



**A Mother. Her Son.  
Their fight  
for his future.**

# PIPELINE

BY DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

**March 10-22, 2020**

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**NEW STAGE**  
*Theatre*

# PIPELINE

By Dominique Morisseau

Directed by Francine Thomas Reynolds

Stage Manager  
Clara Seitz

Production Manager/  
Lighting Designer  
Bronwyn Teague

Scenic Designer/  
Technical Director  
Richard Lawrence

Costume Designer  
Caleb Blackwell

Properties Designer  
Marie Venters

Sound Design  
Alberto Meza

Projections Designer  
Ron Rodenmeyer

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Originally Produced by Lincoln Center Theater in 2017, New York City

“PIPELINE” was commissioned by Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago;  
Martha Lavey, Artistic Director, David Hawkanson, Executive Director.

“We Real Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks. Used by Consent of Brooks Permissions

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This production will run 90 minutes with no intermission

Please silence your cell phone

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## SETTING

An inner city where the public school system is under duress

## TIME

Present day

## THE CAST (in order of appearance)

NYA ..... Sharon Miles  
OMARI ..... K. Devin Hunter  
JASMINE ..... Jaymi Horn  
XAVIER ..... Yohance Myles\*  
LAURIE ..... Jo Ann Robinson\*  
DUN ..... Darius Omar Williams\*  
Recorded Voices ..... Ashia Benford, Ellie Boisseau, Taylor Mills, Christopher Sferra  
Appearing in Videos ..... Arianna Brumfield, Arielle Brumfield, Mattie Ellis  
Sarah Fowler, Elmer Gordon, Aaryka Handy, Lewis Hines,  
Lauren Hite, Hart Jefferson, Genevieve Kelley, Gabe Price  
Avery Stallings, Brian Stallings, Jory Tanaka

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Xavier/Dun: Destin Benford; For Nya: Alisa Price; For Laurie: Ellie Boisseau; For Jasmine Rivera; For Omari: Kingsley Nwaokorie.

\*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are pleased to introduce Dominique Morisseau to the New Stage audience with this production of her powerful, passionate and intelligent new play ***Pipeline***. Morisseau's plays are quickly becoming some of the most produced throughout the country. ***Pipeline*** is the fourth most produced play in America's regional theatres this season.

I am excited for our audiences to see ***Pipeline*** because it asks big questions. The characters are caught in a tug of war between the idea of how our country and our educational system should work to serve all students equally versus the reality.

Morisseau welcomes the debate around the questions ***Pipeline*** raises. In an American Theatre magazine article discussing the play, she was asked if the conversation the work spawns is as important as the work.

*"Absolutely. I tell people, you can talk about me behind my back all you want to. That's your right. I have to protect myself—I don't need to hear all of it—but once you've experienced the play, you have every right to discuss it, or it's not a fair exchange," she replied. "I come from mentors who say the best plays do more asking of questions than they do answering them. So, when I go, 'I'm going to ask some questions,' I got to then let the people answer them, or what am I asking for? If I'm going to ask questions, I need to let people have answers at some point."*\*

While **Pipeline** doesn't provide instructions for audiences to solve the "have and have-not" ecosystem of American education, Morisseau hopes her suggestions begin a conversation in her audience of educators, non-educators, and youth while she has them in the same room.

*"Conversation around the work is the next part of the work. I'm a community-driven artist, so my work will never be just for me or just for people to witness and not be able to respond to," said Morisseau.*" \*

To promote and continue the conversation, New Stage Theatre is offering several ancillary events during the performances of **Pipeline**. Please see the box office or check out our website, [www.newstagetheatre.com](http://www.newstagetheatre.com) for more information.

The backdrop of **Pipeline** is our education system. How many times have you heard someone speak about a special teacher that made their school years better and, at times, more bearable? Do you know of a teacher who spends their own money on supplies or travels on weekends so their students can attend and participate in extracurricular activities? I don't think our teachers are given enough recognition. This production is dedicated to teachers. Thank you for all you do.

Francine Thomas Reynolds

*\*Forbes, Kamilah. "Push and Pull: Dominique Morisseau's 'Pipeline'. American Theatre. December 2017.*

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## Playwright's Rules of Engagement

You are allowed to laugh audibly.

You are allowed to have audible moments of reaction and response.

My work requires a few "um hmms" and "uhn uhns" should you need to use them. Just maybe in moderation. Only when you really need to vocalize.

This can be church for some of us, and testifying is allowed.

This is also live theatre and the actors need you to engage with them, not distract them or thwart their performance.

Please be an audience member that joins with others and allows a bit of breathing room. Exhale together. Laugh together. Say "amen" should you need to.

This is community. Let's go.

Peaceandlovedominique:)

Dominique Morisseau

## THE CAST



and consulting. Benford was cast in *All The Way*, his first show with New Stage Theatre. He and his wife are working towards opening the first black professional theatre in Mississippi.

**DESTIN BENFORD** (u/s Xavier/Dun) is a native of Drew, Miss. He graduated from Jackson State University with a BA in speech communication. While at Jackson State, Benford became a member of MADDDRAMA (S.C.E.N.E) 88 and immediately developed a love for the arts. During his tenure at Jackson State he won Supreme for the NADSA Playwright competition. He was seen on stage in *Ruined*, *The Color Purple*, and most recently *Drums of Sweetwater*. After graduation Benford married the love of his life Ashia, whom he met in college, had a beautiful baby girl, and began a career in photography



**ELLIE BOISSEAU** (u/s Laurie) is a graduate of University of Memphis with a BFA in theatre with a concentration in musical theatre. She is excited to be a part of this theatre community, and to be an apprentice at New Stage Theatre. Favorite credits include: *The Sparrow* (Emily Book), *Nine* (Luisa Contini), *Othello* (Desdemona), *The Servant of Two Masters* (Clarice), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel). She gives thanks to her family for their everlasting support, to Blake and his unwavering love, and all her friends who've lifted her up her through thick and thin.



**JAYMI HORN** (Jasmine) is a recent graduate of Ohio Northern University where she received a BFA in musical theatre. She is extremely excited about the opportunity to work at New Stage Theatre. Some of her favorite theatrical roles include Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Lucy in *Elysium*, and #2 in *The Wolves*. Other theatrical credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Lysistrata*. She would like to thank her family for their unwavering support and she would also like to thank the members of MT19 for their never-ending encouragement.



ensemble member in the 32nd, 33rd, and 34th Edition of The FAMU Connection.

**K. DEVIN HUNTER** (Omari) is from Tallahassee, Fla. and graduated from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) with a BFA in theatre arts with a minor in philosophy and religion. Hunter made his Essential Theatre debut in *Dumb Waiter* (Gus). He has since been seen in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Gooper), *Akeelah and The Bee* (JT), *Change It Up! Live Out Loud* (Ensemble), and *Sing on Ms. Griot* (Kimathi). Hunter was also cast in *In the Red and Brown Water* (Ogun Size) and nominated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival competition. He has also been a reoccurring

## actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after **Pipeline** following the show on Wednesday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 18.

Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



**SHARON MILES** (Nya) received her theatre training from the University of Southern Mississippi. Some of her favorite theatrical roles include: Gwen in ***A Time to Kill***, Fannie Lou Hamer in ***All The Way***, Motormouth Maybelle in ***Hairspray***, Miss Nelson in the children's musical ***Miss Nelson is Missing***, Winnifred in ***Once Upon a Mattress***, and Nella in Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's play ***Gee's Bend***. Other professional theatre credits include: ***The Robber Bridegroom***, ***It Ain't Nothing but the Blues***, ***The Ponder Heart***, ***Smokey Joe's Café***, ***Goodnight Moon***, and ***The Miracle Worker***.

She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support and encouragement.



**YOHANCE MYLES** (Xavier) is a native of Birmingham, Ala. He received his BA in theatre from Alabama State University, and MFA in Acting from Louisiana State University. He is married to Kimberly Morgan Myles. He is a member of AEA (Equity) and SAG-AFTRA (film/television). Although his career is currently elevated in film/television, Myles has a continued passion for theatre in which he accredits his foundation of artistry. His New Stage theatre works includes: ***A Soldier's Play***, ***The Whipping Man***, ***A Time to Kill***, and more. Myles can be currently seen

starring as Councilman Kent Hamilton on OWN's Network hit drama TV series ***Ambitions*** produced by Will Packer, Oprah Winfrey, and Lionsgate Studio. He has successfully been accredited with working for several major TV networks such as; FOX, OWN, NBC, ABC, CW, AMC, and the Lifetime Network to name a few. He believes the impact of his success and teaching(s) continues to serve the lives of many students across the Southeast. As an educator he firmly believes in advocating for conversations/solutions towards social justice issues that affects our youth and surrounding communities. Myles dedicates this performance to those special and misunderstood African-American young males who have unjustly become a product of our camouflaged educational pipeline system.



**KINGSLEY NWAOKORIE** (u/s Omari) was last seen at New Stage in ***Peter Pan***. Some of his favorite show credits include ***The Crucible***, ***The Colored Museum***, and ***The Piano Lesson***. He is currently a junior at Tougaloo College where he is majoring in computer science



**ALISA PRICE** (u/s Nya) is delighted about the opportunity to understudy for the role of Nya. She was in last year's New Stage Theatre Unframed production of *Gloria* and the previous year in *Steal Away*. Price holds a BA in theatre arts from High Point University, and was a former intern of New Stage where she performed in *Death of Salesman*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Price also toured regionally with Theatre IV and Swift Creek Mill Playhouse in Virginia. She is the box office manager of New Stage, and an active member of her church's theatre ministry at Jackson Revival Center, where she recently appeared in the original productions of *Sister Circle* and *Court of Atonement*. Price lives in Ridgeland with her husband, Hillery and is the proud mother of Darryn, Gabriel, and Elijah.



**Jasmine Rivera** (u/s Jasmine) is a graduate student of Jackson State University where she earned a BA in speech communication and theatre. Rivera's performance credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Sister Circle*, *Steal Away*, *As Much as I Can*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *The Color Purple*. Last Season, she appeared as Nana Pearson in New Stage's *Hell in High Water*. Rivera is also a former intern at New Stage Theatre.



**JO ANN ROBINSON\*** (Laurie) has worked professionally for more than 35 years in television, film, and regional theatres across the U.S. From 1978-1989, she was based out of Los Angeles where credits included co-starring roles in *The New Love American Style* and the nationally syndicated *Comedy of Comedies*. She appeared as a stand-up comedienne at Hollywood's Laugh Factory and The Ice House, famous for featuring headliners such as Jay Leno and Joan Rivers. She was also a founding member of the comedy group Half-A-Deck, named as 'Best Bet' by the *LA Times*. Robinson has been a regular at New Stage since 1990. Some show credits include *Sweat*, *Morningside*, *Silent Sky*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Lombardi*, *First Baptist of Ivy Gap*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Idols of the King*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Marvin's Room*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Misery*, and *Rumors*. Other regional theatre credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Angels in America I and II*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, and *Always Patsy Cline*. Robinson has most recently had featured roles on *NCIS New Orleans* and the feature film, *Shapeless*. Robinson was nominated for Best Actress for the prestigious B. Iden Award given by the Austin, Texas Critics Circle.





**DARIUS OMAR WILLIAMS** (Dun) is thrilled to be returning to New Stage where he was last seen as Man in ***Crowns***. Williams holds a Ph.D. in theatre from Ohio State University and a MA in theatre from Bowling Green State University. In recent years, Williams served as assistant professor of theatre and africana studies at Lehigh University and theatre director, associate professor and executive producer of the Paul Robeson Theatre at North Carolina A&T State University. His directing credits include: The world premiere of his original play ***Mississippi Born and Bred*** which was also produced as a staged reading at the 2015 National Black Theatre Festival, ***Every Tongue Confess***, ***The Old Settler***, ***Ladies in Waiting***, ***A Raisin in the Sun***, and ***The WIZ***. Professional regional acting credits: ***Crowns***, ***Ain't Misbehavin'***, ***Grapes of Wrath***, ***Hamlet***, ***Topdog/Underdog***, ***Charlie and The Chocolate Factory***, and ***Wine in the Wilderness***. Williams directed a mainstage fringe production of ***In the Red and Brown Water*** at the 2017 National Black Theatre Festival and was also nominated for Best Actor by the Independent Reviewer of New England for his portrayal of Afir Thomas in ***Hamartia Blues***. Williams is Founder and CEO of The Mississippi Black Theatre Festival and The Darius Omar Williams Studio of Acting.

## THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU** (Playwright) 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 hit Broadway musical ***Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations***. Morisseau 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.

**FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS** (Director/Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 31 years. She recently directed ***Into the Breeches!***, ***Bright Star***, ***Hell in High Water***, ***Sweat***, ***Shakespeare in Love***, ***Silent Sky***, and ***Best of Enemies***. Favorite acting roles include Dr. Katherine Brandt in ***33 Variations***, Polly in ***Other Desert Cities***, Lucille in ***Dividing the Estate***, and Edna Earle in Eudora Welty's ***The Ponder Heart***. She has directed a variety of shows including ***All The Way***, ***The Whipping Man***, ***The Grapes of Wrath***, ***Our Town***, ***Red***, ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?***, ***Hairspray***, ***Mahalia***:



*A Gospel Musical, The Great Gatsby, Lombardi, Boeing, Boeing, A Christmas Carol, Gee's Bend, A Raisin in the Sun, Annie, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, A Soldier's Play, and I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.* Reynolds is serving her third term on the Board of Directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre and is on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Theatre Association. She was a session leader for the 2018 & 2017 TCG National Conventions and panelist for the 2016 TCG National Conference *Theatre Nation* and the 2016 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest. Other associations include Leadership Mississippi Class of 2014; 2017 & 2014 National Endowment for the Arts grants panel; Mississippi Arts Commission grants panel; Poetry Outloud adjudicator; Southeastern Theatre Conference adjudicator; Mississippi High School Drama Festival adjudicator; South Atlantic Modern Language Association national conference presenter; and Mississippi's English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition judge. Reynolds worked as a locations casting director in film and television for several years. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

**ASHIA BENFORD** (Assistant Director) is a 2012 graduate of Jackson State University where she received a BA in sociology with a minor in theatre. After graduation, Benford received a professional acting internship at New Stage Theatre where she was seen in: *Race, 9 Parts of Desire, The Cat in the Hat, Mahalia: A Gospel Musical, and Hairspray*. She was last seen in *A Glimpse of an Eclipse* and *Women in Words* with BLUE Light Underground Ensemble. Currently, she is an acting instructor and director with local performance troupes, the creative director for DNA Photography, and earning a Master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. Benford is excited to be back at New Stage working with one of her favorite directors. She would like to thank her husband Destin who has always been her biggest supporter. Her daily affirmation is, "Your life is God's gift to you, what you do with it is your gift to God."

**CLARA SEITZ** (Stage Manager) previously served New Stage as assistant technical director and scenic artist. She left in 2016 to peruse a nomadic lifestyle of working on a cruise ship. She is excited to be back at New Stage, and working with all these wonderful people on such a brilliant show.

**CHRISTOPHER SFERRA** (Assistant Stage Manager) recently graduated from Southern Methodist University with a BFA in theatre. He is currently a 2019-20 apprentice at New Stage. At SMU, he played such roles as Trouble/Doctor in *In The Blood* and Adult Male in *Spring Awakening*. Professionally, he has played such roles as Dr. Watson from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Jean's Playhouse) and Bruce Ismay from *Titanic: The Musical* (Jean's Playhouse). Sferra would like to thank his mother for her love and support! Lastly, he would like to thank his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

**BRONWYN TEAGUE** (Production Manager/Resident Lighting Designer) completed an MFA in lighting design at the University of Southern Mississippi. While at Southern, she designed lights for several productions including *Peer Gynt, The Seagull, The Matchmaker, and Machinal*. Prior to Southern she earned a B.A. in theatre from Mississippi University for Women. Credits from the W include lighting design for *Stuart Little, When Night Falls*, and special effects design for *Blythe Spirit*. Teague has worked on numerous productions with

Tupelo Community Theatre as lighting designer, scenic artist or technical advisor. Immediately prior to New Stage, she was technical director for Carey Dinner Theatre in Hattiesburg. Teague also spent several years working for different theaters in the Salt Lake City area including Desert Star Playhouse, Hale Center Theatre, and Utah Contemporary Theatre.

**RICHARD LAWRENCE** (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) serves as the vice president of Fondren Theatre Workshop and has appeared in *A Christmas Memory* at New Stage, FTW's *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Buck Nekkid for Jesus*, directed FTW's *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, and most recently appeared as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. He was also the director of the widely successful productions of *Cabaret* and *Company*, which were joint productions of FTW and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence has been seen in New Stage productions of *The Trip to Bountiful* and UnFramed's *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Weir*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Dublin Carol*. Lawrence has won three Best Set awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences, and has also won Best Set at Southeastern Theatre Conference.

**CALEB BLACKWELL** (Resident Costume Designer) is native of Magee and is thrilled to return close to home to join the New Stage family! Blackwell holds a B.A. in theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi and has worked all over the South and Mid-South, including Wayside Theatre (resident designer) and Playhouse on the Square (designer for the second stage). Season 54 will mark the eighth season he has teamed up with New Stage, only this time, not as a guest. Past favorite credits include *Hairspray*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Bright Star*. Much love to his family and friends for the love they've shown at the start of this new adventure.

**ALBERTO MEZA** (Sound Designer/Production Associate) is a recent graduate of Belhaven University with a BFA in acting. He recently began working with New Stage as the audio engineer for *Matilda the Musical*. Other credits with Belhaven University are lighting designer for *The Secret Garden* and *Don Quixote*; sound designer for *Little Women the Musical* and *Ezekiel*. He is very thankful to begin his technical career with New Stage Theatre.

**RON RODENMEYER** (Projections Designer) of Jackson is a veteran videographer and video producer. He produced numerous stories and television programs for Mississippi Public Broadcasting and received a regional Emmy award from NATAS-Southeast for a feature about Mississippi native John Epperson (aka Lypsinka) and his one-man-show at New Stage. For more than 20 years, Rodenmeyer has operated Mosaic Media, a media production and communications company, with his wife, Kathryn. He is the father of Eve, Ben, and Kate and is a longtime supporter of New Stage Theatre. This is Rodenmeyer's first professional theater credit.

**MARIE VENTERS** (Properties Designer) is a recent graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in theatre with an emphasis in dramatic writing. Her stage managing credits include: *Night Mother* and *Into the Woods*. Venters also worked as a scenic painter on most shows during her time in Belhaven's theatre department, including: *Doubt*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *Doctor Faustus*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Big Fish: The Musical*, *Mayfair Ma Chere*, *The Music Man*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and others. She was also nominated for Best Sound Design by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in 2017 for *Big Fish: The Musical*. When Venters is not at New Stage, she enjoys writing and spending time with her husband, Hunter.

**LAZERRICK TRAVIS** (Production Associate) is a native of Canton and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2016 with a B.A. in scenic design. After graduation he went to Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota for a production internship. Travis came back to Mississippi in 2017 and had been employed by Nissan in Canton, before coming to work at New Stage. His other interests are acting within the film industry.

Running Crew ..... Ellie Boisseau, Christopher Sferra  
 Sound Board Operator ..... Alberto Meza  
 Light Board Operator ..... LaZerrick Travis  
 Costume Assistant ..... Lydia Lyppincott  
 Carpenters..... Samuel McFatridge  
 Box Office Associates..... Nina Frost, Kerri Puckett, Amy Smith

# THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**DAWN BUCK** (Managing Director) has worked on staff at New Stage for more than 25 years. She began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time, she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Buck’s other professional artistic credits include the USA International Ballet Competition, the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation - World Performance Series presenting a series of performing artists including American Ballet Theatre, Aquila Theatre of London, Joshua Bell, Alvin Ailey, Cirque Eloize, Wynton Marsalis, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She attended Belhaven University and is an alumnus of Leadership Jackson and a graduate of Dale Carnegie. Buck also completed a residency on theatre management at the Eugene O’Neill Center through a grant from the Foundation for the Extension and Development of Professional American Theatre (FEDAPT). Prior to serving on the staff of the USA International Ballet Competition, she worked with America Reads - Mississippi overseeing and training 270 AmeriCorps members who provided one-on-one tutoring in reading for students in primary K through the 3rd grade across the state. In 1990, she served as vice president of administration and finance for Imageworks - Films for Business. She helped produce commercials, documentaries and training videos. Buck resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood in Jackson with her husband David, who retired after a 26 year military career with the U. S. Air Force and the Mississippi Air National Guard. He has recently initiated beekeeping as a new hobby.

**BILL MCCARTY III** (General Manager) is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain, that was founded by his Grandfather and two Holman cousins in 1919 who then grew the business into a billion dollar Mississippi-based company that they sold in 1996. McCarty was first recruited in 1973 by Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider to run a follow-spotlight for *The Gershwin Show* at the theatre’s original Gallatin Street location. He has continued to volunteer with New Stage for more than 46 years in all areas including production, running crews, lighting and sound design, and New Stage fundraising events. He is involved in the day-to-day management, maintenance,

and production for the theatre and serves on the Board of Trustees as a lifetime member. His favorite design credits are *A Christmas Carol* 1984 production, *Greater Tuna* 1986 production, *The Gin Game* in 1987, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1990.

**MELISSA TILLMAN** (Marketing Director) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in technical theatre. She served as the audience services director at New Stage, has worked as a box office associate at Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada, and assisted with many box office activities at Belhaven University. Tillman has stage managed many shows in several parts of the country, including Las Vegas and Tennessee. Her stage managing credits include *Oklahoma!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Love's Labours Lost*; and *Noye's Fludd* and *La Boheme* with the Mississippi Opera. This is Tillman's fourteenth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

**SHANNON FROST** (Marketing Associate) received a B.A. in communication/theatre from Malone University and a M.A. in theatre from Regent University. Previous experience includes: theatre manager at Regent University's Theatre Department, marketing director at Red Clay Theatre, marketing director at New Stage Theatre, and theatre teacher at Christ Covenant School. Frost is currently an adjunct professor of Arts Administration at Belhaven University, and is the financial and membership director for the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education. She resides in Jackson with her husband, Joe and kiddos, Nina, Darby, Emory, Beau, and Violet.

**DREW STARK** (Education Associate) is a Mississippi native who received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary. A trained dancer in NYC and professional fight choreographer, Stark is serving currently as New Stage's education associate. Some of his favorite musical credits include: *Young Frankenstein*, *Damn Yankees*, *CATS*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Some New Stage productions include *A Christmas Carol*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Sister Act*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *A Time to Kill*, and *33 Variations*.

**ALISA PRICE** (Box Office Manager) begins her 4th season at New Stage. She is a former intern at New Stage Theatre, and performed in *Death of Salesman*, *Charlotte's Webb*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Most recently, she appeared in New Stage's Unframed productions of *Gloria* and *Steal Away*. Price has performed with several theatre companies in Virginia, including Swift Creek Mill Playhouse, Theatre IV, and Richmond Theatre Company for Children, where she later became the marketing and sales director. She is an active member of her church's theatre ministry at Jackson Revival Center. Price resides in Ridgeland with her husband, Hillery, and their children, Darryn, Gabriel, and Elijah.

**BETTY WONG** (Box Office Associate/Education Consultant) begins her 15th season at New Stage. She continues to enjoy traveling to schools and towns throughout the state with the Professional Apprentice Company to provide live theatre experiences for students and adults of all ages. When not on the road, you can find her in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Her professional work experiences in education and her passion for live theatre have contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Education Department. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. in Educational Psychology from Mississippi State University, an M.Ed. from Delta State University, and recently received the 2019 Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

**BARBARA MARTIN** (Box Office Associate/Business Office Associate) is in her 24th season at New Stage. First joining the staff in 1997, she has served as box office assistant for 20 years and as box office manager for the two years before and during the Intermission Season. She also assists with development, reviews and maintains theatre insurance coverages, and performs other business office functions.

**CARLA MARSH** (House Manager) received her B.A. in criminal justice with an emphasis in juvenile justice from Jackson State University. She is pleased to be returning to New Stage for her 16th season. Marsh is employed full time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Department

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Hind's County Sheriff's

Department

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Vangela Wade

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# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

By Simon Stephens

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

**April 21 – May 3, 2020**

Drama/Mystery | Tony Award-winning Best Play

Fifteen-year-old Christopher is on a mission. After the untimely death of his neighbor's dog, the brilliant but unique boy is compelled to investigate the crime. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.  
*Recommended for ages 14+ for strong language*

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**Mississippi Plays Series Presents**

# **Native Son**

## **A Play Reading**

By Richard Wright; Adapted for the stage by Nambi E. Kelley  
Directed by Yolanda Williams

Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Hewes Room  
\$5 at the door or Free with any *Pipeline* ticket stub  
Running Time: 90 minutes

Suffocating in rat-infested poverty on the South Side of Chicago in the 1930s, twenty-year-old Bigger Thomas struggles to find a place for himself in a world whose prejudice has shut him out. After taking a job in a wealthy white man's house, Bigger unwittingly unleashes a series of events that violently and irrevocably seal his fate. Adapted with theatrical ingenuity by Chicago's own Nambi E. Kelley, this ***Native Son*** captures the power of Richard Wright's novel for a whole new generation.

## **New Stage depends on the support of volunteers to keep the curtain rising.**

You can make a difference by giving a few hours of your time. Some jobs require a regular commitment throughout the season, say once or twice per show; others are assigned “as needed.” If you have a little free time and want to get involved, there are many opportunities available from ushering to scenic painting, poster hanging to ticket taking.

## **There is bound to be a job for YOU!**

Check out our website at [www.newstagetheatre.com/about/volunteers](http://www.newstagetheatre.com/about/volunteers)



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