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**Casting Announced for Pillsbury House Theatre / The Mount Curve Company's
Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet
September 12 – October 5, 2014, in the Dowling Studio at the Guthrie Theater**

July 16, 2014 (*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) – Pillsbury House Theatre and The Mount Curve Company return to the Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio September 12 – October 5 for the final installment of the **Tarell Alvin McCraney** "Brother/Sister Plays" trilogy. Under the direction of **Marion McClinton**, *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* revisits a tightly-knit, intergenerational community in the Louisiana bayou for a coming-of-age, coming-out story that infuses ordinary life with West African mythology.

In his last year of high school, Marcus (played by **Nathan Barlow**) is haunted by dreams and distressed by doubts from his friends and family. In the days before an ominous storm, Marcus journeys to discover who he is and where he comes from by unraveling the secrets of his deceased father Elegba. As Marcus pieces together his own ancestral legacy, he realizes the special power that being "sweet" brings.

The San Francisco Chronicle described *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* as "an engaging, gently provocative, universal tale," and *The Washington Post* called it "a fitting end to a dynamic cycle."

Pillsbury House Theatre and The Mount Curve Company produced the first play in McCraney's "Brother/Sister Plays" trilogy, *In the Red and Brown Water*, in 2011. It was the first time McCraney's work had been produced in Minnesota, and the show was named "Best Play of 2011" by both the *Star Tribune* and *City Pages*. Then, in 2012, the two companies co-produced the second play in the series, *The Brothers Size*, which also made year-end "Best Of" lists.

The cast for *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* includes a number of returning names from the earlier two McCraney plays. In addition to Mr. Barlow, who played The Egungun character in *In the Red and Brown Water*, **James A. Williams** reprises his role as Ogun Size, **Aimee K. Bryant** returns as Shun, and **Ahanti Young** once again keeps the show moving with his percussion. Joining them on stage are **Jamila Anderson**, **Lauren Davis**, **Joy Dolo**, **Darius Dotch**, **Thomasina Petris**, and **Mikell Sapp**.

Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet previews September 12, opens September 13, and continues through October 5, 2014, in the Dowling Studio. Individual tickets start at \$15, and go on sale August 1 through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at www.guthrietheater.org.

About the Producing Companies

From the Mainstage series to Chicago Avenue Project to Naked Stages to the Hennepin County Home School Project, **PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE** brings audiences closer—to the edge, to the actors, to affordable, adventurous theatre, to fellow audience members, and to a strong community. Now in its 23rd year, the theatre continues to inspire choice, change, and connection through raw, intimate drama. Pillsbury House Theatre is proud to be a professional theatre unlike any other. An integral part of Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House Theatre demonstrates that the highest quality art is an integral part of all healthy communities, winning awards for theatre across the metro while also inspiring choice, change, and connection as part of our social service mission in South Minneapolis. www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

THE MOUNT CURVE COMPANY was formed by Frances Wilkinson, a Minneapolis-based philanthropist, film and theater producer. Ms. Wilkinson has supported or invested in theatrical work including *The Kushner Celebration*, *Edgardo Mine*, *God of Carnage* (Guthrie Theater), *In Darfur*, *Why Torture is Wrong* (The Public Theater), *Passing Strange* (Broadway), *Five Fingers of Funk* (Children's Theatre Company), *Hair* (London), and *Detroit* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company). She recently supported a production of *Antony and Cleopatra* directed by Tarell Alvin McCraney, which was produced at The Public Theater and The Royal Shakespeare Company. In addition, Ms. Wilkinson was executive producer of the film *With or Without You* and has supported the TPT documentary *Slavery By Another Name*, which aired on PBS. Ms. Wilkinson has served on the Boards of Directors of the Guthrie Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and IFP and is currently a Trustee of the Public Theater in New York, on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Film Society, and a member of the Walker Art Center Producer's Council for the Performing Arts.

About the Presenting Company

The **GUTHRIE THEATER** (Joe Dowling, Director) was founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1963 and is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training. The Tony Award-winning Guthrie Theater is dedicated to producing the great works of dramatic literature, developing the work of contemporary playwrights and cultivating the next generation of theater artists. With annual attendance of nearly 500,000 people, the Guthrie Theater presents a mix of classic plays and contemporary work on its three stages. Under the artistic leadership of Joe Dowling since 1995, the Guthrie continues to set a national standard for excellence in theatrical production and performance. In 2006, the Guthrie opened its new home on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, the Guthrie Theater houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms and dramatic public lobbies. www.guthrietheater.org

Calendar Listing

Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet

Young Marcus is haunted by dreams of his ancestors and dogged by doubts among his friends and family in this coming-of-age, coming-out story set in the Louisiana bayou. The final installment of Tarell Alvin McCraney's acclaimed "Brother/Sister Plays" trilogy, *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* is a Pillsbury House Theatre and The Mount Curve Company co-production, presented by the Guthrie Theater.

September 12 – October 5, 2014

Wednesdays – Saturdays at 7:30 pm

Sundays at 7:00 pm

Select weekend matinees at 1:00 pm

in the Dowling Studio at the Guthrie Theater

818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN

Tickets: \$15 and up

Tickets go on sale August 1 through the Guthrie Box Office:

612.377.2224 or guthrietheater.org

High-Resolution Photos are available upon request.

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