

AMERICAN THEATRE

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Offscript: Brotherhood with Brandon J. Dirden and Jason Dirden



Chuck Cooper, James A. Williams, Jason Dirden, and Brandon J. Dirden in "The Piano Lesson" at Signature Theatre in 2012. (Photo by Joan Marcus)

This week's guest are actors, and brothers, Jason Dirden and Brandon J. Dirden. They discuss August Wilson, acting together, and how they never audition for the same role. Plus, the editors discuss brownface in Chicago, and the late Zelda Fichandler.

BY AMERICAN THEATRE EDITORS

Every other week, the editors of *American Theatre* curate a free-ranging discussion about the lively arts in our Offscript podcast.

This week, editors Rob Weinert-Kendt, Suzy Evans, and Diep Tran discuss the [brownface controversy](#) with *In the Heights* in Chicago. What can we say about it that we haven't already? A lot more, it seems! We also discuss the death of Zelda Fichandler, one of the founding mothers of the regional theatre movement.

This week's guests are actors and brothers Brandon J. Dirden and Jason Dirden, who are both playing the same character, Levee in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, but in separate productions on opposite coasts: Jason at the [Mark Taper Forum](#) in Los Angeles (directed by Phylicia Rashad), and Brandon at [Two River Theatre](#) in Red Bank, N.J. (directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson). Over Skype with Suzy, they discuss their first August Wilson plays, acting together, and how they try to never go out for the same roles.

