
THE SHED **Press Release**

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING
545 West 30th Street
New York, NY 10001

For more information, please contact:

Christina Riley
christina.riley@theshed.org
press@theshed.org

CAST ANNOUNCED FOR *THIS WORLD OF TOMORROW* AT THE SHED

KELLI O'HARA joins

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

Also joining the cast are: Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Jay O. Sanders, Kerry Bishé, Kayli Carter, Lee Aaron Rosen, Jamie Ann Romero, Paul Murphy, Donald Webber Jr., and Michelle Wilson

Performances begin October 30, 2025, in The Shed's Griffin Theater

Tickets on sale now

New York, NY, July 30, 2025 – The Shed today announced the full cast for the world premiere of *This World of Tomorrow*. As part of The Shed's 2025 programming, this new play is written by **Tom Hanks** and **James Glossman**, based on short stories written by Hanks, and directed by Tony Award winner **Kenny Leon**.

This World of Tomorrow features Hanks in the lead role of Bert Allenberry alongside **Kelli O'Hara**. Also joining the cast are: **Kerry Bishé, Kayli Carter, Paul Murphy, Jamie Ann Romero, Lee Aaron Rosen, Jay O. Sanders, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Donald Webber Jr., and Michelle Wilson**.

Previews for *This World of Tomorrow* begin October 30 in The Shed's Griffin Theater (545 West 30th Street) with an opening night on November 18 as The Shed's 2025 Gala. The production closes December 21.

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, returning again, and again, and again to one special day at the 1939 World's Fair in Queens, New York.

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TICKETS

Tickets to *This World of Tomorrow* are on sale now. For tickets and additional information about the production, visit theshed.org/tomorrow.

CREATIVE TEAM

Scenic and Projection 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
Production Stage Manager Tripp Phillips

CREATIVE TEAM

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*

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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 Mark Twain, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eudora Welty, Edgar Allan Poe, O. Henry, James Thurber, Donald Barthelme, and James Joyce; as well as Kate Atkinson's *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, William 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.

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 at Johns Hopkins University, and runs the drama program at Far Brook School. He is a graduate of Northwestern, ACT, BADA-Oxford, and Yale School of Drama.

CAST

Kelli O'Hara has established herself as one of Broadway's greatest leading ladies. She has been nominated for eight Tony Awards, winning for *The King and I*. She is also an Emmy, SAG, Olivier, and two-time Grammy-nominated artist who made history as the first to crossover from Broadway to opera with her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2015.

O'Hara can currently be seen on HBO's *The Gilded Age*. Additional TV and film credits include *The Accidental Wolf*, *Master of Sex*, *13 Reasons Why*, *Blue Bloods*,

All My Children, All the Bright Places, Peter Pan Live!, Sex & The City 2, Martin Scorsese's *The Key to Reserva, The Good Fight, N3mbers*, and *Car Talk*.

O'Hara recently completed a critically acclaimed limited Broadway engagement of the new musical *Days of Wine and Roses*, which also garnered rave reviews during its Off-Broadway run at Atlantic Theatre Company. She won the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Lead Performer in a Broadway Musical in addition to receiving Tony and Drama League nominations for her role. Next spring, she will return to Broadway in the play *Fallen Angels*. O'Hara continues to perform with orchestras and symphonies throughout the country.

Kerry Bishé

Theater: *The Fears* (prod. Steven Soderbergh, Off Broadway), *Pygmalion* (Roundabout, Broadway), *An American Daughter* (Williamstown), *Barefoot in the Park* (Old Globe), *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* (Minetta Lane), *The Hairy Ape* (Irish Rep). Select TV: *Super Pumped, Penny Dreadful: City of Angels, Amazing Stories, The Romanoffs, Halt and Catch Fire* (Women's Image Award nominee), *Narcos, Scrubs*. Select film: *Very Best People* (upcoming), *Madame Web, Happily, The Evening Hour, How It Ends, Rupture, The Ticket, Max Rose, Grand Piano, Blue Highway, Goodbye World, The Fitzgerald Family Christmas, Argo* (SAG Award winner), *Newlyweds, Red State, Nice Guy Johnny*. As a science communicator and host of the podcast *HyperThetical*, Bishé works to bridge the cultural divide between the arts and sciences.

Kayli Carter

Kayli Carter is a New York-based actor and writer whose previous notable credits include Emmy-nominated shows *Mrs. America* (FX), *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon), *Godless* (Netflix), and the Focus Features film *Let Him Go*. She was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award in the Best Supporting Female category for her work in Tamara Jenkins's Netflix feature *Private Life*.

Her previous stage work includes Tracy Letts's *Mary Page Marlowe*, directed by Lila Neugebauer, Off Broadway, and *On The Evolutionary Function of Shame* (2ST). She originated the role of Flo in Mark Rylance's Olivier Award-nominated comedy *Nice Fish* (West End, St. Ann's Warehouse, American Repertory Theater). She will be seen in the upcoming series *Vladimir* (20th Television, Netflix) opposite Rachel Weisz.

Paul Murphy

Paul Murphy is pleased to continue his relation to this play, starting with the production of the first version, *Safe Home*, at Shadowland Stages. Favorite roles—New York: President Hoover in *The Bonus Army*; Finnegan in *Finnegan's Wake*; Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*; Autolycus in *The Winter's Tale*; The Prince in Cole Porter's *Jubilee*; Pseudolus in *... Forum*; Sweetpea in *Popeye Amongst the Polar Bears*; Tobias in *Smiling the Boy Fell Dead*; Conrad in the Obie-winning Horatio Alger musical *Bound to Rise*; 42 parts (including the Duke of Wellington's

Nose) in Kenneth Koch's *1000 Avant-Garde Plays*. New Jersey and regional: The Black Monk, and others, in *Shostakovich and the Black Monk: A Russian Fantasy*, a piece performed with the Emerson String Quartet at music venues worldwide; Inspector Bridois in John Cleese's *Bang, Bang*; Karl in *The Good German*; The Chancellor in *Sedition*; 94-year-old Mammy in *The Cripple of Inishman*; Niels Bohr in *Copenhagen*; First Man in the Raymond Chandler adaptation *Trouble is My Business*; Reverend Sam in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*; The Dragon in Sheldon Harnick's *Dragons*; Mack Now in Jim Lehrer's *Kick the Can*; Henry Carr in *Travesties*; and Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*. He is one half of Two Big Guys from Jersey and a founding member of Lunatic Fringe, a New Jersey-based improv comedy troupe.

Jamie Ann Romero

Broadway: *The Cottage*. Broadway first national tour: *The Play That Goes Wrong*; Off Broadway: *Hold On To Me Darling* (Lucille Lortel); *N/A* (Mitzi E. Newhouse, LTC); *Dracula* (Classic Stage Company); *Mary Page Marlowe* (Second Stage Theater). Select regional: *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Paper Mill Playhouse); *The Winter's Tale* (Hartford Stage); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Old Globe); *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Denver Center Theatre Company); *Emma* (Playmakers Rep); *Shakespeare in Love* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). International: *Noises Off* (Maxim Gorky Theatre of Vladivostok, Russia.) Television: *The Punisher*, *New Amsterdam*, *House of Cards*. Film: *Viper Club*, *Sunday 1287*.

Lee Aaron Rosen

Broadway: *A Soldier's Play* (also directed by Kenny Leon), *Angels in America*, *The Big Knife*, *The Normal Heart*. Broadway national tour: *Cabaret*. Off Broadway: *Indian Ink*, *Gabriel*, *The Lady from Dubuque*. Regionally, Rosen has appeared at the Old Globe, the Westport Country Playhouse, the Huntington Theatre, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Baltimore Center Stage, the Barrington Stage Company, the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Ford's Theatre, and the Bucks County Playhouse. TV: *FBI: International*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Harlan Coben's Shelter*, *The Equalizer*, *American Horror Story*, *FBI*, *Blue Bloods*, *Emily in Paris*, *The Blacklist*, *The Enemy Within*, *Elementary*, *Limitless*, *The Good Wife*, *The Big C*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Damages*, *Person of Interest*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. Film: *A Kid Like Jake*, *Sidewalk Traffic*, *Company K*, and, in his first professional acting gig, *Saving Private Ryan*. As a producer and archival consultant, Rosen has worked on several documentaries including Netflix's *A Secret Love*, HBO's *Spring Awakening: Those You've Known*, and *Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle* for PBS. He has also proudly volunteered with New York's 52nd Street Project for more than two decades. MFA: NYU Graduate Acting.

Jay O. Sanders

Jay O. Sanders was Falstaff (Drama Desk nom.) in TFANA's *Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2* last season, appeared on Broadway in *Purlie Victorious* and *Girl from the North Country* (both filmed for *Great Performances*), and received the Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance in the Roundabout Theater's world premiere of 2024 Pulitzer

Prize winner *Primary Trust*. He and his wife, actress Maryann Plunkett, were presented a 2024 Joint Lifetime Achievement Award from the NY Critics Circle. Together, they originated roles in Richard Nelson's *Rhinebeck Panorama*, 12 new plays in 12 years at the Public Theater, including two international tours, and three groundbreaking Zoom plays at the advent of the Covid break. Sanders played the title roles in both *Cyrano De Bergerac* at the Guthrie Theater and *Uncle Vanya* (2018 Drama Desk Award, Best Actor) at New York's Hunter Theater Project. Throughout his career, Sanders has been a regular presence at the Public Theater and Shakespeare in the Park. His own play, *Unexplored Interior*, was the inaugural production of Washington, DC's Mosaic Theater Company. His extensive film and television work includes *JFK*, *Day After Tomorrow*, *Angels in the Outfield*, *Tumbleweeds*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Edge Of Darkness*, *True Detective*, *Roseanne*, *Sneaky Pete*, and most recently *His Three Daughters* and M. Night Shyamalan's *Remain* (due for a 2026 release). Sanders is also a prolific narrator of PBS documentaries including *NOVA*, *Nature*, *Wide Angle*, and *Secrets of the Dead*.

Ruben Santiago-Hudson

Ruben Santiago-Hudson received a Tony Award as featured actor for his performance in August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*. Other Broadway credits include *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Stick Fly*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and his autobiographical play *Lackawanna Blues*. With *Lackawanna Blues* Santiago-Hudson became the first person in history to write, direct, and star in a Broadway play. *Lackawanna Blues* was awarded The Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards as well as a Tony Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor.

Theatre credits include *The Winter's Tale*, *How I Learned What I Learned*, *Measure for Measure*, *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, *A Soldier's Play*, *Henry VIII*, *East Texas Hot Links*, and *A Raisin in the Sun* among many others.

Film and television credits include *East New York*, *American Gangster*, *Selma*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Shaft*, *Devil's Advocate*, *Forgotten Genius*, *The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks*, *Billions*, *Solomon and Sheba*, *Rear Window*, *The Quad*, *Public Morals*, *Low Winter Sun*, *David Makes Man*, *The West Wing*, *Law & Order*, and many more. Santiago-Hudson starred on the hit ABC series *Castle* for three seasons as Capt. Roy Montgomery.

His honors include The Humanitas Prize, National Board of Reviews, The Christopher Award, Clarence Derwent Award, Lucille Lortel Awards, Obie Awards, Audelco Awards, Helen Hayes Award, NAACP Image Award, The SDC Joseph Calloway Directing Award, The Lloyd Richards Directing Award, The Nederlander Apple Award, and honorary doctorate degrees from Wayne State University and Buffalo State University.

Donald Webber Jr.

Broadway: Appeared in the 2025 hit revival of *Glengarry Glen Ross* as John Williamson. Other recent credits include the Tony-nominated revival of *Our Town* as Simon Stimson, *Purlie Victorious*, *Hamilton*, *Motown: the Musical* (OBC), and

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Holler If Ya Hear Me (OBC). TV/Film: *Severance* (two seasons on AppleTV+ as Patton), *The Punisher* (Netflix), *The WIZ: Live!* (NBC), *Da Bronx U.S.A.* (Music in Media nomination and Academy Award Best Song shortlist), *Killing Me Softly with His Song* (Music in Media nomination). Other stage credits: *The Preacher's Wife* (Alliance Theatre), *Children of Eden* (Lincoln Center; Manhattan Concert Productions), the national tour of *Hamilton* (Aaron Burr), *Jersey Boys*, *Born for This*, *Renascence*, *Whorl Inside a Loop*, *Bella: An American Tall Tale*. University of Southern California, BFA acting.

Michelle Wilson

Michelle Wilson is a Tony-nominated actress (Sweat) who recently closed on Broadway's Tony-nominated *Our Town* and, prior to that, completed her critically acclaimed run in *The Fires* at SoHo Rep. She performed in The Lincoln Center Theater's production of *The Coast of Starlight*, following a run of Dominique Morisseau's play *Confederates* at the Signature Theatre. She was a guest lead in an episode of Steven Spielberg's anthology series *Amazing Stories* as well as the final season of *Bull*. In film, Wilson stars in *Premature*, which premiered at Sundance to rave reviews and streamed on Hulu. She has supporting roles in the independent films *The True Adventures of Wolfboy*, opposite Chris Messina, and *Clean*, opposite Adrien Brody. Wilson can also be seen in HBO's original special *Between the World and Me*.

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.