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Giant pouched rats, baby corals & the FBI: A recap of TED Fellows Session 2 at TED2015

Posted by: [Karen Eng](#) March 17, 2015 at 1:18 am EDT

In Session 2 of the TED Fellows talks, we learn about the FBI's use of informants in counterterrorism operations, how giant pouched rats are helping to save lives, laser-delivered HIV drugs, how Silicon Valley companies are working to protect our privacy — and that's not to mention the piano solo, percussive dance and opera!

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Choreographer **Camille A. Brown** performs a passionate and percussive solo dance excerpted from *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*, accompanied on piano by Scott Patterson. "This dance reveals the complexity of carving out a self-defined identity as a black female in urban American culture," says Brown.

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Camille Brown performs during Fellows session 2, TED2015 – Truth and Dare, March 16-20, 2015, Kay Meek Center, West Vancouver, Canada. Photo: Ryan Lash/TED

When she was a little girl, dancer and arts activist **Camille A. Brown's** passion was for LEGO. Nothing made her happier than going to her grandparents' house, switching on her favorite cartoon, and diving into her building blocks — after doing a dance specially choreographed to the theme song of the Gummi Bears, of course! When she grew up, she was told at dance school her body wasn't quite right for dance — but she persevered, and found her joy in dance composition, another form of building. Her work now powerfully interrogates and reclaims the narratives of what it means to be black in America — particularly a black girl — refusing to allow anyone to dictate what stories she could tell and how she tells them. Despite some pushback, Brown has built her own unique system and structure as a choreographer, dancer and community builder, using the language of dance to carve out a self-defined identity as an African American female and as a platform for dialogue about race.