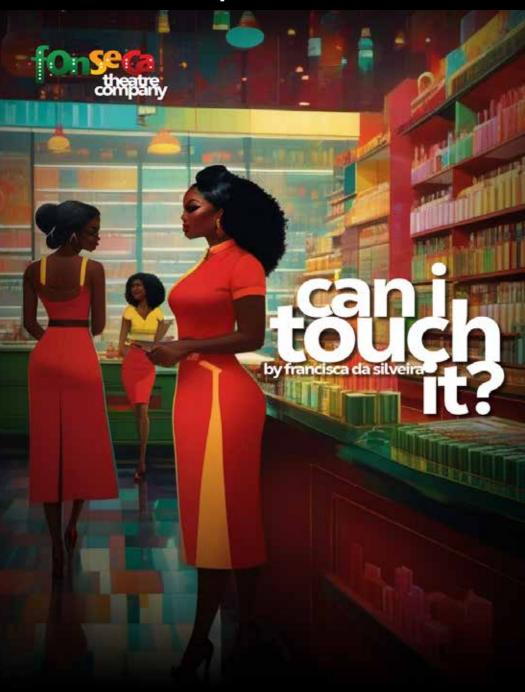
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# A Note from the Producing Director



I have a confession.

I've had my eye on producing can i touch it? since the National New Play Network (NNPN) launched the Rolling World Premiere of this play three years ago. I know you're not supposed to have favorite children, and I do consider each production here at FTC a child.

But between you and me, let's just say this is the play that inspired our current season's theme of *Resilience*.

I am also proud to say that we have since become an Associate Member Theatre of NNPN so that going forward we will be able to bring meaningful work like this to you sooner. While this production of *can i touch it?* is coming after the official Rolling World Premiere, I am still excited to be sharing the Indiana premiere with you.

So, what does this play have to say about *Resilience*? In this play you will see resilient characters who face obstacles and overcome them through dedication and creativity. More to the point, you will see a resilient community that is facing erasure yet finds avenues of resisting and persisting. In *can i touch it*?, I would say that resilience is messy. It's not about winning or losing. It's about presence of mind. It's about holding your ground. It's about authenticity. It's about the sacrifices we make and the solutions we find to keep going in a world that is not always made for us.

There is no avoiding the fact that today is full of overwhelming challenges. As a society, our identities, values, opportunities, and voices are all being called into question with every passing headline. But I want to take this moment to assure you that, in alignment with our founding values and our mission and vision, FTC has always been and will continue to be an inclusive space that celebrates diverse stories and experiences. You are welcome here.

Together, we are resilient. Your continued engagement is appreciated and so vital, especially now. Please know that your support inspires us everyday and we hope, in return, that you can find inspiration on our stage as well.

Con gratitúd, Jordan Flores Schwartz FTC Producing Director

# A Note from the Director

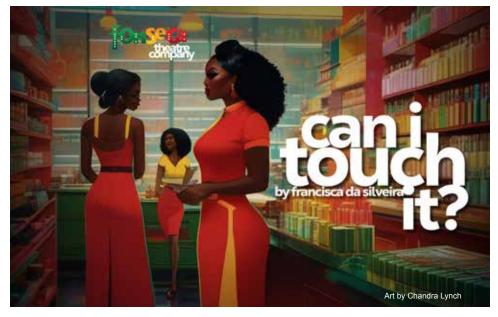


The double and triple entendre of the title of this play alone is exquisite. There are so many ways that we are "touched" without ever being asked—our hair, our bodies, our neighborhoods, our rights, our planet. *can i touch it?* uses the stage as a safe and poignant platform to address the colonizer.

— Dena L. Toler



# C.H. Douglas & Gray Wealth Management Presents



# Cast

Lanetta Chandler	Shay
D'yshe Mansfield	Meeka/Beth
Ronni Watts	Ruth/Lili
Peter Scharbrogh	. Mark/Nicky/Leo

This play is performed with no intermission.

# **Production Team**

Dena Toler, Director

Ayshah Matthews, Assistant Director

Bernard Killian, Scenic Designer

Jeanne Bowling, Costume Designer & Props Artisan

Ben Dobler, Lighting & Sound Designer

Maggie Ward, Stage Manager

Mad Brown, Production Asst./Wardrobe

# the EXPRESSION and IDENTITY of RESISTANCE



# photography by FAITH BLACKWELL CHANDRA LYNCH



Feb. 14 - March 30

This exhibit features two Black women artists, business owners, and entrepreneurs, so the topics raised in *can i touch it?* resonate with them.

The selection of artists' work to hang in our theatre lobby and the Keith O. Norwalk & Steve L. Hamilton Gallery Wall is meant to help continue thoughts and conversations about themes from our stage productions.

Artists receive 100% of the sale of their work from our space.

artist bios



# **Cast Bios**

#### Lanetta Chandler - Shay



Lanetta is a multifaceted creative whose talents span writing, directing, and acting. With a passion for storytelling, she has contributed to various productions, including short films and a documentary. As a writer, Lanetta has crafted compelling narratives in works such as *One*, *Too Good to Be True*, and *Forever Moore*, showcasing her knack for engaging storytelling. Her acting credits include notable short films like *The Perfect Gentleman* and *A* 

Bell's Christmas, as well as her recent participation in the thought-provoking documentary Death to the Black Woman Syndrome. Lanetta thrives in the vibrant atmosphere of live theater, where she finds joy in connecting with audiences and fellow artists. Dedicated to her craft, Lanetta continues to pursue her endeavors in the creative arts, continuously seeking opportunities to express her artistic vision and make a meaningful impact through her work.

# D'yshe Mansfield - Meeka/Beth



D'yshe is an Indianapolis based multi-hyphenate actress, singersongwriter, and director. As a graduate of New York City's American Musical and Dramatic Academy and a current Theatre, Television, and Film student at Indiana University Indianapolis, she continues to leave her mark on the world of art one show at a time. Her recent works include Lydia R. Diamond's *Toni Stone*, David Lamb's *Platanos y Collard Greens*, and Naptown African American Theatre

Collective's *Detroit '67* in which she was nominated for Best Director by Broadway World. She is thrilled to join the cast of *can I touch it?* 

# Peter Scharbrogh - Mark/Nicky/Leo



Peter is happy to be making his Fonseca Theater Company debut. He is a local actor who has performed on stages around Indianapolis and Chicago. Favorite roles include Don in *Kinky Boots*, Shrek in *Shrek: the Musical* at Beef & Boards Dinner Theater, Ted in *Peter and the Starcatcher* at the Phoenix Theatre, and Oliver in *As You Like It* with Indy Shakes. Thank you for supporting local theater and I hope you enjoy the show!

Peter is sponsored by Dan and Jennifer Scharbrough.

#### Ronni Watts - Ruth/Lili



Ronni is a lover of the arts and anything creative. She has had the honor of working alongside amazing actors, casts and directors and is forever grateful for every team she's been a part of. Her favorite role played to date is Yolanda, a spunky young woman working through life under the organization for *The Cre8tors*. She loves music profusely; specifically R&B.

# **Production Team Bios**

## Francisca Da Silveira - Playwright



Fran is a Cape Verdean-American playwright and Boston native who holds a BFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and an MSc in Playwriting from the University of Edinburgh. She has been featured in ArtsBoston, The Los Angeles Times and American Theatre magazine. Her plays have been developed with Theatre503 (London), The Traverse Theatre (Edinburgh), Company One Theatre (Boston), The Fire This Time Festival (New York), The Playwrights Realm (New York), The Public Theater (New York), and La Jolla Playhouse (San Diego).

Fran's play *Not-For-Profit* (*Or The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Play*) was featured in The Playwrights' Realm's INK'D Festival in April 2021 and in La Jolla Playhouse's DNA New Works Series in July 2021. Her play *can i touch it?* was featured in the National New Play Network's 2020 National Showcase of New Plays and in 2022-2023 received a Rolling World Premiere at Company One Theatre (Boston), Rogue Machine Theatre (Los Angeles) and Cleveland Public Theatre (Cleveland).

Fran was a 2020-2021 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow, a member of The Public Theater's 2020-2023 Emerging Writers Group, and a 2022-2023 Jerome Fellow with the Playwrights' Center. She is working on commissions from the University of Virginia's Drama Department and Brooklyn-based theater Colt Coeur.

jacquiefloyd.com/writing

#### Dena L. Toler - Director

Dena was a founding board member and artistic director of Fonseca Theatre Company. Directing Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill in the site specific setting across the street at the Linebacker. As well as acting in the first play in this building The Brothers Paranormal. She is excited and honored to bring can i touch it? to life on this stage, with these superb actors and amazing set. As a creative visionary in the city, she continues to support the thriving theater community that Indianapolis has to offer.

# Jeanne Bowling - Costume Designer

Jeanne is excited to return to FTC! She has designed productions for FTC, including *Boo-La-La 3!*, *Tiger Style*, *Dream Hou*\$e, *Blackademik*s, and *Boo-La-La!* 1 & 2. A versatile artist, she is also a musical/choral director, teacher, and performer, working with Youth Inspirations Theatre and Summer Stock Stage. Jeanne has taught voice and directed choirs at Marian University and Park Tudor School, and served as music director for various professional, university, and community theaters. Her costume design credits span Summer Stock Stage, Marian University, Anderson University, and other Indy theaters.

#### Mad Brown - Production Asst./Wardrobe

Mad Brown is a returning Stage manager to Fonseca. He has worked *TJ Loves Sally*, *A Skeptic and a Bruja*, *Two Kids That Blow Shit Up*, *Mud Row*, and both all *Boo-La-La!* productions, *Red Speedo* at American Lives Theatre, along with other shows. She is a Purdue graduate and they have 7 years of experience.

#### Ben Dobler - Lighting and Sound Designer

Ben, an Indianapolis-based designer and technician, specializes in sound, video, and lighting. His work has been featured at the Phoenix Theatre (Alabaster; The Christians; Indecent; Sweat; Fun Home; Hand to God; American Idiot; Next to Normal), Constellation Stage & Screen (Anne of Green Gables), Cardinal Stage (The Mountaintop), Fonseca Theatre (Abortion Road Trip, Tiger Style; Fade; 26 Miles; Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too, August Wilson)), Actors Theatre of Indiana (Cabaret; Million Dollar Quartet; Sweeney Todd), and Summer Stock Stage (Urinetown; Dogfight; Spring Awakening; Pippin), among others.

# Bernard Killian - Scenic Designer

Bernard has worked over thirty years in educational and professional theatre. He has directed, acted in, designed, built and/or was scenic charge for hundreds of productions. Bernie is the resident scenic designer for Fonseca Theatre Company. Productions designed include Abortion Road Trip, Boo-La-La 2022, Fade, Mud Row, 26 Miles, Apologies to Loraine Hansberry (You too August Wilson), The Cake, The Brothers Paranormal and all the shows in the 2018/19 inaugural season. He was the former Resident Scenic Designer for The Phoenix Theatre. Designs there include God Bless You Mr. Rosewater (the first production staged in the current building), Barbeque, Hand to God, Vanya and Sasha and Masha and Spike, Next to Normal, Spring Awakening, August Osage County and over 30 other productions. Currently he is also the resident scenic designer for Actor's Theatre of Indiana designing every show since the 2011 season. Favorites include Nunsense, Violet, Working, Sweeney Todd (2016 & 2020), Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and Million Dollar Quartet. Other favorite designs include productions for Bobdirex and American Cabaret at the historic Athenaeum Theatre and Maples Reparatory Theatre in Macon Missouri. Bernie has performed lead roles in several Shakespeare plays with Will Power (a Midwest educational touring company), The Indianapolis Shakespeare Festival, and Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre. He also appeared on stage at the Phoenix Theatre in Eastern Standard (Peter), Lloyd's Prayer (Bob the raccoon boy), and The Rocky Horror Show (Rocky).

# Maggie Ward - Stage Manager

Maggie is thrilled to be back at FTC. This is her fifth show here after managing the inaugural *Boo-La-La*, *Dream Hou\$e*, *Blackademics*, and assistant stage managing *Mud Row* in 2022. Prior to FTC, Maggie worked for Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre, Minnetrista Summer Shakespeare, and front of house for Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, and Indiana Repertory Theatre. By night, she's a stage manager and by day she is a librarian. Look for her anytime you see the IPL Bookmobile driving around town!





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# Thank you!

# **Ways to Make a Gift**



- · Scan this QR Code or visit FonsecaTheatre.org
- Mail a check to: Fonseca Theatre Company 2508 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46222
- See someone in the lobby today to make a gift



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FTC is thrilled to announce our 2025 summer production and the final installment in our 24/25 Season of Resilience. Micah Meets a Mami Wata is an enchanting new play for young audiences by Prentiss Matthews III.

Inspired by African mythology, marine life, and the environment, Micah Meets a Mami Wata follows the journey of Micah, a young Black boy who embarks on an extraordinary underwater adventure.

FTC commissioned this play for young audiences to be part of The BIPOC Superhero Project, a national program at theatres across the country including Seattle and Chicago.

This summer, don't miss the chance to dive into Micah's world and experience a magical tale that will spark imagination and inspire young hearts.