

~~And here. (gesturing to heart)~~

~~And, of course, Michelangelo knew this.  
That while memories live on, the art itself can't last forever. Shouldn't last forever.  
So perhaps he never imagined or intended future generations to see his David.  
It was just for a select few. The people of his time.~~

~~And now we -- the "Friends of Florence" --  
are perverting his wishes, perverting history,  
as we play God for a few hours every day,  
prolonging this statue's life...~~

~~I didn't always think this way.  
But last week, I found myself alone with the David, and had an epiphany!  
It was after hours, and the other restorers had gone home, when...  
something outside of myself compelled me to just go for it!  
Call it Fate or Destiny... Divine Intervention...  
But some inner voice was telling me:  
*You must touch the flawed ankle with Your bare hand!*~~

~~Usually protective gloves are worn,  
and even then there are brushes and tools that actually touch the marble,  
never a bare human hand! The audacity!~~

START

But I needed to know what it felt like.  
This fatal flaw.

*You turn to the David. Lights shift to a memory.*

So I decided to reach out --  
to touch the place where God left His mark;  
the Achilles Heel of marble.  
What miracles could it unlock inside me?  
Could I change it? Could it change me?  
Could I...?  
Could I...?

*You reach out... and TOUCH THE ANKLE.*

*Lights shift dramatically.*

*As MICHELANGELO, You speak with an over-the-top ITALIAN ACCENT.*

MICHELANGELO

*Ciao! Che fai?*

YOU

Whoa! Wh- what? Who said that?!

MICHELANGELO

*Ahh, Inglese!**Eh, come si dice....*

What.

Are you.

A-doing? *Che fai?*

YOU

I'm, I'm, uh -- what are, what are you doing?

MICHELANGELO

I don't know - I'm a, how you say...

figment of your imagination, *si?*

Also a very bad Italian stereotype.

YOU

Wait. Are you... Michelangelo?

MICHELANGELO

At-a your service.

*You geek-out like a teenage fan seeing their idol.  
Then stop on a dime to say:*

YOU

*(to audience)*

(This really happened, by the way.

I had this exact conversation-slash-vision just a few days ago!

...Okay, back to it... )

*You snap back into geeking-out like a teenage  
fan seeing their idol.*

MICHELANGELO

...You like-a my statue?

END