



The University of Texas at Austin
Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS

IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

BY AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY

OCTOBER 5 – 16, 2016

AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents ***In the Red and Brown Water*** by Tarell Alvin McCraney, October 5-16, 2016 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

"A work of rare lyricism." — The New York Times

How far will Oya go to make a mark in the world? A young runner with boundless possibilities, Oya is forced to choose between her ailing mother and her own dreams. This intoxicating movement-infused theatre work charts a young girl's thrust into womanhood and her subsequent fall into the murky waters of life.

Described as "one of the most startling new voices to emerge in the American theatre" (Emily Mann, Artistic Director, McCarter Theatre), playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney has been heralded by critics and theatre makers since graduating from the Yale School of Drama. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Whiting Award, Steinberg Playwright Award and the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship.

Inspired by Yoruban mythology and his own childhood experiences in the housing projects of Miami, *In the Red and Brown Water* is one of three plays in McCraney's acclaimed trilogy,

The Brother/Sister Plays. "I lived in the other America, the America that doesn't always get depicted in the cinema. The America that we are told to pretend isn't there," shares McCraney. "And in an attempt to create theater that told untold stories, that gave voice to another half of America, I created *The Brother/Sister Plays*."

"I first saw this play at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. I was awestruck by McCraney's language, which seemed to me sparse and direct but also Shakespearean in scope and expression," explains Co-Director Robert Ramirez. "In McCraney's world, people speak their physical actions, thereby creating themselves and the world with words and literally speaking themselves into existence. This, to me, is at the root of our theatrical tradition of storytelling."

Ramirez is the head of the acting program at The University of Texas at Austin. He has served as a voice and text director for numerous theatres and university productions including the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Krannert Center for the Arts, Austin Shakespeare and American Players Theatre. He has performed as an actor with the New York, Utah, Great River, Illinois, Alabama, Baltimore and Wisconsin Shakespeare Festivals as well as numerous theatres in New York City. Most recently, he served as voice and text director for the world premiere of *The River Bride* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

"I can't look at or hear *In the Red and Brown Water* as just a play. With its fusion of language, gesture and movement, I look at it as a ritual, an experience and an illuminating journey," shares Co-Director Charles O. Anderson.

Anderson is the head of the dance program and producing director of the B.F.A. dance company, Dance Repertory Theatre at The University of Texas at Austin. In addition, he is the artistic director of the critically-acclaimed afro-contemporary dance theatre company, dance theatre X (founded in 2003). Among his achievements in afro-contemporary choreography and dance theatre, Anderson was selected as one of "25 Artists to Watch" by *Dance Magazine* and is a Pew Fellowship in the Arts recipient. His choreography, set upon undergraduate students, has been nationally showcased twice at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts through the American College Dance Association and he has also been recognized for outstanding achievement in experimental dance theatre by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

In the Red and Brown Water features an all-star cast of University of Texas at Austin students, including Christian Henley (Oya), Nyles Washington (Elgeba), Daniel West (Ogun), Cymone Love (Mama Moja/The Woman That Reminds You), Rama Tchuenta (Aunt Elegua), Oktavea Williams (Nia), Darlesia Carter (Shun), Keith Machekanyanga (Shango), Gage Robinson (O Li Roon), Brooks Laney (The Man from State), D'Lonte K. Lawson (Egungun), Gianina Casale (Zuli), Anna Ingram (Nani), Kaitlyn Jones (Yewa) and Christian Leal (Balla).

The production creative team includes Charles O. Anderson (Co-Director), Robert Ramirez (Co-Director), Lawrence Bennett (Technical Director), Lacey Erb (Projection Designer), Elliot Gardner (Scenic Designer), E.L. Hohn (Costume Designer), Chian-Ann Lu (Lighting Designer) and Kamyle Smith (Stage Manager).

For more information on *In the Red and Brown Water*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Post-Performance Conversation and Q & A, Led by Dr. Lisa B. Thompson with the *In the Red and Brown Water* Cast and Directors
Wednesday, October 12 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Weaving together mythology, poetry and realism, McCraney crafts stories about complex relationships and experiences of the everyday. Join us in a conversation about McCraney's storytelling and its impact on the future of American theatre.

About Lisa B. Thompson: Lisa B. Thompson is a playwright and associate professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and affiliate faculty in the departments of English, and Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin. Her plays include *Single Black Female*, *Monroe*, *Dreadtime Stories: One Sista's Hair*, *Mother's Day*, *I Don't Want to Be (Mamie Till)*, *The Mamalogues*, *Watch* and *Underground*. Her book, *Beyond the Black Lady: Sexuality and the New African American Middle Class*, received Honorable Mention in competition for the National Women's Studies Association's 2010 Gloria E. Anzaldúa Book Prize. Her creative work has been anthologized in *Contemporary Plays by African American Women: Ten Complete Works*; *From Bourgeois to Boojie: Black Middle Class Performances*, and *Catch the Fire: A Cross-Generational Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. She has received fellowships and awards from a number of institutions including Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research; the University of California's Office of the President; Stanford University's Michele R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research; UCLA's Center for African American Studies; the Five Colleges Inc.; the Humanities Institute at the University of Texas at Austin and Stanford University's Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. Follow her on Twitter @playprof.

CALENDAR LISTING

October 5-16, 2016 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *In the Red and Brown Water* at Oscar G. Brockett Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus:

http://texasperformingarts.org/visit/maps_directions

Performance times are October 5 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview); October 6-8, 11-14 at 7:30 p.m. and October 8-9, 16 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for performances on October 6-16 (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are now on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the

preview performance on October 5 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office.

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

ALSO THIS SEASON

Little Women

The Broadway Musical

Book by Allan Knee

Music by Jason Howland

Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

B. Iden Payne Theatre

November 2-20, 2016

Lost Girl

A new play by Kimberly Belflower

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

November 9-20, 2016

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

Momentum

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

February 15-26, 2017

UTNT (UT New Theatre)

Curated by Liz Engelman and Steven Dietz

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

March 2-12, 2017

The Cohen New Works Festival

Presented by Broadway Bank

April 10-14, 2017

Luna

By Ramon Esquivel

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

April 20-23, 2017

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