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312.443.5151 or [Press@GoodmanTheatre.org](mailto:Press@GoodmanTheatre.org) **June 30, 2025**

IMAGES: [Goodman Theatre Press Room](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cschy1j7isfrxeg2zvkug/ACyztzuOUiizNheIPlCfjO4?rlkey=tm054ntj951rl1pycmudsnmg6&st=260f5q7u&dl=0)

***THE COLOR PURPLE* THE MUSICAL DIRECTED BY LILI-ANNE BROWN OPENS TONIGHT AT GOODMAN THEATRE**

**\*\***[**PHOTOS AND VIDEO ARE NOW AVAILABLE**](https://www.dropbox.com/home/Goodman%20Press/1)%20Publicity%20Files/2024-%202025%20Publicity%20Files/The%20Color%20Purple/Production%20Photos) **OF THE 29-MEMBER COMPANY—INCLUDING BRITTNEY MACK AS CELIE, AERIE WILLIAMS (SHUG AVERY), SHANTEL RENEE CRIBBS (NETTIE), EVAN TYRONE MARTIN (MISTER) AND MORE\*\***

**\*\*\*BASED ON THE NOVEL 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, FEATURING CHOREOGRAPHY BY BREON ARZELL AND MUSIC DIRECTION BY JERMAINE HILL\*\*\***

(Chicago, IL) Tonight, Goodman Theatre opens its already-extended production of *The Color Purple* The Musical to a full house in the 856-seat Albert Theatre. Directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**—with music direction by **Jermaine Hill** and choreography by **Breon Arzell**—the musical is based on the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning novel by **Alice Walker** with a book by **Marsha Norman**, music and lyrics by **Brenda Russell**, **Allee Willis** and **Stephen Bray**. Twenty years since its original Broadway debut, the story of resilience, hope and self-discovery against all odds endures. Brown’s 29-member company—21 cast members + eight-piece orchestra—is led by prolific Chicago talent, including **Brittney Mack** (Broadway’s *SIX The Musical*) as Celie; **Aerie Williams** (*The Color Purple* National Tour) as Shug Avery; **Evan Tyrone Martin** (*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* at Writers Theater) as Mister; **Nicole Michelle Haskins** (*Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*at The Goodman)as Sofia, **Gilbert Domally** (*Choir Boy* at Steppenwolf) as Harpo; **Shantel Renee Cribbs** (*Dreamgirls* at Paramount)as Nettie; **Daryn Whitney Harrell** (*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* at The Goodman)as Squeak; and more, a full cast list appears below.

*The Color Purple* appears through August 3. Tickets ($33 - $143; subject to change) are available in person at the Box Office (170 N. Dearborn), at GoodmanTheatre.org/Purple or by phone at 312.443.3800. Goodman Theatre is grateful for the support of The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust (Lead Sponsor of IDEAA Programming); Shure Incorporated (Technical Sponsor); and Athletico Physical Therapy (Physical Therapy Provider) for this production.

**Full Company of *The Color Purple The Musical*** (in alphabetical order)

Directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**

Based on the Novel 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**

**Jos N. Banks**…Grady  
**Curtis Bannister**…Buster

**Sean Blake**…Ol Mister/Olinkan Chief  
**Shantel Renee Cribbs**…Nettie  
**Gilbert Domally**…Harpo  
**Lachrisa Grandberry**…Doris/Olinkan Wife  
**Sharriese Hamilton**…Darlene/Olinkan Wife  
**Daryn Whitney Harrell**…Squeak  
**Nicole Michelle Haskins**…Sofia  
**Ariya Hawkins**…Olivia

**Reneisha Jenkins**…Jarene/Olinkan Wife

**Eric Lewis**…Bobby/Guard

**Brittney Mack**…Celie

**Evan Tyrone Martin**…Mister

**Michael Earvin Martin**…Pa

**Juwon Tyrel Perry**…Preacher/Adam

**Aerie Williams**…Shug Avery

**Jos N. Banks, Curtis Bannister, Sean Blake**, **Shantel Renee Cribbs, Lachrisa Grandberry, Sharriese Hamilton, Daryn Whitney Harrell, Ariya Hawkins, Reneisha Jenkins, Eric A. Lewis, Michael Earvin Martin, Juwon Tyrel Perry, Aalon Daeja Smith**…Ensemble

**Marta Bady, Richaun Samar Stewart, Shelbi Voss**…Swing

Conductor, Keyboard 1...**John Bronston**

Keyboard 2...**Vijay Tellis-Nayak**

Electric and Acoustic Guitar, Dobro, Harmonica...**Felton Offard**

Acoustic and Electric Bass...**Chuck Webb**

Drumset, Percussion...**Charles Heath**

Alto Sax, Clarinet, Flute...**Rajiv Halim**

Bari Sax, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax...**Linda Van Dyke**

Trumpet, Flugelhorn...**Derrick Gardner**

Keyboard Programmer...**Randy Cohnen & Sam Starobin; Cohen Keyboards**

Music Coordinator...**Heather Boehm**

**Creative Team**

Music Director…**Jermaine Hill**

Associate Music Director...**John Bronston**

Choreographer…**Breon Arzell**

Associate Choreographer…**Darian Tene**

Set Designer…**Arnel Sancianco**

Costume Designer…**Samantha C. Jones**

Lighting Designer…**Heather Gilbert**

Co-Sound Designers…**Stephanie Farina** and **Sarah Ramos**  
Co-Projection Designers...**Mike Commendatore** and **Rasean Davonté Johnson**  
Intimacy and Violence...**Gregory Geffrard**

Assistant Intimacy and Violence…**Isabella Grace Scarlett**

Assistant Director…**Tor Campbell**

Line Producer…**Malkia Stampley**

Casting is by **Lauren Port**, CSA. **Nikki Blue** is the Production Stage Manager. **Beth Koehler** and **Imani Ross** are the Stage Managers.

**ENHANCED AND ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES**

*Visit* [*GoodmanTheatre.org/Access*](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/tickets/accessibility/) *for more information about The Goodman’s accessibility efforts.*

Touch Tour\* and Audio-Described: July 12, 12:30pm Touch Tour; 2pm – Action is audibly enhanced via headset.

Spanish-Subtitled: July 12 at 7:30pm – LED sign presents Spanish-translated dialogue in sync with the performance.

Open-Captioned Performance: July 13 at 2pm – LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance.

ASL-Interpreted: July 18 at 7:30pm – A professional ASL interpreter signs the action/text as played.

**ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE**

Chicago’s theater since 1925, **Goodman Theatre** is a not-for-profit arts and community organization in the heart of the Loop, distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and community engagement. Led by Walter Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** and Executive Director **John Collins**, the theater’s artistic priorities include new play development (more than 150 world or American premieres), large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Artists and productions have earned two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and more than 160 Jeff Awards, among other accolades.

The Goodman is the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Its longtime annual holiday tradition *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. The Goodman also frequently serves as a production and program partner with national and international companies and Chicago’s Off-Loop theaters.

Using the tools of theatrical practice, the Goodman’s Education and Engagement programs aim to develop generations of citizens who understand and empathize with cultures and stories of diverse voices. The Goodman’s Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement is the home of these programs, which are offered for Chicago youth—85% of whom come from underserved communities—schools and life-long learners.

Goodman Theatre was built on the unceded homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. We recognize that many other Nations consider the area we now call Chicago as their traditional homeland—including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo and Mascouten and remains home to many Native peoples today. The Goodman is proud to have a relationship with Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum. Located in Evanston, the Museum honors the survival and perseverance of Indigenous communities and promotes a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples: gichigamiin-museum.org.

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth, an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s. The Goodman family’s legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth’s family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation on the new Goodman center in 2000.

**Julie Danis** is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, **Lorrayne Weiss** is Women’s Board President and **Kelli Garcia** is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

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