



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

Contact: **Liz Nance**
 Director of Communications
 Virginia Repertory Theatre
 lnance@virginiarep.org
 804-389-3390

Oct 13, 2021

Virginia Repertory Theatre Presents
Pipeline
by Dominique Morisseau

Richmond, VA – Virginia Repertory Theatre presents ***Pipeline***, a modern and progressive piece of theatre that brings a timely and urgent examination of race and education to the stage. A riveting story unfolds about love, parenting and a mother’s struggle to give her son a future out of the school-to-prison pipeline.

Dominique Morisseau’s ***Pipeline*** is so compelling that it was one of America’s most-produced plays in 2019.

"Pipeline is at once 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*

According to the National Education Association, “The school-to-prison pipeline disproportionately places students of color, including those who identify as LGBTQ, have disabilities, and/or are English Language Learners, into the criminal justice system for minor school infractions and disciplinary matters, subjecting them to harsher punishments than their white peers for the same behaviors.”

Morisseau is well acquainted with the school system from the inside, as she was an inner-city public school teacher who taught for 16 years in Detroit, where she grew up, and in all five boroughs of New York City. She has set the play in “any inner city environment where the public school system is under duress.”

“The school-to-prison pipeline has national ramifications for students, teachers, parents, and families. I hope the story of Nya, Omari, and their struggles within a biased system inspire new audiences to push this important topic forward in their own communities,” Morisseau said.

Virginia Repertory Theatre is taking her lead and inviting a number of local organizations working with teens to join this community conversation, and build understanding of perspectives on race and education. Virginia Rep is glad to share the list below of local organizations which use arts, education, and mentoring to empower children and teens to succeed. Representatives from these organizations have been invited to attend the play. We hope they can take the experience of this live exploration back to the community, so even more can join the conversation to build an understanding of perspectives on race and education in RVA.

Please visit these websites to find out more about the work they do with teens.

[Art180](#)

[Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)

[Boys & Girls Club of Metro Richmond](#)

[Cadence Theatre STAGE WRITE](#)

[MENTOR Virginia](#)

[The Hive](#)

[Peter Paul Development Center](#)

[Podium RVA](#)

[Richmond Youth Peace Project](#)

[Saving Our Youth](#)

[We Are the Youth Outreach](#)

[Virginia Dept of Juvenile Justice](#)

[Youth Life Foundation of Richmond](#)

The creative team and cast list is below.

Direction & Design

Direction	Katrinah Carol Lewis
Scenic Design	Brian Barker
Costume Design	Nia S. Banks
Lighting Design	Steven Koehler
Projection Design	Dasia Gregg
Sound Design	Kelsey Cordrey
Stage Management	Justin Janke

Cast

Nya	Sasha Wakefield
Omari	Trevor Lawson
Jasmine	Jessie Jordan
Xavier	Iman Shabazz
Laurie	Laine Satterfield
Dun	Todd Patterson
Voiceover	Desiree Dabney
Xavier Understudy	William Anderson
Jasmine Understudy	Khadijah Franks

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Tickets range from \$36 - \$56

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

Press

The show runs 90 minutes

This play contains adult themes and language authentic to the story and characters

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to the media.

username = press

password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, Virginia Rep's Children's Season, the Hanover Tavern Season, and the Theatre Gym Season produced in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company. Virginia Rep also tours, both virtually and live, and provides educational programming to schools throughout Virginia and to major performing arts centers throughout 32 states.

Season Sponsors

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

The Virginia Commission for the Arts

National Endowment for the Arts

The Shubert Foundation

CultureWorks