

# PRESS RELEASE

**STUDIO**  
THEATRE

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DATE: November 22, 2019

**MACARTHUR FELLOW DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU RETURNS TO STUDIO WITH OBIE AWARD-WINNING DRAMA *PIPELINE***

***Pipeline***

Written by **Dominique Morisseau**

Directed by **Awoye Timpo**

Runs January 15 – February 16, 2020

Press performance: January 19, 2020 at 2pm

“*Pipeline* confirms Dominique Morisseau’s reputation as a playwright of piercing eloquence.”  
—*The New York Times*

“An ethically ambiguous drama that raises barbed questions about class, race, parental duty, and the state of American education.”  
—*Variety*

Studio Theatre continues its 2019-2020 season on **January 15, 2020** with the DC premiere of ***Pipeline***, **Dominique Morisseau**’s exploration of class, race, education, and the ferocity of one parent’s love. *Pipeline* delves into the school-to-prison pipeline: the troubling number of Black and brown children who are funneled from schools into prison, perpetuating devastating levels of mass incarceration. *Pipeline* will be directed by **Awoye Timpo**. Studio first presented Dominique Morisseau’s work in the 2017-2018 season with *Skeleton Crew*.

For *Pipeline*, Morriseau draws on her and her mother’s combined six decades of experience as educators in public and private schools to explore the infrastructural and cultural failures within the American education system. She was also inspired by Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*, an explosive examination of how the American criminal justice system targets Black men, and the “he-was-no-angel” press coverage following the murder of Michael Brown.

“Dominique Morisseau writes from a place of deep understanding and familiarity, both with the subject matter and people at the center of her plays,” said Studio’s Artistic Director David Muse. “Though it isn’t set in a specific city, it feels close. There is no doubt that our audiences will see DC reflected to some degree in *Pipeline*, which will make their reactions to it all the more interesting. It’s a play that brings both clear-eyed analysis about the damage systemic racism does and deep recognition of literature’s power to reflect and transform lives.”

**About *Pipeline***

Nya is a single mom and dedicated teacher at a high-poverty city school, determined to give her teenaged son Omari opportunities that her students will never have. When an altercation with a teacher at his private school threatens Omari's future, Nya has to fight a system that's against him in any environment. A searing, eloquent, and deeply compassionate look at a broken education system, the moments we are pushed to our limits, and the ferocity of one parent's love.

### **About Dominique Morisseau**

Dominique Morisseau is the author of *The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle)* which includes *Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Paradise Blue* (Signature Theatre), and *Detroit '67* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem, and the National Black Theatre). Additional plays include *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Sunset Baby* (LAByrinth Theatre), *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre), and *Follow Me to Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). She is also the book writer on the new musical *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Broadway/Berkeley Repertory Theatre). Dominique is an alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab, and Lark Playwrights Workshop, and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference. Her work has been commissioned by Steppenwolf Theatre, Women's Project, South Coast Repertory, People's Light and Theatre, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Penumbra Theatre. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series *Shameless*. Awards include: the Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, Obie Award, Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, and being named one of *Variety's* Women of Impact (2017-2018).

### **About Awoye Timpo**

Awoye Timpo's Off Broadway directing credits include *Good Grief* (Vineyard Theatre), *The Revolving Cycles Truly and Steadily Roll'd* (The Playwrights Realm), and *The Homecoming Queen* (Atlantic Theater Company). Regionally she has directed *Everybody Black* (Actors Theatre of Louisville) and *Paradise Blue* (Long Wharf Theatre). Additional credits include *Carnaval* (National Black Theater); *Sister Son/ji* (Billie Holiday Theatre); *The Vanished* (site-specific); *Skeleton Crew* (Chester Theatre Company); and *Ndebele Funeral* (59E59, Edinburgh Festival/Summerhall, and South African tour). She is a producer for CLASSIX, a series exploring classic plays by Black playwrights.

### **INFORMATION**

Where: Studio Theatre's Mead Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Performances: Tuesday-Saturday at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm, and Sunday at 7pm

There will be no matinee performance on January 18 and no evening performance on January 19.

Tickets: \$60 – \$90

Runs January 15 – February 16, 2020

Press performance: January 19, 2020 at 2pm

### **STUDIO THEATRE**

Studio Theatre is Washington's premier venue for contemporary theatre, "where local audiences will find today's edgiest playwrights" (*Variety*). One of the most respected midsized theatres in the country, Studio produces exceptional contemporary drama in deliberately intimate spaces. Drawing inspiration from great ensembles—where people work together with a spirit of generosity and professional rigor—Studio brings characteristic thoughtfulness and daring to its work onstage and off, through its new work incubator and engagement, education, and workforce training initiatives. Studio serves nearly 75,000 people each year,

including more than 1,000 youth and young adults through community engagement initiatives. Founded in 1978, the quality of Studio's work has been recognized by sustained community support, as well as 72 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in professional theatre.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Location:** 1501 14th Street NW (northeast corner of 14th and P Streets)

**Parking:** Studio has a parking partnership with Washington Plaza Hotel at 10 Thomas Circle NW, three blocks south of Studio; patrons who park at the hotel's parking garage can purchase a \$13 voucher at the box office. Street parking is extremely limited; arrive early to increase your options.

**Metro Stops:** Red Line: Dupont Circle, Orange/Blue Lines: McPherson Square, and Green/Yellow Lines: U Street/Cardozo

**Accessibility:** Studio's theatres are all wheelchair accessible; seats are available by reservation. Assistive listening devices are available for all shows at the Box Office. Call the Box Office at 202.332.3300 for more information.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Tickets and Subscriptions:** 202.332.3300

**Administration:** 202.232.7267

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