

PRESS RELEASE

# The Studio Theatre

THE STUDIO THEATRE. THE STUDIO 2NDSTAGE. THE STUDIO THEATRE ACTING CONSERVATORY. 1501 FOURTEENTH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20005. WASHINGTON DC

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## THE STUDIO THEATRE PRESENTS *IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER* BY TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY, WRITER OF *THE BROTHERS SIZE!*

“An exciting new voice. It's one you will want to hear from again, and soon.” – *The Washington Post*

*Sexy and Steamy!*

### **In the Red and Brown Water**

by Tarell Alvin McCraney

directed by Serge Seiden

opening January 6

in the Milton Theatre

Tarell Alvin McCraney returns to the world of his 2008 Studio Theatre hit play *The Brothers Size* with *In the Red and Brown Water*. An epic story from the Louisiana projects, this coming-of-age tale follows a young female runner of great promise and the devastating choices she is forced to make. With his newest play, McCraney creates a world driven by intense music and enflamed passions.

Like *The Brothers Size*, *In the Red and Brown Water* seamlessly fuses contemporary African-American culture with elements from Yoruba mythology. *In the Red and Brown Water* tells the story of Oya, a young girl from a poor family who can run like the wind. But she renounces the chance of an athletic scholarship to the state university after her mother falls ill. After this miscalculation, she is torn between rival lovers – Ogun, a stuttering grease monkey who truly cares for her, and Shango, a sexy but unfaithful soldier. Her tragedy is that, in a society that sets such store in fertility, she is unable to conceive, a fate that propels her to horrific extremes. Oya, her story first told in a monologue in *The Brothers Size*, now stands as the heroine of her own story.

McCraney is an exciting playwright whose unique voice creates a distinctive style of theatrical storytelling. The characters speak with the rhythms of poetry, although their language is recognizably modern. McCraney matches the cadences of their language with the beats of the drum and bursts of song. And he grounds all this in a powerful story of a young woman trapped by circumstance, forced to choose between passion and responsibility.

McCraney is truly a voice to watch in contemporary American playwriting. His plays have been featured at The Public Theater in New York, the Young Vic in London, Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta and the Southern Repertory Theater in New Orleans, among others. A 2007 graduate of Yale's MFA program in playwriting, McCraney has created a national sensation with his evocative, intriguing theatrical work. Following the death of his mother, McCraney wrote *The Brother/Sister Plays* (*The Brothers Size*, *In the Red and Brown Water*, and *Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet*), a trilogy inspired by his own family experiences, re-framed through the myths of the West African Yoruba tradition. The trilogy debuted while McCraney was still a student at Yale. McCraney's other plays include *The Breach*, written in collaboration with Catherine Filloux and Joe Sutton, and *Wig Out!* He is the Royal Shakespeare Company's international writer in residence, the 2009 Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, the recipient of the 2007 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award and the 2007 Whiting Award. In 2008, McCraney was the recipient of London's *Evening Standard* Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright and *The New York Times* Outstanding Playwright Award.

— MORE —

**Featuring: Raushanah Simmons** (Oya)

**With: Denise Diggs** (Mama Moja/The Woman Who Reminds You), **Shannon Dorsey** (Shun), **Ricardo Evans** (The Egungun), **Mark Hairston** (Elegba), **Michael Harris** (O Li Roon), **Jahi Kears** (Ogun), **Deirdra LaWan Starnes** (Aunt Elegua) and **Yaegel Welch** (Shango).

**Director and Designers: Serge Seiden** (Director), **Luciana Stecconi** (Set Designer), **Michael Giannitti** (Lighting Designer), **Reggie Ray** (Costume Designer) and **Eric Shimelonis** (Sound Designer).

### **IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER INFORMATION**

**Where:** The Milton Theatre

**Dates:** January 6 – February 14, 2010

**Performances:** Tuesday-Saturday 8:00pm, Sunday 7:00pm

Matinees: Saturday and Sunday 2:00pm

Select Tuesdays: January 19 and 26, February 2 and 9, 8:00pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$49-\$63

**Press Opening:** Sunday, January 10

### **THE STUDIO THEATRE INFORMATION:**

**“Most of the best plays I saw last season were either presented Off Broadway or by such regional companies as... Washington’s Studio Theatre. That’s the new reality of drama in America.”**

— *Terry Teachout, Wall Street Journal*

The Studio Theatre is Washington’s premiere venue for contemporary theatre, and is **“where local audiences will find today’s edgiest playwrights...a place for innovation,”** according to *Variety*. The Studio Theatre’s mission is to produce the best in contemporary theatre. Its restless, innovative spirit makes it a leader both in Washington, DC, and in the nation. Artist-founded and artist-driven, The Studio Theatre demands the highest quality production values, bringing audiences provocative writing along with unparalleled artistry in performance, directing and design.

Founded in 1978, The Studio Theatre is led by the driving force of Joy Zinoman, Founding Artistic Director, whose recent work has been called **“riveting,” “beautifully orchestrated” and “inspired”** by *The Washington Post*; along with Keith Alan Baker, Managing Director/Artistic Director, 2ndStage; Serge Seiden, Associate Producing Artistic Director; and Morey B. Epstein, Executive Director of Institutional Development. In 2004, The Studio Theatre opened a new four-theatre complex, a major landmark that anchors the 14th Street Arts District. The complex was quickly hailed as **“a magnificent theatre space that promises more memorable evenings to come”** (*Washington City Paper*). The Studio 2ndStage creates edgy, explosive, extreme and electrifying productions that complement The Studio Theatre’s season. *The Washington Post* proclaimed that 2ndStage **“has long been a playground for... directors and actors (and, naturally, some of its riskier experiments)”** and that a **“convention-defying approach informs many 2ndStage offerings.”** The Studio Theatre provides opportunities for developing theatre artists as year-long apprentices. The Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory offers rigorous professional theatre training in close partnership with the working artists at The Studio Theatre. Now in its 35<sup>th</sup> year, it has been called **“the area’s premiere professional training facility for actors and directors”** by *Variety*. The Conservatory has trained over 8,000 actors and directors, now performing on Broadway, Off Broadway and in theatre and film across the country. The theatre is deeply invested in the community and in neighborhood revitalization.

### **DISCOUNTS**

**Student, senior citizen (62+) and military discount:** \$5.00 off (except Saturday evenings).

**Student Rush:** \$19 tickets for full-time students are available one-half hour before curtain on a seating available basis (except Saturday evenings).

**Student Matinees:** January 14 and February 4, 11:00am. the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

**Groups:** for parties of 10 or more. Call the Group Sales Manager at 202-232-7267.

**Pay What You Can:** Saturday, January 9, 2:00pm.

**Studio District Night:** Wednesday, January 6, 8:00pm. Ticket Price: \$10 for residents of the Studio District, with proof of address.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Accessibility:** All performances are fully accessible to accommodate patrons with special needs. FM listening assistive system available. Call for schedule of sign-interpreted performances. Accessible seats available by reservation. Call the Box Office at 202-332-3300 or V/TTY 202-667-8436.

**Location:** 1501 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (Northeast corner of 14th and P Streets).

**Parking:** Please call the Box Office for parking information.

**Metro Stops:** Red Line: Dupont Circle, Orange/Blue Lines: McPherson Square, and Green Line U Street/Cardozo.

**Contact Information:** Tickets: 202-332-3300 V/TTY: 202-667-8436 Fax: 202-332-1187  
Administration: 202-232-7267 Admin. Fax: 202-588-5262

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