

THE SHED

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***AN ARK* Extends to April 4**

The mixed reality theater experience extends its run.

Starring Ian McKellen, Golda Rosheuvel, Arinzé Kene, and Rosie Sheehy

Written by Simon Stephens

Directed by Sarah Frankcom

Conceived and Produced by Todd Eckert

“A memorable, unforgettable experience. An innovative technological twist on traditional theater.” – Charles Isherwood, *Wall Street Journal*

New York, NY, February 17, 2026 — The Shed and Tin Drum today announced an extension of *An Ark* through April 4, as the first play created for and in mixed reality continues to engage audiences in new ways.

"When we were making *An Ark*, we knew it was really new and different, but it's not every day that a work encourages such intense reactions. But it did, and with that in mind, we're incredibly happy to be extending its run at The Shed," said **Todd Eckert**, producer and creator of *An Ark*.

"*An Ark* has sparked passionate and wide-ranging responses, which is why we're extending the run so more audiences can witness this first-of-its-kind mixed reality play. We look forward to welcoming more curious arts-goers to experience this inventive format of theater in a way never seen before—face to face with four spirit guides led by Ian McKellen," said **Alex Poots**, The Shed's artistic director.

Written by Olivier and Tony Award winner **Simon Stephens**, directed by UK Theatre Award winner **Sarah Frankcom**, and produced by mixed reality pioneer **Todd Eckert**, the production began on January 9 with the official opening on January 21 in The Shed's Level 2 Gallery (545 West 30th Street).

An Ark is a genre-defying production, transforming universal human experiences into a profoundly intimate, one-of-a-kind, theatrical performance by the ensemble cast of **Ian McKellen** (Film: *Lord of the Rings*, *X-Men*; Stage: *Richard III*, *Amadeus*), **Golda Rosheuvel** (*Bridgerton*), **Arinzé Kene** (*Misty*, *Get Up*, *Stand Up!*), and **Rosie Sheehy** (*Machinal*, *Old Vic*).

THE SHED

Following *Kagami* (2023), the first concert ever presented in mixed reality, *An Ark* marks Tin Drum's return to The Shed with a new, dimensionally recorded theater experience. In this groundbreaking format, an audience of up to 200 people seated in The Shed's Level 2 Gallery will share a performance that feels intensely intimate—where the ensemble of actors appear in a headset to speak directly to each audience member. Though the actors will not be physically present, this radical reimagining of live theater is made possible by the magic of mixed reality.

"Don't panic
Don't be scared.
This must feel strange to you.
It felt strange to me..."
—*An Ark*

An Ark is a lyrical meditation on the human condition, traversing the span of a lifetime in just 47 immersive, affecting minutes. From the wonder of childhood and the joy of first love to the complexities of parenting and the inevitability of death, the play invites audiences into a deeply personal exploration of what it means to live, to grieve, and to connect.

TICKETS

The production schedule and tickets for *An Ark* are now available online at theshed.org/anark.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

An Ark

Starring Ian McKellen, Golda Rosheuvel, Arinzé Kene, and Rosie Sheehy

Written by Simon Stephens

Directed by Sarah Frankcom

Conceived and Produced by Todd Eckert

Sound design and composition by Ben and Max Ringham

Set and wardrobe design by Rosanna Vize

Lighting design by Seth Reiser

Casting by Shaheen Baig and the team at Shaheen Baig Casting

Volumetric Capture by 4Dviews

January 9 – April 4, 2026

THE SHED

THE CAST

Ian McKellen

Ian McKellen has been acting professionally for over 60 years and has received as many major international awards for his performances on stage and screen. He has played in more than 50 movies. In 1996 he co-produced, co-scripted, and starred in his adaptation of Shakespeare's *Richard III* and was first nominated for an Academy Award playing film director James Whale in *Gods and Monsters*. He became internationally recognized as the mutant Magneto in the *X-Men* films and as the wizard Gandalf, his Academy Award-nominated performance in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. More recently he has starred with Helen Mirren in Bill Condon's *A Good Liar* and in Steven Soderbergh's *The Christophers*. He has just completed filming *Frank and Percy* in London. His work in the theater throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States is legendary. He won every available award, including a Tony, for his Broadway performance in *Amadeus* (1981). He was most recently on Broadway with Patrick Stewart in *Waiting for Godot* and *No Man's Land*. For his 80th birthday, he toured his latest one-man show throughout the United Kingdom raising \$5 million for theater charities. He has been an eloquent advocate for gay rights since he came out in 1988 and co-founded Stonewall, the UK charity which lobbies for legal and social equality for LGBT people. He is delighted to be part of the groundbreaking production of *An Ark* in such distinguished company.

Golda Rosheuvel

Golda Rosheuvel is a renowned British actress celebrated for her stage work and breakout screen roles. She gained international acclaim as Queen Charlotte in Netflix's *Bridgerton* and its 2023 prequel *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*. Her film credits span genres—from Shadout Mapes in Denis Villeneuve's *Dune* to appearances in *Lady Macbeth*, *I Remember You*, *Coma Girl: The State of Grace*, and *Lava*. On television, Rosheuvel has featured in *Silent Witness*, *A Confession*, *Luther*, and lent her voice in DreamWorks Animation's *Orion and the Dark* alongside Paul Walter Hauser. Rosheuvel also appeared as Jocelyn in the 2024 *Doctor Who* episode "Space Babies." Recently, you can see her in the thriller *Eye for an Eye* and romantic comedy *This Time Next Year*. She's set to return as Queen Charlotte in *Bridgerton* Season 4 and will appear in BBC drama series *The Dream Lands*, an adaptation of the novel by Rosa Rankin-Gee. You can next see Rosheuvel in her new film *Grow* and onstage at the Bush Theater this fall in *Not Your Superwoman*.

A veteran of the stage, she's tackled leading roles in *Othello*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Electra*, *Carmen Jones* (Old Vic), *We Will Rock You* (Dominion Theatre), and Shakespeare classics with the RSC (*The Tempest*, *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*). Rosheuvel resides in the United Kingdom.

Arinzé Kene

Arinzé Kene recently starred in *Alterations*, directed by Lynette Linton, at the National Theatre. For this role he won Best Male Lead Actor in a Play. On stage, he will next star in *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* at the Young Vic. Recent credits include the feature film *Harvest*, directed by Athina Tsangari, which premiered at Venice Film Festival in 2024, and the leading role of Death in Daina O. Pusic's *Tuesday* for A24 opposite Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Other screen credits

THE SHED

include a lead in *I'm Your Woman* for Amazon, *Been So Long* with Michaela Cole, *The Pass* (for which he received a BIFA nomination), and *Informer*. For the stage he performed his one-man show *Misty* at The Shed, NYC to rave reviews, following hugely successful London performances at both Trafalgar Studios and the Bush Theatre which garnered nominations for two Olivier Awards. Prior to this, he originated the leading role of Bob Marley in *Get Up, Stand Up!* in the West End, for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award. He was also Olivier nominated for his performance in *Death of a Salesman* at the Young Vic.

Rosie Sheehy

Rosie Sheehy trained at RADA. She is an Olivier Award 2025–nominated actress, the recipient of THE STAGE 100 acknowledgements in 2024, and winner of the Ian Charleson Award in 2023, along with a South Bank Sky Arts Award nomination in the same year. Most recently she starred opposite Chris O'Dowd in *The Brightening Air*, from writer/director, Conor McPherson at the Old Vic. Sheehy will soon be seen opposite Harry Melling in *Pillion* from Element Pictures and writer/director Harry Lighton. Other on camera credits include *The Red King*, *Steel Town Murders*, *Wild Bill*, and BAFTA TV award–winning *Chernobyl*. She has worked extensively on stage and led *Machinal* at the Old Vic Theatre to five-star reviews (“Rosie Sheehy is phenomenal.” —The Stage). Prior to this, she played Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the RSC, starred opposite Callum Scott Howells in *Romeo and Julie* for the National Theatre, and played the titular role in RSC's reworking of *King John*. Additional theater credits include *All's Well That Ends Well*, *An Interrogation*, *Oleanna*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Wolves*, and *The Hairy Ape*.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Simon Stephens

Simon Stephens is a celebrated playwright and screenwriter whose writing is distinguished by its emotional resonance, intelligence, and tenderness and his ability to realize the extraordinary in the most ordinary of lives. He is renowned for his outstanding stage adaptation of Mark Haddon's novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Directed by Stephens's long-term collaborator Marianne Elliott, the production and play won seven Olivier Awards in 2013 (including Best New Play) and five Tony Awards (including Best New Play) in 2015 and has since been produced in all major territories throughout the world.

His Olivier Award-winning *Vanya* played at the Lucille Lortel Theater in 2025, starring Andrew Scott. Other plays include *Cornelia Street*, *Morning Sun*, *Light Falls*, *Heisenberg*, *Song from Far Away*, *Birdland*, *Carmen Disruption*, *Blindsided*, *Morning*, *Three Kingdoms*, *Wastwater*, *Punk Rock*, *Marine Parade*, *Sea Wall*, *Harper Regan*, *Pornography*, *Motortown*, *On the Shore of the Wide World* (Olivier Award for Best New Play, 2006), *One Minute*, *Country Music*, *Christmas*, *Port*, *Hérons*, and *Bluebird*.

THE SHED

Stephens has been an associate at the Royal Court, London and a resident artist at the Lyric, Hammersmith. He has presented three series of the Royal Court's *Playwright's Podcast* and his book *A Working Diary* is published by Methuen. Stephens is currently a professor of scriptwriting at Manchester Metropolitan University and an associate professor at the Danish National School of the Performing Arts, Copenhagen. He has also written for radio and for the screen, including his screenplay for *Dive* (2010), and his adaptation of Astrid Lindgren's *Brothers of Lionheart* is in development with Thomas Vinterberg to direct for Mediaset.

Sarah Frankcom

Sarah Frankcom has worked extensively as a director and dramaturg making theater in a range of participatory, training and professional settings. After joining the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester as literary manager, she developed the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting and became artistic director between 2014 and 2019. Her directing work there includes acclaimed collaborations with Maxine Peake—*Hamlet*, *Miss Julie*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Happy Days*. Frankcom directed world premieres by the playwright Simon Stephens—*On the Shore of the Wide World* (Olivier Award Best Play), *Punk Rock* (MEN Best Production), *Blindsided*, and *Light Falls*. Other work at the Royal Exchange includes *Separate Tables*, *View from the Bridge*, *Mary Barton*, *Three Birds* (with Bush Theatre), *Black Roses*, *Winterlong* (with Soho Theatre), *That Day We Sang*, *West Side Story*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Our Town* (winner UK Theatre Award Best Director 2018). For Manchester International Festival, *The Masque of Anarchy* (2013), *The Skirker* (2015), and *The Nico Project* (2019) and for Hull City of Culture 2017, *The Last Testament of Lillian Bilocca*. Between 2019 and 2022 she was director of LAMDA. Since then, her work as a director and dramaturg has included a *Macbeth for Schools* at Shakespeare's Globe, *The Breach* at Hampstead, *Work It Out* for HOME, *Betty! A sort of Musical*, *Brief Encounter* and *Escaped Alone* for the Royal Exchange Theatre, *They and Robin/Red/Breast* for Manchester International Festival and Factory International, and *The Last Stand of Mrs. Mary Whitehouse* for Nottingham Playhouse.

Todd Eckert

Todd Eckert started being a published journalist at 14 and became editor of the national *OnlyMusic Magazine* when he was 17. He worked throughout traditional film and media for the next 30 years and produced *Control*, Anton Corbijn's award-winning feature film about Joy Division's Ian Curtis, which premiered at the Cannes film festival in 2007. He was director of North America for Eutechnyx (now Zerolight), a British video game development company.

He first started exploring dimension in media as the director of content development for Magic Leap, a pioneer in mixed reality (MR) hardware. He joined the company in 2012 when an early presentation of the technology convinced him to abandon work in all other mediums in order to focus solely on what he saw (and still sees) as the unlimited potential of a more human recorded experience.

THE SHED

Besides shaping Tin Drum's corporate and artistic development, Eckert has directed two of the company's works, *The Life* and *Kagami*. It's his belief that the connection between artist and audience is a sacred event, and he's obsessed with diminishing the limitations of time in these relationships.

Tin Drum

Tin Drum is a New York-based, globally active collection of artists, technologists, and designers working to create and present work through the new medium of mixed reality. Their focus is never the tech, but rather what the tech can achieve that is not otherwise possible. At the center of everything they do is the sacred relationship between artist and audience.

The Life, a collaboration with legendary performance artist Marina Abramović, was the world's first publicly presented, large-scale mixed reality exhibition. *Medusa*, a large-scale work blending design with generative algorithmic software had a sold-out run at London's Victoria and Albert Museum and was followed by a record-setting presentation at Brooklyn's Pioneer Works.

Kagami, with Academy Award-winning composer and pianist Ryuichi Sakamoto, is the most ambitious full dimensional film piece ever attempted, and it has set the bar for MR experience. It has been presented in seven cities to date, with new shows coming over the next several months.

Tin Drum's work has been seen by over 100,000 people to date. tindrum.io

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Generous support for projects at the vanguard of creative practice, including *An Ark*, is provided by the Ajay and Ritu Banga Artistic Innovation Fund.

The creation of new work at The Shed is generously supported by the Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch Commissioning Fund and the Shed Commissioners.

Major support for live productions at The Shed is provided by the Charina Endowment Fund, with additional support from The Shubert Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor, and the New York State Legislature.

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.