



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

**For immediate release:**

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE**

**PRESENTS**

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

**BY TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY**

**FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 8, 2020**

**AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE**

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* by Tarell Alvin McCraney, directed by Robert Ramirez (head of acting, interim department chair) and Charles O. Anderson (head of dance) February 26-March 8, 2020 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

Marcus is sixteen and “sweet.” Days before Hurricane Katrina strikes the housing projects of Louisiana, the currents of his life converge, overflowing into his close-knit community and launching the search for his sexual and personal identity on a cultural landscape infused with mysterious family creeds. The provocative, poignant and fiercely humorous coming-of-age story of a young gay man in the South, *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* is the stirring conclusion of *The Brother/Sister Plays* by Academy Award-winning playwright and screenwriter, Tarell Alvin McCraney (*Moonlight*).

“We are excited to tackle this third play in *The Brother/Sister Plays* cycle,” shares co-director and interim department chair Robert Ramirez. “McCraney’s language and storytelling are thrilling and

present and the perfect vehicle for our continued work as collaborators. We have begun a process that unites both theatre and dance in an exciting on-stage conversation that illuminates the play's story and the traditions that the playwright has sourced as inspiration."

*The Brother/Sister Plays* include *In the Red and Brown Water* (presented by Texas Theatre and Dance in 2016), *Brothers Size* (presented by Capital T Theatre in 2017) and *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, which, when taken together, weave together myth, history and the voices of those often silenced to tell a story of loyalty, friendship, loss and finding oneself. "I began taking old stories from the canon of the Yoruba and splicing them, placing them down in a mythological Housing Project in the South," shares playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney. "This made the stories feel both old and new...The ritual onstage is taking these very old stories, archetypes, myths and even rumors, and playing them out with new voices, new bodies, set in new and present times." (*Interview with McCarter Theater Center, 2009*).

Tarell Alvin McCraney's plays include *Wig Out!* (developed at Sundance Theatre Lab, produced in New York by the Vanguard Theatre and in London by the Royal Court) and the trilogy entitled *The Brother/Sister Plays*, including: *The Brothers Size* (simultaneously premiered in New York at the Public Theater and in London at the Young Vic where it was nominated for an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement at an Affiliated Theatre); *In the Red and Brown Water* (winner of the Kindeda 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 Yale Cabaret.

For more information about *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, please visit [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org)

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**February 26-March 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre** (300 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: [theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking](http://theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking)

Performance times are February 26 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview), February 27 at 7:30 p.m. (Opening), February 28-29, March 3-7 at 7:30 p.m. and February 29, March 1, 8 at 2:00 p.m. (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and all Texas Box Office outlets, online at [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org), or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the preview performance on February 26 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office. Box Office locations and hours: [theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing](http://theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing)

## **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**

**UTNT (UT New Theatre)**  
**Producing Artistic Director, KJ Sanchez**  
**Associate Producing Artistic Director, Alexandra Bassiakou Shaw**

March 4-15, 2020  
F. Loren Winship Building

***Sense and Sensibility***  
**Adapted for the stage by Joseph Hanreddy and J.R. Sullivan**

April 8-19, 2020  
B. Iden Payne Theatre

**Dance Repertory Theatre presents**  
***(R)evolution***

April 15-26, 2020  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

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