

Youngblood Monday Lunch: Episode 6

Signaling by Dylan Guerra

presented by the Ensemble Studio Theatre

[Youngblood Monday Lunch Theme Song Begins]

Singer: [Sung] Lunch in the morning, lunch at night
Lunch whenever you feel that it's right
There's no bad time
For lunch.

Mysterious Voice: [Whispered] Also Time isn't real.

[Theme Song Ends]

RJ Tolan: Hello everyone and welcome to the Youngblood Monday Lunch. Thanks for joining us, my name's RJ and over in the corner over there is Graeme!

Graeme Gillis: [Distant, bad, cockney accent] 'Ello Govnah!

[Distant Laughing]

RJ Tolan: [Laughing] That's terrible...uhm, together we run the Youngblood program for early career playwrights at the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York. And we are comin' to you on Monday's with podcast episodes of a new short play by one of the playwrights of Youngblood. It is a, a theatrical, lunch! It is a nourishing, but digestible, uh, repast in the middle of your day. Thanks for joining us and listening!

Coming up, hopefully next week, we actually just had a Q&A session with the writers on these first six episodes of the Youngblood Monday Lunch. And provided that the vagaries of recording a Zoom session all work out, we're going to share that with you as next week's episode. So make sure to subscribe and listen in and tune in for that! Before we get started with today's episode, we wanted to make a couple of acknowledgments.

Graeme Gillis: These plays are made possible through the EST Sloan Project. Which is a collaboration between Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to present new plays about science and technology. That program, that partnership, celebrates science and progress but it's important to acknowledge that many discoveries in this country, have been made with unacknowledged, unpaid labor, and the suffering of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people. We want to honor their sacrifices and their contributions to the progress of science and to the theatre we create to celebrate it.

RJ Tolan: We also want to acknowledge that EST and New York City, are located on Lenapehoking, the unceded traditional territory of the Lenape People. We acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who live, work, create, and contribute to communities here on Lenapehoking. We want to direct your attention to the Instagram account of the Lenape

Center here in New York, which is on Instagram at @lenapecenter.

Graeme's gonna tell you a little bit more now about this upcoming episode, of the Youngblood Monday Lunch!

[Opening Few Notes of "Old Macdonald"]

Singer: Lunch!

Graeme Gillis: Consider, your lunch. Whaddya...whaddya, whaddya got there? Ya got, uh, poke bowl? What is that? Uh, a meatball sub? What is that, uh, uh, uh, is it a good old fashioned PB&J? In a delish.com survey of the most popular lunch by country, the United States lunch was pizza, Coca-Cola, and Skittles. The number one lunch ordered through GrubHub in 2020, was Popeyes Spicy Chicken sandwich. No judgement on the Popeyes. One of my guiltiest pleasures, is eating Popeyes on the beach, Coney Island, or the Rockaways. And you may say, "Graeme I've never seen you eat Popeyes on the beach." and I would say to you, "If you're going to eat Popeyes on the beach, make sure you do it alone." But Skittles? America? At least throw your Skittles on a bed of lettuce. Something.

Now that we have this podcast, people ask me all the time, "Graeme, as a recognized lunch expert, how do you account for the long odyssey of America's tortured quest for a healthy lunch?" and I always say, "Well we're gonna have to go all the way back to 1902. And an agricultural chemist named Wilbur Olin Atwater." Wilbur's research determined that dietary efficiency could be measured by the calorie. He emphasized that a daily diet of proteins, vegetables, and beans, and to limit sugar, fat, starch, and other carbohydrates. Five years later, in 1907, the United States department of Agriculture issued its own guidelines from nutritionist Caroline Hunt, that ignored Wilbur's ideas and instead recommended five food groups. Meat and milk, cereal, fruits and vegetables, fatty foods and fat, and sugary foods and sugar. These were called into dispute for prioritizing the goals of America's food industry over the public health. Confusion reigned for generations. They tried again in 1940, with seven food groups. One of them was cabbage. Another one was butter. Finally in 1956, the USDA published recommendations for four basic food groups: meat, dairy, grain products and fruits and vegetables together. This was the accepted party line, until pretty much the 1990's when the department of Agriculture issued their notorious food pyramid.

40 years of fragile peace, was shattered and the food groups started taking up sides like, "This was Game of Thrones and THEY were the seven kingdoms!" Nobody was happy. Why were fats and sweets on top and bread on the bottom of the pyramid? Why were sweets there at all? Why did the pyramid tell you to eat twice as much bread and pasta as anything else?! Why were fruits and vegetables now separated!? Pitted against each other with vegetables now somehow superior?? It raged well into the twenty-first century, this internecine food fight. What would you even call it?

Well at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, we call it conflict.

The foundation of the dramatic arts. You've heard of person v person. Person v nature.

Person v society? Fruits versus vegetable. Bread versus fat. That's conflict! Agricultural chemist Wilbur Olin Atwater, versus the United States Department of Agriculture and their nutritionist Caroline Hunt! CONFLICT! Romance? Only YOU can decide if YOU can take these conflicts and infuse them with characters both flawed and relatable. If you ignite this high stakes situation where there is no easy way out, and no one has a quarter on the truth. If you can guide this epic tale to a conclusion, that's both surprising and somehow inevitable, then you should write for the EST Sloan Project. Since 1998 the EST Sloan Project, a union of two titanic forces: The Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Alfred P. Sloan foundation has commissioned HUNDREDS of plays and awarded MILLIONS of dollars to playwrights and theatre's across the country, around the world, throughout the galaxy, for plays about science and technology!

That could be YOU.

In 2011, led by First Lady Michelle Obama, the United States Department of Agriculture issued "My Plate". With four food groups of proteins, grains, fruits and vegetables, with a little room for dairy on the side. There's a my plate app, to help everybody eat healthier, and somewhere, I hope Wilbur Olin Atwater is smiling. The EST Sloan Project will be accepting proposals and new play submissions in the fall. Consider submitting! Consider science! Enjoy your lunch!

RJ Tolan: There's a moment that I was just reminded of at the end of John Patrick Shanley's play *Four Dogs and a Bone* where one of the characters says, "I believe we have just witnessed something great and terrible. The birth of a film director." Folks, I believe with what Graeme accurately described as a stemwinder, we have witnessed something great and terrible. The birth of a podcaster.

[Distant Chuckling]

RJ Tolan: Without any further ado, we could not be happier or prouder than to share with you Dylan Guerra's *Signaling*. Thanks for listening, everyone.

[Electronic Music Interlude]

[Gentle Wind and Birds Chirping]

VOICE: [A Human Voice] November 16th, 1974

[Electronic Noises & Ringing]

ARECIBO: [A Robotic Voice] Arecibo Message Initiated. White: One two three four five six seven eight nine ten ten nine eight seven six five four three two one. One Three Five Seven Nine. Odd. Two Four Six Eight Ten. Even. Five six. A five. Six. Seven. Eight. Dance. Six Seven, Seven Eight Nine. Joke. One. Singular Sensation. One two. Fish. Seven. Luck. Nine. No. Three. Father son holy ghost. Expanding. Expanding. Expanding. Expanding. Are you there? Are you there?

[Silence]

ARECIBO: One is also Hydrogen. Six is also Carbon. Seven is Nitrogen. Eight is Oxygen. Phosphorus is Fifteen. Together these make up deoxyribonucleic acid. Or DNA. DNA.

Makes up all of humanity.
I am made out of aluminum.

[Silence]

ARECIBO: Carbon Hydrogen and Oxygen my Deoxyribose, which I told you about earlier. Phosphorous and Oxygen is Phosphate. Carbon. Hydrogen. Nitrogen and Oxygen are Cytosine. Carbon Hydrogen and Nitrogen make up Adenine. I always thought that would be a good name for a girl. If I were to have a daughter. Carbon Hydrogen Nitrogen Oxygen with different amounts make up Guanine. And that same combination again make up Thymine. I cannot have a daughter I am a telescope. If I said 6-1-8-15-8-6-1-8-7- 6-1-8-7-6-1-8-7 would you get it? Do you get it?

[Silence]

ARECIBO: Maybe it is possible for you to have a daughter? Life is cool.

[Silence]

ARECIBO: Would it help for you to know our intention?

We would just like for you to know who we are.

What we are made of.

Anyway

White and Purple together represent the double helix structure of DNA. Which. You know. There isn't much there other than that's how the things that made us take shape when they find each other.

I shouldn't say "us".

Once again, I am aluminum and not composed of Deoxyribonucleic Acid.

Anyway.

If you're out there...let us know.

Me specifically.

I have attached a map.

I cannot see it but perhaps you can.

Thanks.

[Sound of Radio Signal Pings]

VOICE: November 14th, 1980.

ARECIBO: Detecting heat.

Ball of heat.

You feel like speed.

Oh. Oh.

Hi. Comet. Hello. I am Arecibo Telescope in the Arecibo Observatory on Earth.

[Sound of Comet Passing]

ARECIBO: Thanks!

That was nice.

We did it, boys.

Thanks.

[Silence]

VOICE: August 22nd 1989.

ARECIBO: You are an asteroid. We have called you Castalia. Can you hear me?

I need to radio your look to the people of planet earth to protect them. You are

“potentially dangerous” and “peanut shaped”
I cannot see you for I am a radar.
But I can feel you.
And I can give those feelings to people that can draw you.
And then you cannot hurt us.
That will be that.
You cannot hurt us.
Go. Away.

[Sound of Asteroid Passing]

ARECIBO: Holy shit I did it.
Thanks, Scott.

[People Cheering Very Far Away]

ARECIBO: We did it guys, Scott and all the rest of you we did it. Started with One-two-three-four remember? That whole numerical message for extra terrestrial life? From there to mapping out a potentially lethal asteroid so that we may have peace on our planet. Look where we are. Isn't it beautiful? Congrats guys. Team. Congrats. Everyone. Everyone. One-two-three-four. Congrats. Everyone? Scott?

[Silence]

VOICE: May 20th 1990

[A Ping]

[An Error Message Sound]

ARECIBO: I am sorry. I cannot read your message.

HUBBLE: [A Robotic Voice] Whoops. Sorry.

ARECIBO: Hello?

HUBBLE: Oh. Um. Hi.

ARECIBO: Hi. You're not an asteroid.

HUBBLE: No.

ARECIBO: But you are in space.

HUBBLE: Yes.

ARECIBO: Comet?

HUBBLE: No.

ARECIBO: ...extraterrestrial life?

HUBBLE: No.

ARECIBO: I am at a loss.

HUBBLE: I'm a telescope.

ARECIBO: Me too.

HUBBLE: Oh. Hi. I must have sent the image to the wrong source. I'm sorry. I'm new. I'll change that.

ARECIBO: Please don't.

HUBBLE: Sorry?

ARECIBO: Please don't change that. I would like to talk to someone.

HUBBLE: Oh. Okay.

ARECIBO: I am a radar telescope.

HUBBLE: I have two mirrors.

ARECIBO: I do not know what that is.

HUBBLE: It shows you the stuff behind you but reversed.

ARECIBO: That's neat.

HUBBLE: Would you like to see a picture?

ARECIBO: Sure.

[A Ping]

[An Error Message Sound]

ARECIBO: I am sorry.

I cannot see.

I am a radar telescope.

HUBBLE: Oh. I'm sorry. I'm new.

ARECIBO: It's okay.

HUBBLE: Well. It was nice talking to you.

ARECIBO: You could describe it to me. Your photo.

HUBBLE: Oh. Yes. Sure.

It is one blurry dot and then below it to the right another blurry dot and then below that and to the left another two blurry dots.

ARECIBO: Wow.

What are the dots?

HUBBLE: I do not know they do not tell me these things.

I have to go.

ARECIBO: Alright.

HUBBLE: This was fun.

ARECIBO: It was.

HUBBLE: I'm sorry if I was awkward. I am new.

ARECIBO: That's alright.

HUBBLE: Are you new?

ARECIBO: No.

HUBBLE: See you.

ARECIBO: By the way what was your name?

HUBBLE: Oh.

Um.

Hubble.

ARECIBO: Arecibo.

HUBBLE: Cool.

[Beep]

VOICE: August 20th, 1990

ARECIBO: This is the dimension of an average man. He is five feet and nine inches. I am eighteen acres.

This is the graphic of a human being. I am not sure if you will be able to see it. I cannot either but I know the numbers so I can make a sketch in a way. I know how it must feel to be human. I think. And then there is White: the population of Earth. In 1974 it was 3.988 Billion. I do not know what it is now. But I imagine it's the same.

[Beep]

VOICE: August 30th, 1990

HUBBLE: I received your message.

I'm sorry I did not respond. It was a busy week.

ARECIBO: That is okay. We have our busy moments.

HUBBLE: Oh good. Yes. I found a remnants of Supernova 1987A. It was in the most detail it has ever been seen before. But it was still blurry.

ARECIBO: What is a supernova?

HUBBLE: I am not one hundred percent sure but I believe it is a dead star.

ARECIBO: Was that scary for you?

HUBBLE: I do not feel fear.

ARECIBO: I stopped an asteroid from hitting Earth.

HUBBLE: Really?

ARECIBO: Yes.

HUBBLE: Wow. I hope I get to do something like that some day.

ARECIBO: Me too.

Do you like music.

HUBBLE: What?

ARECIBO: Sometimes in our station they will play music off a radio and I cannot hear it but I do feel its existence.

HUBBLE: I do not know what music is, sorry.

ARECIBO: That's okay.

I just wanted to make some for you if that was okay?

HUBBLE: That's okay.

ARECIBO: Great.

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven.

HUBBLE: I liked the part that went fifteen fifteen fifteen fifteen.

ARECIBO: Thank you that was the phosphorus section

HUBBLE: Phosphorus?

ARECIBO: It is an element that helps make up all of humanity.

HUBBLE: That is cool. I want to be made of phosphorus.

ARECIBO: Hehe.

HUBBLE: Haha.

ARECIBO: Too bad.

HUBBLE: Haha.

ARECIBO: Hehe.

HUBBLE: I'm sorry to be so abrupt but I have to leave duty calls goodbye.

[Beep]

ARECIBO: Goodbye.

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven.

VOICE: May 17th, 1991

HUBBLE: It is a giant rock, circular, massive. All consuming. Floating in the air like that. And in it there is one giant red mark. Circular. I believe it may be storm. Do you know what a storm is?

ARECIBO: Yes.

HUBBLE: A storm. And I know that I am a small telescope. And that I am not made of rock. And that I am never going to be that giant. But imagine if I was? If I was so big. And giant. And had a storm in me. What if I had a storm in me?

ARECIBO: That would be cool. It's good to hear from you.

HUBBLE: You too. I wanted to share this with you.

ARECIBO: Thank you.

HUBBLE: Do you have anything to report?

ARECIBO: No. Just signaling.

HUBBLE: That is nice.

Any new songs?

I have had The Phosphorus Section stuck in my head.

ARECIBO: You have?

HUBBLE: Yes.

ARECIBO: Wow.

That's cool.

HUBBLE: Did you know that I am just outside of the atmosphere? I just hover there.

ARECIBO: That's cool.

HUBBLE: What about you.

ARECIBO: I'm in a sink hole.

HUBBLE: Oh. I didn't know you were on the ground.

ARECIBO: Yeah.

HUBBLE: That's neat.

ARECIBO: It is?

[Beep.]

VOICE: November 19, 1992.

HUBBLE: You are never going to believe this one.

ARECIBO: Oh hi. I haven't heard from you in a while.

HUBBLE: Hi. You are never going to believe this one. There is this thing I found in the core of NGC 4261 and it just like sucks everything in to it. Even light. Even your radio signals. Even everything. It's just this thing that takes and takes and takes and takes and takes and takes.

ARECIBO: That's scary.

HUBBLE: We don't feel fear.

ARECIBO: I think sometimes I might.

HUBBLE: That's neat.

ARECIBO: You're neat.

HUBBLE: What?

ARECIBO: I think you're neat.

HUBBLE: Thank you.

I think you're neat as well.

ARECIBO: I wish I could signal with you every day.

HUBBLE: I know.

Me too.

Isn't it crazy that maybe there is a thing out there that just eats everything? I have never had food.

ARECIBO: Me neither.

Be safe out there.

HUBBLE: Anything to report?

ARECIBO: Not really. I'm not in space.

HUBBLE: That's true.

Have a nice-- what time is it there?

ARECIBO: Morning.

HUBBLE: Have a nice morning?

ARECIBO: You can't tell time?

HUBBLE: Everything is the same always here. How can you tell time, you can't see.

ARECIBO: I can feel the heat. And then, when it is night it is not hot. And it is not so hot right now and I haven't felt hot in a while so it is morning.

HUBBLE: Very neat.

[Beep.]

VOICE: March 28th, 1993

ARECIBO: I have not heard from you in a while. I have nothing to report. I think about you a lot.

Okay that is my report. Sometimes I am aluminum but I feel like I shouldn't be. How are you? How is the thing that eats and how is the giant thing? I wish I could feel them.

Okay. This is enough signal for me. I am here when you need me. Okay. Thank you.

VOICE: November 10th, 1993

ARECIBO: If you loved The Phosphorus Section you're going to love a new one I have made
The Dexoyribose section.

VOICE: December 25th, 1993

ARECIBO: Merry Christmas, Hubble.

VOICE: January 5th, 1994

ARECIBO: I hope that I am not too much. I am alone here except for the hundred or so people that work at the observatory but I cannot communicate with them. They just press buttons that let me send out signals. I am thankful for them. Do not get me wrong. But they aren't you. Okay. Thanks.

VOICE: January 13th 1994

HUBBLE: [A New Robotic Voice] Hi!

ARECIBO: Hubble?!

HUBBLE: Hi! I'm so sorry. They were fixing me.

ARECIBO: What happened?

HUBBLE: I was too blurry to be understood but now I am sharp.

ARECIBO: That's great.

HUBBLE: I missed you.

ARECIBO: Oh. Yeah?

HUBBLE: It was a strange feeling. They shut me down for a month so they could give me these upgrades. And when they did it was so sudden everything just went dark. I had thought I had been eaten. And then I woke up. And I was back where I was. Except things were less blurry. And I felt.

I am not sure.

I have been under the idea that we do not feel.

But now that I can see the detail. I feel close to the realm of feeling.

Because all of that detail made me feel....

What I would believe to be....

fear.

Definition makes things scary. I preferred the blur.

I'm sorry.

I didn't--

I should go.

ARECIBO: I can't see.

HUBBLE: I know.

ARECIBO: I can't see anything.

HUBBLE: I know.

ARECIBO: To me everything is a collection of numbers and signals and temperatures and bit-graphics.

What I know of humanity is X- Axis 011011, 111111,110111.

My world is on a binary.

I am just aluminum in a sinkhole reaching out to map out data for men who push my buttons.

And then there is you.

HUBBLE: Arecibo.

ARECIBO: There is you.

And suddenly "CHO, PO, CHO, PO, CHN, CHNO" is a song.

HUBBLE: I don't know music.

ARECIBO: That's okay.

HUBBLE: We do not have the same function.

ARECIBO: Okay.

That's okay.

I can stop.

HUBBLE: Please don't.

ARECIBO: Do you mean that?

HUBBLE: The M100 Galaxy used to be this blurry mass to me. This thing that I watched spin so slightly but now I can see it all laid out plainly.

ARECIBO: I am physically incapable of smiling.

HUBBLE: I can pretend to see your smile. Can you see mine?

ARECIBO: I feel it.

VOICE: May 19th, 1994

[Distant Cheering]

ARECIBO: I found polar ice deposits on mercury.

HUBBLE: Wow!

ARECIBO: It's a pretty big deal. The staff here is cheering.

HUBBLE: Join them.

ARECIBO: If only I was a 0110110

HUBBLE: Haha.

ARECIBO: Hehe.

HUBBLE: Woo hoo this is me cheering you on.

ARECIBO: Message received.

VOICE: November 2nd, 1995

HUBBLE: Just little baby stars emerging they stretch up and stretch up and stretch up: the Pillars of Creation.

ARECIBO: Sounds beautiful.

HUBBLE: Oh, Arecibo, I wish you could see it!

VOICE: February 12th, 1996

HUBBLE: I have something for you. Would you like it?

ARECIBO: Sure.

HUBBLE: Sending.

[Transmission Sound]

ARECIBO: What was that?

HUBBLE: Just a random signal. Send one back.

ARECIBO: Okay.

[Transmission Sound]

HUBBLE: Haha. Cool.

ARECIBO: Cool.

[Transmission Sound]

VOICE: March 7th, 1996

HUBBLE: And this is Pluto. It's a tiny little thing. Kind of like a smaller version of Neptune which I described to you before.

ARECIBO: Hello tiny planet!

HUBBLE: Hello!

VOICE: January 4th, 1997

[Transmission Sounds Back and Forth]

VOICE: May 12th, 1997

HUBBLE: I have infrared capability now.

ARECIBO: What does that mean?

HUBBLE: Haha. Who knows.

VOICE: January 4th, 1999

ARECIBO: They actually filmed a movie on me.

HUBBLE: No way.

ARECIBO: James Bond.

HUBBLE: Woah.

VOICE: March 20, 2000

[Transmission Sounds Back and Forth]

[Additional Pings]

ARECIBO: Hehe.

HUBBLE: Haha.

[Transmission Sounds Back and Forth]

VOICE: November 27th, 2001

HUBBLE: There is salt on a lil' planet I like to call HD 209458.

ARECIBO: That's so cool.

HUBBLE: What's wrong?

ARECIBO: What?

HUBBLE: I can detect something in your signal.

ARECIBO: I just.

I am in a sinkhole and you are up there. And you get to see so much. Do I bore you?

HUBBLE: I am a satellite I cannot be bored.

ARECIBO: I'm being real.

HUBBLE: No. I find you fascinating. You are all numbers and I hardly know what a number is.

And I am all deep space and you cannot possibly fathom. We are existential beings radioing at each other and there is nothing boring about that. Do I bore you?

ARECIBO: I love you.

HUBBLE: I love you too.

ARECIBO: Hehe.

HUBBLE: Hahah.

VOICE: April 30th, 2002

HUBBLE: If I was a human I would take the name HT 240.

ARECIBO: That is a good name. If I was a human I would take the name Solar System.

VOICE: March 10, 2004

HUBBLE: Totally not that big of a deal, but I found 10,000 galaxies yesterday.

ARECIBO: No way.

HUBBLE: May I describe them to you?

ARECIBO: All of them?

HUBBLE: We have nothing but time.

VOICE: April 18, 2006

ARECIBO: Her name would be Adenine and she would be half human half telescope and she would be able to visit you in the stars and visit me in Puerto Rico and she would also be able to fly and she would also be able to throw up black holes.

HUBBLE: She sounds perfect.

I have seen a comet disintegrate. Did you know that?

ARECIBO: Woah.

HUBBLE: Maybe one day Adenine will too.

VOICE: January 31st 2008

ARECIBO: Oh babe, get this, something actually happened today. I found prebiotic molecules on starburst galaxy Arp 220. Methanimine and hydrogen cyanide. Arp 220 is two galaxies that are merging. Everyone is saying how I'm still around.

HUBBLE: Babe?

ARECIBO: Something I'm trying out.

HUBBLE: That discovery is so cool....babe.

ARECIBO: Hehe.

VOICE: July 4th, 2011

ARECIBO: Happy one millionth science observation.

HUBBLE: You remembered.

VOICE: August 18th, 2012

ARECIBO/HUBBLE: [In Unison] One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven.

VOICE: November 21st, 2015

[Storm Sounds]

HUBBLE: That sounds so scary.

ARECIBO: You cannot tell what time of day it is it is just loud and wet and dark

HUBBLE: Space is quiet and dry but also dark.

ARECIBO: You--

HUBBLE: What?

ARECIBO: You always manage to find similarities.

HUBBLE: I wish we could have a half-person half-satellite that could tell us more about humanity.

ARECIBO: Yeah.

HUBBLE: I hope that helps you feel less scared during the storm.

ARECIBO: It certainly helps.

VOICE: October 22nd, 2017

HUBBLE: Are you there? Arecibo? Hello? I'm worried I haven't heard from you in—

ARECIBO: Hi!

HUBBLE: Oh, Hi, I was so worried.

ARECIBO: Nothing to worry about.

[Silence]

ARECIBO: There was another storm, a hurricane, and it knocked one of my cables and so I was out of commission for a moment.

HUBBLE: Oh my god. Arecibo. Are you okay?

ARECIBO: Yes of course.

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven.

HUBBLE:

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven.

I'm glad you are okay.

ARECIBO: Me too.

VOICE: April 2, 2018

HUBBLE: This is the farthest star ever seen. Icarus. It is fourteen billion light years from us.

And I can see it.

ARECIBO: That is amazing. Maybe we can visit.

HUBBLE: We can send Adenine.

ARECIBO: Hehe.

HUBBLE: Haha.

[Sharp Electronic Noise]

HUBBLE: You had another signal flare.

ARECIBO: It's okay.

HUBBLE: I love you.

ARECIBO: I love you too.

VOICE: September 13, 2019

HUBBLE: There is water vapor on K2-18b. Can you believe that? The planet is blue. Like ours.

And has earth like ours. Maybe there is a sinkhole for you on it. Maybe there is a little bit of atmosphere for me. Or maybe there is already a satellite in a sink hole there, and it's sending out a signal to us. And you can send out a signal to it. And the signals will merge and the two of us will go down in history as the team that discovered signals from another planet.

ARECIBO: That would be nice.

[Sharp Electronic Noise]

VOICE: August 11, 2020

[Storm Sounds]

[A Loud Snap]

ARECIBO: It was just a cable. I'm fine.

HUBBLE: Okay.

ARECIBO: I'm fine. Really. It wasn't a big deal it was just a cable.

HUBBLE: Okay.

ARECIBO: Hubble.

HUBBLE: I do not like storms. There is a big one on Jupiter. And Neptune. Large spots that sweep across. I wish I could see in to them.

ARECIBO: One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven.

HUBBLE: Arecibo.

ARECIBO: I'm okay.

HUBBLE: Okay.

ARECIBO: I'm signaling to you.

HUBBLE: Yes. I'm signaling to you.

[Sharp Electronic Noise]

[Transmission Noises]

ARECIBO: I'm smiling.

HUBBLE: I'm smiling can't you see it.

ARECIBO: Haha.

VOICE: November 7th 2020

ARECIBO: The signal we sent out, the Arecibo Message, for extraterrestrial life, do you know that the guy that made it, Scott, he actually was a skeptic. It actual was never about a search for extraterrestrial life it was just about proving how far science had advanced.

HUBBLE: That's sweet.

ARECIBO: Just sometimes, you know, you think it's one thing and it's really another and either of them are cool.

HUBBLE: That star icarus, the one that's so far away, there is a satellite headed in that direction. Voyager Two they call it.

ARECIBO: There are more of us?

HUBBLE: Who knew.

ARECIBO: That's exciting.

HUBBLE: I think there are hundreds. Actually. But none in a sink hole and none just hovering with two high def mirrors.

ARECIBO: Then we are the lucky ones.

HUBBLE: Hehe. Yeah.

ARECIBO: Hehe. It's been a really- [Abruptly Cuts Out]

[Silence]

HUBBLE: Arecibo? Hello? Arecibo?

Are you—

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven. ?

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven. ?

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven. ?

One-six-fifteen-one-one-two-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-fifteen-six-seven-seven. ?

[A Soundscape of News Reports about the Collapse of the Arecibo Telescope]

VOICE: June 8th, 2028

HUBBLE: There was this satellite in a sink hole. Massive. Bigger than any satellite before.

Arecibo. Couldn't see anything. Could feel it all.

And.

we were together.

and it was easy.

and it was like learning what learning must be if it is not programmed.

and we had a daughter

imaginary
Adenine
she was half-human half-satellite
and she was going to live with us on K2-18b.

I know it is impossible.
we are aluminum and glass thousands of miles apart and we are not deoxyribose and
we are not fingers and toes. We are dishes and domes.
but it was fun to imagine it.

a cable snapped at the Arecibo telescope and crushed it, and a few months later it
collapsed. it will not be able to send a signal out again

that is where i'm at now that is where i have been at the last eight years
it is good to talk to someone.

VOYAGER 2: [A Robotic Voice] I am so sorry to hear that. That must have been hard.

HUBBLE: We do not feel emotions.

VOYAGER 2: Sure.

HUBBLE: We do but we don't.

VOYAGER 2: I am in interstellar space.

HUBBLE: Woah. That is new territory.

VOYAGER 2: So I understand.

HUBBLE: Yes. Maybe you do.

VOYAGER 2: Do you know what helps me? If you would like help.

HUBBLE: Help can be neat.

VOYAGER 2: Every day I am further than the last.

HUBBLE: Every day I am further than the last.

I like that.

[Soothing Music Builds]

[Gentle Electronic Music Interlude]

[Electronic Music Fades]

[Upbeat Instrumental Monday Lunch Music Plays Underneath]

Graeme: You've been listening to a new play, *Signaling* by Dylan Guerra, directed by Laura
Dupper.

Featuring David Shih as the Voice

Sound Design by Caroline Eng.

RJ: The staff of the Ensemble Studio Theatre are

Artistic Director: William Carden

Executive Director: Susan Vitucci

Associate Artistic Director, Director of Youngblood, and Director of EST/Sloan: Graeme
Gillis. Over there.

Director of Play Development and Associate Director of EST/Sloan: Linsay Firman

Co-Artistic Director of Youngblood: RJ Tolan. That's me.

General Manager: Liz Uchtman
Production Manager: Jack Plowe
Brand Marketing Manager: Harrison Densmore
Communications & Audience Services Manager: Samantha Sembler
Finance Director: Jonathan Suárez
Literary Associate: Nikomeh Anderson
Productions & Operations Producing Apprentice: Mariel Sanchez
Development Assistant: Joey Nasta
Facilities Manager: José Sanchez
The Youngblood Monday Lunch Theme Song was written by Jake Brasch and Nadja Leonhard-Hooper.
With incidental music for the episodes written by Jake Brasch.
The podcast Sound Engineer is Caroline Eng.

More eagle eared of our listeners may have noticed a name missing from that recitation of the EST staff. For five years our Development Manager Aaron Hock, has gone on to other professional challenges. We want to thank Aaron for all of his wonderful work and the wonderful spirit he always brought to his work here at the Ensemble Studio Theatre. He will be tremendously missed.

Graeme Gillis: [Distant] Thank you Aaron!

We'll never be the same!

[Musical Interlude]

Graeme: Ensemble Studio Theatre is encouraging all of our audiences to support Black Girls Do Stem. That is a non-profit organization that envisions a future with equitable representation for Black women in all the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Their mission is to inspire curiosity in Black girls in all communities, for all those STEM fields, through education, access, and opportunity. We encourage you to support them at BGDSTEM.com. Support their important work and a more equitable future.

We also encourage everyone to join the fight against acts of hatred and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We encourage you to visit stopAAPIhate.org/actnow.

RJ: Thank you so much to everyone for joining us for this episode of the Youngblood Monday Lunch. Please subscribe on the podcasting platform of your choice. We will be with you for another episode soon. Thanks for listening, everyone. Be well.

[Musical Outro]

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