Can’t Touch This

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*Can’t Touch This* is a huge, primetime game show with a very simple premise – if you touch the prize, you win the prize! Catapulted into a giant obstacle course, 16 contestants have to battle their way through fiendish challenges while trying to touch prizes that are tantalizingly just out of reach. But only one of them will win the chance to take home their prize haul. They could also be driving their prizes home in the car of their dreams, but first they have to take a giant, heart-stopping leap in order to touch it. Full of epic fails and big, big wins, it’s fun for the whole family.
How do you think you would both do on the show?

**Zoe:** I think I’d be lucky to make it out of the first foam pit. I think I’d be alright until it got to the travelator. Then if you get dunked it’s so impossible to run and I’m not a graceful runner anyway! I’d be really good at the stack em’ high thing.

**Ashley:** I think Zoe would do much better than she says she would, and I would do a lot worse than people think I would. I mean that summarises it, because I’d like to think I’d do great but...I’d probably be really bad at it.

**Zoe:** I really want to see him do it! I mean you automatically think you’d be really really good, but then when you see people that aren’t necessarily doing as brilliantly as they think they would, and it’s so funny! You’d never live it down.

**Ashley:** I’d never ever live it down. Part of the reason I don’t want to do it!

What would you say your favourite part of the obstacle course is?

**Zoe:** The catapult. I love the catapult! It looks like so much fun. I quite like the chairs that dunk you down the slides.
Ashley: I like the ropes, as a viewer, as a spectator. I mean if I were taking part they would be at the bottom of my list, but as a viewer, I think the ropes might be my favourite. They’re just so exciting, it’s all about survival on that one.

There are a number of epic fails in the show. What were some of your favourite ones?

Zoe: There’s a guy who doesn’t make it out of the foam pit, and he gets stuck in the foam pit and then his pants come off! He’s so gorgeous and it was hilarious! I think that was the most pain I’ve ever been in from laughing. It was just so, so funny! Those ones I love.

Ashley: I think mine was the noises. I think if you just listen to some of the noises that people make...they’re not human, you know, they would make noises that I don’t think they knew they were capable of.

Why should viewers choose Can’t Touch This over other game shows?

Ashley: Because of me and Zoe...ha, I’m joking!

Zoe: I think there are several elements. I think one is that anyone can have a go at it and you find unlikely heroes in it; people who don’t necessarily have to be fit to do really well at it. There is luck and chance and logic and jeopardy. But, also, there are such brilliant prizes like trips to New York!

Ashley: And even if you only watch for Sue Perkins commentary, which is incredible! She is so so funny...

Zoe: She is so funny. And she makes me laugh out loud but that is why she is a genius. A god like genius.

Talking about the prizes, if you were on the show what would your top prizes be?

Zoe: Did you get excited about the coffee machine?

Ashley: No I don’t drink coffee. I got excited over a few things I think. Definitely a trip to Barcelona (I love Barcelona), a new car (obviously) and a drone. I’d like a drone, I really want a drone! I want to put a go-pro on it and fly it round. Honestly though I really really want it!
Zoe: I was quite excited about the luxury pan set. That’s no word of a lie...I love a new pan. Yeah I was quite excited about this drive on lawnmower, even though I don’t have a lawn. Because it’s just a money can’t buy prize really. I’d just ride around town. I think the other is winning the car, because the car is amazing. It’s more the fact that you have to fly through the air and touch the car to win it!

If you had to sum up the show in three words what would they be?
Zoe: Ridonkulous. If that’s even a word! I mean it’s not a real word, but it is because it incorporates the fact that you’re asking people to do such ridiculous things, which are great fun and they all just leave laughing don’t they?

And what was it like working with each other?
Zoe: It really was brilliant!
Ashley: It was great, it was really great fun.
Zoe: Sometimes when you work with people you do wonder whether it is going to work or not, but I sort of feel like I know Ashley anyway after watching Britain’s Got Talent and the dance shows and seeing them all grow up. My kids were obviously really impressed that I was working with their hero. We had such a laugh! You can’t not have a laugh watching people being fired from a catapult, and fighting each other to win a smoothie maker! It’s so thrilling...
Ashley: It was really great working with you, it was a great laugh. I mean we had met before and it was absolutely great...

Where had you met before?
Ashley: On It Takes Two
Zoe: Even though I don’t remember anything about it...
Ashley: Yeah and Zoe pretends that I brought my dog in, which I did bring in a picture of.
Do you own a dog?

**Ashley:** I do, I own two dogs. A Chihuahua and a Great Dane.

**Zoe:** Yeah and that’s another thing about Ashley, you know, there’s an element of ridiculousness about him! He has a Great Dane and a Chihuahua!

**Ashley:** And three chinchillas.

And finally, what was the atmosphere like on set when all of the contestants arrived for filming?

**Zoe:** They were really excited! They would walk in confident and then they realise how hard it is.

**Ashley:** Yes but then they sit in that catapult chair and the mood changes.

**Zoe:** ...because no one’s ever been catapulted before, so you can’t imagine what’s going to happen to your body and you can feel the tension where the studio is so quiet. I love the crew’s reaction to watching people do it and you know it’s going to be a good fun show because you are willing everyone to do really well and you’re laughing a lot, with them and not at them.
Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo are announced as the presenters for BBC One’s brand new entertainment show Can’t Touch This.

Can’t Touch This is a big, funny, physical action gameshow with a very simple premise - if you touch the prize, you win the prize. Contestants have to negotiate a larger-than-life assault course while simultaneously battling it out to touch the amazing prizes along the way. Comedian and broadcaster Sue Perkins will be commentating on all the action.

Zoe Ball said: “I yelped with delight when I heard about Can’t Touch This. It’s epic on every front, like a life-size game of mousetrap for humans - who wouldn't want to be fired from a catapult? It's ace that our contestants don’t have to be the world’s best athletes; they’re all ages from 18 to 65. Don't tell him but I’m a huge fan of Ashley Banjo. Stopping him from leaping off onto the travellator is my main task. You'll watch it and want to have a go immediately. We are both so excited about the show!”

Ashley Banjo added: “I’ve never quite seen anything like Can’t Touch This; the sheer scale of it is immense! The concept sounds so simple - ‘touch the prize, win the prize’ - but the course is anything but! And due to the 'chance' element of some of the games, it really is anybody’s guess who will win, no matter how young or fit you are. With all the incredible prizes on offer, including a brand new car, contestants are literally falling head over heels to try and win them. Zoe and I have been crying with laughter watching them try but also really rooting for them to do well.”

Alan Tyler, Commissioning Editor for BBC Entertainment, says: “We are really excited to be bringing the stellar combination of Zoe, Ashley and Sue to audiences on BBC One. Their natural enthusiasm, passion and wit are completely infectious, willing our intrepid contestants on as they hurl over every obstacle, across every pool and into every wall.”

Devised and produced by Northern Ireland-based independent production company Stellify Media (Sony Pictures Television) the 10-part series was shot in Belfast. The executive producers are Kieran Doherty and Matthew Worthy and the series editor is Kim Ross.
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