

PRESS RELEASE

STUDIO
THEATRE

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DATE: January 30, 2020

DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU’S “POTENT... ILLUMINATING...” PIPELINE EXTENDED AT STUDIO THEATRE

Pipeline

Written by **Dominique Morisseau**
Directed by **Awoye Timpo**
Now playing through **February 23, 2020**

Studio Theatre is extending **Dominique Morisseau’s *Pipeline*** through **February 23, 2020**, adding six performances to the run of this “potent...illuminating...[drama that] reaffirms this playwright’s compelling vision” (*The Washington Post*). *Pipeline* confronts America’s pervasive school-to-prison pipeline and the disenfranchisement of students of color by following single mom Nya as she desperately tries to rescue her teenaged son Omari from an uncertain future after he an altercation with a teacher at his tony private school.

Morisseau channeled her and her mother’s combined six decades of experience in education when creating *Pipeline*. 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 heavily biased press coverage following the murder of Michael Brown.

Studio first introduced Morisseau to DC audiences in 2017 with *Skeleton Crew*. When it premiered at Lincoln Center Theater, *Pipeline* cemented Morisseau as “a playwright of piercing eloquence” (*The New York Times*).

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 at every turn. 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.

Praise for *Pipeline*

“Potent... illuminating... *Pipeline* reaffirms this playwright’s compelling vision”
—*The Washington Post*

“Brilliant, riveting, important... No one should miss seeing *Pipeline*”
—*Georgetown Dish*

“A must-see play”
—*DC Metro Theater Arts*

“A vivid drama that acutely breaks down the school-to-prison pipeline”
—*DCist*

“What makes *Pipeline*...so engrossing is not just Morisseau’s sharp dialogue and plotting, but Studio's seamless cast”
—*Curtain Up*

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 no evening performance on February 18 or 23.

Tickets: \$60 – \$90

Now playing through February 23, 2020

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

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