



Carey Perloff, *Artistic Director*



Loretta Greco, *Artistic Director*



Jasson Minadakis, *Artistic Director*
Ryan Rilette, *Producing Director*

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Media contact: Evren Odcikin, Public Relations Manager, American Conservatory Theater, 415.439.2418 or evren@act-sf.org

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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER, MAGIC THEATRE, AND MARIN THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCE DATES AND DIRECTORS FOR *THE BROTHER/SISTER PLAYS*

**The West Coast premiere of the acclaimed trilogy
by young playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney at three area theaters
promises an explosive start to the 2010–11 theater season.**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, June 7, 2010—American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), **Magic Theatre**, and **Marin Theatre Company** (MTC) have announced the full details of their first-time partnership: **Tarell Alvin McCraney's *The Brother/Sister Plays***. The acclaimed trilogy, which has taken New York and Chicago by storm, will receive its **West Coast premiere** at the three theaters in the fall of 2010. MTC presents Part I, ***In the Red and Brown Water***, directed by MTC Producing Director Ryan Rilette (*boom* and *Magic Forest Farm* at MTC), September 9 through October 3. Magic Theatre simultaneously presents Part II, ***The Brothers Size***, directed by acclaimed local playwright and director Octavio Solis (*Lydia* at MTC, *Pastures of Heaven* at California Shakespeare Theatre), September 9 through October 17. Then A.C.T. presents Part III, ***Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet***, directed by award-winning director Mark Rucker (A.C.T.'s *The Rainmaker* and the film *Die, Mommy, Die!*), October 29 through November 21. 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 information about McCraney, the trilogy, and ticket offers, please visit www.brothersisterplays.org.

These three interconnected plays introduced McCraney as a brilliant new American voice last season, prompting the *Chicago Tribune* to state that *The Brother/Sister Plays* are “surely the greatest piece of writing by an American playwright under 30 in a generation or more.” *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley proclaimed, “Watching [*The Brother/Sister Plays*], you experience the excited wonder that comes from witnessing something rare in the theater: a new, authentically original vision. It’s what people must have felt during productions of the early works of Eugene O’Neill in the 1920s or of Sam Shepard in the 1960s.” McCraney speaks to the unprecedented partnership that is bringing the trilogy to the Bay Area: “It’s incredible that three theaters have taken on doing all three plays, really allowing for each play to live distinctively and have a conversation with each other across the Bay Area.” The plays can be seen in any order, with each reflecting, echoing, and creating a poetic dialogue with the others. Grand and

universal in scope, yet also intimate and heartfelt, McCraney's plays combine an authentic exploration of a gritty and urban reality alongside magical flights of the imagination, exploding modern sexuality in provocative and poetic ways.

Marin Theatre Company will present the first play, ***In the Red and Brown Water***. **Ryan Rilette**, who directs the show, 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's Southern Repertory Theater (where Rilette was producing artistic director until 2008). *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. *In the Red and Brown Water* runs **September 9–October 3, 2010**, at **Marin Theatre Company** (397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley). The opening night performance is **Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 8 p.m.** For more information on *In the Red and Brown Water* and to subscribe to MTC's 2010–11 season, please visit www.marintheatre.org.

Magic Theatre will take on the second play of the trilogy, ***The Brothers Size***, directed by acclaimed local playwright and director **Octavio Solis**. The play asks the question, “Am I my brother's keeper?” After a homecoming in the bayous of Louisiana, the Size brothers, Ogun and Oshoosi, try to start fresh. This haunting, funny, and heartbreaking tour de force probes sexuality, coming of age, and the bonds of family. *The Brothers Size* runs **September 9–October 17, 2010**, at Magic Theatre (Northside Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D, San Francisco). The opening night performance is **Tuesday, September 21, 2010, at 8 p.m.** For more information on *The Brothers Size* and to subscribe to Magic Theatre's 2010–11 season, please visit www.magictheatre.org.

A.C.T. will produce the final show of the trilogy, ***Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet***, directed by acclaimed director **Mark Rucker**. A few days before Hurricane Katrina, the barometer rises and the air below sea level closes in on a young black man, pressured to balance his sexual identity with family creeds and the magical cultural landscape that surround him. *Marcus*, with its warmth, myth, humor, and Louisiana argot, is a fantastical coming-of-age play. *Marcus* runs **October 29–November 21, 2010**, at the American Conservatory Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco). The opening night performance is **Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at 8 p.m.** For more information on *Marcus* and to subscribe to A.C.T.'s 2010–11 season, please visit www.act-sf.org.

All three artistic directors speak to the uniqueness and power of McCraney's voice. “McCraney's raw, poetic, 29-year-old lens miraculously reflects back to us our most ancient souls,” says Magic Theatre Artistic Director **Loretta Greco**. “His voice is one of the surest signs that theater today is still a vital act of communion.” A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff** adds: “McCraney is one of the most exciting writers to emerge in the American theater in the past decade. His work is pungent, passionate, poetic,

almost ‘Greek’ in its scope, but also hilarious and accessible.” MTC Artistic Director **Jasson Minadakis** concurs: “That three theaters could agree to mount a trilogy together speaks to the sheer genius, relevance, and importance of Tarell’s voice and vision.”

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 Kendeda 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 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 B.F.A. 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.



IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER
FACT SHEET

WHAT: *In the Red and Brown Water*
The Brother/Sister Plays: Part I

Oya can run faster than anyone, but not fast enough to escape her fate. When pressed to choose between her dying mother and her dreams of escape, 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.

WHO: by Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Ryan Rilette

Featuring Ryan Anderson, Daveed Diggs, Nicol Foster, Jalene Goodwin, Isaiah Johnson, Lakisha Michelle May, Jared McNeill, Joe Sofranko, Dawn Troupe

WHERE: Marin Theatre Company
397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941

WHEN: **Sept 9–Oct 3, 2010**
Opening Night: Tuesday, September 14, at 8 p.m.

TICKETS: \$32–\$54 (Discounts available for seniors and under-30.)

PHOTOS: <http://www.brothersisterplays.org/>

TIX & INFO: 415.388.5208 | www.marintheatre.org

PRESS CONTACT:

Kathleen Gaines, Communications Director, MTC, 415.388.5200 x3313 or kathie@marintheatre.org

RYAN RILETTE (Director, *In the Red and Brown Water*) 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 has 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.

MARIN THEATRE COMPANY is the Bay Area's premier 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 world premieres, playwriting awards, new-play readings and workshops, and a leadership position in the National New Play Network. We also have numerous educational programs, including theater for young audiences, that perform in our Lieberman Theatre and tour to schools throughout Marin; teachers in the classroom; a summer camp; student matinees; free tickets for teachers; and internships. Our educational programs serve more than 6,000 students each year.



THE BROTHERS SIZE **FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *The Brothers Size*
The Brother/Sister Plays: Part II

Am I my brother's keeper? After a homecoming in the bayous of Louisiana, the Size brothers, Ogun and Oshoosi, try to start fresh. This haunting, funny, and heartbreaking tour de force by Tarell Alvin McCraney probes sexuality, coming of age, and the bonds of family.

WHO: by Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Octavio Solis

Featuring Tobie L. Windham

WHERE: Magic Theatre
Northside Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D, San Francisco, CA 94123

WHEN: **Sept 9–Oct 17, 2010**
Opening Night: Tuesday, September 21, 2010, at 8 p.m.

TICKETS: **\$30–\$60** (Discounts available for seniors, students and under-30, limited RUSH and PWYC performances.)

PHOTOS: <http://www.brotherssisterplays.org/>

TIX & INFO: 415.441.8822 | www.magictheatre.org

PRESS CONTACT:

Jayne Benjulian, Director of New Play Development, Magic Theatre, 415.263.9046 or jayneb@magictheatre.org

OCTAVIO SOLIS (Director, *The Brothers Size*) is a playwright and director living in San Francisco. His works *Ghosts of the River*, *Quixote*, *Lydia*, *June in a Box*, *Lethe*, *Marfa Lights*, *Gibraltar*, *The Ballad of Pancho and Lucy*, *The 7 Visions of Encarnación*, *Bethlehem*, *Dreamlandia*, *El Otro*, *Man of the Flesh*, *Prospect*, *El Paso Blue*, *Santos & Santos*, and *La Posada Mágica* have been mounted at the Mark Taper Forum, Yale Repertory Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Dallas Theater Center, Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, South Coast Repertory Theatre, the San Diego Repertory Theatre, the San Jose Repertory Theatre, Shadowlight Productions, the Venture Theatre in Philadelphia, Latino Chicago Theatre Company, the New York Summer Play Festival, Teatro Vista in Chicago, El Teatro Campesino, the Undermain Theatre in Dallas, Thick Description, Campo Santo, the Imua Theatre Company in New York, and Cornerstone Theatre. His collaborative works include *Burning Dreams*, cowritten with Julie Hebert and Gina Leishman, and *Shiner*, written with Erik Ehn. Solis has received an NEA 1995–97 Playwriting Fellowship, the Roger L. Stevens award from the Kennedy Center, the Will Glickman Playwright Award, a production grant from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, the 1998 TCG/NEA Theatre Artists in Residence Grant, the 1998 McKnight Fellowship grant from The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, and the National Latino Playwriting Award for 2003. He is the recipient of the 2000–2001 National Theatre Artists Residency Grant from TCG and the Pew Charitable Trust for *Gibraltar* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Solis is a Thornton Wilder Fellow of the MacDowell Colony, a New Dramatists alumnus, and a member of the Dramatists Guild.

MAGIC THEATRE is one of the most prominent theaters in the nation solely dedicated to the development and production of new plays. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Loretta Greco, the mission of Magic Theatre is to give voice to playwrights, both emerging and established, and to develop and promote the work of theater artists. Magic Theatre engages audiences in intimate productions that speak to contemporary issues with originality and wit, as well as a sense of urgency and adventure.

Founded by John Lion in 1967 at the Steppenwolf Bar in Berkeley, Magic has played a central part in the national new plays movement for most of the last four decades. Magic established itself as an important center for

the creation and performance of new American plays early in its history with the 1969 production of two new plays by Michael McClure. Magic's artistic relationship with McClure spanned 11 years. Sam Shepard was playwright in residence from 1975 to 1983; *Buried Child*, *True West*, and *Fool for Love* were all written and premiered at Magic. The groundbreaking work that Shepard created while at Magic changed the face of American theater as we know it. Magic also was the first American theater to establish the position of dramaturg when, in 1977, Martin Esslin, internationally renowned scholar and critic, joined the company.

Magic Theatre plays and playwrights have won four Pulitzer Prizes for Drama (Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Paula Vogel, Nilo Cruz) and ten OBIE Awards. Other awards include the Kennedy Center Award, PEN–West Awards for Drama, numerous Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, the Los Angeles *Drama-Logue* Award, and the NAACP Image Award.

For 43 years, Magic has contributed to the inventiveness and relevance of the national canon while passionately ensuring the future vibrancy of the American theater.



MARCUS; OR THE SECRET OF SWEET **FACT SHEET**

WHAT: *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*
The Brother/Sister Plays: Part III

A few days before Hurricane Katrina, the barometer rises and the air below sea level closes in on a young black man, pressured to balance his sexual identity with family creeds and the magical cultural landscape that surround him. *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*, with its warmth, myth, humor, and Louisiana argot, is a fantastical coming-of-age play.

WHO: by Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Mark Rucker

Featuring Shinelle Azoroh*, Omozé Idehenre**, Richard Prioleau*, Gregory Wallace^, Tobie L. Windham**

^ A.C.T. core acting company member * A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program class of 2011

** A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program graduate

WHERE: American Conservatory Theater
415 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

WHEN: **October 29–November 21, 2010**
Opening Night: Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at 8 p.m.

TICKETS: \$10–\$82

PHOTOS: <http://www.brothersisterplays.org/>

TIX & INFO: 415.749.2228 | www.act-sf.org

PRESS CONTACT:

Evren Odcikin, Public Relations Manager, A.C.T., 415.439.2418 or evren@act-sf.org

MARK RUCKER (Director, *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*) has directed A.C.T.'s production of *Luminescence Dating* at Magic Theatre and *The Rainmaker* and *The Beard of Avon* at the American Conservatory Theater. He is an associate artist at South Coast Repertory Theatre, where he has directed more than 20 productions, including world premieres by Richard Greenberg, Christopher Shinn, Annie Weisman, and Culture Clash. Other regional theater credits include work at Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, Intiman Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, The Old Globe, Ford's Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, The Acting Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. Rucker's feature film, *Die, Mommie, Die!* won a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER (A.C.T.) is a Tony Award–winning theater and educational institution dedicated to nurturing the art of live theater through dynamic productions, intensive actor training in its conservatory, and an ongoing dialogue with its community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Carey Perloff, A.C.T. embraces its responsibility to conserve, renew, and reinvent its relationship to the rich theatrical traditions and literatures that are our collective legacy, while exploring new artistic forms and new communities. A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of A.C.T.'s creative work.

Founded in 1965, A.C.T. opened its first San Francisco season at the historic Geary Theater in 1967. More than 320 A.C.T. productions have since been performed to a combined audience of more than seven million people; today, A.C.T.'s performance, education, and outreach programs annually reach more than 230,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area. The conservatory, which serves 3,000 students annually, has moved to the forefront of America's actor training programs, while serving as the creative engine of the company at large. Today A.C.T. is recognized for its groundbreaking productions of classical works and bold explorations of contemporary playwrighting.