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# THE SHED **Press Release**

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING  
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**THE SHED PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
TOM HANKS in  
*THIS WORLD OF TOMORROW***

**A New Play  
Written by Tom Hanks and James Glossman  
Based on short stories by Tom Hanks  
Directed by Kenny Leon**

**Performances begin October 2025 in The Shed's Griffin Theater  
Tickets on sale July 24, 2025**

**New York, NY, May 21, 2025** – The Shed today announced the world premiere of *This World of Tomorrow* in an exclusive, limited engagement for an eight-week run. This new play is written by Academy Award winner **Tom Hanks and James Glossman**, based on short stories written by Tom Hanks, directed by Tony Award winner **Kenny Leon**, and features Hanks in the lead role of Bert Allenberry as part of The Shed's 2025 programming.

Previews for *This World of Tomorrow* begin October 30 in The Shed's Griffin Theater (545 West 30th Street). The production closes December 21.

“It’s a thrill to produce and present the uniquely talented and beloved Tom Hanks in the world premiere of his new play *This World of Tomorrow* in our intimate Griffin Theater. Hanks’s long awaited return to the stage directed by the visionary Kenny Leon, together with Tarell Alvin McCraney’s *The Brothers Size* and Punchdrunk’s *Viola’s Room*, also in our 2025 season, illustrates The Shed's commitment to be a home for ambitious new productions,” said **Alex Poots**, The Shed’s artistic director.

*This World of Tomorrow* tells the story of Bert Allenberry, a forlorn scientist from the future, who embarks on a time-traveling quest for true love as he returns again, and again, and again to one special day at the 1939 World's Fair in Queens, New York.

“To explore the themes of love and yearning, and the struggles of Today

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as we carry with us the eternal memories of the Past, in such a place as The Shed, strikes me as a one-of-a-kind experience not unlike the World's Fair of 1939," said Tom Hanks.

"I'm excited to collaborate with the remarkable Tom Hanks on his and James Glossman's new play at The Shed this fall. It will be a joy to experience Tom leading the cast on stage in this time-traveling adventure of the limitless power of love and the distance one is willing to go for it. This story explores a fascinating tale of the echoes of past generations, the often-surprising collisions between them, and what is carried forward with an authentic humor I can't wait to bring to life in the Griffin Theater," said Kenny Leon.

Additional cast and creative team will be announced.

### **TICKETS**

Tickets to *This World of Tomorrow* go on sale on July 24 (Shed member presale begins on July 15). For tickets and additional information about the production and memberships for presale access, visit [TheShed.org](http://TheShed.org).

### **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

Scenic Design by Derek McLane

Costume Design by Dede Ayite

Lighting Design by Adam Honoré

Sound Design and Music composed by Justin Ellington

Associate Director and Dramaturg Todd Kreidler

Casting by The Telsey Office/Destiny Lilly, CSA

### **Tom Hanks**

Tom Hanks is an award-winning actor, producer, and director. One of only two actors in history to win back-to-back Academy Awards for Best Actor in a Leading Role, he won his first Oscar in 1994 for his moving portrayal of AIDS-stricken lawyer Andrew Beckett in Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia*. The following year, he took home his second Oscar for his unforgettable performance in the title role of Robert Zemeckis's *Forrest Gump*. He also won Golden Globe Awards for both films, as well as a SAG Award for the latter.

Hanks has also been honored with Academy Award nominations for his performances in Penny Marshall's *Big*, Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*, Robert Zemeckis's *Cast Away*, and, most recently, for his portrayal

of Fred Rogers in Marielle Heller's *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. He also won Golden Globes for *Big* and *Cast Away*.

In 2013, Hanks made his Broadway debut in the Nora Ephron-penned play *Lucky Guy*. His performance earned him Drama Desk, Drama League, Outer Critics Circle, and Tony Award nominations. He is also the author of a best-selling collection of stories titled *Uncommon Type* and later, in 2023, he published his first full-length novel, *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and was also recognized by NPR as Best Book of the Year.

Hanks has received the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002, the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Chaplin Award in 2009, a Kennedy Center Honor in 2014, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.

### **Kenny Leon**

Kenny Leon is a Tony Award-winning director. Broadway credits include *Othello*; *Our Town*; *HOME*; *Purlie Victorious: A Non-Confederate Romp Through the Cotton Patch*; *Topdog/Underdog*; *Ohio State Murders*; *A Soldier's Play*; *American Son*; *Children of a Lesser God*; *Holler If Ya Hear Me*; *A Raisin in the Sun*; *The Mountaintop*; *Stick Fly*; and August Wilson's *Fences*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and *Radio Golf*. Off-Broadway: *King James*; *The Underlying Chris*; *Everybody's Ruby*; *Emergence-See!* (The Public); and *Smart People* (Second Stage). Opera: *Margaret Garner*. Television: *Robin Roberts Presents: Mahalia*; *Colin in Black & White*; *4400*; *Amend: The Fight for America*; *American Son* (adapted for Netflix); *Hairspray Live!*; *The Wiz Live!*; *Steel Magnolias*; *Dynasty*; and *In My Dreams*. He is the author of *Take You Wherever You Go*, artistic director emeritus of Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company, and senior resident director of Roundabout Theatre Company. Awards include Obie, Actors Fund Medal of Honor, George Abbott Lifetime Achievement for American Theatre, and Jason Robards Award for Excellence in Theatre.

### **James Glossman**

James Glossman has adapted novels and stories by Twain, Fitzgerald, Welty, Poe, O. Henry, Thurber, Barthelme, and Joyce; as well as Kate Atkinson's *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, Faulkner's *The Hamlet*, and Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. His stage version of Raymond Chandler's *Trouble Is My Business* premiered at Portland Stage Company, which hosted a workshop of an earlier version of *This World of Tomorrow* as part of their 2024 Little Festival of the Unexpected.

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In addition to the previous Hanks & Glossman play, *Safe Home* (2022), his most recent is the music-theater piece *Shostakovich and the Black Monk: A Russian Fantasy*, performed by the Grammy-winning Emerson String Quartet and a rotating cast including David Strathairn, Jay O. Sanders, Len Cariou, Jeffrey DeMunn, Richard Thomas, and Sean Astin, in concert halls from Tanglewood to Korea. An invited reading of his stage adaptation of *The Door Into Summer*, Robert A. Heinlein’s classic science fiction noir, was presented at the Ed Sullivan Theater with a cast including Jeff DeMunn and Stephen Colbert. In a collaboration over three decades, adapted and directed author and journalist Jim Lehrer’s novels *Kick the Can*, *The Special Prisoner*, and *Flying Crows*. Glossman’s new musical, with composer/lyricist Kingsley Day, of Rafael Sabatini’s *Scaramouche* will have its world premiere in Chicago in spring 2026. Dramatists Guild, AEA, SDC. He is on the faculty of Theatre Arts & Studies, Johns Hopkins, and runs the drama program at Far Brook School. He is a graduate of Northwestern, ACT, BADA-Oxford, and Yale School of Drama.

#### **SUPPORT**

Major support for *This World of Tomorrow* is provided by M&T Bank, Founding Bank of The Shed.



#### **THE SHED**

Under the leadership of CEO Meredith “Max” Hodges and founding Artistic Director Alex Poots, The Shed is a cultural institution of and for the 21st century. We produce and welcome innovative art and ideas, across all forms of creativity, to build a shared understanding of our rapidly changing world and a more equitable society. In our highly adaptable building on Manhattan’s west side, The Shed brings together established and emerging artists to create new work in fields ranging from pop to classical music, painting to digital media, theater to literature, and sculpture to dance. We seek opportunities to collaborate with cultural peers and community organizations, work with like-minded partners, and provide unique spaces for private events. As an independent nonprofit that values invention, equity, and generosity, we are committed to advancing art forms, addressing the urgent issues of our time, and making our work impactful, sustainable, and relevant to the local community, the cultural sector, New York City, and beyond.