

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

NATE JACOBS
FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS

PIPELINE

By Dominique Morisseau

Properties Designer
Annette Breazeale

Production Manager
James "Jay" Dodge II

Lighting Designer
Joseph Oshry**

Costume Designer
Adrienne Pitts

Production Stage
Manager
Juanita Munford*

Video Projections &
Transitions Designer
Jay Poppe

Scenic Designer
Adam Spencer**

Chief Videographer/
Editor
Bill Wagy

Director
L. Peter Callender

Filmed on the WBTT stage in April 2021
Screening Outdoors at WBTT April 24-30, 2021
Streaming on demand May 1-23, 2021

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

* Member of Actors' Equity
Association (AEA), the
Union of Professional Actors
and Stage Managers in the
United States.

"Pipeline" is presented by
arrangement with Concord
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Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

**Member of Local 412,
International Alliance of
Theatrical Stage Employees
(IATSE) and Local 829, United
Scenic Artists (USA)



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CAST

(in order of appearance)

Nya.....	Renata Eastlick*
Jasmine.....	Emerald Rose Sullivan*
Omari.....	Donovan Whitney
Laurie.....	Emilia Sargent*
Dun.....	Isaac Esau Gay
Xavier.....	Joel PE King*

**Member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

VOICEOVERS

Nate Jacobs
Yve Lyles
Juanita Munford
Adrienne Pitts
Donovan Whitney

WE REAL COOL BACKGROUND VIDEO

Videographer/Editor

James Berry

Choreographer

Donald Frison

ACTORS

Derric Gobourne Jr.

Nate Jacobs

Astrid McIntyre

Michael Mendez

Raleigh Mosely II

Chakara Rosa

Jai Shanae

Donovan Whitney

COVID-19 safety precautions were observed for cast and crew during rehearsals and filming.

SPECIAL THANKS

Pines of Sarasota
Fabulous Finds Thrift Shop

WBTT PRODUCTION TEAM FOR PIPELINE

WBTT Founder/Artistic Director	Nate Jacobs
Director	L. Peter Callender
Chief Videographer/Editor	Bill Wagy
Videographers.....	James Berry, James “Jay” Dodge II, Nate Ilardi
Properties Designer	Annette Breazeale
Assistant Costumer/Seamstress.....	Darci Collins
Production Manager	James “Jay” Dodge II
COVID-19 Safety Officer	Yve Lyles
Electricians	Michelle Marcus** , Nate Myers**
Stage Hand.....	Amber Myers
Production Stage Manager/ Sound Cue Designer	Juanita Munford*
Lighting Designer.....	Joseph Oshry**
Associate Lighting Designer/ Production Electrician.....	Michael Pasquini**
Light Board Programmer	Alex Pinchin
Costume Designer/Lead Stage Hand.....	Adrienne Pitts
Video Projections & Transitions Designer.....	Jay Poppe
Sound Engineer	Patrick Russini
Scenic Designer	Adam Spencer
Technical Director	Shane Streight

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**Member of IATSE Local 412, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

WISH LIST

Please help make our guest artists feel at home while they are here and help our theatre operations run more smoothly with donations of:

Funding for two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs):
\$2,500 each

House or condo for guest artists

Gently used car for guest artist

Email Ariel Blue at ablue@westcoastblacktheatre.org or call her at 941-366-1505, ext. 111, if you would like to help.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline* hits very close to home for this director. Born in the West Indies, I grew up in the North Bronx to a single mother struggling to make ends meet while working three, sometimes four jobs at a time; with two/three hours sleep daily, all in a brave and determined effort to keep her only child fed, educated, motivated and out of trouble. It was very dangerously close, almost heart-breaking, at times. I could have been another statistic that reporters and playwrights would chronicle in the future. Yet she was successful because of the selfless sacrifices she made on my behalf, all the while keeping a strong hand and a firm grasp on this young black kid with lots of time on his hands.

I know of many of my friends from “back in the day” who are no longer with us, either dead or incarcerated, victims of what is now known as the “school to prison pipeline,” funneling students from public schools into the criminal justice system — young people whose fate is often fatal. Black youth have been most impacted by this system, often targeted as early as third grade!

In my view, *Pipeline* is by far Ms. Morisseau's most important work. It insists that its actors be open and vulnerable to raw emotions, portray characters perhaps disliked by audiences, and challenges its audiences to examine themselves, asking: “What can I do to help? Why did I not know of this? Am I aiding and abetting this crisis?” It is a work that solemnly wails a mother's grief and anger, shares a father's heartbreak, shouts a teacher's dogged determination to inspire; grapples with young love yearning to be realized and, most importantly, insists we hear the cries of a brilliant young man with two strikes against him, simply begging to be listened to, to not assume he is a criminal based on the color of his skin — asking that we treat him fairly, and have someone . . . to just show up for him.

It was a challenge to stage *Pipeline* during COVID-19, but our team of dedicated theatre and video professionals rose to the occasion. We decided to keep all the set pieces on stage at the same time to limit contact among the cast and crew, and we blocked the actors' movements with social distancing in mind.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Some of these safety measures led to creative decisions that ultimately helped us tell the story of *Pipeline* on video in a way that's different from an in-person theatrical experience but is, we hope, just as moving.

This play is an opus for our times, speaking to young and old of every race, economic and social level. It stands alongside the great works of Wilson, Hansberry and Baldwin. Ms. Morisseau taught school for many years in Detroit. She comes from a line of dedicated educators. In *Pipeline*, she is all the characters she writes about!

The bell has rung. Let's take our seats. It's time. Please lean forward and be engaged. Get involved!

—**L. Peter Callender**

CAST AND CREATIVE



RENATA EASTLICK* (Nya) is a multilingual actor and voiceover artist. She is best known for voicing 'Caveira' in the critically acclaimed

UBISOFT video games *Rainbow Six: Siege* and *Ghost Recon: Wildlands*. Upon receiving her BFA from the University of Florida's New World School of the Arts, Renata has worked extensively in theatre, voiceover, film, television and commercials. As an actor, Renata has performed nationally and internationally, using her Portuguese, Spanish and English language skills. Some of her theatrical credits include Off-Broadway: *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf* (The Public Theater, NYC-u/s) Regional: *7 Deadly Sins* (Miami New Drama); *The Nutcracker* (House Theatre of Chicago); *Letters to Kamala* (American Stage); *Flying* (Tampa Rep); *The Royale* (Hippodrome Theatre); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Oldcastle Theatre); *Ruined* (GableStage); *Eclipsed* (Women's Theatre Project); *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Ground Up and Rising); *In the Heights* and *Rockin' Down Fairytale Lane* (WBTT) among others. FILM: *God's Waiting Room*. TV: *Burn Notice*, *Mad Dogs* and *The Glades*. Renata is a Silver Palm Award recipient, a two-time Carbonell Award nominee, and a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity Association. www.renataeastlick.com



ISAAC ESAU GAY (Dun) is an alumni of the Maggie Flanigan Acting Conservatory in New York City and an Indie Award-winning producer. He has been featured

in major TV shows, independent films

and plays across the east coast. Isaac recently started a boutique performance-based consulting agency called Sell it Like Isaac, which helps new entrepreneurs become six-figure earners.



JOEL PE KING* (Xavier) is a Screen Actors Guild/AFTRA and AEA member performer. His theatre credits include *The Amen Corner*, *Spunk*, *Knock Me a*

Kiss, *Raisin in the Sun*, *The Colored Museum*, *Immigrant Project*, *In the Blood* and *Dutchman*. Musical theater credits include *Real Life: A Hip Hopera*, *Big River*, *Damn Yankees*, *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Color Purple*, *The Sam Cooke Story* and *Complacency of Silence: Darfur*, for which he received a Kevin Kline Nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical. Joel has appeared in the premieres of the operas *Ruth* and *Joshua's Boots*. While touring with the gospel show *A House Divided*, Tyler Perry caught his performance and complimented him on "a job well done." Joel has played leading and supporting roles in independent films, including *Pieces of a Dream*, *Ishmael Meets the Grave of Hagar* and the award-winning movie *Russian Roulette*. His recent movie credits include MMG's *Stratosphere* and Kim Conner's *Before I Do*, to also star Jensen Atwood, Omar Gooding and Andrea Kelly. "My vision is to envision promise through rich and real storytelling."



EMILIA SARGENT* (Laurie) is an actor, singer and director, best known for the one-woman show *Grounded* (Best Actress, Best of the Bay and Theatre

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Tampa Bay), *Silent Sky* (Best Actress, Theatre Tampa Bay), and Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Best Actress, Best of the Bay). She is thrilled to be working with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and L. Peter Callender on this powerful play. www.emiliasargent.com.



EMERALD ROSE SULLIVAN* (Jasmine)

Emerald Rose's previous WBTT credits include *The Mountaintop*, *Knock Me A Kiss*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Other theatre credits include *The Mountaintop* at Hattiloo Theatre and *Riots: B'Hoys Do Macbeth* at the Metropolitan Playhouse. Her TV credits include: *Gotham*, *Street Justice: The Bronx* and *Momsters: When Moms Go Bad*. Emerald Rose received her BA degree in Acting from Pace University.



DONOVAN WHITNEY

(Omari) is proud and beyond elated to be making his WBTT debut. An educator as well as actor, he has taught acting and done

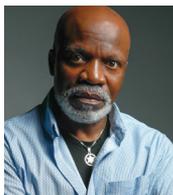
educational outreach with WBTT's programs Jazzlinks and Stage of Discovery. Recent theater credits include *Shakespeare Lite: Romeo & Juliet* and *Between Riverside & Crazy* (American Stage) and *Immurement* (Theater Odyssey). A local actor in St. Petersburg, Donovan is proud to have found another home with WBTT. "Please wear a mask and stay safe!"



DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

(Playwright) is the author of *The Detroit Project (A Three-Play Cycle)* which includes *Skeleton Crew*, *Paradise*

Blue and *Detroit '67*. Her other plays include *Pipeline*, *Sunset Baby*, *Blood at the Root* and *Follow Me To Nellie's*. She is also the Tony-nominated book writer of the Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*. Dominique is an alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, Women's Project Lab and Lark Playwrights Workshop. Morisseau has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Conference. She served as co-producer on the Showtime series *Shameless* (three seasons). Additional 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 (two), Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, Variety's Women of Impact for 2017-18 and a recent MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow.



L. PETER CALLENDER

(Director) is Artistic Director of the African-American Shakespeare Company in San Francisco and

Artistic Associate at NY Classical Theatre. He is thrilled to be making his directing debut at WBTT with *Pipeline*. His extensive acting credits include *Prelude to a Kiss* on Broadway to productions in the San Francisco Bay Area, with many

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stops in between, including four years with Milwaukee Rep Acting Company, and performances at over 20 other regional theaters. As Artistic Associate at California Shakespeare Theater, Peter performed in 24 Shakespeare plays and directed seven around the San Francisco Bay Area. A multi-award-winning actor and director, he was honored that his friends at San Jose Stage recently produced his very first venture as a playwright, *Strange Courtesies*. Peter recently wrapped *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, a film directed by Ted Lange about Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong, for American Stage Company in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he’s been a resident actor/director for the past six years for productions of *Jitney*, *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Pipeline*, *Skeleton Crew*. He played Walter “Pops” Washington in *Between Riverside and Crazy*. His work garnered a total of 23 award nominations and 13 wins, including four Outstanding Director Awards. Much more on L. Peter Callender can be found at www.lpetercallender.com



NATE JACOBS

(WBTT Founder & Artistic Director) is a driving force in Florida’s theatre scene. A graduate of Florida A&M University, Nate

founded Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe in 1999. He has written, composed, directed and performed in many shows, as an actor, singer, dancer and comedian. He works extensively in the community training and mentoring youth in the performing arts. As a result of his outstanding contributions to young people, the Sarasota County Branch NAACP Youth Council recognized Nate as one of its 2012 Men of Valor. In the spring of 2013, he was inducted into the Community Video Archives Hall of Fame for his significant contributions

to the arts and education. In 2015, Nate was recognized as a Champion of Diversity for the arts during the Biz(941) and *La Guia* magazines’ Unity Awards Luncheon, and was honored with the prestigious Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award during the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., “for his contributions to Black theatre specifically and American theatre in general.” In 2017, Goodwill Manasota named him a Community Ambassador of the Year. In 2018, the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County honored Nate with the Arts Leadership Award for Artistic Achievement. In 2019 he brought *Soul Man* to the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. — WBTT’s fourth appearance there. Nate and the troupe marked the 20th anniversary of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in November 2019 with *Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now*, a musical retrospective of the company’s first two decades. In January 2020, following a capital campaign that raised more than \$8.7 million for WBTT’s campus and endowment, the Gerri Aaron & the Aaron Family Foundation Theatre Building opened with its first show in the renovated theatre — the musical *Caroline, or Change*. In the summer of 2020, Nate joined the Board of Directors of the Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center in Sarasota, a nonprofit organization known as a “campus of caring” because it is home to over 19 nonprofit health and human services agencies that help low income and at-risk adults, children and families.



BILL WAGY (Chief Videographer/ Editor) Bill Wagy and his company, Bill Wagy Productions, has filmed and edited hundreds of videos of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe shows and

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events in WBTT's 21-year history. His compelling "sizzle videos" capture the essence of each production in just a few minutes. Bill also films every WBTT show live on stage for the company's video archive. Bill is a broadcast journalism graduate of The American University in Washington, D.C., and has been a television sports anchor in several markets including Toledo, Ohio, Columbia, South Carolina, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A Sarasota resident for more than 20 years, Bill worked for SNN-News 6 and ABC7 before starting his own company. He is in demand as a videographer and editor for a wide range of arts, cultural and philanthropic organizations. *Pipeline* is the first WBTT production he has filmed for the express purpose of outdoor screening and streaming, bringing his artful cinematic eye to the project. With L. Peter Callender directing the play and Bill shooting and editing the video, the final product will allow audiences to experience the powerful message of *Pipeline* as it screens on WBTT's campus or in demand in their own homes, in this season like no other.

JAMES "JAY" DODGE II (Production Manager/Music Director) has served as WBTT's Production Manager and Resident Music Director for over a decade. A producer, composer, arranger and songwriter, Jay oversaw the production and music for three of WBTT's four appearances at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C. He began playing the bass at age 13 and, through the years, has directed several band ensembles and accompanied many singers with his smooth melodic bass playing. He has traveled with the renowned Westcoast Gospel Chorus of Florida and The HLP Love Campaign, touring the U.S., Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, and performing a holiday show at the White House. His

local and national TV appearances include Fox, NBC, BET and the CW Network. Jay has accompanied many artists, including recording sensation Terrell Carter, Kermit Quinn of the vocal group Blackstreet, Broadway stars Melba Moore and Chester Gregory, international recording artist Frank McComb, and Gospel greats Hezekiah Walker, Kim Burrell, Shirley Caesar, Albertina Walker, Dorothy Norwood, Kurt Carr, Byron Cage, Richard Smallwood and Bishop Walter Hawkins. Jay holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance from Florida International University. He is a loving husband to his wife Renae and father to his two boys, Jay and Kai.

JUANITA MUNFORD* (Production Stage Manager) has extensive experience as a stage manager. This Manchester, N.H. native attended St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt. After working in St. Michael's Playhouse, she moved to Sarasota in 1983 and became the stage manager for more than 90 shows at the Asolo Repertory Theatre. Juanita's first WBTT show as stage manager was *Marvin Gaye: The Man & His Music* in 2011 and she has served in that role ever since. She is very proud to be working with Nate Jacobs and the amazing people at WBTT.

ANNETTE BREAZEALE (Properties Designer) is WBTT's Resident Property Master. She has designed props for area stages including Banyan Theatre Company and the FSU Conservatory at the Asolo Theatre. In addition, she has worked as art director and production designer for national and international feature films and music videos. She would like to thank Nate Jacobs for the opportunity to work with such a talented and inspirational group of theatre artists.

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JOSEPH OSHRY (Lighting Designer) is proud to be making his lighting design debut at WBTT for its production of *Pipeline*. Since 1986 Joseph has designed lighting for some 600 productions for such organizations as American Stage, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Maltz-Jupiter Theatre, Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Tampa, New Orleans Opera, Sarasota International Dance Festival, Ballet Eddy Toussaint USA and the Interlochen Dance Ensemble in Michigan. Joseph has received two Individual Artist Fellowships from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and is a four-time recipient of the Theatre Tampa Bay award for outstanding lighting design. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Tampa Repertory Theatre. He is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 New York and of IATSE Local 412 Sarasota.

ADRIENNE PITTS (Costume Designer) has worked with WBTT as an actress and stagehand for over 16 years. She started out on stage but soon realized she loved working backstage even more. Adrienne has been the Wardrobe Manager and Lead Stagehand for WBTT since 2017. Adrienne has costumed *A Motown Christmas*, *The Mountaintop* and *Soul Man* and was the Assistant Costume Designer for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, *Raisin*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul* and *Black Nativity*. Adrienne has also been writing for over 15 years and has been blessed to work with her mentor, Nate Jacobs. She was given an opportunity to write a play for her church youth group. Since the moment the play was performed, Adrienne knew she wanted to be a creative writer and eventually see her plays come to life on stage. With Nate Jacobs, she co-wrote WBTT's 2019

and 2020 Stage of Discovery summer shows, *A Journey to Motown* and *The Technicolor Musical*. She is also interested in writing television series. Adrienne is grateful for Nate Jacobs and the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe for allowing her to learn and grow in this amazing company.

JAY POPPE (Video Projections/Transitions Designer) has designed projections for WBTT productions including *Soul Man* and *Queen of Soul: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin*. He has also provided scenic projections for The Manatee Players productions of *Newsies*, *Mary Poppins*, *Tarzan* and many more. Jay also performs, most recently in *A Christmas Carol* at The Manatee Players, where he played six different characters. "Thank you, Nate, for asking me to work on this amazing show!"

ADAM SPENCER (Scenic Designer) is excited to join the WBTT design team. He received his BA in Theatre from Chadron State College and MFA in Theatrical Design from Illinois State University. Adam has served as Technical Director, Resident Designer, and Scenic Design Professor at Louisiana Tech University and University of Houston Downtown. He has worked at theatres such as Asolo Repertory Theatre Terrace Stage (scenic design) Playhouse on the Square (scenic design), Theatre Under the Stars (assistant lighting and assistant scenic design), Lexington Children's Theatre (lighting and scenic design), Birmingham Children's Theatre (resident designer and technical director), Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) Humphreys School of Musical Theatre (lighting and scenic design), Olney Theatre Center (props design) and Main Street Theatre (scenic design).

OUR MISSION

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe was founded in December 1999 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to produce professional theatre that promotes and celebrates African American history and experience, engages a broad base of patrons and audiences, supports the development of a dynamic group of aspiring artists and builds self-esteem in youth of color.

Tax-deductible gifts from generous individuals, businesses, and foundations underwrite WBTT's annual operating budget. Your support helps to keep tickets affordable and provides funds to mentor new local talent and to develop high-quality productions. In addition, your gifts allow us to offer theatre experiences to an underserved population.

Thank you!

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WBTT THEATRE

1012 N. Orange Ave.
Sarasota, Florida 34236

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