

CATCO

*...but you
could've held
my hand*

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—APR 8**

**BY JUCOBY JOHNSON
DIRECTED BY DAVID J. GLOVER**

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This play was originally developed at the 2020 O'Neill National Playwright Conference by Tony-Nominated Director, Lileana Blain Cruz.



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.



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A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT OF

...but you could've held my hand

My grandmother once told me "I love you forever, and ever, and ever."

The world can be a scary place, the task of living can be daunting. But when I think about a love that expands into forever, a love that can never truly die, a love poured into me from someone I love, I feel capable of completing another day.

What does it mean to love another person, to be *in love* with another person? What does it require of me? Is romantic love the top of the food chain? Or does the love I have for my friends/chosen family hold the same weight? Must I save my deepest love for one person, forever and ever, til death do us part? Or can it be spread around among the people I hold dearest? Is there enough or will I always be working at a deficit? What does it mean for love to expand? What does it mean for *me* to expand?

These are all questions that swirled around in my head as I wrote this play. I don't know that I've answered any of them just yet or if I ever will. But the simple act of asking them has changed me. It has altered the way I walk through the world. It has allowed me to *expand*.

I invite you to bear witness to the love these characters have for one another. A love that leaps through time and endures no matter the obstacles put in its place. I hope that by witnessing such a thing, you feel capable of completing another day.

Forever, and ever, and ever,

-J.

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presents

...but you could've held my hand

**BY JUCOBY JOHNSON
DIRECTED BY DAVID J. GLOVER**

Leda Hoffmann
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GAMAL BROWN
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MOLLY TIEDE**
LIGHTING DESIGNER

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PROPS DESIGNER

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STAGE MANAGER

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This play was originally developed at the 2020 O'Neill National Playwright Conference
by Tony-Nominated Director, Lileana Blain Cruz.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

...but you could've held my hand

CAST



ALAN TYSON
Eddie



TAYLOR NELSON
Charlie



ROBBI FRYER*
Marigold



JABARI JOHNSON
Max

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Rowan Winterwood
MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Isaac Steinhour
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Augusta Kinzel
**COSTUME COORDINATOR
AND WARDROBE**

Tony Koehler
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Yun Yen
ASSISTANT SET DESIGNER

Daisy James
PROPS ASSISTANT

Scenic Build by Columbus Children's Theatre

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*Actors and Stage Managers appear courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.

**The Lighting Designer is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE.



CAST BIOS

ALAN TYSON [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Eddie**) is thrilled to be making his CATCO debut. He wants to thank his loving God, because without Him none of this would be possible, his amazing friends, and his loving and supportive family. His most recent credits include Gary (Cover) in *Slave Play* with Short North Stage, Frank Thorney in *Witch* by Jen Silverman with Available Light Theatre Company and King in August Wilson's *King Hedley II* with Actors Theatre of Columbus. Also he starred in the delightful horror comedy film, *Obstacle Corpse* as the loveable Ezra. He is so grateful to this brave cast and crew of *...but you could've held my hand* and thanks all involved for the opportunity. Remember to live your life, love yourself and others, and laugh like no one is watching – one day at a time! www.Alan-Tyson.com

TAYLOR NELSON [SHE/HEY] (**Charlie**) made their acting debut in ArtPrize 2009 with RabbitMitten USA!. Since that time, Taylor went on to study Black and Africana Studies at Denison University. Taylor has been seen in the Association of University Women's #StandUpToSexism campaign, as Lucy in *Dracula* and Ann Johnson in *The African Company Presents Richard III* with Actors' Theatre of Columbus and Ama in CATCO's *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*.

ROBBI FRYER* [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Marigold**) is a Cleveland-based actor and is thrilled to be working with CATCO. Her past credits include *Stop Kiss* and *The Burial at Thebes* (Baldwin Wallace) and *The Odyssey* (Dobama Theatre). She sends her love to her wonderfully supportive family and her phenomenal friends. Training: BFA from Baldwin Wallace University. @robbifryer

JABARI JOHNSON [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Max**) is very excited to be returning to the CATCO stage! His first debut with the company was with the 2011 production of *Encyclopedia Brown*, marking one of his first professional performances. From there he's continued to share the stage with numerous Columbus theatre companies, most recently being *A Tale of Two Cities* with Actors' Theatre of Columbus and *Everybody* with Available Light Theatre. Jabari would like to thank all of his friends of the arts community, his family for their unending support, as well as David Glover for the continual collaboration.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

JUCOBY JOHNSON [HE/HIM/HIS] (Playwright) has been seen onstage at The Guthrie Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, Theater Mu, Ten Thousand Things Theatre Company, and many more. His plays include *How It's Gon Be* (Echo Theater, 2023; Underdog Theater, 2019), *...but you could've held my hand* (CATCO, 2022; O'Neill NPC Summer Season, 2022), *5* (Jungle Theater, 2023; O'Neill NPC Summer Season, 2022; Seven Devils Finalist), *I'll Be Seeing You Again* (Jungle Serial Audio Series, 2021) and *Revelations* (Playing On Air, 2021). He was a 2021-2022 McKnight Fellow in Playwriting, an official selection for the 2022 Sony Pictures Television Diverse Writers Program, and is currently an Artistic Associate at The Jungle Theater.

DAVID J. GLOVER [HE/HIM/HIS] (Director) is a director, actor, and teaching artist from Columbus. He is a graduate of Heidelberg University. David is active in the Columbus theatre scene and is proud to call Available Light Theatre his artistic home. When not making professional theatre, David can be found training the next generation of artists and students as the Upper School Dean of Students and Director of Theatre Arts for The Wellington School. He is grateful to CATCO for bringing this beautiful work to Columbus and allowing him to participate.

GAMAL BROWN [HE/HIM/HIS] (Choreographer) Gamal Brown's work continues to challenge audiences to rethink the social, political and cultural significance of dance. He choreographed *Mo's Lament* (2012). To his credit, wrote and produced *The Colored Section* (2012). *6 + 1: Seven Deadly Sins* (2016) was written, directed and co-choreographed by Gamal Brown. *ROHO: Spirit* (2017), 8 individual ballets that provided the timeline of his personal dance biography. In 2018, he directed *Inside the Riot* (2018). A graduate of the Lincoln Theatre Expand Your Horizons Incubation Program (2018). He was awarded the 2018 and 2019 Columbus Dances Fellowship sponsored by Columbus Dance Theater and GCAC. A 2019 Community Arts Fellow from The Ohio State University African and African American Studies and Cultural Extension Center. Choreographed for the Columbus Museum of Art, *Wonderball* (2019). Commissioned by the King Arts Complex to create a production titled, *20 and Odd* (2019), in commemoration of the 400 years since the first documented arrival of enslaved Africans.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

ZAC DELMONTE [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Music Director**) For the last decade, he has been a producer, music director and conductor, voice teacher, and accompanist for theatre companies around Central Ohio. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Zac earned his Bachelor of Music education with a focus in Choral Music, and now serves on the Choral Conducting Staff at The Ohio State University, as Assistant Artistic Director of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus and Director of Illuminati, the CGMC's sacred vocal ensemble, and as the Vocal Director for Musical Theatre at Wellington, an independent school in Upper Arlington. In addition to his long career as an educator and professional musician, Zac is also a frequent adjudicator for a cappella and choral competitions, and a featured presenter at the Ohio Educational Theatre Association's yearly conference. Zac is a passionate advocate for the arts and a proud member of the American Choral Directors Association and the Education Theatre Association.

BROOKE STILES [SHE/HER/HERS] (**AEA Stage Manager**) is a Norton, Ohio native and a graduate from Denison University. Brooke has traveled the world with various theatre companies working as a professional stage manager, marketing director, company manager, arts administrator, dramaturg, and costume designer throughout her career. Recent stage management credits include *Everybody* (Available Light Theatre Company), *Sweets by Kate* (Opera Theatre Ohio State), *Disney's Newsies* (CCT), and *Indecent* (CATCO). @brookexxrose

JANICE HUYNH [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Assistant Stage Manager**) is so excited to be joining CATCO for the first time with this production of *...but you could've held my hand*. Previous credits include *SpongeBob the Musical* at Columbus Children's Theatre (ASM), *White Christmas*, *RENT*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Sister Act* at Short North Stage (Backstage Crew). Janice is so grateful to have learned so much and been welcomed by various theatres around Columbus and hopes you enjoy the show. Instagram: @janice8001

BRAD STEINMETZ [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Scenic Designer**) is a designer, educator and creator of new works, currently serving as associate professor of design and technology at The Ohio State University. Recent productions include *Mr. Burns* (CATCO), *Dance Nation* (Available Light Theatre), *Wildwood* (Grandstreet Theatre), and *Patience Worth* (for/word company). His design work has been recognized regionally by the American College Theatre Festival, nationally by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and internationally by World Stage Design.

YUN YEN [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Assistant Set Designer**) is a scenic designer/artist and an international student from Taiwan, currently a senior of OSU. She is expected to graduate in May 2023 and is excited to start her career as a scenic designer and artist. You can view her portfolio at Instagram @yun_scenicdesign or <https://rb.gy/laobns>.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

MOLLY TIEDE [SHE/THEY] (Lighting Designer)** Select NYC and Regional credits include: *Drama League's DirectorsFest* (ART NY), *La Traviata* (Virginia Opera), *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Boston Lyric Opera), *I and You* (Portland Stage) *Josephine, After Live* (Opera Colorado), *Elisir* (DiCapo Opera), *A View from the Bridge*, *Little Mermaid* (Gerald Lynch Theater), *Anthem* (Sheen Center), *Quinnipiac Play Festival*, *What Was Lost*, *Shades of Blue* (Abingdon Theater), various productions with Marymount School of NYC upper east-side, *Ariodante*, *The Gospel of Mary Opera* (Colorado University Opera), *Light and Dark* (Dayton Ballet), The Red Bike-World Premiere, *I and You* (Pygmalion Theater, SLC). Molly is a proud union member of USA 829, is Head of Lighting Design and Co-Head of Production Design and Technology at Ohio University who reside on the Traditional Territories and Homelands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Osage Nation. www.mollytiededesign.com

ESTHER SANDS [SHE/HER/HERS] (Costume Designer) Esther Sands, the founder of Amammre, is a Ghanaian American designer who draws inspiration from her diverse cultural background and a lifelong passion for storytelling. As a child, her exposure to film and art instilled in her a love for fashion and the power of self-expression. Through observation, experimentation, and practice, she taught herself the craft of design, honing her skills by watching artisans at work in the market. Relocating to the United States and during her university years, Esther was introduced to the art of cosplay, which combines her love of storytelling and fashion. She believes that cosplay is a way of bringing characters from movies, anime, and video games to life through creative interpretation, and that the same principle applies to everyday fashion. Clothing, she believes, is not only a representation of our individuality but also a reflection of where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. Amammre reflects her belief that we are all heroes of our own cinematic universes and that what we wear can bring our stories to life.

DANIELA CHAPARRO [THEY/THEM] (Sound Designer) is a first-generation Chilean-American sound artist who specializes in designing for live performance and audio editing for short films. They currently live on the ancestral lands of the Shawnee, Hopewell, and Adena, where they live with their partner and kitty, and teach Theatrical Sound Design at Ohio University.

LONELLE YODER [SHE/HER/HERS] (Props Designer) has been loitering about the Columbus theatre scene, in various capacities, for many years - first at the Phoenix Theatre for Children and BlueForms Theatre Group, and, more recently, at Available Light Theatre Company, CATCO, Opera Columbus, and Columbus Children's Theatre. When she's not having fun building food props, Lonelle gardens, dabbles in wildlife rehab, and makes jam out of foraged wild fruits.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

DR. AVIVA HELENA NEFF [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Intimacy Director**) is the Director of Youth & Community Learning at Columbus College of Art & Design and an adjunct faculty member with Otterbein University Department of Theatre and Dance. An honors graduate of Goldsmiths College (MA: Applied Theatre), Dr. Neff enjoys working in devised theatre and theatre for social change with participants aged 1-100. She is an ensemble member with Teatro Travieso, which premiered her solo performance, *Blood, Earth, Water* in 2021, written as part of a practice-as-research Ph.D. at the Ohio State University. Dr. Neff has recently published works on mediatized race and identity, mixed-Black women in Reconstruction-era New Orleans, and inclusive theatre pedagogy. Dr. Neff serves as an intimacy coordinator for various theatres in the greater Columbus Ohio area.

ROWAN WINTERWOOD [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Master Electrician**) is a lighting designer, director, stage manager, artist educator and aerialist. She is the Associate Artistic Director and Lighting Designer/Engineer for Actors' Theatre of Columbus, where she will be directing *Love's Labours Lost* this July. Selected lighting design credits include Available Light Theatre (*Everybody, Witch*), Actors' Theatre of Columbus (*Hamlet 1603*, *Eurydice*), Columbus Children's Theatre (*A Christmas Story*), CATCO is Kids (*Luchadora!*, *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*), and Denison University (*You On The Moors Now*, co-design: *Pippin*, *Company*).

AUGUSTA KINZEL [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Costume Coordinator & Wardrobe**) is a Coshocton, Ohio native. She is a recent grad from Muskingum University, where she received her B.A. in history and theatre. During her time at Muskingum, Augusta acted, designed, and worked on tech staff. Her favorite shows at Muskingum were *The Gypsy Woman* and *Seussical*. She is new to the CATCO staff and is excited to be working at CATCO this season. Enjoy the show!

ISAAC STEINHOOR [HE/HIM/HIS] (**Technical Director**) is a graduate of Ohio Northern University with a bachelor's degree in International Theatre Production, Musical Theatre, and French. While in the theatre department, he focused on Technical Direction studying under the former Technical Director of the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. He worked as the resident lighting and sound designer at Findlay High School for ten years and the resident technical director and scenic designer at The Findlay YouTheatre for four years. He moved to Columbus five years ago with the love of his life, Michelle, and started as the Technical Director at Columbus Children's Theatre in August of 2018. He and his wife just recently had their second child. In addition to running the scene shop at CCT, Isaac also frequently serves as a sound and projection designer and teaches production classes. Isaac is honored to be working with the amazing team on this production.

ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS

LEDA HOFFMANN [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Artistic Director**) is in her third season as CATCO's Artistic Director. CATCO directing credits include *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play*, *An Iliad*, the reading of *George and the Hidden Dragon*, and the virtual production of *A Columbus Christmas Carol*. Previously, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in *Chicago*. Before that, Leda served on Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the Education and Literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's Community Engagement Department. Also in Milwaukee, as the Artistic Director of Luminous Theatre, Leda produced and directed site-specific productions of *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play* and *The Penelopiad*. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, University of Miami, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, and Riverside Theater Iowa City. Leda has also been a teaching artist for over ten years, directing youth and teaching with Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Mudlark Theater, Northbrook Park District, and Skyline Studios. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, a Hartford Stage apprentice, an SDCF Observer, and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. www.ledahoffmann.com

CHRISTY FARNBAUCH [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Executive Director**) became CATCO's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

TONY KOEHLER (HE/HIM/HIS) (**Production Manager**) is a teaching artist, actor, director, and designer. Most recently, he served as the production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre and as a teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts, both located in Washington, D.C. Other positions include properties master at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre and theatre credits at Constellation Theatre Company and Rainbow Theater Project in Washington, D.C., as well as Piven Theatre Workshop, Redmoon Theatre, and Northwestern University in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre, he has received numerous awards including a 2019 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical and Best Ensemble. He has also earned Broadway World's 2019 regional award for Best Musical in the Small Professional Theatre Category for *FAME: The Musical*, and a 2017 Helen Hayes Award for the Spanish language premiere of *In the Heights*. In addition to his theatre background, he also has several years of business management experience as an operational manager at J.Crew.

BETH GRAHAM [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Development Manager**) is a Columbus native and longtime CATCO fan. She has served in various fundraising roles with arts organizations in town including the Columbus Symphony and most recently the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) where she has been a partner to CATCO for the last three years. Beth also held a fellowship with the Ohio Arts Council following graduation from Miami University with a degree in Arts Management and Media Culture Studies. She loves supporting local and has even worked for a local jewelry store, Red Giraffe Designs. In her free time, she likes to read, take walks in her neighborhood of Harrison West, and spend time with her rescue cat, Ivy.

FRANCINE MARCHELLE [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Education Director**), an educator, producer, director, actress, and singer, has more than 20 years of youth program leadership, curriculum development, youth development, child-care, and education experience. She has a master's degree in educational leadership focusing on curriculum and instruction. She has also led youth education initiatives at the Broad Street Presbyterian Church, YMCA, Crittenton Community School, and Directions for Youth and Families, where she was the theatre director. Founder and director of the Achievement Retro Awards, a youth research academic arts project based in Atlanta, Marchelle has produced and directed her own staged plays, including a gospel musical love story, *A Trip to God's House*, an autobiographic story, *For the Love of Me!*, and monologues, *We the People Telling Hour Story* and *Men on Pause*.

ADDITIONAL STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

WENDY CAVE [SHE/ HER/ HERS] (**Education Coordinator**) has performed professionally in and around Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. Her favorite credits include *The Baker's Wife (Into the Woods)*, *Mabel* (Gershwin Revue at the Henry Ford Museum), and *Mindy* (Cedar Point Live Entertainment). She has taught theatre for 20 years and is completing her Master's in Theatre Education this fall from Wayne State University. She is excited to join the incredible CATCO team!

SUMMIT J. STARR [SHE/HER/HERS] (**Administrative Coordinator**) is a Columbus-based artist with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre & Dance from The College of Wooster. While you can catch her acting in local theatre productions, she is also the lyricist/vocalist for FOX+RAM and lead singer for the cover band Boombox Riot. She is the COO of Photography for RockDaddyDesign and was previously the Assistant to the Vocal Director and an administrator at ShadowboxLive. As of 2013, she has been a member of Teatro Travieso/Troublemaker Theatre and has performed internationally with their social justice production *Women of Ciudad Juárez*.

JULIA KELLEY [SHE/ HER/ HERS] (**House Manager**) is excited to be back to House Manage with CATCO! Julia holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Otterbein University's Department of Theatre and Dance, including a minor in Arts Administration. She has recently worked with Momentum, BalletMet, The Walt Disney Company, and currently, The Columbus Symphony. When not in the theatre, you can find Julia supporting local coffee shops or training for her upcoming half marathon.

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