



# NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

## New Village Arts Presents **THE COLOR PURPLE**

**BASED UPON THE NOVEL WRITTEN BY ALICE WALKER AND THE  
WARNER BROS./AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE**

**Book by MARSHA NORMAN**

**Music and Lyrics by  
BRENDA RUSSELL ALLEE WILLIS STEPHEN BRAY**

**THE COLOR PURPLE was produced on Broadway at the Broadway Theater by Oprah Winfrey, Scott Sanders, Roy Furman, and Quincy Jones. The world premiere of THE COLOR PURPLE was produced by the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia.**

**Directed by KANDACE CRYSTAL  
Musical Direction by LEIGH SCARRITT  
Choreography by ALYSSA "AJAY" JUNIOUS  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
Previews: June 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

*For immediate release: May 9, 2024*

*Contact Olivia Pence, Manager of Marketing & Communications: [olivia@newvillagearts.org](mailto:olivia@newvillagearts.org)*

*Carlsbad, CA—[New Village Arts \(NVA\)](#), North County's cultural hub, presents the San Diego Professional Premiere of the groundbreaking musical: THE COLOR PURPLE, based on the novel by Alice Walker, with book by Marsha Norman, and music and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephen Bray. THE COLOR PURPLE will be directed by Kandace Crystal, musical direction by Leigh Scarritt, and choreography by Alyssa "Ajay" Junious. This will be the final production of our 22nd season, performed on the newly appointed Ray Charles Stage in the Conrad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center. THE COLOR PURPLE will run from June 22nd - July 21st, 2024. Previews will be held from June 14th-21st, with an Opening Night Reception on June 22nd, 2024.*



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Adapted from Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *THE COLOR PURPLE* chronicles the inspiring journey of Celie, a remarkable woman who discovers her inner strength and voice amidst a lifetime of adversity. Set against the backdrop of 40 years, *THE COLOR PURPLE* follows Celie's evolution from a downtrodden young woman to a beacon of hope and empowerment. Featuring a vibrant score infused with jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music, and blues, this musical celebration is a testament to the human spirit and the healing power of love.

*THE COLOR PURPLE* premiered at the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, Georgia, before captivating audiences on Broadway in 2005, where it received eleven Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Original Score. Its triumphant journey continued with a Tony Award-winning revival in 2015, and an award winning movie adaptation in 2023, starring Fantasia Barrino, Taraji P. Henson, and Danielle Brooks.

The creative team for *THE COLOR PURPLE* is full of San Diego's finest. Kandace Crystal is set to pioneer this groundbreaking musical, with musical direction by Leigh Scarritt and choreography by Alyssa "Ajay" Junious. Kandace & Alyssa recently worked together for NVA's most recent production of Dea Hurston's *1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS* in 2023. This will be Leigh's debut with New Village Arts. Joseff Paz will stage manage this musical with Tori Jones assisting; Reiko Huffman (*1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS*, 2023, *DESERT ROCK GARDEN*) will be the scenic consultant; lighting design and assistant choreography by Kevin "Blax" Burroughs; sound design by Marc Akiyama; props design by Aria Proctor (*1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS*, 2023); costume design by Janet Pitcher (winner of the 2023 San Diego Critics Circle Award for Costuming); wig design by Jaqueline Dennis with assistance and maintenance by Kevane La'Marr Coleman; fight choreography by Jake Millgard; intimacy coordination by Kate Rose Reynolds; and audio operation by Marcus Rico. The rehearsal accompanist will be Susie Zapata.

Crystal has put together an incredible company of performers for this production. Leading the cast as Celie is Nio Russell (NVA Debut), Hadiyyah Noelle as Shug (NVA Debut), and Actors Equity Member Kirk Brown as Mister (NVA Debut). Eboni Muse, a fan favorite at New Village Arts (*BEEHIVE*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS & SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE*) will take the stage as Sofia. Continuing the cast is Kingsley Jackson (NVA Debut) as Harpo, and Taylor Renee Henderson (NVA Debut) as Nettie. Another NVA veteran, Jasmine January (who has starred in over six productions of NVA, including *INTO THE WOODS*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE*) also joins the cast as Squeak and Shug understudy. Kiara Hudlin, NVA's Education and Fellowship Manager will be in the ensemble, as well as understudying the



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role of Nettie. Completing the ensemble are Kevane La'Marr Coleman, Destiny Denny, Isaac Jackson, and Erin Vanderhyde. Sierra Alicea will join the cast as a understudy and swing.

Hadiyyah Noelle had this to say about the upcoming production: *"I am absolutely ecstatic to be performing my dream show with this amazing cast! It's not that often that we get to see the stories of Black and queer people represented and I'm so honored to get to play one of my dream roles while also bringing this representation to this area on stage for all the viewers that might see themselves in me."*

NVA's Founder and Artistic Director, Kristianne Kurner says: *"THE COLOR PURPLE is one of the most important stories of our lifetime, and NVA has been fortunate to put together the most amazing group of artists to bring the story to life in Carlsbad. We are honored to be the San Diego professional premiere of this groundbreaking musical that is all about the power of love and sisterhood."*

As we embark on this profound journey with THE COLOR PURPLE, we extend a heartfelt invitation to join us in amplifying the powerful message of Black voices, resilience, love, and empowerment that resonates within this iconic production.

THE COLOR PURPLE at NVA is sponsored by the Peace Thru Arts Foundation, the County of San Diego's Board of Supervisors' Community Enhancement Grant, Visit Carlsbad, and the ongoing support of the Prebys Foundation.

For media inquiries and advertising opportunities, please reach out to NVA's Manager of Marketing and Communication, Olivia Pence at [olivia@newvillagearts.org](mailto:olivia@newvillagearts.org).

Let us unite in celebration of the human spirit and the enduring legacy of THE COLOR PURPLE - the musical about LOVE.

## **Cast of THE COLOR PURPLE**

<b>Nio Russell</b>	Celie
<b>Hadiyyah Noelle</b>	Shug
<b>Kirk Brown **</b>	Mister
<b>Eboni Muse</b>	Sofia
<b>Kingsley Jackson</b>	Harpo
<b>Taylor Renee Henderson</b>	Nettie
<b>Jasmine January</b>	Squeak/ US Shug
<b>Kevane La'Marr Coleman</b>	Ensemble



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<b>Destiny Denny</b>	Ensemble/ US Squeak
<b>Kiara Hudlin +</b>	Ensemble/ US Nettie
<b>Isaac Jackson</b>	Ensemble/ US Harpo
<b>Erin Vanderhyde</b>	Ensemble/ US Sofia
<b>Zach King</b>	US Mister
<b>Sierra Alicea ^</b>	Understudy/Swing

\*\*Indicates member of the *Actors Equity Association*

+ Indicates member of the Dea Hurston Professional Fellowship

^Indicates member of the Dea Hurston College Fellowship

## **Creative Team of THE COLOR PURPLE**

<b>Kandace Crystal +</b>	Director
<b>Leigh Scarritt</b>	Musical Director
<b>Alyssa "Ajay" Junious +</b>	Choreographer
<b>Joseff Paz</b>	Stage Manager
<b>Tori Jones</b>	Assistant Stage Manager
<b>Avery Simonian</b>	Assistant Stage Manager Swing
<b>Kevin "Blax" Burroughs</b>	Assistant Choreographer & Lighting Designer
<b>Reiko Huffman</b>	Scenic Consultant
<b>Janet Pitcher</b>	Costume Designer
<b>MaryKate Reeves-Hoche</b>	Costume Assistant
<b>Emily Sandoval ^</b>	Costume Stitcher
<b>Marc Akiyama</b>	Sound Designer
<b>Aria Proctor</b>	Props Designer
<b>Jacqueline Dennis</b>	Wig Designer
<b>Kevane La'Marr Coleman</b>	Wig Assistant Design & Maintenance
<b>Marcus Rico</b>	Audio Operator
<b>Kate Rose Reynolds</b>	Intimacy Coordinator
<b>Jake Millgard</b>	Fight Choreographer
<b>Susie Zapata</b>	Accompanist
<b>Nathan Waits</b>	Technical Coordinator
<b>Greg Ertel</b>	Master Carpenter

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## **THE COLOR PURPLE**



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Based on the novel by Alice Walker

Book by Marsha Norman

Music and Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray

Directed by Kandace Crystal

Previews: June 14-21, 2024

Opening Night: June 22, 2024

June 22 - July 21, 2024

***A Pulitzer Prize. A National Book Award. Eleven Academy Award Nominations. Four Golden Globe Nominations. Three Tony Awards.***



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## New Village Arts 22<sup>nd</sup> Season 2023-2024

### **A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO**

Written by Herbert Siguenza

Directed by Todd Salovey

Set and Costume Design by Giulio Perrone

Projection Design by Victoria Petrovich

Original Musical Score by Bruno Louchoaurn

Previews: August 4-11, 2023

Opening Night: August 12, 2023

August 12 to September 3, 2023

***A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO played to sold out houses across the country.***

### **DOUBT: A PARABLE**

Written by John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner

Previews: September 22-29, 2023

Opening Night: September 30, 2023

September 30 to October 22, 2023

***Recipient of The Tony Award for Best Play and Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama***

### **1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS**

Written by Dea Hurston

Created by Dea Hurston, Milena (Sellers) Phillips, Frankie Alicea, Kevin "Blax" Burroughs

Original Music by Milena (Sellers) Phillips

Directed by Kandace Crystal

Previews November 30 & December 1, 2023

Opens December 2, 2023

December 2 - December 24, 2023

***Named as one of the best shows of 2021 by The San Diego Union-Tribune***



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## **FUN HOME**

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

Directed by Kym Pappas

Featuring Rae Henderson-Gray

Previews: January 26 – Feb 2, 2024

Opening Night: February 3, 2024

February 3 to March 3, 2024

***Recipient of the 2015 Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Original Score.***

## **THE 39 STEPS**

Adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Directed by Dr. AJ Knox

Previews: April 5-12, 2024

Opening Night: April 13, 2024

April 13 – May 12, 2024

***Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award for Best Play***

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# NEW VILLAGE ARTS

## **Performance Days and Times**

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30 pm

## **Tickets and Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for the 3 Show Package range from \$81 to \$158

Single tickets range from \$30 to \$55 for plays and \$25 to \$60 for musicals.

## **About New Village Arts**

Celebrating 22 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach programs, New Village Arts (NVA) has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego. NVA attracts more than 30,000 patrons each year to experience professional theatre, music and art events in the heart of Carlsbad Village. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. New this year, the White Family Next Stage in the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center presents a series of music and spoken word events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to all people, becoming a recognized leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. In turn NVA prioritizes serving its community by presenting works that respect its diversity, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

New Village Arts is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization listed under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS

New Village Arts, Inc.

2787 State Street, Carlsbad, CA 92008. Phone: 760-433-3245

[www.newvillagearts.org](http://www.newvillagearts.org)

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