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## **Whisper Theatre Collective Presents *Shoop*, a New Farce**

*Philadelphia Debut at Cannonball, a Satellite Festival of the Philly Fringe Festival 2021*

PHILADELPHIA, PA - Chicago-based physical theatre company Whisper Theatre Collective makes its Philadelphia debut at Cannonball Festival, a satellite festival of Philly Fringe, with a new show, *Shoop*. The show runs September 24-26, 2021 at the second floor space at the MAAS Building (1325 N Randolph St, Philadelphia, PA 19122) The performances will begin at 5pm on the 24th, 4pm on the 25th, and 3pm on the 26th. The show will run a total of 45 minutes. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Almanac Dance Circus Theatre's website - [thealmanac.us](http://thealmanac.us) - the Philly Fringe Website, or at the door.

In *Shoop*, the audience witnesses the inner workings of a luxury shipping and packing facility of the title name. Clients coming to Shoop spend top dollars to receive the BEST treatment for themselves and their packages, complete with healing energy rituals. According to CEO and lifestyle guru Gabriel (breath), Shoop is not only a business of luxury - it is the business of one's spirit. When a computer malfunction causes the company to spiral into chaos, the employees must uphold the spirit of Shoop, even as company and client secrets threaten to be revealed. The ensemble members use physical comedy, partner acrobatics, and each actor playing multiple characters to perform this fast-paced, hilarious production.

With this newest show, Whisper Theatre Collective wanted to make a farce to get people laughing, especially as theaters reopen after the events of 2020 and 2021. With any comedy comes cultural relevance and darker themes, though, so they turned their creative lenses to the booming packaging industry. "It feels as if demands are high for every industry - we expect everything to be top quality, unique, and FAST. And with social media to amplify any situation, there's no room for error," says Brittany Price Anderson, one of Whisper's ensemble members. In the world of *Shoop*, we ask: *How far will we go to obtain luxury? What does upholding brand standards cost the employee?*

The Whisper is an ensemble-devised theatre company that combines Lecoq-based physical theatre, dance, and circus "to tell stories that whisper to us through the cracks in the sidewalk." (Whisper Theatre website) "We love the darker truths that go unspoken - mysterious phenomenon, characters that lurk in the darkness, the other side of daily life." All shows are created by the ensemble, and they frequently collaborate with international artists.

The ensemble began training, creating, and performing together in 2017 while pursuing an MFA in European Devised Performance Practice through Arthaus Berlin (formerly LISPA) and Columbia College Chicago. They have performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; Rhino Fest in a co-production with Prop Thtr, The Third Mask festival and Strawdog Theater in Chicago, IL; Arthaus Berlin and Teatrehaus Mitte in Berlin. The ensemble currently includes Ben Heustess, Brittany Price Anderson, Fate Richey, Gabrielle Wilson, and Richie Schiraldi.

For more information about The Whisper Theatre Collective, visit [www.facebook.com/thewhispertheatre](https://www.facebook.com/thewhispertheatre)