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NEW VILLAGE ARTS AND KATIE KELLER PRESENT
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The Color Purple

The Musical About Love...



JUN 14 - JUL 21 / 2024

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY ALICE WALKER / BOOK BY MARSHA NORMAN / MUSIC & LYRICS BY
BRENDA RUSSELL, ALLEE WILLIS, AND STEPHEN BRAY / DIRECTED BY KANDACE CRYSTAL

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The Color Purple

The Musical About Love...

JUN 14 - JUL 21 / 2024

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, AND 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.

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The Color Purple

The Musical About Love...

CAST

Celie NIO RUSSELL
Shug HADIYYAH NOELLE
Mister KIRK BROWN*
Sofia EBONI MUSE
Harpo, Preacher KINGSLEY JACKSON
Nettie TAYLOR RENEE HENDERSON
Squeak, Church Lady Soloist / US Celie & Shug JASMINE JANUARY
Pa, Ol' Mister, Ensemble KEVANE LA'MARR COLEMAN
Church Lady, Ensemble / US Squeak DESTINY DENNY
Church Lady, Ensemble / US Nettie KIARA HUDLIN+
Grady, Ensemble / US Harpo ISAAC JACKSON
Church Lady Soloist, Ensemble JUANITA HARRIS
Church Lady, Ensemble / US Sofia ERIN VANDERHYDE GROSS
Buster, Billy, Adam, Ensemble JACOB JAMES
US Mister ZACK KING
Ensemble Swing SIERRA ALICEA^
US Ensemble ELIJAH HOWLETT

CREATIVE TEAM

Director KANDACE CRYSTAL+
Musical Director LEIGH SCARRITT
Choreographer ALYSSA "AJAY" JUNIOUS+
Stage Manager JOSEFF PAZ
Costume Designer JANET PITCHER
Lighting Designer & Assistant Choreographer KEVIN "BLAX" BURROUGHS
Sound Designer MARC AKIYAMA
Scenic Consultant REIKO HUFFMAN
Props Designer ARIA PROCTOR
Wig Designer JACQUELINE DENNIS
Assistant Stage Manager TORI JONES
Assistant Stage Manager Swing AVERY SIMONIAN
Intimacy Coordinator KATE ROSE REYNOLDS
Fight Choreographer JAKE MILLGARD
Dialect Coach MONIQUE GAFFNEY
Dance Captain DESTINY DENNY
Wig Assistant & Maintenance KEVANE LA'MARR COLEMAN
Assistant Lighting Designer STEPHANEY KNAPP
Costume Stitcher EMILY SANDOVAL^
Costume Assistant MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE
Audio Operator MARCUS RICO
Rehearsal Accompanist SUSIE ZAPATA
Technical Coordinator NATHAN WAITS
Master Carpenter GREG ETEL

*Indicates member of the Actors' Equity Association; +Indicates Dea Hurston Professional Fellow; ^Indicates Dea Hurston College Fellow

SETTING: The story takes place in Georgia between 1909 to 1949

APPROXIMATE RUN TIME: 2 hours and 35 minutes with one 15-minute intermission

We acknowledge that The Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center operates on the unceded land of the Payómkawichum (Pye-am-ko-wi-chom) (Luiseño) and Kumeyaay peoples. We further acknowledge that NVA was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those who are the traditional Custodians and First people of the land on which we work, play, gather, share, and learn.

PRODUCERS' NOTE



KRISTIANNE KURNER
Founder & Executive Artistic Director



KALI BOSTON
Artistic Producer

We are so very proud and honored to share the San Diego professional premiere of the musical **THE COLOR PURPLE** with you, our beloved community!

NVA has never shied away from epic experiences, and this is certainly one of them. The amount of coordination, talent, work, time, sweat and tears that have gone into this production is truly impressive. For both of us, producing this show has been a life-long dream, and we are so grateful to this cast, creative team, sponsors and subscribers who have made this all possible.

THE COLOR PURPLE is a musical about love. It's also about forgiveness, acceptance, sisterhood, strong-ass women, and finding God in everything. This show reminds us that what we want most in the world is never so far out of our reach as long as we're able to step into our power. Regardless of what has been,

Black joy and love are powerful and exist across bounds of time and space.

Thank you, so very much, for experiencing this wonder with us.

We look forward to sharing Season 23 with you starting this August!

With love & gratitude,

Kristianne & Kali

SONG LIST

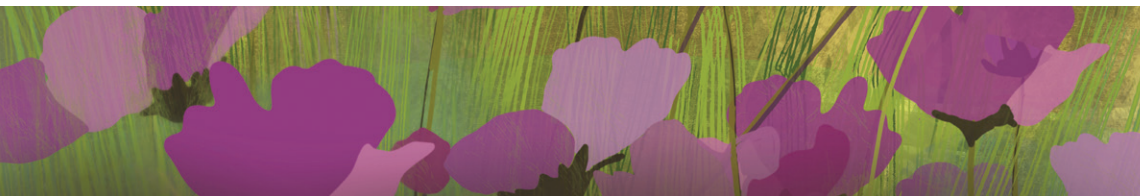
Act One

"Huckleberry Pie"	(Celie and Nettie)
"Mysterious Ways"	(Company)
"Somebody Gonna Love You"	(Celie)
"Our Prayer"	(Nettie, Celie, Mister)
"Big Dog"	(Mister and Company)
"Hell No!"	(Sofia and Company)
"Brown Betty"	(Harpo, Squeak, and Company)
"Shug Avery Comin' to Town"	(Mister, Celie, and Company)
"Too Beautiful for Words"	(Shug)
"Push da Button"	(Shug and Company)
"Uh Oh!"	(The Company)
"What About Love?"	(Celie and Shug)

Act Two

"African Homeland"	(Nettie, Celie, and Company)
"The Color Purple"	(Shug)
"Mister's Song"	(Mister)
"Miss Celie's Pants"	(Celie and Company)
"Any Little Thing"	(Harpo and Sofia)
"I'm Here"	(Celie)
"The Color Purple (Reprise)"	(Celie and Company)

Photography: Daren Scott Photography



The Color Purple

The Musical About Love...



NIO RUSSELL



TAYLOR RENEE HENDERSON



HADIYYAH NOELLE



KIRK BROWN*



JASMINE JANUARY



KEVANE LA'MARR COLEMAN



ISAAC JACKSON



ERIN VANDERHYDE GROSS



JACOB JAMES



ZACK KING



SIERRA ALICEA^



EBONI MUSE



DESTINY DENNY



JUANITA HARRIS



ELIJAH HOWLETT



KINGSLEY JACKSON



KIARA HUDLIN*



SIERRA ALICEA^ (she/her), Ensemble Swing, Dea Hurston College Fellow
Sierra Alicea is thrilled to be the understudy ensemble swing for The Color Purple! She has been acting and singing since she was a little girl. This is her very first professional production as a singer and could not be more thrilled to be a part of this amazing opportunity.



KIRK BROWN* (he/him), Mister
Regional: *Primary Trust* (La Jolla Playhouse, 2024), *The Glass Menagerie* (Diversions Theatre), *A Black Man's Song* (The Old Globe), *Monsters of The American Cinema* (Diversions Theatre), Off Broadway: *Kane and Habi* (La MaMa), *Life is Short Cherish Every Moment* (The Producers Club)
Television: "First Wives Club", "The Last One" Film: *The Recipe*, *Napkins*
Education: University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School
hisnameiskirk.com @hisnameiskirk on Instagram.
Member of Actors' Equity Association.



KEVANE LA'MARR COLEMAN (he/him), Pa, Ol' Mister, Ensemble
Kevane La'Marr Coleman is deeply humbled to be a part of this show. Kevane's on-stage credits include *The Secret Garden*, *1940's Radio Hour*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (New Village Arts); *One in Two* (Island City Stage); *Monsters of the America Cinema* (U/S); *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (U/S.), *One in Two*, *As Much As You Can*, *The Facts of Life-The Lost Episode*, *Our Gay Apparel*, *Stage Directions* (Diversions Theatre); *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches/Perestroika*, *Shockheaded Peter* (Cygnet Theatre); *9 Hours* (Old Globe Theatre); *South Pacific*, *Miss Saigon* (Moonlight Amphitheatre); *Airline Highway*, *Grey Gardens*, *Chicago*, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches/ Perestroika* (ion Theatre), *Red Planet Respite*, *De-construction of a Drag Queen* (Circle Circle Dot Dot); *The Car Plays* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Oklahoma*, *Crazy for You*, *Aida*, *Ragtime* (Starlight Musical Theatre).



DESTINY DENNY (she/her), Church Lady, Ensemble, Dance Captain / US Squeak
Destiny is thrilled to be making her NVA debut! She is a recent graduate from SDSU

with BA in Theatre Arts with an Emphasis in Performance. Her most recent projects include, Crystal & Chiffon understudy in *Little Shop of Horrors* (SDMT), Ensemble in *In the Heights* (SDMT), and #7 in *The Wolves* (SDSU Mainstage). When Destiny isn't doing theatre, you can find her working at a doggy daycare or spending time with her pup, Mango. Destiny thanks her friends and family for all their support!



JUANITA HARRIS (she/her), Church Lady Soloist, Ensemble
Juanita is happy to make her debut at New Village Arts. Juanita Harris is a Bay Area Vocal Coach, Director, Vocal and Music Director, Musician, Vocalist, and Actor. She is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music

and excels vocally in myriad musical genres. Roles: *Hairspray* (Maybelle), *Ragtime* (Sarah's Friend), *Violet* (Lula Buffington), *Crowns* (Mother Shaw), *Chicago* (Mama Morton), *The Wiz* (Evilene), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey Two [U/S]), *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Hélène) and various straight plays. She was voted "Best Jazz Singer" By KDFC's "Best in the Bay" for 4 years running from 2018 to 2022, nominated twice for Theater Bay Area Awards in 2017 and 2018, and traveled internationally to Europe to perform with UNICEF for their annual fundraising gala concerts from 2015-2019.

Graciously Sponsored by Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort & Kathy Cullen.



TAYLOR RENEE HENDERSON (she/her), Nettie

Taylor Renee Henderson is humbled to have the chance to tell this story in her New Village Arts debut! Taylor is a multi-hyphenate artist and performer that has been working professionally on and offstage for an upwards of 10 years in both San Diego and Las Vegas. This past year alone you may have seen her in the premieres of *Chicken & Biscuits* (OTC), *BottleShock! The Musical* (CCAE), *The Savoyard Murders* (Roustabouts Theatre Co), the American premiere of *The High Table* (Diversions) as well as *Xanadu* (SDMT). Thank you for supporting live theatre. Inspire. Aspire! IG @tay.renee.onstage.



**ELIJAH HOWLETT (he/him),
US Ensemble**

Credits: Jimmy in *Almost, Maine* (Mira Costa College), Aide Williams in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (New Village Arts), Ensemble in *Trip to Bountiful* (New Village Arts).



**KIARA HUDLIN* (she/her),
Church Lady, Ensemble / US Nettie, Dea Hurston Fellow**

Kiara Hudlin is very proud to be working on this production of *The Color Purple* with such a beautiful and talented cast. Favorite credits include Simone in *Chicken & Biscuits* (Oceanside Theatre Company), Aadya in *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* (NVA), R.F. Simpson in *Singin' in the Rain* (NVA), Medium Alison in *Fun Home* (Ferndale Repertory Theatre), Heather Chandler in *Heathers: The Musical* (Humboldt State University), Brenda/BJ in *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Ferndale Repertory Theatre), and Annie Knowby in *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Humboldt State University). When she's not performing, Kiara works as the Education and Fellowship Manager at New Village Arts and helps curate the Milena (Sellers) Phillips Gallery in NVA's lobby. She sends love to her family that flew out to support her in this iconic production.



**ISAAC JACKSON (he/him),
Grady, Ensemble / US Harpo**

Isaac is thrilled to make his New Village Arts debut portraying a story that has been one of his favorites since childhood. Isaac is even more thrilled to be sharing the professional stage with his brother Kingsley for the first time. Isaac is a San Diego native whose credits include Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street* (Saville Theater), Seaweed Stubbs in *Hairspray* (Saville Theater), Ensemble in *Crazy For You*, *All Shook Up*, *Catch Me If You Can*, and *Anything Goes* (SDMT). Isaac would like to thank his family, friends, co-workers, and his amazing wife Amanda for their encouragement and support. Isaac holds a BA from UC Berkeley and a JD from UC Hastings.



**KINGSLEY JACKSON (he/him),
Harpo, Preacher**

Kingsley Jackson is a distinguished male singer and blossoming educator, known for his captivating performances across the diverse landscapes of California. This San Diego native's

love for music was evident from an early age. He pursued his academic interests with unwavering dedication, earning multiple degrees in music and education. Kingsley's vocal prowess and stage presence have graced many renowned venues throughout California and abroad. Whether he's enchanting audiences with his soulful ballads or belting out energetic pop anthems, his performances are always a sensory feast. In addition to his journey in music, Kingsley is dedicated to sharing his knowledge and passions to bridge gaps for adult learners in higher education. Kingsley Jackson's remarkable journey, enriched by his multifaceted talents and academic achievements, continues to inspire and entertain audiences across the nation.



**JACOB JAMES (he/him),
Buster, Billy, Adam, Ensemble**

Jacob is thrilled to be back at NVA! Previous credits include *The Ferryman* and *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* (New Village Arts), *Don't Dress For Dinner* and *Boeing Boeing* (CSUSM), *On Her Shoulders* (La Jolla Playhouse WOW Festival), *What Goes Unsaid* (Playwrights Project), and *Chicken and Biscuits* (Oceanside Theatre Co.) Jacob is also a proud co-host of *Harping on the Past: A Theatre Kid Podcast*. Jacob's passion for creating theatre keeps him motivated by acting and directing various projects and continually learning from colleagues and fellow cast members. Jacob would like to thank all of his loved ones for the endless support and for always being there. Be kind to everyone! @itsjacobjames_



**JASMINE JANUARY (she/her),
Squeak, Church Lady Soloist / US Celie & Shug**

Jasmine January is elated to be back on the NVA stage doing *The Color Purple*! This show has held a very special place in her heart ever since she was a teen! It's a beautiful story and she's so grateful to be a part of telling it. Some of Jasmine's regional credits include Helene in *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (Cygnets), Female U/S in *Crime and Punishment; A Comedy* (The Old Globe), Tina Turner/Linda U/S in *The Wedding Singer* (Moonlight Amphitheatre), Erma in *Anything Goes* (San Diego Musical Theater), Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret* (Cygnets), Little Red in *Into the Woods* (New Village Arts). You may have also seen her in *Sister Act* (SDMT), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (NVA), *Avenue Q* (NVA), *This Beautiful City* (Diversionary). Her Motto is to "Live in your truth, be grateful, and expect divine favor." Education: B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Howard University. @jasmine.january on Instagram.



**ZACK KING (he/him),
US Mister**

Zack King is an actor, dancemaker, and video artist. He received his BFA in Dance with a minor in Theater from SDSU. Zack strives to cultivate empathy and curiosity by making work that is personal and socially relevant. He hopes this will inspire people to learn more about themselves. Zack is currently studying Meisner technique at the San Diego branch of the Los Angeles Acting Studio. In addition to acting, he is a working videographer and editor with aspirations of filming and directing short and feature length films.



**EBONI MUSE (she/her),
Sofia**

Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts alumni. Craig Noel Award: Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical for the role of MotorMouth Maybelle in *Hairspray* (SDMT). Broadway World 2020 San Diego Award: Vocalist of the Decade; Audrey Two, *Little Shop of Horrors* (New Village Arts). Best of 2020 Black San Diego Magazine: Best Singer. Broadway World 2022 San Diego Award: Best Cabaret/Concert/Solo Performance; A4BLSD (Clark Cabaret). Some Notable Credits: *A Stocking Full Of Soul* (SeaWorld San Diego), Original USA Gospel Singers & Band Tour (Frank Serr Showservice International), Calliope in *Xanadu* (Sacramento Theatre Company), *Freedom Riders: A Civil Rights Musical* Cast Album, Pharaoh in *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (CCA), Gina in *Beehive The 60's Musical* (New Village Arts), Lady in Red in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* (La Jolla Theatre Ensemble), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (New Village Arts), Female Vocalist in *Shamu Christmas Miracles & O' Wondrous Night* at SeaWorld San Diego. Other Credits: Vocal Coach, Producer, Director, Production SM, SM, Casting, Projection & Sound Design, MD, & Costumes for multiple productions. All Social Media – Eboni Muse.



**HADIYYAH NOELLE (she/her),
Shug**

Hadiyyah Noelle is an Actress, Singer, and Comedian living in the Los Angeles area. She has a BFA in Acting from The Florida State University and FSU London and she recently studied at Identity School of Acting in Hollywood. Hadiyyah also recently started her own Theatre company Run Amuck Entertainment

with her best friends where they perform original works but past credits include Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, Marjan in the world premiere of *Esther the Musical*, and Mwongozo in *Tale of the Lion King* at Disneyland. You can also catch her on Netflix's *Boo, Bitch* streaming now, performing Shakespeare with backroom shakes or as a first and only Black Gabbie the Cabbie and other characters at Universal Studios Hollywood! And last but not least Hadiyyah is so thrilled to be reunited with her friend Kandace and get to bring this piece to life together!



**NIO RUSSELL (they/them)
Celie**

Nio Russell is honored to be a part of their dream show and help tell such an important love story to Black culture while acknowledging the faults that afflict our community. This is Nio's first production with New Village Arts! Previous roles include Jann, Sandy, & Flower Child U/S for The World Premiere of *Hunter S. Thompson The Musical* (La Jolla Playhouse) and with UCSD's Muir Musical: Shakespeare in *Something Rotten*, Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Ms. Fleming in *Heathers*. They want to thank their girlfriend, friends, and extended family. Finally, they are so incredibly grateful to their dad, mom, and little sister for making them into the Black queer artist that they are today.

Graciously Sponsored by Dea and Osborn Hurston.



**ERIN VANDERHYDE GROSS (she/her),
Church Lady, Ensemble/ US Sofia**

Erin Vanderhyde Gross is grateful to be in another New Village Arts production. Fun fact, NVA gave Erin her first professional musical theatre contract in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* as Enid/Kate. Most recent theatre credits include: *The Wind People* (Megill and Company) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Moonlight Amphitheatre). Off the theatre stage, Erin can be seen singing at church (Unity San Diego), during the summer at the San Diego Zoo as part of the original A cappella group "The Explorers", as caroler in the Holiday season and more. "Shout out to my husband Chris and 18 month old son August. I love you both so much. A big thank you to all family, friends, church family that have and continue to support me."

KANDACE CRYSTAL* (she/her), Director, Dea Hurston Fellow
Kandace Crystal is the inaugural Dea Hurston Professional Directing Fellow at New Village Arts and a 2024 Classical Directing Fellow at The Old Globe. A multi-hyphenate theatremaker, Kandace is an intimacy professional, teaching artist, and actor as well. You may have seen her as the understudy in La Jolla Playhouse's POP Tour production of *Abeba in the Tall Grass*. Kandace developed a Podcast with Clouddcast Media entitled *8:46-The Catalyst for Change* in response to the disproportionate murder of Black and Brown folk. She hopes to continue using her art to tell the stories of people whose stories need to be told. Selected directorial credits include: *Welcome to Sleepy Hollow* (Oceanside Theatre Company), *Grace for President* (San Diego Junior Theatre), and *Plays by Young Writers* (Playwrights Project). Feel free to keep up with her journey via social media @KandaceCrystal or www.KandaceCrystal.com.

Graciously Sponsored by Dr. Elise Kim Prosser & Sean Prosser, Esq.

LEIGH SCARRITT (she/her), Musical Director

Miss Leigh Scarritt is a veteran of GULM, television and stage and has performed and directed from coast to coast. When not directing, Leigh is a mentor and coach to many up and coming talented artists as well as established artists leading creative processes all over San Diego. As a performer some of her favorite roles include Grandma Who in *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* at the Old Globe Theater (original cast), Nana Lu in

Blue Bonnet Court directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, Velma Von Tussle in *Hairspray* at San Diego Rep, Eva Peron in *Evita* at Starlight Amphitheater, Marjorie in *The Tale Of The Allergist's Wife*, Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon A Mattress* at Spreckels Theater, the Agent in *Nine*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*. Directing and musical direction credits include *Trouble in Mind* at the Old Globe Theatre, *Crowns* at Leshner Center, *Oklahoma, Bye Bye Birdie, Rent, The Mad Ones* (awarded best new musical Broadway world), *Ruthless* at MOXIE, *Brooklyn* starring David McBean, and *Ride the Cyclone*. Up next *Fat Ham* at the Old Globe, *Little Women* at MOXIE and *Derecho* at La Jolla Playhouse. www.leighscarritt.com.

ALYSSA "AJAY" JUNIOUS* (she/her), Choreographer, Dea Hurston Fellow

Alyssa "Ajay" Junious is an interdisciplinary storyteller, choreographer, teaching artist and community organizer from Oceanside, California. She received her BFA in Performance, Choreography, and Certificate of Arts Management from the University of California, Irvine. Some of her professional theater credits include La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet Theater, Diversionary Theater, San Diego Musical Theater, Oceanside Theater Company, New Village Arts, and Teatro San Diego. In 2022 she was a Broadway World San Diego nominee for "Best Choreography" in *The Wiz* (Teatro San Diego). She is the co-founder of Soultry Sisters Arts & Wellness Collective and hosts an annual Summer Soulstice Festival right here in

North County San Diego. To learn more visit SoultrySisters.com and follow @soultrysisters on Instagram. She also founded Continuum Arts & Pilates, a movement-based training and performance company. Learn more at ContinuumArtsPilates.com and follow @continuum.sd on Instagram!

JOSEFF PAZ (he/him), Stage Manager

Joseff Paz holds a BA in Theatre and a BS in Education Studies from UC San Diego. Credits: *Heathers: The Musical* (PSM, Zorina Productions), New Village Arts credits: *The 39 Steps* (ASM), *A Weekend with Picasso* (ASM), *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* (ASM). SD Jewish Arts Festival credits: *Woman of Valor, The Red Beads, Chagall, Hereville: A New Jewish Musical, Neshama: Music of the Soul*. UCSD credits: *Hells Canyon* (ASM), *In the Red and Brown Water* (ASM), *Prepared* (ASM), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ASM), *Much Ado About Nothing* (PA).

JANET PITCHER (she/her), Costume Designer

Janet Pitcher is excited to design costumes for *The Color Purple* with New Village Arts! She began her costuming career volunteering in youth theater with her kids, then designing costumes professionally in 2012. She has costumed over 100 professional productions throughout San Diego and is a recent Craig Noel Award winner for her design of *Sunday in the Park with George*. She has worked in many theaters throughout San Diego. Favorite productions include: *BottleShock, Sunday in the Park with George, Witnesses, Light in the Piazza, Once, Joseph* (CCAE Theatricals), *In the Heights, A Christmas Story, All Shook Up, Sister Act, Young Frankenstein, Full Monty, 9 to 5, Billy Elliot, West Side Story, La Cage Aux Folles, and Chicago* (SDMT); *Elf, The Bodyguard, A Chorus Line, Addams Family, Mamma Mia, A Christmas Carol, My Fair Lady, Sweet Charity, Jesus Christ Superstar, Cabaret, Hello Dolly, Oklahoma, Hairspray, Anything Goes, Rent* (Welk Theatre). Thank you to all those at NVA who trust me to help tell this important story.

KEVIN "BLAX" BURROUGHS (he/him), Lighting Designer & Assistant Choreographer

Blax is making his Lighting Design debut at NVA and is honored to also be the Assistant Choreographer having previously choreographed *Little Shop of Horrors*. Current Artistic Director of Oceanside Theatre Company, Co-Founder/Artistic Director of Teatro San Diego & Resident Lighting Designer for the Southwestern College Dance Department. 2022 Craig Noel recipient of the Outstanding Specialty Award (acknowledging his body of work in all fields), Craig Noel nominated director, multi-nominee and winner of the Broadway World Regional Awards & also the National Youth Arts for his work with youth and educational companies. Select Lighting Credits: *West Side Story, First Date, The Wiz, SpongeBob, The Drowning Girls, Lonely Planet, Next To Normal, James and the Giant Peach, Carrie, Matilda* and many others. Other Credits include *Moonlight Stage Productions, CCAE Theatricals, OnStage Playhouse, Cygnet Theatre, LEGOLAND, SDMT, Loud Fridge Theatre Group*, and others. IG: @blaxparadise.

MARC AKIYAMA (he/him), Sound Designer

Marc Akiyama is a composer for film and theatre, and the co-founder of Akiyama Music, a film scoring and production studio. He scores a

wide array of films from animation to original musicals, including *Brush with Disney Animator*, Garrett Lewis, and New Village Arts' production of *Desert Rock Garden*. Marc has received an ADDY Award for his score for Mason Drumm's SVFY commercial, *"The Ruins."* He is a classically trained percussionist, pianist, jazz vibraphonist, and shamisen player. Visit AkiyamaMusic.com for more information on all current and past scores.

REIKO HUFFMAN (she/her), Scenic Consultant

Reiko Huffman is a freelance Scenic Designer seeking to change and impact the field with emotionally propelled design. Reiko's designs break tradition by bringing in new and wider perspectives into the design process. She incorporates critical awareness into her design process in order to authentically interweave the emotions that motivate her design choices. She embraces unconventional design methods, pursues daring designs, and takes on challenging narratives in order to truly grasp what genuine visual storytelling means. She believes that when we're brave enough to try what may ultimately fail we discover more about who we are as artists and what makes us unique.

Graciously Sponsored by Christy Rosa M.D. & Dea and Osborn Hurston.

ARIA PROCTOR (she/her), Props Designer

Aria Proctor is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Theatre Arts, and a minor in Fine Arts. She has worked with Playwrights Project for three years and was recently promoted to Managing Director after serving as their Production Manager and Office Manager. She is a stage manager and theatre technician who has worked throughout Philadelphia and San Diego. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work in making this beautiful production. Enjoy the show!

JACQUELINE DENNIS (she/her), Wigs Designer

Jacqueline Dennis is thrilled to join New Village Arts for *The Color Purple*! Jacqueline is a musical theater performer, educator and designer. She holds a B.A. in Music Performance from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach and a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from The Wright Institute in Berkeley California. Jacqueline is a clinical psychologist at the group practice Deeper Than Color and she is the founder of Center Stage Psychology which provides mental health education and DEI consultation to performing arts organizations. Her previous design credits include: *La Cage Aux Folles, Hairspray, Gypsy, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, 42nd Street, The Wedding Singer, The Sound of Music, and Ain't Misbehavin'.*

TORI JONES (they/she), Assistant Stage Manager

Tori graduated from Cal State University Fullerton with a B.A in Theatre with an emphasis in Stage Management. Previous credits include; *Cleopatra* (SM, Houston Black Theatre Week), *Seasons* (SM, Oceanside Theatre Company), *Blitzen's Ball* (SM, Oceanside Theatre Company), and the California premiere of *Chicken & Biscuits* (SM/Props & Set dressing, Oceanside Theatre Company). They thank you for coming to see the show and she hopes you enjoy it!

BIPOC SUPPORT FOUNDATION

BIPOC Support Foundation's mission is to empower communities of color and disadvantaged youth by providing educational and enrichment experiences, career exposure opportunities, mentorship, and resources.

BSF offers quality after-school programming and summer camps to San Diego County's historically underserved youth, guided by the principle that improving children's education, enhances the future of individuals and communities across the United States. All BSF programs are rooted in equity, inclusivity, and cultural awareness.

BSF's Explore Next Door Youth Enrichment Program (END) supports children by providing a robust toolbox of skills for long-term success, including behavioral health tools, personal development, community engagement, academic assistance, and mentoring.

The Scholastic Opportunity for Academic Readiness (SOAR) Afterschool Program offers robust learning solutions to K-3rd grade students with an innovative curriculum, individualized academic case management, socioemotional wellness tools, and enriching activities.

For more information or to learn more about the BSF, visit: bipocsupportfoundation.org



CREATIVES

AVERY SIMONIAN (she/her), Assistant Stage Manager *Swing*
Avery Simonian is originally from Los Angeles, California and is studying theatre with an emphasis in stage management at UC San Diego. UC San Diego Credit: *Cancelina* (ASM), *Romeo and Juliet* (PSM), *Once Daily* (Fall LABS '23), *Grippy Sock Vacation* (PSM), *Bach at Leipzig* (ASM) *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (ASM), *WinterWORKS 2022* (ASM), *New Directions* (ASM), *Men on Boats* (PA). Other credits: *Legally Blonde the Musical* (ASM), *NVA's Eco-Jewish Play Festival* (SM).

KATE ROSE REYNOLDS (she/her), Intimacy Coordinator
Kate Rose Reynolds is a San Diego-based multi-hyphenate theatre maker and the Director of Operations for Loud Fridge Theatre Group. She is a graduate of Yale University with a BA in Theatre, and has trained with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, Inc. She most recently served as the Intimacy Coordinator for *The 39 Steps* at NVA. In addition to theatrical work, she is also currently working as the Intimacy Coordinator for the independent film *Lucid*, now in production. www.katerosereynolds.com.

JAKE MILLGARD (he/him), Fight Choreographer
Jake Millgard worked at New Village Arts as a fight choreographer for *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas*. Jake has also done fight choreography for *The Old Globe*, *Cygnets*, and *Moxie Theatre*. www.jakemillgard.com.
Graciously Sponsored by EuroMedia.

MONIQUE GAFFNEY (she/her), Dialect Coach
Monique's first two loves of theatre and dance have fueled her career as both an actor and teaching artist. She has performed in 35+ productions and is a resident artist at Cygnets Theatre in San Diego. She was one of the recipients of the Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship, Round 13, where she focused on creating and developing an interview based theatre piece inspired by the real life stories told by asylum seekers living across the San Diego/Mexico border in Tijuana. Selected San Diego credits: *Sweat*, *Disgraced*, *Clybourne Park*, *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play* (San Diego REP), *Red Velvet* (Old Globe Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Globe For All - Old Globe Theatre), *The Virgin Trial*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Yellowman* (Cygnets), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (ion theatre), *Trouble in Mind* (Moxie) and *Gee's Bend* (North Coast REP). UC San Diego (BA), Columbia University (MFA). AEA, SAG-AFTRA.

STEPHANEY KNAPP (she/her), Assistant Lighting Designer
Stephaney Knapp is a recent graduate from UC San Diego, where she studied theatre, focusing on lighting design. UC San Diego credits: *No Singing in the Navy* (LD), *Studio Shakes Comedy of Errors* (LD), *New Directions '23* (LD).

EMILY ROSE SANDOVAL^ (she/her), Costume Stitcher, Dea Hurston College Fellow
Emily has been sewing since she was 15 years old. She began her sewing business, Emily Rose Sews, when she was a junior in high school. Emily has a deep appreciation for sewing as it continues to bring joy to her day to day life. She feels very connected to the arts, and is very excited to be a part of this production.

MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE (she/her), Costume Assistant
Volunteer within the costume team permanently assigned to the theater. A retired scientist with a passion for textiles.

MARCUS RICO (he/him), Audio Operator
Marcus graduated from Mt. San Jacinto College with an AA in Audio Technology. Previous NVA credits: *Leonard Bernstein's New York* (Sound Designer/Sound Engineer), *Into the Woods* (Sound Engineer), *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* (Sound Engineer), *Beehive* (Sound Engineer), *Murder for Two* (Sound Engineer), *Around the World in 80 Days* (Sound Engineer), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Sound Engineer), and *The Roommate* (Co-Sound Designer). Recent NVA productions include *Fun Home*, numerous productions on our White Family Next Stage, *Doubt*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and many more!

SUSIE ZAPATA (she/her), Piano Accompanist
Susie currently studies music at MiraCosta College, alongside working as a flute and piano teacher in her spare time. She loves playing gigs with her friends and jamming to whatever styles she can groove to! Her biggest belief is that everyone is deserving of consuming and playing music in whatever form makes them the happiest.

NATHAN WAITS (he/him), Technical Coordinator
Nathan Waits has been stage managing and building sets for productions all around San Diego for around 10 years. Previously, he has served as the master carpenter for *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* and *Fun Home*, and stage manager for *Desert Rock Garden*, *The Ferryman*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Doubt*, *Fun Home*, and *The 39 Steps* (New Village Arts). He served as the resident set builder for Scripps Ranch Theatre (including shows such as *Lucky Stiff*, *Extreme Home Makeover*, *The Outsider*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Taming*, and more), the master carpenter for *The Roustabouts* (*Guntopia*, *Hand to God*), the resident set builder/designer for Sage Creek High School (*Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde*, *Into the Woods*, and many more), and the technical director for *Mother of the Maid* (MOXIE Theatre). Other credits include serving as the stage manager for *Shrek the Musical*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Beauty & the Beast* (Oceanside Theatre Company). He thanks you for coming to see the show and hopes you enjoy!

KRISTIANNE KURNER (she/her), Founder & Executive Artistic Director
Kristianne founded New Village Arts in 2001, and she has grown the organization from a starting budget of \$2,500 with two employees to a current budget of \$1.6 million with over 20 employees. Trained as an actor and director, she has worked on every NVA theatrical production. Her directing credits include *Awake & Sing! The Weir*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *True West*, *Sailor's Song*, *The Waverly Gallery*, *A Lie of the Mind*, and the premiere outside of Broadway and London of Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman*. Her work has received numerous awards, including San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and KPBS Awards for Theatre Excellence. She is the recipient of the Clare Rose Sabbatical Award from Fieldstone Leadership Network and serves on the Board of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. Education: BFA Theatre, College of William & Mary; MFA Acting, the Actors Studio/New School.

KALI BOSTON (she/her), Artistic Producer
Originally from Massachusetts, Kali moved to California to pursue her passion in producing and directing. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego last year with a BA in Theatre, Kali has been a part of many different theaters and festivals including: *The 39 Steps* (Producer, NVA), *Jewish Arts Festival 2024* (Production Manager), *Fun Home* (Producer, NVA), *1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas* (Producer, NVA), *Doubt* (Production Manager), *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* (Assistant Director, NVA), *Heathers: The Musical* (Producer/Director, Zorina Productions), Production Assistant (*Dishwasher Dreams*, *The Old Globe*). *The Color Purple* has been a long term goal of Kali's to get the opportunity to work on and she is so thrilled that she has now had the chance to produce it with such a special and talented group of people!

MARSHA NORMAN, Book
Marsha Norman won the Pulitzer Prize for her play, *Night, Mother* and a Tony Award for her book of the Broadway musical, *The Secret Garden*. Ms. Norman is co-chair, with Christopher Durang, of the Playwriting Department of the Juilliard School and vice president of the Dramatists Guild of America. Her other plays include *Getting Out*, *Traveler in the Dark*, *Sarah and Abraham*, *Trudy Blue*, and *Last Dance*. Her published work includes *Four Plays, Vol. 1: Collected Plays of Marsha Norman* and a novel, *The Fortune Teller*. She has numerous film and TV credits, Grammy and Emmy nominations, and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the

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CREATIVES

American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and the Fellowship of Southern Writers. She is a native of Kentucky who lives in New York City and Long Island with her two children.

BRENDA RUSSELL, Music & Lyrics

Brenda Russell has a unique musical perspective, intimate voice and prolific treasure-trove of lyrics, that prove that a truly glowing talent only deepens with time. Composer of the classics "Get Here," "If Only For One Night," and the Grammy-nominated "Piano In The Dark," Brenda's songwriting prowess and chameleon-like ability to shift between musical genres and combine styles trumpeted ovations in 2005 with the opening of the Tony Award-winning hit Broadway musical *The Color Purple*, for which she, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray co-wrote the music and lyrics. Brenda and her co-authors were also nominated for a 2007 Grammy in the Best Musical Show Album category for the original cast album.

ALLEE WILLIS, Music & Lyrics

Allee Willis is a one-woman creative think-tank. A multi-disciplinary artist and visionary thinker whose range of imagination and productivity knows no bounds, her success exuberantly defies categorization; 'unique' pales as a descriptor. Willis is a Grammy-winning and Emmy- and Tony-nominated composer whose hit songs — including Earth, Wind & Fire's

"September" and "Boogie Wonderland," The Pointer Sisters' "Neutron Dance," Pet Shop Boys with Dusty Springfield's "What Have I Done To Deserve This," and The Rembrandts' "I'll Be There For You (Theme From Friends)" — have sold over 50 million records. In 2006, Willis' songs were also featured in three of the top grossing films of the year, *HAPPY FEET*, *NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM* and *BABEL*.

STEPHEN BRAY, Music & Lyrics

Stephen Bray is thrilled to be making his Broadway debut with *The Color Purple*. After beginning music studies with private instruction in Detroit, Bray continued training at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Working with Madonna, he wrote and produced many of her top-ten recordings, including "Angel," "Into the Groove," "Papa Don't Preach," "True Blue" and "Express Yourself." Performing with Breakfast Club, he earned a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist and a top-ten single. He has composed and produced for multiplatinum artists including The Jets, Gladys Knight and Kylie Minogue. Film and television projects include *BEVERLY HILLS COP II*, *WHO'S THAT GIRL?*, *ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS* and the theme for PBS's "California Connected." Stephen is developing artists for his Soulstone label and looks forward to more musical theatre. He would like to thank his daughter Milena for her eternal patience and his family for their continuing support.



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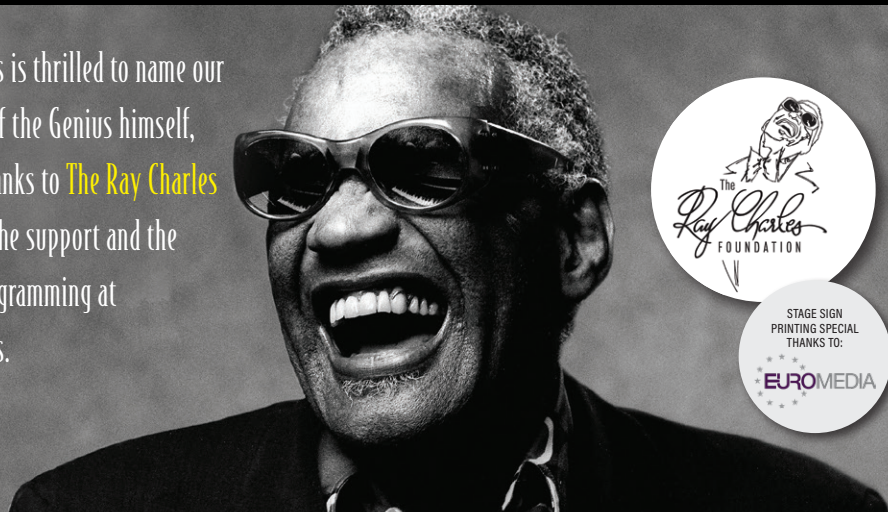
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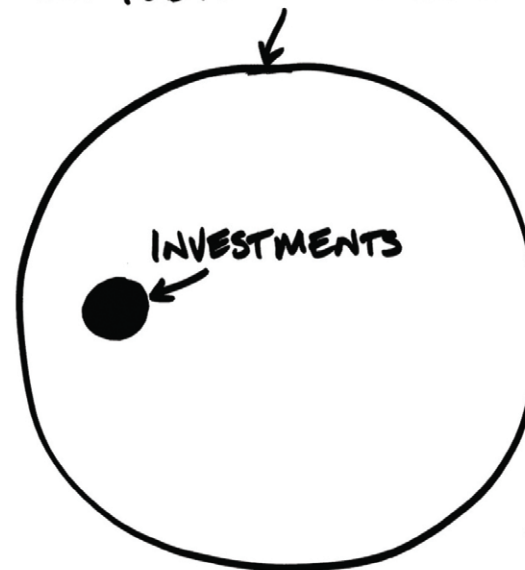
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Since our recent renovation, the **Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center** has expanded to be a multi-faceted community space hosting a 100 seat theatre, full bar, multiple performance venues, education spaces and so much more to host our community! NVA has hosted a wide variety of events, such as weddings, corporate happy hours, staff retreats, fundraisers, and so much more!

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The Dea Hurston Fellowship was created to address the lack of paid opportunities for women, BIPOC, and other underserved theater administrators, artists, and students in our region.

As a young girl, Dea was denied access to dance lessons and other artistic ventures due to the prevailing racist attitudes, politics, and laws. The Dea Hurston Fellowship has been her way to ensure that young Black women not only have access to the arts, but paid training, mentorship, and exposure to all aspects and vocations within the arts industry.

THE DEA HURSTON FELLOWSHIP (DHF) ADDRESSES THREE MAIN CATEGORIES:

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The high school program focuses on accessibility to the arts. The DHF provides free tickets to shows, education from industry professionals, and mentorship opportunities. The DHF will give priority to female and female presenting students from lower-income/ higher-diversity schools.

BIPOC AND WOMEN COLLEGE STUDENTS

The college program focuses on creating professional opportunities for BIPOC, women, and other underserved theatre artists currently in college. DHF covers stipends for these emerging artists to work in local professional theatres, as well as mentorship from industry professionals.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR BIPOC ARTISTS AND OTHER UNDERREPRESENTED PEOPLE

The professional level supports the hiring of BIPOC artists in professional theatres in San Diego County, at NVA and beyond. The DHF is changing the face of San Diego theatre by creating new and exciting opportunities where the arts community has previously lacked. The DHF creates a safe space for individuals to hone their skills and provides the support needed to be successful.

To Learn More about the Dea Hurston Fellowship, please visit the link in our QR Code:



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ART GALLERY SPOTLIGHT

Please take a moment in our lobby to experience the Milena (Sellers) Phillips Gallery, in celebration of Jonathan Sellers & Charlie Keever, as well as the Judi Sheppard Missett and Jack Missett Gallery, in honor and celebration of Brendan John Sheppard-Missett, located in the New Village Arts lobby.



Fusion: A Collection from San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts Students

Welcome to our SDSCPA student exhibition, where vibrant creativity meets profound reflection. In this showcase, we delve into the kaleidoscope of human experience, exploring themes both poignant and powerful. Among the diverse array of artworks, some resonate deeply with the themes of "The Color Purple." Through various mediums, our talented artists invite you to journey through landscapes, identity and the complexities of human relationships.

From striking visual representations to thought-provoking mixed media works, each creation offers a unique perspective from student artists at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Join us in celebrating the rich tapestry of emotions and narratives woven into our exhibition, where

every stroke of the brush speaks volumes about the human experience.

About SDSCPA:

The San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) is a San Diego Unified School District college-preparatory, arts-focused public magnet school for students in grades 6 through 12 who have a strong interest and talent in the arts. Successful SCPA students have the passion and determination to make the most of the school's unique arts training, encouragement, and support while balancing the demands of an academic and arts program in a seven period day.

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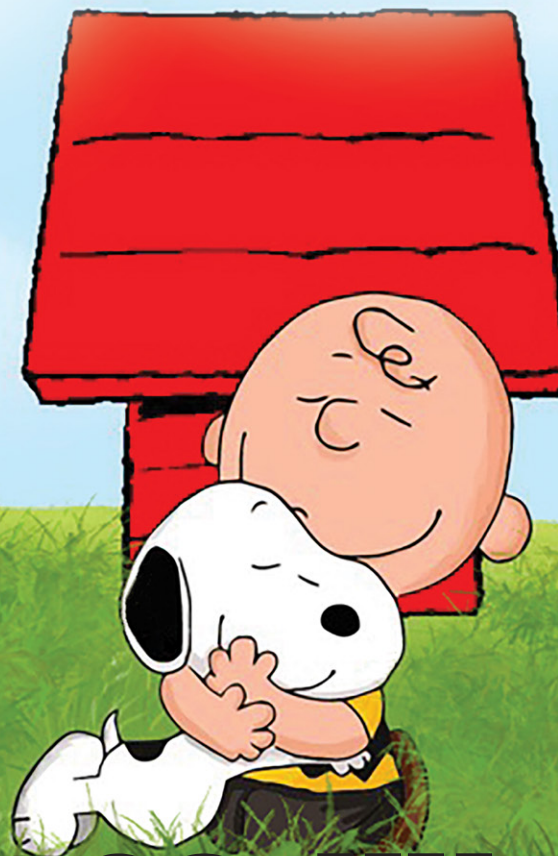
ABOUT THE MAINSTAGE PLAYERS:

The Mainstage Players at New Village Arts started over nine years ago with Monday Night Live!, and has evolved to include a summer course where

students create an original play and perform it for the community. The summer program proved to be so successful that New Village Arts created a professional theatrical training program. Recently, New Village Arts was recognized by the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities by being awarded with a grant to support our work with artists with neurodiversity. We are proud to partner with Alex Astrella and Blu Star Productions on their documentary "Extraordinary Character" about NVA's school tours of STELLALUNA!

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DONATE NOW by going to newvillagearts.org/donate or email: kristianne@newvillagearts.org. New Village Arts is a community-supported not-for-profit company. Your contribution will qualify as a charitable contribution. NVA's Federal Tax ID #: #52-2320930.

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