITMAN; a classical Indian dancer from the 1930s, named RUKMINI DEVI; and contemporary Black physicist, JORDAN BANNEKER.

Daniel completely loses control of his class. In the midst of the chaos, he seems to be having a cardiac arrest but is really getting sucked into a wormhole opened up by the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

Daniel's three artist / scientist mentors all get sucked into the LHC as well.

Kevin, in different disguises in each of their lives, seems to be bi-locating. He puts chips on each of their prone bodies then follows their souls into the wormholes.

Daniel is spit out onto a dusty road. Standing over him is an old man with brown skin and weathered wrinkles wearing a turban and a white shirt. He speaks to Daniel quizzically in some foreign language.



EPISODE 2

Daniel, a disoriented, fish out of water in 1930s India, soon finds himself being taunted and mocked by young street thugs there.

The dancer with abuse in her past receives the unwanted attention of Daniel's bullying students in the hallway of his school.

The popular black scientist and atheist finds himself in an 1850s church at the funeral of an Irish cop and is blamed and confronted by a white mob.

The poet who thought he could stop the Civil War with his poems finds himself moved by a war memorial at Columbia University in the future.

None of them know what is going on, but they're each branded with a lightning tattoo on their forearm, and they're right in the middle of their own shit.

Walt powerlessly reads the names of soldiers who died in the Civil War and several wars since. Daniel is chased by young Indian thugs. Rukmini is groped by Daniel's students. And Jordan is pursued by an angry mob.



EPISODE 3

Daniel runs through a doorway in India to escape the thugs and finds himself in his high school in New Orleans.

Daniel finds the courage to face down his bullying students in defense of this beautiful dancer who turns out to be the bright star of Indian dance and who Daniel happens to have shown videos of to his students that very day.

Smiles exchange. Could there be the spark of a connection there?

At Columbia, Walt Whitman in his old timey clothes and long beard is mistaken for a Muslim terrorist in post 911 New York. He is chased by security guards and escapes into the subway system. He climbs a stairway that wormholes him back to his own time in the 1850s.

Walt meets Jordan Banneker and ducks him away from the angry mob. Jordan realizes who he's talking to and says, "Wait! I'm walking down the streets of New York with THE Walt Whitman. Pretty cool!" The two of them go down the stairs to the future and catch a subway uptown.

In his theater classroom Daniel performs a monologue that opens up a star filled portal. Rukmini and Daniel look at each other wide eyed, floating in the starry sky when a door opens revealing a blinding light and a person's silhouette. Is it Kevin?



EPISODE 4

Behind the door are Jordan and Walt. Rukmini and Daniel suddenly realize they are inside the star sphere of the Hayden Planetarium in New York. They come together and show each other their lightning tattoos.

Daniel gets a flash that he might be the glue that is holding all of them together. He was just today reading Walt's work and sharing videos of Rukmini and Jordan with his students.

Trying to understand what brought them together, they each share their dance or their poetry or their insights about the universe.

The alchemy of their connection turns a key that unlocks some great mystery, and suddenly a rainbow of colored light starts to swirl up around them. They begin levitating off the ground in ecstatic communion.

Kevin, who has been lurking off in the shadows, feels his Christian faith threatened by the power of this growing pagan/scientific coalition and bursts into the middle of their circle breaking the spell.

And with the click of a remote control, he sends each of them hurtling backwards into a personal nightmare world devised just for them.

Rukmini is thrown into a House of Mirrors and chases after the reflection of a screaming girl in a sari being dragged away by a man in his 50s. Rukmini runs after her into a church where the priest is...Kevin. He gives her a wicked smile.



EPISODE 5

Rukmini is pulled into a church pew by her parents. Kevin, wearing a priest's collar, preaches to the congregation about a sinner among them who has been swept up in a forbidden dance and the sins of the flesh.

Suddenly a mob of Christians encircles Rukmini. She tries to reason with them about the importance of the dance to Indian culture. Rukmini's students come up and start dancing the classic dance around her.

Then the music changes to hip hop, and students from Daniel's class come in and start sexy dancing with Rukmini's all too willing students. The Christian mob and her own family shout condemnations at Rukmini and pin a scarlet "A" on her sari, and they all storm out.

Rukmini moves to stop the students' lewd behavior, and Kevin as the Anglican priest grabs her forcefully and starts rubbing all up against her.

Walt comes flying out of a wormhole onto a golden chariot on an ancient battle field in India. He looks down and realizes he is wearing flowing robes and golden battle gear.

EPISODE 6

Kevin in tunic clothes and with bright blue skin walks up to Walt and hands him a bow. "I am Krishna, you are Arjuna, and we must prepare for battle." Walt's says, "No, I'm Walt, and I'm going to stop this war with my poetry!"

Looking out, Walt sees that there are people from conflicts from ancient times all the way to the present day facing off on opposite sides of the field.

Walt tries to find his poetry journal and realizes it's missing. Krishna/Kevin, who has stepped away to the battlefield edge, starts playing on his flute and reveals to Walt that he stole the journal.

Walt starts desperately trying to improvise some healing poetry to the different sides, but shots are fired and the slaying commences.

Kevin smiles and walks away while Walt grabs Fredrick Douglass' dead body on the battlefield and holds him in a pieta. Walt's convulsive tears give way to a numbed ache. Walt's lightning tattoo begins to glow.

Jordan is shot out of a wormhole and catches a mouthful of desert sand. He spits sand from his mouth then looks up to see the Burning Bush. "Jesus, a Burning Bush for an atheist? Enough with the symbolism already!"



EPISODE 7

Jordan shakes his head and rolls his eyes and then gazes into the fire.

In it he sees reflected to himself all the repercussions of his actions - his extramarital affair and what's happened to his abandoned son who happens to be Daniel's most challenging student, Jules.

Jordan sees the perfect life he's living with his other family as the lie it is.

Jordan hears something behind him and turns to see Kevin holding a sword and dressed in the blue suit and red tie of a Republican senator.

Kevin questions Jordan about whether he really believes the stuff the Burning Bush is telling him. It's just cancel culture. Jordan wants to know what's up with the sword. Kevin says he wants to use it to cut away Jordan's false vision of guilt just for being a man!

Jordan bucks up and says, "You're right! That little shit is not my responsibility. Where is he?" Kevin points with his sword to a subway entrance rising out of the desert floor. The sign reads, "Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles." Jordan runs for the entrance, determined to put an end to his problem once and for all.

Daniel, wearing a tuxedo, is sent flying out of a wormhole into a wall backstage in a theater. A woman with a headset says, "Mr. Ash, are you ready to go out there?" Daniel inquires "To do what?" "Um...to receive your Oscar!"



EPISODE 8

Kevin, as the MC at the Academy Awards, announces, "And here to receive an achievement award for excellence in teaching acting is Daniel Ash."

But the honoring quickly turns to mocking when Daniel sees that Kevin has hired his students to perform a reenactment of the chaotic class which led to his cardiac collapse.

Daniel steps up to the podium to begin his acceptance speech, the mike gives a high pitched squeal, then the rubber Oscar droops in his hand. The audience now openly laughs at Daniel, and he looks out speechless.

Daniel's one trick strategy of trying to please people and charm his way through any difficulty is overwhelmed by an avalanche of humiliation and disdain coming at him from Kevin, his students, the audience, and the world.

Daniel's soul is about to have a heart attack which will cause him to be lost in the wormhole world forever. Just then the lightning tattoo on his forearm starts to pulse.

Rukmini struggles to escape from Kevin's grabbing hands. Jordan paces on the subway with clenched fists. A doe-eyed Daniel stands at the podium with his drooping Oscar. Kevin in blue face plays his flute as Walt lays devastated in the bloody battlefield.

Each of their lightning tattoos are pulsing brighter and brighter.



EPISODE 9

The tattoos seem to jump start our four misfit heroes into solving their personal equations and taking the actions needed to end their nightmares.

Filled with the power of the dancing god, Shiva, Rukmini stomps Kevin's foot then transforms the sexual chaos of the students into a Bollywood / Hip Hop dance fusion lesson. Daniel grows a pair at the Academy Awards podium; he spirals down into his toes and speaks his truth to Kevin and the audience. Instead of "ending" his son, a self satisfied Jordan claims Jules as his own in front of the whole world on Oscar Night. But Walt still wallows in despair amongst the dead on the irredeemable battlefield.

The lightning tattoos pulse even stronger, and then flying horses with lightning painted on their legs and bodies suddenly appear and pick up our heroes and carry them off to gather in a circle outside a Native American teepee in 1890s South Dakota.

Kevin leaves through the backstage area and calls someone named "Q." Kevin tells him that he's moving on to Plan B.

The Sioux Medicine Man, BLACK ELK, is there at the teepee and reveals to them that he was the one who brought them through the wormhole to help him reenact his vision.

They go inside the teepee, and Black Elk gives each of them gifts for the journey.

They hear gunfire outside. Black Elk knows in his soul that Kevin has started something monstrous and irreversible. "No, Kevin, No!"



EPISODE 10

Black Elk goes outside the teepee and sees his people collapsing from gunshot wounds. He knows that Kevin has started the chain of events which has led to the Massacre at Wounded Knee.

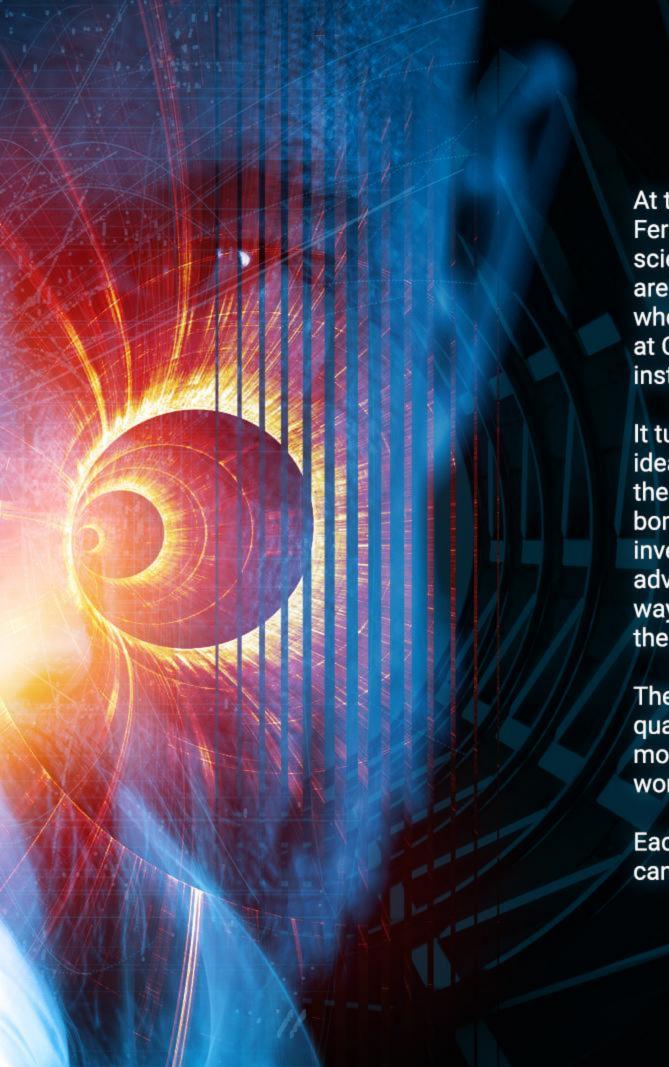
Brought to his knees by this deadly blow to the Lakota, Black Elk will not receive a helping hand extended by Daniel whose people are to blame.

Jordan helps Black Elk up, and they all fly on horseback to meet Kevin who is equipped with Tony Stark style battle armor and the metallic wings and sword of the Archangel Michael.

Kevin pins all of them to the ground by activating their mind control chips, but Daniel is somehow unaffected. Daniel digs down deep and taps into a Force Within that allows him to meet this challenge alone.

Daniel collapses exhausted after winning the fight. He wakes up on the floor of his classroom unfettered by his own self criticism and fears. Stunned that he is waking to find an easeful and joyful heart connection with his students and everyone there, he orchestrates a beautiful, Bollywood dance number.





NEXT SEASON AND BEYOND

At the start of the 1st episode of season 2, Jordan and Daniel are eating breakfast at a hotel in the town of Ferney-Voltaire in France near the Swiss border talking through the lecture the two of them are going to give to scientists at CERN. Micro Quantum anomalies start happening. Daniel throws his napkin in the trash as they are leaving and unknown to them, the napkin disappears from the trash and reappears back on the table where they had been eating and then disappears again. They take a taxi and are about to walk into a building at CERN, and the whole CERN facility just ... disappears. What materializes in its place is a Christian, religious institute. They look at each other and say "Kevin!"

It turns out that Kevin has gone back in time to prevent Niels Bohr and Einstein from ever formulating their ideas about Quantum Mechanics, so that humans can stay with the Newtonian view of the universe in which the traditional view of God makes absolute sense. Without these two geniuses there'd likely be no nuclear bombs, no Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also no cell phones and even no internet because the internet was invented at CERN. Jordan realizes that he and Daniel are the only ones who can do something to return these advances in insight to humanity. Daniel says, "Only if we go back and get Rukmini and Walt." Jordan devises a way for them to go back in time, by choice this time, to reunite the gang and to stop Kevin from meddling with the fabric of space-time in an effort to keep religion strong and thriving.

These little quantum anomalies keep happening to Daniel and Jordan, and when they get back in time, these quantum disturbances are happening around Rukmini and Walt as well. The disturbances grow more and more egregious, and our heroes realize that if they don't get to Kevin and stop him soon, the entire physical world will start acting as weird as the Quantum world, and life as we know it will cease to be.

Each season there could be some mission around which the team reassembles, and a problem arises that can only be solved by the team going back through the wormhole.

THE CREATOR

CASEY GROVES

Just like the main character of COLLISIONS, Casey is a high school theater teacher, writer, and actor. He wrote a one man play called SEELOS: DOCTOR OF SOULS which he toured nationally in 2013. The filmed version of the Seelos play has aired 40 times on WYES, the New Orleans PBS station, since 2014. Casey's television acting credits include roles on LAW & ORDER, DAMAGES, AS THE WORLD TURNS and recurring roles as Mr. Roach in the upcoming Apple TV series, BLACKBIRD, and on ABC's ASTRONAUT WIVES CLUB and on ONE LIFE TO LIVE. Film projects include THE BIG SHORT, I SAW THE LIGHT, LBJ, ONE MILE TO YOU, and supporting lead roles in the feature films, A QUIET STORM and HELP! MY GUMSHOE'S AN IDIOT. Other recent professional theatre credits include the role of Pontius Pilate in 24 HOURS IN THE LIFE OF PONTIUS PILATE at Dillard University's Cooke Theatre as well as lead roles in HAMLET, THE TEMPEST, MERRY WIVES, AND ROMEO AND JULIET with the Shakespeare Festival at Tulane, THE TEMPEST and EQUUS with Promethean Theatre, LOMBARDI and DEATH OF A SALESMAN at Le Petit Theatre, and HOGAN'S GOAT and A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN with Inner Compass Theatre. Casey's other original plays include a mythic docudrama called EXCAVATING KATRINA and a Japanese Noh play in English about the bombing of Nagasaki called THE WISE MAN OF NYOKODO.

In addition to writing the TV pilot COLLISIONS, Casey is finishing up the first draft of a screenplay called FLIPPING THE HOUSE which is a political version of FREAKY FRIDAY.

His IMDB page can be accessed here.

