

109<sup>th</sup> Season

# PIPELINE



APR. 4 – 27, 2025



VAGABOND PLAYERS



# VAGABOND PLAYERS

*The Best of Broadway on Broadway*

806 South Broadway  
Baltimore, MD 21231  
410-563-9135  
www.vagabondplayers.org

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Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the performance.

No food or drinks are allowed in the theatre.

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Vagabond Players is a founding member of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. For more information, visit <http://www.baltplayfest.org>.

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT

# PIPELINE

by Dominique Morisseau  
Directed by Lorraine Brooks

## *Cast (in order of appearance)*

Nya ..... Melissa Scott  
Omari ..... Broadus Nesbitt III  
Jasmine ..... Mae Philippe-Auguste  
Xavier ..... Jae West  
Laurie ..... Melissa Banister  
Dun ..... Anthony Parker

## *Setting*

Present day

This production will have no intermission.

PIPELINE is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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.

# Cast Biographies



**Melissa Banister** (Laurie) is excited to return to Vagabond Players, where she was last seen in *Love, Loss and What I Wore* and *How I Learned to Drive*. Additional recent credits include *Deathtrap* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at Spotlighters Theatre, and *Machinal* at Fells Point Corner Theatre. Melissa earned her BA in Theater and Dance from Trinity College, Hartford, CT. She currently works as a theatre arts teacher and professional development coordinator. She appreciates Lorraine for the opportunity to shed light on such an important topic. Melissa is grateful to Nicholas and Matthew for their support, inspiration, and love.

**Broadus Nesbitt III** (Omari) is excited to make his Vagabond Players debut. Broadus is coming fresh off directing *Pippin* at Artistic Synergy of Baltimore. You may have seen Broadus in several productions around the Baltimore area. Last summer he was in Rapid Lemon's production of *Variations on Courage*. A few months before that you may have seen him in Fells Point Corner Theater's production of *Miss Holmes*. He has also done several shows at Arena Players Inc. including *Hamlet*, *Kill Move Paradise*, and *Stick Fly*. Broadus would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him throughout this journey.



**Anthony Parker aka Wordsmith** (Dun) is a songwriter, composer, recording artist, actor, playwright and philanthropist from Baltimore, MD. Anthony is a Grammy Voting Member, finalist for the 2025 Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, finalist for the 2024 Baker Artist Awards, voted one of 25 Black Marylanders to Watch by the Baltimore Sun and his music/jingles are featured on prominent networks like WWE, ESPN Sports center, Netflix, AMC and more! Theatrical roles include *All My Sons*, *1776*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *A Few Good Men* and an original reinterpretation of *The Soldier's Tale* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

**Mae Philippe-Auguste** (Jasmine) is a Baltimore-based actor, singer, and educator with a BA in Film, Media, Theater from Mount Holyoke College. Her most recent role was in *Machinal* at Fells Point Corner Theatre. Other productions she has acted in include *As You Like It*, *Exit Strategy*, *Fabulation or the Re-Education of Undine Barnes*, *Red Rainbow*, and *The Children's Hour*. She has also sung in local cabarets and been featured as a vocal soloist at various events for the Greater Baltimore Section of the National Council of Negro Women. In addition to her work on stage, Mae has also produced several audiobooks.



**Melissa Scott** (Nya) has acting credits that include *Doubt* (Mrs. Muller), *Lipstick* (Dorothy), and *A Civil War Christmas* (Elizabeth Keckley). She has also performed at Fells Point Corner Theatre and the Laurel Mill Playhouse. Melissa is delighted to perform with her fellow cast members in this production. Thank you, Lorraine for giving me this opportunity.

**Jae West** (Xavier) is excited to be a part of *Pipeline* at Vagabond Players. He has appeared in *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *A Few Good Men* and *Lombardi*. He has studied at the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia and Stellar Adler Studios in New York City. Jae loves to prepare and practice when it comes to theater and always looks forward to the next role.



# Crew Biographies

**Lorraine Brooks** (Director) appeared at Vagabond Players in 2019 as Bailiff in *12 Angry Jurors*. She has since been concentrating on directing. Recent shows include *Fires in the Mirror*; *Miss Evers' Boys* (WATCH nomination for Best Ensemble Cast); *Old Settler* (WATCH nomination for Best Hair and Makeup Design); *Consecrated Ground*; and her own play *Out of the Blue*, a compilation of interviews with 9/11 first responders. Lorraine is also a formally trained artist, specializing in stipple. Her works are in collections in the US, UK, Caribbean, and Netherlands.

**Jana King** (Stage Manager) retired from over 40 years with the DC and PG County Public Schools as a Visual Arts and Special Education teacher. She has developed a second passion in the theater and is pleased to be involved with her first production at Vagabond Players. She has previously been stage manager at Laurel Mill Playhouse, Bowie Community Theater, and Silver Spring Stage.

**Tarita Turner** (Asst. Stage Manager) is honored to make her assistant stage manager debut at Vagabond Players. She is so grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow!

## Director's Note

*PIPELINE* is one of those plays which transcends time and place, and that statement is, in itself, a commentary on the state of public education in US cities. The title refers to the "school-to-prison pipeline" which the American Civil Liberties Union calls "the policies and practices that push our nation's students, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This pipeline reflects the prioritization of incarceration over education." These policies often negatively affect Black youth disproportionately.

Dominique Morisseau's insightful and tense drama deals with the emotions and fears of one mother whose son's anger has caused him to react with violence towards a teacher at his boarding school. The story centers around Omari Joseph, who has been suspended because of an altercation with a teacher. His mother, Nya, a teacher at an inner city high school, sees this incident as the possible beginning of Omari's descent down the pipeline. She has seen it many times in her own school, and she fears she cannot stop her son's trajectory. We see the struggles of a single mother, a son whose rage is overwhelming him and threatening his future, an absent father whose financial support does not take the place of his physical presence, and a school system that often does not meet the needs of students and teachers alike.

I chose this play to direct because of its relevance in today's world, and to Baltimore in particular. Young Black men are often misunderstood and judged, and they remain vulnerable in ways that our society has yet to deal with adequately or honestly. My hope is that it will help to foster a dialog between parents and children and raise awareness of some of the challenges our public school systems face.

**Continue the conversation - visit these sites to learn more:**

**ACLU**

[www.aclu.org/documents/what-school-prison-pipeline](http://www.aclu.org/documents/what-school-prison-pipeline)

**Learning For Justice**

[www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/spring-2013/the-school-to-prison-pipeline](http://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/spring-2013/the-school-to-prison-pipeline)

**American University**

[soeonline.american.edu/blog/school-to-prison-pipeline/](http://soeonline.american.edu/blog/school-to-prison-pipeline/)

# Production Staff

Director .....	Lorraine Brooks
Stage Manager .....	Jana King
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Tarita Turner
Lighting Design .....	Joel Selzer
Set Design .....	Bruce Kapplin
Set Construction .....	Bruce Kapplin Jay Demarco
Sound Design .....	Stephen Deiningner
Booth Technician .....	Apryl Bancroft
Photographers .....	Shaelyn Jae Photography Audra M. Mullen
Marketing/PR .....	Audra M. Mullen Sydney Marks Su Kim
Graphic Design .....	Sarah Hepworth
Box Office/Front of House .....	Michael Kranick
Producers .....	Thomas Peter Steve Goldklang

Vagabond Players is a recipient of grants from the Abell Foundation, the Maryland States Arts Council, and Mayor Brandon Scott and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts



# VAGABOND ANGELS

Become an Angel today!  
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or honor a fellow theatre lover.

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(Contributions of \$1,000 or more)

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David Graham	
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## *2024-2025 Angels*

(Contributions of \$50-\$99)

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Dennis Betzel	Erin Peryea
Peter Bodde	James Roark
Candice Chesno	Susan Steele
Diana Gray	Christopher Weglein
A Lombardi	Roberta Wentworth

# ENJOYING THIS PRODUCTION? JOIN US FOR THE REST OF OUR 109<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!

MAY 30 – JUN. 22, 2025

Written by Steve Martin  
Directed by Stephen Deiningner

Picasso  
at the  
*Lapin Agile*

Martin plays fast and loose with fact, fame, and fortune in this brilliant absurdist comedy that places young Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904. Just before the renowned scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world afire with cubism.

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## THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A PART OF OUR PRODUCTIONS?

Visit our website, sign up for our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media to learn about our auditions and behind-the-scenes opportunities.

We welcome artists of all backgrounds and experience levels to join us and be a part of bringing high quality theatre to Baltimore.

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Have you been involved in a production for Vagabond Players? Whether on the stage or behind the scenes, once you've participated in a production you are eligible to become a Vagabond Players member.

Visit our Opportunities page to learn more.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKET PRICES, VISIT  
[WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG](http://WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG)

