

Go to school. Get suspended. Get expelled. Go to prison.

For Immediate Release | July 12, 2021



This month, **The Studio Theatre™ Tierra del Sol** (806 San Marino Drive, The Villages, FL) will open its last production of its fifth season, *Pipeline*, by Dominique Morisseau. The production will be staged at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center (1051 Main Street, The Villages, FL).

Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to her students but desperate to give her only son Omari opportunities her pupils will never have. When Omari is involved in a controversial incident at his upstate private school, her hopes for her son clash with an educational system rigged against him. Now, Nya must confront his rage and her own choices as a parent without turning her back on the community that shaped him.

Pipeline by Dominique Morisseau draws its name from the unfortunate social phenomenon of the school-to-prison pipeline that affects young black men. Gwendolyn Brooks' prophetic poem, "We Real Cool" is the backdrop of this passionate play about educators who see the humanity in their students and a family struggling to outrun social prophecy.



Portraying Omari is Orlando, Florida native Matthew Zenon. A current student of Theatre Studies at the University of Central Florida, Zenon is grateful to be making his Studio Theatre debut in such a topical and meaningful play. Performing professionally since High School, his most recent role was that of Joseph Asagai during the production of *A Raisin in the Sun* at The Garden Theatre in Winter Park, FL. When he is not performing, Zenon enjoys focusing on his comedy writing and preparing for auditions and future roles. When asked what he is most looking forward to about playing the role of Omari during the production of *Pipeline*, Zenon emphasizes the excitement of being able to engage with The Villages Community about the topic of the school to prison pipeline. He believes this play will allow the audience to empathize with his character and who he represents in our world today.

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Assuming the role of Nya, is South Florida native Jade L. Jones. A University of Central Florida graduate, singer, actress and full-time performer, Jade is happy to be making her Studio Theatre debut. Most recently seen at The Garden Theatre in Winter Park, FL. Jade took part in the performance of *A Raisin in the Sun* assuming the role of Lena Younger. Other credits include- *Sister Act* (Athens Theater) *Ragtime*, *Odd Couple* (Garden Theatre), and *Crowns* (Kenneth Brown/Cultural Fusion). Jones is looking forward to working with The Studio Theatre for the first time. Her time on the *Pipeline* cast will also allow her the opportunity to collaborate with her first, professional Black Female Director. When Jade is not performing, she enjoys looking into new ways of improving her craft, and spending time with family and friends. She is inspired by life and the opportunity to wake up another day to do something purposeful or enjoyable.

The cast also includes: **Patti McGuire** (Laurie), **TroyElan Richardson** (Jasmine), **Esdras Toussaint** (Xavier), **Damany Omar Riley** (Dun) **Roberta Emerson** (U/S Nya), **Ambria M. Benjamin** (U/S Jasmine), and Alyson Johnson (U/S Laurie).

The Theatre Management and Creative Teams are composed of Director **Roberta Emerson**, Producer **Jason Goedken**, Artistic Director **Whitney Morse**, Cultural Coordinator **Tavia Rivée Jefferson**, Set Designer **Kenneth Constant**, Costume Designer **Annie Trombo**, Costume Assistant **Analise Cutter**, Lighting Director/Designer **David Krupla**, Master Electrician/Light Board Operator **Lindsey Young**, Props Designer/Master **Eric Desnoyers**, Sound/AV Designer **Nick Erickson**, Production Manager **Danielle Paccione**, Assistant Production Manager **Leslie Munson**, Technical Director **Clayton Becker**, Company Manager/Video **Ryan Loeckel**, Literary Manager **Rachel Whittington**, Dramaturgy **Elizabeth Constant**, Production Stage Manager **Grace Zottig**, Assistant Stage Manager **Stephanie Horn**, Audio Engineer **Luke Bezio**, House Manager/Properties Assistant **Heather Ard**, Assistant House Manager **Sierra Baggins**, Assistant House Manager **Doug Montgomery**, Scenic Artists **Leslie Munson & Layna Hoopfer**, as well as Additional Carpentry **Tony Fairchild**, **David Bost**, **Chad Pavlovich**, and **Luke Bezio**.

- **What:** *Pipeline*
- **Where:** The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, 1051 Main Street, The Villages, FL
- **When:** July 13 – July 31, 2021
- **For tickets:** www.TheSharonStudio.com | (352) 751-7799
- **Price:** \$15 previews | \$35 performances
- **Sign Language Interpretation Show:** July 20, 2021
- **Director Q&A Event with Roberta Emerson:** July 20, 2021 at 3pm

The Studio Theatre's Mission is to inspire the residents of Central Florida to examine relevant issues by elevating them through innovative and intimate storytelling. ***Think outside the box, inside the box.***

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