

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WEST COAST PREMIERE

**MARIN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS *IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER*  
BY TARELL ALVIN McCRANEY, PART ONE OF THE ACCLAIMED  
*THE BROTHER / SISTER PLAYS* TRILOGY**

MILL VALLEY, CA – Marin Theatre Company is proud to kick off its 2010–11 season with Part One of *The Brother / Sister Plays* trilogy, ***In the Red and Brown Water*** by Tarell Alvin McCraney, directed by MTC Producing Director Ryan Rilette, September 9 through October 3, 2010. The opening night performance is Tuesday, September 14 at 8 pm.

***In the Red and Brown Water*** tells the story of Oya, who can run faster than anyone but not fast enough to escape her fate. When pressed to choose between her dying mother and her own future, she makes a life-changing decision. Her journey from the promise of youth to the complicated yearnings of womanhood is a joyous, raucous, brazenly theatrical experience.

Director **Ryan Rilette** has a longstanding artistic partnership with McCraney, having commissioned, developed, and directed the world premiere of *The Breach*, the celebrated play about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina—written by McCraney, Catherine Filloux, and Joe Sutton—at New Orleans’ Southern Repertory Theater. “When Jasson and I first read ***In the Red and Brown Water*** and experienced its richly poetic, haunting Bayou world, we knew it was a play that we wanted to stage at MTC,” says director Ryan Rilette. “Tarell’s story of love, desire, and betrayal centered around a young girl who can run like the wind is a beautiful combination of the Louisiana Bayou and Yoruban mythology.”

McCraney’s celebrated *The Brother / Sister Plays* trilogy will receive its West Coast premiere in an unprecedented partnership between MTC, Magic Theatre, and American Conservatory Theatre. This collaborative event brings all three parts of the play cycle to

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Bay Area audiences with each company producing one part of the trilogy. Magic Theatre presents Part Two, *The Brothers Size*, directed by Octavio Solis, September 9 through October 17. A.C.T. presents Part Three, *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*, directed by Mark Rucker, October 29 through November 21.

“Marin Theatre Company is thrilled to be part of our region-wide celebration of the work of the amazingly talented Tarell McCraney,” says MTC Artistic Director Jasson Minadakis. “That three theaters could agree to mount a trilogy together speaks to the sheer genius, relevance and importance of Tarell’s voice and vision. Not since the arrival of Sam Shepard and August Wilson has such universal praise been heaped on such a young playwright and his work.”

**Tarell Alvin McCraney’s** plays include *Wig Out!* produced in New York by Vineyard Theatre and in London by the Royal Court Theatre, *Without/Sin* and *Run, Mourner, Run*, both of which premiered at the Yale Cabaret, and *The Breach* with Catherine Filloux and Joe Sutton, commissioned by Southern Repertory Theatre, where it premiered in August 2007 to mark the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. He is currently the Royal Shakespeare Company’s international writer in residence, and is under commission at Manhattan Theatre Club and Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Director **Ryan Rilette** is in his third season as Producing Director for MTC where he has directed *boom* by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb and *Magic Forest Farm* by Zayd Dohrn. From 2002 to 2008, he served as Producing Artistic Director of Southern Repertory Theatre.

***In the Red and Brown Water*** cast includes Ryan Vincent Anderson, Daveed Diggs, Nicole Foster, Jalene Goodwin, Isaiah Johnson, Jared McNeill, Lakisha May, Josh Schell, and Dawn L. Troupe.

As a result of the three-theater partnership, subscribers to each theater will have access to \$40 tickets to the other two shows in the trilogy. For more photos and information about McCraney, the trilogy, and ticket offers please visit [www.brothersisterplays.org](http://www.brothersisterplays.org).

## **FACTS & CALENDAR INFORMATION**

For more information visit [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) or call 415.388.5208. Marin Theatre Company is located at 397 Miller Ave, Mill Valley CA 94941.

**Previews**— Thu Sept 9 through Sun Sept 12, 2010  
**Opening Night Gala** —Tue, Sept 14 at 8:00 pm

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### **Performance Schedule September 9 through October 3, 2010**

Tues, Thu, Fri & Sat 8:00 pm

Wed 7:30 pm

Sun 7:00 pm

Matinees: Thu Sept 23, 1:00 pm | Sat Sept 18 and Oct 2, 2:00 pm | Every Sun 2:00 pm

Please check [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) or call box office at 415.388.5208 for exact performance dates and times.

### **Ticket Prices**

Previews: \$32

Opening Night: \$48 & \$53

Tues: \$33 & \$35

Wed, Thu, & Sun Evenings: \$37 & \$42

Fri: \$43 & \$48

Sat Evenings: \$48 & \$53

Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun Matinees: \$37 & \$42

### **Discounts available:**

Under 30: \$20, all performances

Senior discounts, varies by performance, please call

RUSH tickets \$15, available one-half hour prior to show, based on availability

For group sales, contact Julie Knight, 415-388-5200 x3302

**ABOUT MTC.** Marin Theatre Company is the Bay Area's premiere mid-sized theater and the leading professional theater in the North Bay. We produce a five- to six-show season of provocative plays by passionate playwrights from the 20th century and today in two intimate theaters—a 231-seat proscenium and a 99-seat thrust. We are committed to the development and production of new plays by American playwrights, with a comprehensive New Play Program that includes at least one world premiere each season, two nationally recognized annual playwriting awards, numerous new play readings and workshops by the nation's best emerging playwrights, and a leadership position in the National New Play Network. Our numerous educational programs serve more than 6,000 students each year.

### **ARTIST BIOS**

**Tarell Alvin McCraney's** most widely performed plays include *Wig Out!* (developed at the Sundance Institute Theatre Lab, and produced in New York by Vineyard Theatre and in London by the Royal Court Theatre) and *The Brother/Sister Plays*, which include *The Brothers Size* (which premiered simultaneously in New York at The Public Theater, in association with The Foundry Theatre, and in London at the Young Vic, where it was nominated for the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre); *In the Red and Brown Water* (winner of the Alliance Theatre's Keneda Graduate Playwriting Competition, produced at the Alliance Theatre and the Young Vic); and *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*. His other plays include *Without/Sin* and *Run, Mourner, Run* (adapted from Randall Kenan's short story), both of which premiered at the Yale Cabaret. In the summer of 2006, McCraney, Catherine Filloux, and Joe Sutton wrote *The Breach*, commissioned by Southern Repertory Theatre, where it premiered in August

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2007 to mark the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. *The Breach* also played at Seattle Repertory Theatre in the winter of 2007. McCraney attended the New World School of the Arts High School in Miami, Florida, receiving the Exemplary Artist Award and the Dean's Award in Theater. He holds a BFA in acting from DePaul University. McCraney is a graduate of Yale School of Drama's playwriting program, where he received the Cole Porter Playwriting Award upon graduation. He is the Royal Shakespeare Company's international writer in residence, the 2009 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, and the recipient of Vineyard Theatre's 2007 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award and a 2007 Whiting Writers' Award. He is currently under commission at Manhattan Theatre Club and Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and he is a member of New Dramatists and Teo Castellanos D-Projects in Miami. In 2008, McCraney was the recipient of London's *Evening Standard* Award for Most Promising Playwright.

**Ryan Rilette** (Director) is in his third season as producing director at Marin Theatre Company. In 2010–11, he will direct *In the Red and Brown Water* and *Fuddy Meers*; previously, he directed *boom* and *Magic Forest Farm*. From 2002 to 2008, Rilette served as producing artistic director of Southern Repertory Theatre, the premier professional theater of New Orleans, where he directed the world premieres of *The Breach* (cowritten by Tarell Alvin McCraney), *Rising Water*, *The Sunken Living Room*, *The Vulgar Soul*, and *The House of Plunder*, *Kimberly Akimbo*; *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?*, and *In Walks Ed*. He has also directed for A.C.T.'s M.F.A. program, New Theatre (Miami), The Tennessee Williams Festival, Soho Rep, and The Flea, among others. He is the incoming president of the National New Play Network, cofounder and former executive artistic director of Rude Mechanicals Theater Company in New York, and a former professor at Tulane and Loyola universities.

**Ryan Vincent Anderson** (Ogun) makes his MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. He has appeared at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in *The Clay Cart*, *Our Town*, *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Henry VIII*, *The Laramie Project Epilogue*, and *The Dutchman*. Other theater credits include *Holy Ghost* at Theatre of Note; *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, and *Skin* at Cal Arts; and *When the Tigris Runs Black* at Inside the Ford Amphitheatre. His film and TV credits include BET Short Film showcase, *The Perfect Chaos*, *AIR*, and *Only Volunteers*. Ryan received a MFA in acting from CalArts, and a BA in architecture from Carnegie Mellon. He lives in Los Angeles.

**Daveed Diggs** (Egungun) appeared in the MTC School Tour production of *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Recent theater credits include Chinaka Hodge's *Mirrors in Every Corner* at Intersection for the Arts, *Red Light Winter* at Custom Made Theatre, *A Civil War Christmas* at TheatreWorks, *A Comedy of Errors* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, *Troilus and Cressida* at Pacific Repertory Theater, *Moving Right Along* at Magic Theatre, and *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Jesus Hopped the A Train* at SF Playhouse. Daveed is a founding member of hip-hop arts collective The Getback, a member of San Francisco's improvisational music/super-hero squadron The Freeze, and a member of New York's improvisational theater/rap event Freestyle Love Supreme. He teaches rap and spoken word classes throughout the Bay Area.

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**Nicole Foster** (Mama Moja) makes her MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. Her credits include Dina in *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* at Alcazar Theatre; Lucinda in *Into the Woods* and Toinette in *Josephine* at TheatreWorks; Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* at African-American Shakespeare Theatre Company; and Charlaïne in *Ain't Misbehavin* at The Western Stage. Nicole appeared at Oregon Shakespeare Festival as Bebe in *Idiot's Delight*, Ivy in *Playboy of the West Indies*, and Ruby in *Oo-Bla-Dee*. Nicole holds a BA in broadcast communications with a minor in theatre arts from San Francisco State University.

**Jalene Goodwin** (Shun) makes her MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. Credits include Minty (a young Harriet Tubman) in *The Underground Railroad*, *Wittenberg*, and *The Golden Harp* at B Street Theatre. In Trinidad, she appeared as Desdemona in William Shakespeare's *Othello* at The Roxie and Laura in Tennessee William's *The Glass Menagerie* at Creative Works Theatre. Jalene comes from Trinidad and Tobago, in the West Indies. She received her BA in musical theatre and film and media arts from the University of Tampa.

**Isaiah Johnson** (Shango) makes his MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. Regional credits include *Once on This Island* at Roundhouse Theatre, *Blues Journey* at the Kennedy Center, and *Gutter Beautiful* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre. At New York University he appeared in Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*, Lynn Nottage's *Mud, River, Stone*, and John Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*. Isaiah earned a BFA from Howard University and a MFA from New York University.

**Lakisha May** (Oya) makes her MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. Recent credits at include Angel Allen in *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, Polly in *Gnadiges Fraulien*, Hamlet in a workshop of *Hamlet*, and Kelly in *Riot* at A.C.T. She was selected to go to Bath, England to collaborate with the Young Conservatory and workshop *Riot*, where she originated the role of Kelly. Lakisha is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta and is a recent graduate of the MFA program at A.C.T., where she was a Fleishhacker scholarship recipient.

**Jared McNeill** (Elegba) makes his MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. Regional credits include the Cory in August Wilson's *Fences* at the Geva Theatre Center and Oshoosi in Tarell McCraney's *The Brothers Size* at the City Theatre of Pittsburgh. He's recently returned from a year-long tour performing alongside an international company of actors in director Peter Brook's latest collaboration, *11 and 12*. Jared obtained a BA in theatre and visual arts from Fordham University at Lincoln Center. He is a member of Boom Kat Dance Theatre. He is a recent graduate of the BFA acting program at the University of Southern California.

**Josh Schell** (O Li Run) makes his MTC debut with *In the Red and Brown Water*. He most recently appeared in the Bay Area in *A Few Good Men* at the Hapgood Theatre Company. Los Angeles credits include *West* at the Hellion Company; *True West* and *Fool for Love* at the Casitas Group (of which he is a founding member); and *Our Country's Good*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *The Voyage Inheritance*, *Mad Forest*, *Barbarians*, and *Buried Child* with the USC School of Theatre. While attending the Young Conservatory at ACT, he appeared in *Broken Hallelujah*, *The Anatomy of Grey*, *War*

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*Daddy*, and *Albert's Bridge and More*, and in 2005 was a recipient of the Distinguished Young Artist Award. Mr. Schell holds a BFA from the University of Southern California.

**Dawn L. Troupe** (Aunt Elegua) returns to MTC where she appeared in the New Works staged reading of *Blood/Money*. Bay Area credits include Marcus Gardley's *This World in a Woman's Hands* at Shotgun Theatre; *Caroline, or Change*, *Dessa Rose*, *Memphis*, *Book of Days*, and *Ragtime* at TheatreWorks; and in TheatreWorks' New Works Festival readings of *Memphis*, *The Water*, *A Little Princess*, and *Funkentine Rapture*. She appeared as Sarah in *Ragtime* at Broadway By the Bay; *Beehive* at San Jose Stage Company; as Aida in *Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida* and Addaperle in *The Wiz* at Willows Theatre Company; and a nurse/ensemble in *South Pacific* at American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Dawn has a BA from Cal State Hayward, and next year will complete a MA in theatre production at Central Washington University.

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