



For Immediate Release
January 4, 2019
Contact: The American Stage
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American Stage presents the Tampa Bay Area Premiere of PIPELINE,

**a compelling drama exploring education, race and class and a mother's fight for her son's future.
January 23 thru February 24, 2019.**

GET IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

1. "The Play America Needs Right Now" -Playbill

"Pipeline confirms Dominique Morisseau's reputation as a playwright of piercing eloquence." — Ben Brantley, *New York Times* *Pipeline* was nominated for five 2018 Lucille Lortel Awards, including Outstanding Play. In this lyrical and timely drama, acclaimed playwright Dominique Morisseau urgently calls attention to the limitations of our education system and the legacy of violence confronting black youth in America.

2. Familiar Favorite: The return of Director L. Peter Callender.

Peter returns after helping us celebrate the completion of August Wilson's American Century Cycle. He directed the American Stage hits *A RAISIN IN THE SUN*, *JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE* and *JITNEY*, and received the TTB Award for Outstanding Director two years running. We are excited to have Mr. Callender back.

3. Important Voice in American Theatre: Dominique Morisseau one of the most talked-about modern Playwrights, Named MacArthur Foundation 'Genius Grant' Recipient

In each of her plays, she aims to shed light on broken systems and hardships that affect life in urban African-American communities across various eras. Her critically-acclaimed plays have been produced both Off-Broadway and on Broadway, including *PIPELINE*, for which she received Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations; *THE DETROIT PROJECT* trilogy, consisting of *DETROIT '67*, *PARADISE BLUE*, and *SKELETON CREW*; and *SUNSET BABY*.

"I could not possibly do the work that I do without the influence of August Wilson's 10-play cycle. For me as a storyteller, my job is to illuminate the humanity behind the social issue." -Dominique Morisseau, playwright

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage continues its 2018-2019 Season 'LIFE. OUT LOUD' with the Tampa Bay Premiere of *PIPELINE* written by Dominique Morisseau (co-producer on the Showtime series *SHAMELESS*) and directed by L. Peter Callender (Director of recent American Stage hits *A RAISIN IN THE SUN*, *JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE* and *JITNEY*).

"Dominique Morisseau is one of the most exciting playwrights in American theatre today. She brings a strong voice to our national conversations and does this with an incredible humanity that make her characters and their lives feel entirely relatable. PIPELINE explores the big topics of education, race and class while also honestly

depicting the intense hopes and fears felt by parents as they try to help their children navigate a sometimes unjust world." -Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director

This Tampa Bay Area premiere features 6 cast members – 4 making their American Stage mainstage debut, Gillian Glasco*, Andrew Montgomery Coleman, Aaron Morton*, and Cynthia Beckert* plus the return of Kiara Hines (A RAISIN IN THE SUN) and Cranstan Cumberbatch (A RAISIN IN THE SUN, TWO TRAINS RUNNING & RENT).

"There comes a time in every nation's history to put an end to a scourge that plagues its populations: polio and aids, poverty and homelessness, racism and gun violence. Young black and brown youths are targeted from 3rd grade to enter the pipeline leading to incarceration by the time they are seniors in high school. Bringing more public awareness to this horror makes Dominique Morisseau's work, PIPELINE, even more necessary especially since it speaks of the vulnerable youth of our nation" -L. Peter Callender, Director

ABOUT THE PLAY

TEACH. OUT LOUD. Nya, a single mother teaching at an inner-city public school, wants what's best for her teenage son, Omari—even if it means sending him to a private school far from their neighborhood. But when an explosive classroom incident threatens Omari's future, Nya must reevaluate the choices she's made as a parent and educator. In this lyrical and timely drama, acclaimed playwright Dominique Morisseau brings an urgent conversation powerfully to the fore, compassionately probing the limits of our education system and a mother's fight to give her son a future — without turning her back on the community that made him who he is.

"...an homage to such authors as Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes and Amiri Baraka and yet firmly the product of a unique, deeply resonant sensibility."

– Deadline

Audience Advisory: Contains mature content and strong language.

Age Recommendation: 14+

The following includes information on the cast, production, performance dates, and ticketing information, as well as a listing of special events associated with the production.

CAST

Gillian Glasco* (Nya)

Andrew Montgomery Coleman (Omari)

Kiara Hines (Jasmine)

Cranstan Cumberbatch (Dun)

Aaron Morton* (Xavier)

Cynthia Beckert* (Laurie)

CREATIVE

L. Peter Callender (Director)

Jerid Fox (Set Designer, Properties Master)

Chris Baldwin (Lighting Designer)

Jaye A. Sheldon (Costume Designer)

Rachel Harrison* (Sound Designer, Production Stage Manager)

Allison Davis (Scenic Artist)

Shelby Smotherman (Production Assistant)

Rose Hahn (Directing Apprentice)

Season Wong (Assistant Stage Manager)

* = Member of Actors' Equity Association; # = Member of the United Scenic Artists Union

For Cast Bios please visit americanstage.org/PIPELINE

LINK to press releases: AmericanStage.org/media

LINK to promotional photos: [Flickr American Stage](#)

**Publicity photo credit: Joey Clay Photography. Archival photo credit: TBA. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact marketing@americanstage.org for immediate needs.*

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Dominique Morisseau is the author of The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle) which includes the following plays: Skeleton Crew (Atlantic Theater Company), Paradise Blue (Signature Theatre), and Detroit '67 (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: Pipeline (Lincoln Center Theatre), 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 (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 Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference. Her work has been commissioned by Steppenwolf Theater, Women's Project, South Coast Rep, 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: 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 for 2017-18.

BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of PIPELINE, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by American Stage apprentice Rose Hahn 30 minutes prior to each performance.

Also, enjoy drink specials every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night post-show. Stick around after the show for lively café conversations.

TALKS & EVENTS – FULL DETAILS

American Stage has also programmed several audience experience opportunities surrounding the production. Visit americanstage.org/CLOSER and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

Sunday, January 13 @ 1PM

Spotlight Series: BEHIND-THE-SCENES – PIPELINE

Featuring – L. Peter Callender (Director), and select cast members

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of PIPELINE with this informative and entertaining presentation about the play, the playwright, and the American Stage artists who bring it all to life. Professor Emerita Dedee Aleccia will provide relevant details about the history and central themes of the play, while members of the artistic team will give an insider's perspective on their process.

Pricing: \$10 for General Public

Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members

Friday, January 25 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm

Opening Night

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, rub elbows with the cast & creative team, and be among the first to see one of our first-class productions. There will also be a post-show dessert reception with the cast.

Thursday January 31, Sundays February 3 & 10

Spotlight Series: CHATBACKS – PIPELINE

Stick around immediately following select performances to talk with the cast and other audience members while the experience of the play is fresh! Ask questions about the play, the characters, and the process, plus respond to the story and ideas aroused by the production.

Free for PIPELINE ticket holders.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents PIPELINE by Dominique Morisseau

WHERE: Raymond James Theatre
163 3rd Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

WHEN: January 23 through February 24, 2019

Preview Wednesday, January 23, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"

Preview Thursday, January 24, 7pm, \$30 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, January 25, 8pm, \$70 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through February 24, 2019

Arrive 30 minutes early to get the inside scoop on the play.

TIMES & PRICES

Wednesdays 7pm, \$44 tickets

Thursdays 7pm, \$44 tickets **NEW TIME**

Fridays 8pm, \$50 tickets

Saturdays 8pm, \$54 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 2pm, \$44 tickets **NEW TIME**

ASFWD The Next Generation

Under 30 years of age (UNDER 30 PASS): Our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month.

Under 20 years of age (UNDER 20 PASSPORT - suggested 12-19): FREE tickets to American Stage's mainstage season. A bold experiment in 2018.

Contact the box office about our UNDER 30 PASS & UNDER 20 PASSPORT. Visit americanstage.org/fwd for details.

Audience Advisory: Contains mature content and strong language.

Age Recommendation: 14+

SERVICE & FACILITIES

Physical Accessibility: The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating. Displaying a valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs). ***This does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).***

Large Print Program: Theatergoers may peruse large print programs for each Mainstage production. Request from House Manager on duty. A digital version will be available at americanstage.org/PROGRAM

Listening System: Theatergoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat. Request from Concessions.



AMERICAN STAGE

American Stage Theatre operates as a 501-(C)3, and has been providing live theatrical performances as a professional regional equity theatre in the heart of St. Petersburg, Florida, since 1977. American Stage's mission is to reinforce the power of live theatre with high quality productions that excite and challenge a diverse audience. Our year-round programming seeks to realize this through our Mainstage season, Spotlight Series, 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival, American Stage in the Park and Improv. American Stage Education's offerings include award-winning Teaching Artist Outreach focused on bringing theatrical arts experiences to underserved populations, helping them to excel onstage & beyond.

We believe that through the telling of dynamic stories, live theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives. American Stage artists and stakeholders are responsible for helping a small theatre touring company blossom into a thriving world-class professional theatre providing nearly 70,000 Tampa Bay residents and tourists with accessible, relevant art and arts education annually.

Powerful Stories. Boldly Told.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@americanstage.org

Location: 163 3rd St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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