but i cd only whisper

by Kristiana Rae Colón
directed by David Monteagudo
featuring The Bats

february 18 – march 14
THE FLEA THEATER
Niegel Smith Artistic Director
Carol Ostrow Producing Director
Presents the American Premiere of

but i cd only whisper

by Kristiana Rae Colón
Directed by David Monteagudo

Featuring THE BATS
Crystal Arnette, Akeem Baisden Folkes, Toussaint Jeanlouis, Kineta Kunutu, Brandon Rubin, Matt Stango, Clea DeCrane, Jack Horton Gilbert, Justin Phillips, Terralon Walker

Starlet Jacobs Scenic Design Elaine Wong Lighting Design
Ari Fulton Costume Design D.R. Baker Sound Design
Hye Young Chyun Props Master
Gerry Rodriguez Fight Choreography Michelle Cole Choreography
Michal V. Mendelson Production Manager Kaila Hill Stage Manager
Joseph Barnes Technical Director Thierry Logic Thompson Graphic Designer
Ron Lasko/Spin Cycle Press Representative
CAST

beau willie brown ................................................................. Toussaint Jeanlouis
crystal .................................................................................. Kineta Kunutu
drummond .............................................................................. Brandon Rubin
geneviève ............................................................................ Crystal Arnette
marshall .................................................................................. Matt Stango
marvin ..................................................................................... Akeem Baisden Folkes

UNDERSTUDIES

beau willie brown/marvin ..................................................... Justin Phillips
crystal ..................................................................................... Terralon Walker
drummond ............................................................................... Niegel Smith
geneviève ................................................................................ Clea DeCrane
marshall ...................................................................................... Jack Horton Gilbert

SPECIAL THANKS:
Ntozake Shange, Kevin Kittle, Cheryl Katz
CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright .................................................................................................... Kristiana Rae Colón
Director .................................................................................................. David Monteagudo
Scenic Design .......................................................................................... Starlet Jacobs
Lighting Design ........................................................................................... Elaine Wong
Costume Design .......................................................................................... Ari Fulton
Sound Design ................................................................................................. D.R. Baker
Fight Choreographer ......................................................................................... Gerry Rodriguez
Movement Choreographer ................................................................................... Michelle Rodriguez
Props Master ............................................................................................... Hye Young Chyun
Production Manager ......................................................................................... Michal V. Mendelson
Stage Manager ............................................................................................ Kaila Hill
Technical Director ............................................................................................. Joseph Barnes

FLEA STAFF

Artistic Director ............................................................................................. Niegel Smith
Producing Director ........................................................................................ Carol Ostrow
General Manager ........................................................................................... Joshua Cohen
Artistic Associate .......................................................................................... Erin Daley
Marketing Associate ........................................................................................ Ellie Philips
Audience Development Associate ...................................................................... Kayla Sklar
Development Associate ..................................................................................... Charlie Mathison
Technical Director .......................................................................................... Ali Akbarian
Assistant Technical Director ........................................................................... Jen Medina-Gray
Capital Project Manager .................................................................................. Tim Catlett
Costume Manager ........................................................................................... Grace Interlichia
Graphic Designer ........................................................................................... Thierry Logic Thompson
Videographer ................................................................................................ Scott Fetterman & Crystal Arnette
Photographer ................................................................................................. Hunter Canning
Accountant ...................................................................................................... Joel Faden & Company, Inc.
Attorney ........................................................................................................... Carol M. Kaplan/Loeb and Loeb
Development Consultant ................................................................................... Rachel Colbert
Theater, Technical & Production Consultant ..................................................... Kyle Chepulis
Press Representative ........................................................................................ Ron Lasko/Spin Cycle
THE COMPANY

CRYSTAL ARNETTE (geneviève) This is Crystal’s 6th season as a Bat at The Flea -- where she has been a mainstay in #serials@theflea & currently serves as its co-producer + roles in Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love, Looking At Christmas, and Just Cause. Other credits: The House of Von Macramé, F#@king Up Everything, and The Consequences. Film & TV: What We’ve Become, You Can’t Kill Stephen King, Polaroid Girl, “Power” (Starz), and “I Love You But I Lied” (Lifetime). Crystal creates video with Adventure We Can & fronts the folk-chamber-rock experiment Ladybird. She also really likes typography. BFA: UNCSA crystalarnette.com

AKEEM BAISDEN FOLKES (marvin) Regional Credits: Twelfth Night directed by Tony Nominee Moritz von Stuelpnagel. New York Credits: Queer Spawn (HERE Arts Center), Welcome Home Dean Charbonneau w/ Ellen Burstyn (Atlantic Theater Company), Austerity of Hope (Abingdon Theatre), Out of Joint (The Lark), Unexplored Interior (The Flea), The Green (59E59 Theaters), American Drum Circle (The Actors’ Studio), Avant-Garde-Arama (P.S. 122). Proud member of The Flea’s Resident Acting Company, the Bats. For all the slick cats mixed up with the blank panthers.

TOUSSAINT JEANLOUIS (beau willie brown) Honored to be gifted with challenging work and being a new member of the wonderful Bat Company in the Flea Theater community. Alumni of Arizona State University (BA Theater) and California Institute of the Arts (MFA Acting). Most recently seen as an original Butler in Queen of the Night at The Diamond Horseshoe and Pastor Dave in Emma Stanton’s JITTERBUG at Dixon Place. For more info www.ToussaintJeanlouis.com
KINETA KUNUTU (crystal) South African born Actor. Recent credits include; Macbeth (The Drilling Company), Mandela (East Harlem Repertory Company), Romeo and Juliet, Richard II (Hamlet Isn’t Dead), Robot For Christmas (Stages on the Sound). This is Kineta’s first bat production with the Flea Theater.

BRANDON RUBIN (drummond) is an MFA graduate from Mason Gross school of the arts he is thrilled to be making his Bat debut in such a beautiful piece. He was recently seen as Fool #4 in The Judgement of Fools by Bernardo Cubria at Intar Studios and Snug the Joiner in A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare.

MATT STANGO (marshall) is a native New Yorker and graduate of LaGuardia high school and SUNY Purchase for acting. Other credits at The Flea include The Mysteries directed by Ed Sylvanus Iskandar, and Agnosiofobia directed by Rachel Karp. Matt is honored to be working on such a brilliantly written and important play, alongside this incredibly talented cast. For more on Matt, visit MattStango.com

UNDERSTUDIES

CLEA DeCRANE (u/s geneviève) is super pumped to be a part of her first show with The Flea! Last year, she graduated from the BFA acting conservatory at Rutgers University. Her final year she starred in shows new and old directed by Moritz Von Steulpnagel, Knud Adams, and David Esbjornson. Since graduating, she’s performed in EST’s Youngblood production Metrocards and the New York premiere of Lynn Nottage’s Las Meninas. Next up, she’ll be understudying Nina in The Pearl’s upcoming production of Stupid F*cking Bird by Aaron Posner.
THE FLEA THEATER

JACK HORTON GILBERT (u/s marshall) BFA in Theatre Performance Ohio University 2010. The Flea: Student Body (u/s), The Feast (u/s), The Mysteries, The Cutthroat Series, as well as the upcoming Wolf in the River written and directed by Adam Rapp. Select past credits include the Off-Broadway production of Happily After Tonight, Endtimes’ annual, notorious Naked Holidays, and Ripple Effect’s production of Waiting For Lefty.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS (u/s beau willie brown, u/s marvin) New York: The Christians (Playwrights Horizons), Macbeth (The Theatre Project), Destiny Is Judd Nelson (dir. Olivia Hartle, FringeNYC), Raisin In The Sun, Dreamgirls (Black Curtain Productions). Web Series: Unchartered (Jermaine) TV/Film: Police State, Coming Out: A Documentary. Proud Esper Studio graduate! @jphilzZz

TERRALON WALKER (u/s crystal) hails from Houston, TX. She received her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2014. She has been in several projects since her graduation from Rutgers. To keep up with Terralon, follow her on Instagram @terralonwalker and visit www.terralonwalker.com

CREATIVE TEAM

KRISTIANA RAE COLÓN (playwright) is a poet, playwright, actor, educator, Cave Canem Fellow, and Executive Director of the #LetUsBreathe Collective. Her play Octagon, winner of Arizona Theater Company’s 2014 National Latino Playwriting Award and Polarity Ensemble Theater’s Dionysos Festival of New Work, had its world premiere at the Arcola Theater in London in September 2015. Her work was featured in Victory Gardens’ 2014 Ignition Festival. In 2013, she toured the UK with her collection of poems promised instruments published by Northwestern
University Press. In autumn 2012, she opened her one-woman show *Cry Wolf* at Teatro Luna in Chicago while her play *but i cd only whisper* had its world premiere at the Arcola Theater in London. Kristiana is a member of the Goodman Playwrights Unit, a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and one half of the brother/sister hip-hop duo April Fools. She appeared on Season 5 of HBO’s *Def Poetry Jam*.

**DAVID MONTEAGUDO** (director) David’s work has been featured at The Flea Theater, Theater for the New City, The Tank, The PanAmerican Games, and elsewhere. He has developed new plays with Ma-Yi Theater, The Atlantic, N.Y.U., Columbia University, and The Barn Arts Collective. As Co-founder and and Creative Director of State of Play he explores the intersections of theatrical conventions, play theory, and spectacle to craft new forms of live entertainment. Recognized by Come Out and Play 2015 - Best use of Narrative this work was most recently featured in a partnership with The Digital Media Lab at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**STARLET JACOBS** (scenic design) is currently the associate set designer on *DISASTER!* on Broadway. Some previous theater credits include: *Tonya & Nancy: The Rock Opera* (set designer), *Bright Star* (associate set designer), *Soul Doctor* (Prop Master), and *Fortress of Solitude* (associate set designer). She has worked as an art director on *Saturday Night Live!*, *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* (assistant), on several web series and commercials, and on two recent comedy specials for Netflix and EPIX.

**ELAINE WONG** (lighting design) is originally from Mississauga, Ontario, and received her MFA in Lighting Design from Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts. Recent design credits: NYC: *One 1, Diving Lines, Much Ado About Nothing* (Snapped Productions); *Vietnam…Through My Lens* (LSNelson Productions); *BUBBA* (Black Angus Productions). NJ: *Tick Tick Boom* (American Theater Group); *Carmen* (State Repertory Opera of NJ); *Once Upon a Mattress* (Princeton Festival); *Tales of Hoffmann*
ARI FULTON (costume design) is a New York based costume designer for stage and film. Design credits include: Force Continuum, R/evolution, In the Next Room (or the vibrator play), Wake, Machinal, Meantime, The Widow of Tom’s Hill and Hurrah for the Next to Die. Ms. Fulton is happy to be making her design debut at The Flea Theater.

D.R. BAKER (sound design) is a writer, composer, and sound artist. Flea credits include design for The Get-A-Way and The System, associate sound for Happy Days, and engineering for Fulfillment. Other credits include: Karaoke Bacchae (design, Meta PhysEd/Ice Factory); Reread Another (engineering, Target Margin Theater); and a season at The Monomoy Theatre in Chatham, MA. Dan plays guitar and sings for the band Friends in Distraction, and earned a BFA from Ohio University in 2014. Visit danbakerisokay.com for more.

HYE YOUNG CHYUN (props master) is a current member of The Bats which is the resident acting company at The Flea Theater. She has a background in puppetry, building and playwriting. She went to Mount Holyoke College for her undergrad and she recently graduated Sarah Lawrence College for her graduate studies. She is honored to be involved as part of the creative team. Thank you!

GERRY RODRIGUEZ (fight choreography) is a happy to represent Uncle Dave’s Fight House. His most recent moments of violence include Ropes at Two River Theater, Kill Floor at LCT3, Sommerfügl for InViolet Theater and at theatres such as INTAR Theatre, The Working Theater, Playwrights Realm, The Representatives, Playhouse Creatures, Two River Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse among others. He is also an actor and proud member of InViolet Theater.
MICHELLE COLE (movement choreography) is a Brooklyn based dancer, choreographer, educator, and scholar. She has a Masters in Dance Education from New York University. She has danced, taught, performed and presented in Miami and Orlando, Florida, Chicago, Illinois, New York, and Uganda, Africa. Her dance repertoire includes Hip Hop, Modern/Contemporary, dances from cultures in Africa, Improvisation, Stepping and more. Her most current work, “INjustice” (2014) was inspired by social justice issues. She is currently Adjunct faculty at NYU Steinhardt’s Dance Education program in the Music and Performing Arts Department.

MICHAL V. MENDELSON (production manager) Michal is glad to be back at The Flea. Her other NY credits include The New School for Drama, New Georges, Red Fern Theatre, TerraNova Collective, New Dramatists, The Pearl Theatre, Studio 42, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Dog-Run Rep, and Worth Street Theatre. Regionally, she has stage managed for Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, Berkshire Playwrights Lab, and Fairfield Theatre. She is a proud member of Actors Equity.

KAILA HILL (stage manager) is a recent graduate from Otterbein University with a BFA in Theatre: Design/Technology. She has previously worked with the Williamstown Theatre Festival in their 2014 season, the Sanguine Theatre Project Playwright Festival, Hard Spark’s R&J&Z, The Flea Theater, the Public Theatre, the NYC Fringe Festival, and Half Moon Theatre.

JOSEPH BARNES (technical director) is proud to be a part of the Flea Theater’s staff this winter. Joey is currently doing freelance theater and technical directing in New York. He has built sets for the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Vineyard Theater, Vertical Player Repertory as well as several schools and summer stocks/theater camps. He has been building sets, hanging lights, running shows and stage managing for the past ten years. He recently was Technical Director of a production of Blood Brothers at the Vineyard. Joey is recent graduate of Colby College with a degree in East Asian Studies, and lives in Brooklyn, NY.
THE FLEA STAFF

NIEGEL SMITH (Artistic Director) is a theater director & performance artist. His theater work has been produced by Classical Theatre of Harlem, HERE Arts Center, Hip Hop Theatre Festival, The Invisible Dog, Luna Stage, Magic Theatre, Mixed Blood, New York Fringe Festival, New York Live Arts, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, The Public Theater, Summer Play Festival, Todd Theatre and Under the Radar, and his participatory performances have been produced by Abrons Arts Center, American Realness, Dartmouth College, Elastic City, The Invisible Dog, Jack, The New Museum, Prelude Festival, PS 122, the Van Alen Institute and Visual AIDS. He often collaborates with artist Todd Shalom and playwright/performer Taylor Mac.

Smith, a graduate of Dartmouth College, was the associate director of the Tony Award winning musical FELA!, assistant directed the off-broadway production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and both the broadway and off-broadway productions of Tony Kushner’s Caroline, or Change. He has received residencies, grants and/or fellowships from Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Sundance Theatre Lab, Theater Communications Group, Tucker Foundation, Van Lier Fund and VoxFest. Before surviving high school in Detroit, he grew up in the North Carolina piedmont, fishing with his dad, shopping with his mom and inventing tall-tale fantasies with his two younger brothers.

CAROL OSTROW (Producing Director) Carol Ostrow (Producing Director) joined founder Jim Simpson at the helm of The Flea in 2001 and The Guys marked her return to Off-Off-Broadway. She was the OBIE-award winning Producing Director of the Classic Stage Company as well as the founder and original Producing Director of The Powerhouse Theater at Vassar, now in its 31st season. In between, she has been an adjunct professor of theater at Vassar College, Chatham College and McGill University. For The Flea, Carol has produced 15 seasons of world premiere productions and has been responsible for the sound management of the theater’s increasing programming and budget. She is also overseeing The Flea’s capital campaign that will result in a new performing arts center for The Flea to be launched in 2017. (Stay tuned!) Carol is a graduate of Vassar College and the Yale Drama School. She is a new trustee of Vassar and she also serves on the Board of Advisors of the Yale Drama School. Beyond her alma maters, she is a member of the board of Central Synagogue, the National Psoriasis Foundation, the MacDowell Colony and LAVA, an acrobatic dance collective in Brooklyn. She is also a Wall Street Journal Expert, where she writes on small business for the paper’s online edition. Married and the mother of four incredible and launched young adults, she and her family count Pittsburgh, London, Montreal and now New York City once again as home.
JOSHUA COHEN (General Manager) previously worked at Roundabout, holds degrees from Amherst College and NYU/Tisch, and has been a stage manager/lighting designer in downtown modern dance. He is also a writer for the theater, a Jonathan Larson Grant winner whose work includes *The Thirteenth Commandment* (Libra Theater Co., seven NYIT Award nominations, two wins); lyrics, *Keep On Walkin’* (Anna Zornio Children’s Theater Playwriting Award); and book/lyrics, *Tamar of the River* (Prospect Theater Co., two Drama Desk nominations; world premiere recording, Yellow Sound Label). He lives in Washington Heights with his wife Anne and two children.

ERIN DALEY (Artistic Associate) Prior to The Flea, Erin produced the Eugene O’Neill festival at Arena Stage and spent three years as a coordinator in Los Angeles working in film and commercials. After cutting her teeth as an independent producer and director, Erin is thrilled to have a found a home at The Flea where she can continue to work with exciting and innovative artists. Erin is proud to have graduated from Skidmore College.

ELLIE PHILIPS (Marketing Associate) is a native New Yorker with a deep love for both acting and marketing. An alumna of Oberlin College, Ellie has worked as a graphic designer, marketing associate, social media advisor, and press rep with and for a variety of companies and productions, including her alma mater, Boneau/Bryan-Brown, Slightly Altered States, and Hedgepig Theater Ensemble. She is a proud former-member of the Bats, and is very excited to promote the fantastic work happening at The Flea. She is currently appearing in *Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years...* at The People’s Improv Theater. www.eleanorphilips.com

KAYLA SKLAR (Audience Development Associate) Passionate about non-profit theater, Kayla has previously worked at 59E59, Ars Nova, and The Public. She graduated from the University of Georgia with degrees in Digital Marketing and Mass Media, and is proud to have been the Artistic Director of The Thalian Blackfriars, one of UGA’s oldest organizations. Having lived in Atlanta for most of her life, she’s excited to finally call this wonderful city her home.
**CHARLIE MADISON** (Development Associate) is a recent graduate from Brandeis University, where he majored in both Psychology and Musical Theater Writing. While at Brandeis, Charlie wrote and directed an original play, *Lost Girls*, and an original full length musical, *Grace*. Other notable accomplishments include music directing his undergraduate a cappella group, Company B, and serving as Programs Assistant in the Brandeis Office of the Arts. Charlie began his experience in not-for-profit theater as an Artistic Intern at Central Square Theater (Cambridge, MA); since then he has served as the inaugural Summer Apprentice at the Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia, PA) and was Manhattan Theatre Club’s Fall 2015 Institutional Giving Intern. Out the office, Charlie enjoys singing his heart out, writing musicals and plays, and thrifting: his inspirations include Jeanine Tesori, Janet Jackson, Adam Guettel, and the one and only Mariah Carey.

**ALI AKBARIAN** (Technical Director) Born in Canada, Ali has always been captivated by the mechanics of his surroundings and curious as to how things work on the inside; logically and emotionally. After a glimpse of potential in 2006, Ali set out to the University of Florida and found a path in theatre. Immediately following his graduation at the top of his class in Scenic Design; he was contracted for a year long residency at one of the most successful regional theatres in the southeast, The Hippodrome. Ali was contracted as Production Manager by a leading Event Decor company in the southeast region months before the end of his residency. Excelling in the commercial market while managing over eight productions a week with over thirty staff members and over-hire in multiple spaces; Ali’s future in theatre was fading away quickly. On December 20th, 2015 this realization was cemented into his soul and so the following week he sold his motorcycle, car, and three quarters of his apartment. By December 27th, 2015 Ali moved home, Brooklyn, New York!

**JEN MEDINA-GRAY** (Assistant Technical Director) is a 2014 graduate of Syracuse University with a BFA in Design and Technical Theatre. She studied set design and technical direction in school and aspires to be a positive force in the technical theatre world. After living in Portland, Maine for a year after school and going on a soul searching trip through Eastern Europe, Jen landed in NYC in September 2015 and has been at The Flea ever since.
WHAT IS THE FLEA?

The Flea is our theater: two unique and intimate performance spaces, located here at 41 White Street in Tribeca. But The Flea is also an award-winning producing organization, founded in 1996, that offers more than 250 cutting-edge theatrical and multi-disciplinary performances each year and gives voice to some of the most exciting and innovative writers of our time.

Founded from the purely artistic impulse to create “joyful hell in a small space,” our body of work has earned us accolades from across the globe including two Obie Awards for Best Production, an Otto for Courageous Political Theater, and a Drama Desk Award Special Award for our commitment to adventurous theater. Our 2001 production of The Guys, a raw artistic response to the events of 9/11, became a phenomenon that played to sold-out houses for 13 months and quickly cemented our leadership role in the downtown, Off-Off-Broadway and Lower Manhattan communities.

The Flea is a beacon for adventurous audiences and creative artists of all stripes, from the young striver to the legendary veteran. More than 150,000 people have come to The Flea to witness the rare spark created when artists are given free rein to play, experiment and invent—often in ways that the commercial theater can’t support. And it is that spark that fulfills our mission, pure and simple: to embody the spirit of adventure and excitement that has defined Off-Off-Broadway since its inception.
WHO & WHAT ARE THE BATS?

The Bats is our critically acclaimed resident company, cast anew each year from over 1,000 aspiring young actors. Voted “Best Off-Off-Broadway Company to Act In” by Backstage, being a Bat offers young artists the rare opportunity to break into the field with real life experience, performing in front of an audience on a regular basis and working to support The Flea and its visiting artists. All in one night, a Bat may tear your ticket, pour you a drink and rivet your soul to the stage.

WHAT IS OFF-OFF-BROADWAY?

Dating back over fifty years, Off-Off-Broadway began informally—an alternative, non-commercial environment where new ideas and projects were born out of energetic and often happenstance encounters. Hundreds of well-known artists credit this adventurous and free-spirited time with their falling in love with theater, and getting good at what they do.

Visit www.theflea.org for information on all things Flea!

Find The Flea Theater on Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter & YouTube.
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THE FLEA I.P.’S

In June of 2009 The Flea launched a unique patron program called The Flea IPs - an elite and dedicated group that helps to make the dreams of The Flea a reality. Flea IPs gain insider access through exclusive events including private talk-backs, intimate artist dinners, master classes and first-look readings. Flea IPs commit their support by generously pledging $5,000 each year.

Interested? We’d love to make you a Flea IP too!

Please contact Carol Ostrow at 212.226.0051 x104 or carolo@theflea.org for more information.

The Flea proudly salutes our Flea I.P. members and thanks them for their unwavering support:

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THE FLEA CAMPAIGN

Twenty years ago The Flea’s founders undertook an artistic experiment, renting an old TriBeCa factory in the wilds of Lower Manhattan and opening the doors to the most iconoclastic and talented artists they could find. Since then The Flea has evolved into an award-winning theater known for presenting the very best of Off-Off-Broadway theater, music and dance.

We have also become an emblem for the resilience of Lower Manhattan, drawing more than 150,000 people to the area since the 9/11 attacks. To continue in that leadership role, we recently purchased a site nearby that is soon to become our permanent new home. Our goal is to continue producing our own intimate and exhilarating work while providing stability to dozens of other artists and performance groups. We are grateful to the following for their lead gifts to the project:

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THE FLEA THEATER

but i cd only whisper

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THE FLEA THEATER

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