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# THE SHED **Press Release**

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING  
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## **CAST ANNOUNCED FOR *THE BROTHERS SIZE* AT THE SHED**

**The Shed and Geffen Playhouse present**

**André Holland**  
in  
***The Brothers Size***

**Written by Tarell Alvin McCraney**  
**Co-directed by Bijan Sheibani and Tarell Alvin McCraney**  
**with Alani iLongwe and Malcolm Mays**

**August 30 – September 28, 2025, The Shed’s Griffin Theater**  
**Tickets on sale May 29; Shed member presale May 21**

**NEW YORK, NY, May 20, 2025** – The Shed today announced the full cast for *The Brothers Size*, written and co-directed by Academy Award winner and Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Tarell Alvin McCraney (*In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue, Choir Boy*) and co-directed by Olivier Award-nominated Bijan Sheibani (*Our Class, Gone Too Far!*).

The cast features André Holland (*Moonlight, Exhibiting Forgiveness*) as Ogun Size, with Alani iLongwe (*Paradise Blue, Arthur the King*) as Oshoosi Size, and Malcom Mays (*Power Book III: Raising Kanan, Snowfall*) as Elegba.

Previews for *The Brothers Size* begin August 30 in The Shed’s Griffin Theater (545 West 30th Street). Opening night is Wednesday, September 10. The production will close September 28, 2025.

This co-production with Los Angeles’s Geffen Playhouse marks the 20th anniversary of this groundbreaking work, which explores themes of brotherhood, resilience, and the complexities of the Black male experience. Directed by Sheiban and McCraney, and presented in the round in The Griffin Theater, this play invites audiences to witness the raw and intimate story of two brothers navigating life after incarceration, weaving into the storytelling the rich tradition of the Yoruba people of West Africa.

*The Brothers Size* is a modern-day fable about two brothers in the Deep South. Ogun (Holland), the elder brother, embodies hard work and reliability, while Oshoosi (iLongwe), formerly incarcerated, is seemingly carefree and unpredictable. Their relationship is tested when the

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charismatic Elegba (Mays) arrives, tempting Oshoosi back to his old habits. As the brothers wrestle with loyalty, freedom, and duty, their humanity is revealed through a raw and heartfelt exploration of the bonds of brotherhood.

“We are incredibly honored to partner with the Geffen Playhouse to bring Tarell Alvin McCraney’s incredible work, *The Brothers Size*, to The Shed this fall. McCraney’s profound exploration of brotherhood, identity, and the complexities of the Black experience remains a vital and moving story, and we believe this production will offer our audiences a powerful and unforgettable theatrical experience. It’s a privilege to present such a vital piece of American theater and to continue our commitment to showcasing groundbreaking artists and narratives in our spaces at The Shed,” said Madani Younis, The Shed’s chief executive producer.

"At The Shed, we are committed to presenting theater that challenges, moves, and reflects the multifaceted experiences of our world. *The Brothers Size*, with its raw emotionality and lyrical language, perfectly embodies this mission. We are thrilled to produce, with Geffen Playhouse, this new production and its unique vision, offering a dynamic and immersive encounter with McCraney's profound and significant voice,” said Alex Poots, The Shed’s artistic director.

### **TICKETS**

Tickets for *The Brothers Size* go on sale on May 29 (Shed member presale begins on May 21.) For tickets and additional information about the production and memberships for presale access, visit [TheShed.org](https://www.theshed.org).

Previews: August 30 – September 9, 2025

Opening: September 10, 2025

Closing: September 28, 2025

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Choreography by Juel D. Lane

Scenic Design by Suzu Sakai

Costume Design by Dede Ayite

Original Lighting Design by Adam Honoré

Lighting Design by Spencer Doughtie

Sound Design and Music Composed by Stan Mathabane

Casting by The Telsey Office/ Destiny Lilly, CSA

Original Casting of the Geffen Playhouse production: Phylliss Schuringa, CSA.

### **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

**Tarell Alvin McCraney** (playwright and co-director)

Tarell Alvin McCraney is Artistic Director of Geffen Playhouse. In this role, he is responsible for identifying, developing, and programming new

works and re-envisioned classics. He sets the strategic artistic course for the Geffen's Gil Cates and Audrey Skirball Kenis Theaters. McCraney is an award-winning writer, producer, and educator, best known for his acclaimed trilogy, *The Brother/Sister Plays*. His script *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue* is the basis for the Oscar-winning film *Moonlight* directed by Barry Jenkins, for which McCraney and Jenkins also won a Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar. He is an ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theatre and a member of Teo Castellanos D-Projects in Miami, a graduate of New World School of the Arts, The Theatre School at DePaul University, and the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Warwick. He was recently Co-Chair of Playwriting at the David Geffen School of Drama, where he remains on faculty. He is an associate at the Royal Shakespeare Company, London, and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Writers Branch).

**Bijan Sheibani** (co-director)

Bijan Sheibani is a writer and director of theatre, film, opera, and television. Most recently he directed *Till the Stars Come Down* for the National Theatre of Great Britain. He also wrote three episodes of *One Day* for Netflix. His debut play *The Arrival* premiered at the Bush Theatre in London in 2019. He is currently adapting the play for Film4. His second play *The Cord* premiered at the Bush Theatre in April 2024. Other recent theatre directing credits include *Dance Nation* (Almeida Theatre), *Barber Shop Chronicles* (National Theatre), *The Brothers Size* (Young Vic), and *Circle Mirror Transformation* (HOME, Manchester). He has also directed new operas for the Royal Opera House, Aldeburgh Festival, Danish National Opera, Streetwise Opera, and Glyndebourne. Bijan was an associate director at the National Theatre for five years, where his credits include *Our Class* (Olivier nomination for Best Director), *The Kitchen*, *A Taste of Honey*, and *Emil and the Detectives*. Other theatre credits include *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Almeida Theatre), *Moonlight* (Donmar Warehouse), *Sons of the Prophet* (Hampstead Theatre), and *Gone Too Far!* (Royal Court Theatre / Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement). He was artistic director of Actors Touring Company from 2007-2010 and won the James Menzies-Kitchin Young Director Award in 2003.

**André Holland** (Ogun Size)

André Holland is an accomplished actor and producer known for his dynamic range and powerful performances across film, television, and theater. With a career marked by critically acclaimed roles, Holland has established himself as one of the most versatile talents in the industry. Holland's theater credits include Broadway debut in the 2009 Tony Award-winning revival of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and returned to Broadway in 2017 in the Tony Award-winning production of *Jitney*. He recently starred as Othello in a production at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre alongside Mark Rylance. Holland is also

featured in The Public Theater's upcoming radio production of *Richard II*, set to be released on WNYC in the summer of 2024. His other theater credits include *The Whipping Man* at Manhattan Theatre Club and The Public Theater's productions of *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Measure for Measure*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *As You Like It*. Holland made his Off-Off-Broadway directing debut in 2018 with a production of Greg Keller's *Dutch Master*.

Holland's upcoming work includes his role in *Lincoln in the Bardo*, a stop-motion animation and live-action hybrid film by Duke Johnson, alongside a distinguished cast that includes Tom Hanks, Colman Domingo, Willem Dafoe, Peter Dinklage, Jonathan Bailey, and Bill Hader. His recent film credits include starring in *Exhibiting Forgiveness*, directed by Titus Kaphar, alongside Andra Day and Aunjanue Ellis. The film premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and was released in the United States in October 2024. Holland is also known for his roles in the critically acclaimed *Passing*, directed by Rebecca Hall, and *High Flying Bird*, which he executive produced and starred in under the direction of Steven Soderbergh.

He is also known for his performances in Barry Jenkins' Academy Award-winning *Moonlight*, alongside Naomie Harris and Mahershala Ali, and Ava DuVernay's Academy Award-nominated *Selma*, for which he received a nomination for the NAACP Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture.

#### **Alani iLongwe (Oshoosi Size)**

Alani iLongwe is excited to make his Shed debut! Theater credits include: *The Brothers Size*, *Paradise Blue* (Geffen Playhouse), *Two Trains Running* (Seattle Rep/Arena Stage), *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Ensemble Theatre Company), *Sunset Baby* (TheaterWorks Hartford), *Bad Apples* (ACT Theatre), *Antebellum* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), *Romeo & Juliet* and *Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death* (The Classical Theater of Harlem). Television credits include: *Castle* (ABC), *Major Crimes* (TNT), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *Law & Order:SVU* (NBC), *Jessica's Big Little World* (Cartoon Network/HBO Max), *Cousins for Life*, *Casagrandes*, *The Loud House*, and *The Fairly OddParents: A New Wish* (Nickelodeon). Film credits include: *Arthur the King*, *Woodlawn*, *Almost Friends*, and *Life of a King*. NYU: BFA - The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, Experimental Theatre Wing; Ron Howard Fellowship recipient.

#### **Malcolm Mays (Elegba)**

Malcolm Mays is recognized for his performances in the television series *Power Book III: Raising Kanan* (Starz) and *Snowfall* (FX). He was featured in several episodes of *Them* (Amazon Prime Video) and contributed as both a writer and story editor during the second season of the series. Mays' project *Covers* presented at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, where

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he took on the roles of writer, director, and lead actor. Additionally, he has penned scripts for Warner Bros. such as *New Jack City 2* and *Ferguson: The Michael Brown Story*, as well as *Steal Away* for Amazon Studios and the *LEGO LeBron Sports Movie* for Universal Pictures. *The Hollywood Reporter* recognized Mays as “The Next Big Thing,” solidifying his status as a multitalented artist on the rise.

### **SUPPORT**

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. Additional support for *The Brothers Size* is provided by Sarah Arison.

For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact [corporate.support@theshed.org](mailto:corporate.support@theshed.org)

### **GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

Geffen Playhouse has been a hub of the Los Angeles theater scene since opening its doors in 1995. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its world-renowned mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and productions, the not-for-profit organization continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who made the initial donation to the theater, the company was founded by Gilbert Cates and is currently helmed by Executive Director/CEO Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Tarell Alvin McCraney and Board Chair Adi Greenberg. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains extensive education and community engagement programs, designed to involve underserved young people and the community at large in the arts.

[www.geffenplayhouse.org](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org)

### **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

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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.

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