



# HATEFUCK



BY REHANA LEW MIRZA  
DIRECTED BY ARTI ISHAK

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The show will run 90 minutes with no intermission.

*Please remember to silence your cell phones before the performance.  
In case of an emergency, please calmly exit the theater through the indicated emergency exit  
doors.*

*Re-entry to the theatre after the performance begins is not guaranteed.  
Thank you.*



FIRST FLOOR THEATER PRESENTS  
THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF

# HATEFUCK

By **Rehana Lew Mirza**, Directed by **Arti Ishak**  
May 5 — June 10, 2023

The World Premiere of Hatefuck was presented in March 2019 by WP Theater and Colt Coeur For WP: Lisa McNulty, Producing Artistic Director Michael Sag, Managing Director

For Colt Coeur: Adrienne Campbell-Holt, Founding Artistic Director; Amy Ashton, Managing Director Hatefuck was written with the support of the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with Howlround

## FEATURING

*(Alphabetical Order)*

**Aila Ayilam Peck** (Layla)

**Faiz Siddique** (Imran)

**Ben Mathew** (Imran U/S)

**Donya Rahimi** (Layla U/S)

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Devonte E. Washington** (Stage Manager)

**Isaac Pineda** (Costume Designer)

**Paloma L** (Scenic Designer)

**Troy Cruz** (Sound Designer)

**Vianey Salazar** (Lighting Designer)

**Samantha Kaufman** (Fight & Intimacy Director)

**Shelbi Weaver\*** (Production Manager)

**Nik Hunder** (Technical Director)

**Faith Stevens** (Carpenter)

**Caitlyn Girten** (Scenic Charge)

**Shokie Tseumeh** (Scenic Charge)

**Kyle Anderson** (Master Electrician)

**Adelina Feldman-Schultz** (Casting Director)

**David Rosenberg** (Public Relations)

*\* Denotes First Floor Company Member*

### FFT'S SPECIAL THANKS

Ian McLaren Photography, David Rosenberg, Eric Gerard, Jon Hudson Odom, Silk Road Rising, SWANASA Central, Tricia Santos, Andy Cahoon, Alexander Mashikian, Peter Wilde

# LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE MANY VENUES FIRST FLOOR CREATES WITHIN AND SIT ON NATIVE LAND. THIS AREA IS THE TRADITIONAL HOMETLAND OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNCIL OF THREE FIRES, INCLUDING THE OJIBWE, POTAWATOMI, AND ODAWA. THOUGH FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES, NATIVE NATIONS HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THIS TERRITORY, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS LAND CONTINUES TO BE A SITE OF GATHERING AND HEALING FOR MORE THAN A DOZEN OTHER TRIBAL NATIONS AND REMAINS HOME TO OVER 100,000 TRIBAL MEMBERS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

IN OPENING BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS OF THIS LAND, WE HONOR THE RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF RESPECT RATHER THAN EXPLOITATION, AND WORK TO DISMANTLE COLONIAL FRAMEWORKS OF LEARNING AND MAKING.

WE RECOGNIZE AS WELL THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS BUILT AT THE OFTEN FATAL EXPENSE OF FORCEFULLY ENSLAVED BLACK PEOPLE. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WHO DID NOT SURVIVE THE MIDDLE PASSAGE, THOSE WHO WERE BEATEN AND LYNCHED AT THE HANDS OF WHITE AMERICANS, AND WE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ANTI-BLACK OPPRESSION AND RACISM IS FAR FROM PAST TENSE IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN THIS CITY: WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED AND ARE STILL DYING WHILE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIBERATION AND WE OFFER THESE WORDS AS A REMINDER THAT DISMANTLING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION MUST BE DAILY PRACTICE FOR US ALL. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO R. CHRISTOPHER MAXWELL AND THE BLACK THEATRE CAUCUS, AS WELL AS ALL THE AUTHORS OF THE WE SEE YOU, W.A.T. DEMANDS FOR PROVIDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THIS LANGUAGE.

THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS A LIVING PIECE OF OUR PROCESS, CHANGING REGULARLY AS WE LEARN NEW BEST PRACTICES, AND WE WELCOME YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LAND YOU ARE ON AS WELL AS TO ENGAGE US WITH ANY FEEDBACK.

## RESOURCES

[The Council of Three Fires](#) | [American Indian Council Chicago](#) | [Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative](#) | [U.S. Department of Arts and Culture's Guide to Honoring Native Land](#) | [nativeand.ca](#) | [The Atlantic's The Case for Reparations](#) | [Code Switch Podcast](#) | [1619 Podcast](#) | [Anti-Racism Resources](#) | [White Accomplices](#) | [The Work](#) | [@thegreatunlearn](#) | [@laylafsaad](#) | [@dribram](#)

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A love letter to you, Brown actor, who is often underestimated.

Only called in to compete against each other for that one seat at the table. The one role. The one slot in the season. The one paycheck made out to your name, signed by the same folks who still can't pronounce it, no matter how many times you've worked there.

Asked to play out your diasporic suffering, once every few years, then discarded till the next opportunity for the institution to appear relevant.

Told how to perform your culture, how to pronounce your language, and when it's time to give up authenticity for aesthetics.

I hope you celebrate your ancestral joy,  
your inherent creativity,  
your generational wisdom,  
your personal reflection of god,  
a hundred times a day, every day,  
a thousand times more  
than the amount of asks to perform your community's trauma on a regular basis.

You are more than an empty vessel for someone else's vision.

And if you wanted to,  
you could do this too.

In Solidarity,  
**ARTI ISHAK**  
DIRECTOR

# FACTS ABOUT ISLAM

**ISLAM** is a monotheistic religion & the 2nd largest religion in the world.

The two largest denominations are **SUNNI** and **SHIA**, each varying in practice from culture to culture and person to person

There are 5 pillars: **SHADA** (Profession of Faith), **SALAT** (Daily Prayer), **SAWM** (Fasting during Ramadan), **ZAKAT** (Charity), & **HAJJ** (Holy Pilgrimage to Mecca).

**ALLAH** means God in Arabic.

The **QURAN** is the holy book and word of **ALLAH**. There are 25 prophets including Jesus, Abraham, and Moses.

The last prophet was **PROPHET MUHAMMAD**, *sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam* (*peace be upon him*), whose teachings and practices which are called **HADITH**.

It is customary to always say (*peace be upon him*) after saying the **PROPHET MUHAMMAD** name or upon hearing it if it is not said by the speaker.

## RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS

### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### Muslim Writers Collective

[www.muslimwriterscollective.org](http://www.muslimwriterscollective.org)

#### Muslims for Progressive Values

[www.mpvusa.org](http://www.mpvusa.org)

#### Muslim Advocates

[www.muslimadvocates.org](http://www.muslimadvocates.org)

#### Pillars Fund

[www.pillarsfund.org](http://www.pillarsfund.org)

### CHICAGO-BASED ORGANIZATION

#### CAIR-Chicago

[www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org)

#### Inner-City Muslim Action Network

[www.imancentral.org](http://www.imancentral.org)

#### Masjid Al-Rabia

[www.masjidalrabia.org](http://www.masjidalrabia.org)

#### Studio Salam

[www.studiosalam.com](http://www.studiosalam.com)

# TERMS TO KNOW

**ALL-H HUAKBAR:** Praise God.

**BURQA:** An enveloping outer garment which covers the body and the face that is worn by women mostly in Afghanistan. The term burqa is sometimes conflated with niqāb. In more precise usage, the niqab is a face veil that leaves the eyes uncovered, while a burqa covers the entire body from the top of the head to the ground.

**FAREED ZAKARIA:** An Indian-American journalist, political commentator, and author.

**GIFT OF THE MAGI:** The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time.

**HALAL/HARAM:** Translates as Permissible and Forbidden respectively.

**HIJAB:** A head covering worn in public by some Muslim women.

**IMAM:** A Muslim religious leader.

**ISMAILI:** A member of a branch of Shia Muslims that seceded from the main group in the 8th century because of their belief that Ismail, the son of the sixth Shia imam, should have become the seventh imam.

**JIHAD/JIHADI:** Known to Americans as “a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam”; however originally means “to struggle” within oneself to be a good person.

**JINN/AH:** Shape-shifting spirits made of fire and air with origins in pre-Islamic Arabia, Jinnah is plural.

**MUSLIM:** A follower of Islam.

**MAULANA:** A title preceding a name of a respected Islamic scholar or leader.

**MUHARRAM:** The first month of the Islamic calendar. It is one of the four sacred months of the year when warfare is forbidden. It is held to be the second holiest month after Ramadan.

**QURAN:** The central religious text of Islam, believed by Muslims to be a revelation from God.

**RUMI:** A 13th-century Persian poet, Hanafi faqih, Islamic scholar, Maturidi theologian, and Sufi mystic originally from Greater Khorasan in Greater Iran. His poems have been widely translated into many of the world's languages and transposed into various formats. Rumi has been described as the “most popular poet” in the United States.

# TERMS TO KNOW

**SALLALLAHU 'ALAYHI WA SALLAM [PEACE BE UPON HIM.]:** A blessing that is said every time you hear or say or write the prophet Muhammad's name.

**SALMAN RUSHDIE:** A British-American novelist and essayist of Indian descent. His fourth novel, *The Satanic Verses* (1988), was the subject of a major controversy, provoking protests from Muslims in several countries. Death threats were made against him, including a fatwā calling for his assassination issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Supreme Leader of Iran, on 14 February 1989. The British government put Rushdie under police protection.

**SHALWAR KAMEEZ:** A traditional combination dress worn by women, and in some regions by men, in South Asia, and Central Asia. Shalwars are wide trousers, the kameez is a long shirt or tunic.

**SHARIA LAW:** Sharia is a body of religious law that forms part of the Islamic tradition, derived from both the Quran and Hadith, the sayings and reported actions of the prophet.

**SHAYTAN:** The devil, but also referred to in plural, Shayatin, as the evil spirits who do the bidding of the devil.

**SHIA:** The smaller of the two main branches of Islam, followed especially in Iran, that rejects the first three Sunni caliphs and regards Ali, the fourth caliph, as Muhammad's first true successor.

**SINDHIS:** An ethnic group who speak the Sindhi language and are native to the Sindh region, in modern-day Pakistan. Pakistani Sindhis are predominantly Muslim with a very small Hindu minority, whereas Indian Sindhis are predominantly Hindu with a considerable Sikh, Jain and Muslim population.

**SUNNI:** The larger of the two main branches of Islam, the other being Shia, is based on the followings of the first three caliphs as the Prophet's true successor.

**SUFI:** Sufism may be best described as Islamic mysticism or asceticism, which through belief and practice helps Muslims attain nearness to Allah by way of direct personal experience of God.

**WALLAH:** A street vendor.

**WONG KAR-WAI:** A Hong Kong film director, screenwriter, and producer. His films are characterised by nonlinear narratives, atmospheric music, and vivid cinematography involving bold, saturated colours.





## IMRAN COCKTAIL

1.5 oz Vodka  
0.5 oz Aperol  
1 oz lime  
.5 oz of simple syrup

*Shake*

*Pour into martini glass*

*Garnish with a cherry*

## DIY SIGNATURE DRINKS

Refresh yourself this summer with signature drinks inspired by Imran and Layla

## LAYLA MOCKTAIL

1 oz pineapple  
.5 oz orange  
.5 oz lime  
.5 oz coconut cream

*Shake*

*Pour into a Collins*

*Top with a Lemon-lime Soda*

*Garnish with rosemary*



# PLAYWRIGHT PLAYWRIGHT PLAYWRIGHT

## REHANA LEW MIRZA

**REHANA LEW MIRZA** (she/her) is a playwright, writer and creator. Her plays include: *Hatefuck* (WP/Colt Coeur); *A People's Guide to History in the Time of Here and Now* (Primary Stages Toulmin commission); *Soldier X* (Ma-Yi); *Tomorrow, Inshallah* (Living Room Theater; Storyworks/HuffPost commission); *Neighborhood Watch* (NNPN/InterAct commission) and



*Barriers* (Desipina, Asian American Theater Company.) With her husband Mike Lew, she shared a Mellon Foundation National Playwright residency administered in partnership with Howlround at Ma-Yi Theater, where they co-wrote *The Colonialism Project* (La Jolla Playhouse commission) and the musical *Bhangin' It*, with composer/lyricist Sam Willmott (La Jolla Playhouse 2022; Richard Rodgers Award; Rhinebeck Writers Retreat; Project Springboard.) Additional honors include: 2021 Cape Cod Theatre Project Artist-in-Residence, 2020 Kleban Award, 2019 NYFA Fellow, HBO Access Fellow, Lilly Award (Stacey Mindich "Go Write A Play"), and a TCG/New Georges Fellowship. MFA: Columbia University; BFA: NYU Tisch.

[www.rehanamirza.com](http://www.rehanamirza.com)

# DIRECTOR DIRECTOR DIRECTOR



## ARTI ISHAK

**ARTI ISHAK**(they/them) is an actor, director, and community organizer, recently named a 3Arts Make A Wave Artist. Directing credits include *SAME SECTS!* by Paul Michael Thomson produced as part of Haven Chicago's Directors Haven and short films: *Shukran Bas* (Means of Productions), *Sun On Ice* (Jackalope), *BaLa*

(HF Productions). Recent acting credits include *The Best Decision You Ever Made* (The Second City), *KISS* (Haven), *Venus in Fur* (Circle), *Witch* (Writers), *Buried Child* (Writers), *Men on Boats* (American Theater Company), *Fantastic Super Great Nation Numero Uno* (The Second City). TV: *Southside* (HBO), *Dark Matter* (NBC), *Chicago Med* (NBC). Arti is staff with The Chicago Inclusion Project, an instructor at Black Box Acting, and an organizer with SWANASA Central. They are represented by Paonessa Talent Agency.

[www.artiishak.com](http://www.artiishak.com)

# PRINCIPAL CAST



## AILA AYILAM PECK

**AILA AYILAM PECK** (she/her) is so grateful and honored to be working with First Floor Theater and all the incredible artists that have come together to bring *Hatefuck* to a Chicago stage! Chicago credits include: *Shakuntala* (Goodman Future Labs), *This Wide Night*, *Five Mile Lake* (Shattered Globe), *Birdland* (Steep), *The Royal Society of Antarctica* (The Gift), *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Northlight), *1984* (Steppenwolf for Young Adults). Regional credits include: *House of Joy* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), *Brahman/i: a One Hijra Stand Up Show*, *Proof* (Kitchen Theatre), *The Who and the What* (Huntington Theatre), *A Doll's House*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth* (American Player's Theatre). She is a proud graduate of School at Steppenwolf and University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is represented by Gray Talent Group. See her next in Kareem Fahmy's *A Distinct Society* coming to Writers Theatre this summer!

## FAIZ SIDDIQUE

**FAIZ SIDDIQUE** (he/him) is an actor based in Chicago. This is his first production with First Floor Theater, and he couldn't be more grateful and excited to collaborate with such a fantastic group of artists on his dream play. After spending the summer completing BADA's Midsummer in Oxford program, Faiz followed up with some recent theatre credits including but not limited to: understudying for *Andy Warhol in Iran* (Northlight Theatre); *Mosque4Mosque* (About Face Theatre); *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play* (Studio Theatre); [@iamfaizsiddique](https://www.instagram.com/iamfaizsiddique).



# UNDERSTUDIES

## BEN MATHEW

**BEN MATHEW** (he/him) is excited to be making his debut at First Floor Theater as the understudy for Imran! He last performed at Writers Theatre as Andrej and the Bank Manager in *Once*. Prior to Writers, he performed at TimeLine Theatre as the understudy for Upton Sinclair in the world debut of *Campaigns, Inc.* Ben graduated with a BFA in acting from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (go Illini!). At Illinois Theatre, he appeared in Titus Andronicus (Lucius), *Eurydice* (The Nasty Interesting Man / Hades), and *Origin Story* (Dex) at the University of Illinois, as well as various roles in *A Winter's Tale* in Bloomington, IL at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. He could not be more excited to continue his post-graduate, professional career with First Floor!



## DONYA RAHIMI



**DONYA RAHIMI** (she/her) is jazzed to be a part of her first production at First Floor Theater! She recently graduated from Wright State University with a B.F.A. in Acting (Class of '22). Donya has appeared as Ophelia & The Gravedigger in an outdoor production of *Hamlet*, and Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Wright State University). She also recently dipped her toe into commercial work with Precision I Contact lenses. She looks forward to

teaching at The American School in Switzerland- England this summer. She wants to thank her reps at Big Mouth Talent for their support!

# PRODUCTION

## TROY CRUZ

(Sound Designer; he/him) is an audio engineer based in Chicago, working in various fields such as sound design, recording, mixing, sound art, live sound, and teaching. He has experience working at Experimental Sound Studio as a recording engineer, The Museum of Contemporary Art as a freelance live sound engineer, Northwestern University as an adjunct professor and Teaching Assistant, and freelance film sound design and mixing. He is recognized for his ability to capture the unique essence of each project and bring it to life through his multidisciplinary experience. Special thanks to Tricia Santos for making me feel like I can do anything.

## NIK HUNDER

(Technical Director; he/him) is a freelance theatre technician based in Chicago, IL. He recently graduated from The Theatre School, where he was the Technical Director for *Meeting Points* and *Three Antarctica*. Nik enjoys spending his free time organizing with Chicago! Bike Grid Now and the Chicago Independent Radio Project (CHIRP).

## SAMANTHA KAUFMAN

(Fight and Intimacy Director; she/her) is an intimacy director, fight director, actor, and teaching artist. She is based in the Midwest and

works internationally. Samantha is a certified intimacy director with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators. A certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. She is a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, a Jeff Award-nominated fight choreographer, and an award-winning actor. Regionally, Samantha has worked with theatres such as Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Prague Shakespeare Company (Czech Republic), Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Cleveland Play House, among others. [SamanthaJKaufman.com](http://SamanthaJKaufman.com).

## ISAAC PINEDA

(Costume Designer; he/him) is a costume designer/stitcher hailing from Southern California and a Columbia College alum. Some favorite credits include; *Among The Dead* (Jackalope Theatre), *Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negroes* (The Story Theatre), *The Secretaries* (First Floor Theater), *Hamlet* (Invictus Theatre), *The Things I could never tell Steven* (PrideArts), and *Waiting for Godot* (Victory Gardens). Check out his work at [www.isaacjappineda.com](http://www.isaacjappineda.com)

# — PRODUCTION —

## **VIANEY SALAZAR**

(Lighting Designer; she/her) is excited to make her debut with First Floor Theater. Past lighting design credits include *Nervous Breakdown in G Minor*, Director's Haven 6 (Haven Theatre); Sans Merci (Not Your Average Ingenue Company); and *Sing Me a Story* (Portland Stage Theater for Kids). Assistant lighting design credits include *House of Joy* (St. Louis Rep); *Fires in the Mirror* (Baltimore Center Stage & Long Wharf Theatre); and *The Half-Light* (Portland Stage Company). She has also worked with American Players Theatre (Lighting Supervisor) and Peninsula Players Theatre (Master Electrician). She has a BFA from Illinois Wesleyan University.

## **DEVONTE E. WASHINGTON**

(Stage Manager; he/him) is excited to join First Floor Theater for this production. He has worked with theaters such as Dandelion Theatre, MPAACT, Teatro Vista, Congo Square, Shattered Globe and Court Theatre. He is also an Ensemble Member with Shattered Globe Theater Company. He was born and raised in Chicago and he is excited to be part of this production.

## **SHELBI WEAVER\***

(Production Manager; she/her) is an actor, stage manager, and occasional comedian based in Chicago. Originally from Mississippi, she

attended the University of Northern Colorado, where she received a B.F.A. in Acting. Post-Grad, she moved out to the city and has been an involved member of the artistic community ever since. She worked most recently as a production assistant with *Night Out in the Parks*, where she collaborated with local theaters, musicians, and artists to bring hundreds of free shows to our city's parks. She's had the pleasure of working for FFT before as a Stage Manager for their *Blueprint Commission* series. Her recent film credits include *McKenzie McCoy and D\*cks*. She currently works as an in-house stage manager at iO Improvisational Theatre.

*\* Denotes First Floor Company Member*

# READY FOR MORE?

*Become part of the FFT Family with a monthly membership.*

Get insider access to our art, artists, and give us the gift of sustainability

Which, as we're sure you can imagine, is the **\*\*most important it has ever been\*\*** for small arts organizations re-emerging from a pandemic.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us with a regular gift at this time.

Here's how it works:

**\$10**

## **Basic Membership**

You get a comp for every show.

**\$15**

## **Plus Ones**

You and a date get a comp for every show.

**\$20**

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You and a date get to upgrade comps to opening.

**\$25**

## **Gala Discount**

You and a date get opening comps & discount on all fundraiser event tickets.

[LEARN MORE AT FIRSTFLOOR THEATER.COM/MEMBERSHIP](https://firstfloortheater.com/membership)



# STAFF

(In Alphabetical Order)

**ANASTAR ALVAREZ** (they/them), Director of Production

**ANDREW CUTLER** (he/him), Artistic Producer †

**AMANDA FINK** (she/her), Managing Director †

**ALEXANDER PAREDES-RUIZ** (he/él), Marketing Manager

**SHELBI WEAVER** (she/her), Production Manager

# COMPANY

**AURORA ADACHI-WINTER** (she/her)

**WILL BISHOP** (he/him) †

**SID BRANCA** (they/them)

**MIKAEL BURKE** (he/him)

**ALEXIS CARRIE** (she/her) †

**CAROLINE CHU** (she/her)

**KATE CORNELIUS-SCHECTER** (she/her) †

**MICAH FIGUEROA** (he/him)

**KATIE FOGGIANO** (she/her)

**MARKIE GRAY** (she/her)

**BOBBY HUGGINS** (he/him)

**HANNA KIME** (she/her)

**JULIE LEGHORN** (she/her)

**GRACIE MEIER** (she/they)

**CAITLIN MCCARTHY** (she/her)

**CATHERINE MILLER** (they/them)

**HUTCH PIMENTEL** (they/he)

**OMER ABBAS SALEM** (he/they)

**GRIFFIN SHARPS** (he/him)

**CLAIRE STONE** (she/her)

**COLE VON GLAHN** (he/him)

† DENOTES FOUNDING MEMBER

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**ANDRES FONSECA** (he/him), Treasurer

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HF



# SHOUT ABOUT IT

#HatefuckFFT

#FirstFloorTheater

@FirstFloorTheater



Got a pre or post-show pic?

We're into it!

Show some love to our designers by  
tagging and crediting their work.



HF