CONTACT: Denise Schneider or Jamie Hiskes  **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

312.443.5151 or [Press@GoodmanTheatre.org](mailto:Press@GoodmanTheatre.org) **June 17, 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, BEGINS THIS WEEKEND**

**\*\*CHICAGO’S OWN BRITTNEY MACK STARS AS CELIE WITH AERIE WILLIAMS (SHUG AVERY), SHANTEL RENEE CRIBBS (NETTIE), NICOLE MICHELLE HASKINS (SOFIA), GILBERT DOMALLY (HARPO), EVAN TYRONE MARTIN (MISTER) AND MORE\*\***

**\*\*\*FIRST-EVER GOODMAN BOOK CLUB (JUNE 28) INVITES AUDIENCES TO EXPLORE ALICE WALKER’S MASTERWWORK, PLUS A HOST OF ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHT THE RUN\*\*\***

(Chicago, IL) *The Color Purple* the musical bursts onto the Goodman stage this weekend, directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**, with music direction by **Jermaine Hill** and choreography by **Breon Arzell**. Twenty years since its original Broadway debut, 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.** The Goodman invites audiences to engage in a deep-dive of Ms. Walker’s masterwork in the theater’s first-ever Book Club—Saturday, June 28 at 5pm—for longtime fans of the novel or those experiencing it for the first time*. Additional audience engagement events listed below.* Brown’s 21-member company 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—in this story of a young woman’s perilous journey of personal awakening in the American South. *The Color Purple* begins this Saturday, June 21, opening night is June 30, and the run continues through July 27 in the 856-seat Albert Theatre. Tickets ($33 - $143; subject to change) are available at GoodmanTheatre.org/Purple or by phone at 312.443.3800. The Goodman 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).

**SPECIAL EVENTS FOR *THE COLOR PURPLE* MUSICAL**

*Tickets and information at* [*GoodmanTheatre.org/Purple*](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/show/the-color-purple/)*.*

[**Inside *The Color Purple*: An Experience for Emerging Global Majority Theater Makers**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/inside-the-color-purple/)

**June 20 at 3:30pm**

The Goodman invites Chicago-based Global Majority (POC) theater makers to an immersive behind-the-scenes, first-hand look at the production process with three industry leaders. Led by 2024-2025 Goodman Directing Fellows **Raquel Torre** (Maggio Directing Fellow) and **Tor Campbell** (Northwestern Directing Fellow), participants will converse with award-winning director **Lili-Anne Brown**, together with Goodman BOLD Artistic Producer **Malkia Stampley** and **Briana Fahey**, Goodman Production Manager and Head of Stage Management. Following these sessions, participants will enjoy dinner and attend an invited dress rehearsal of *The Color Purple* to experience the production up close before its official opening. An invitation-based gathering; for more information, visit [GoodmanTheatre.org/Inside](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/inside-the-color-purple/).

[**Scene Night**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/color-purple-scene-night/)

**June 26 at 6pm**

Enjoy networking and mingling with other Chicago young professionals at Scene Night, a pre-show reception with hors d’oeuvres and drinks, hosted by the Goodman’s Scenemakers Board. $93 (reception and performance)

[**Pride Night Out!**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/color-purple-pride-night-out/)

**June 27 at 6pm**

Kick off the Chicago Pride festivities with a night of community! **DJ Rae Chardonnay** spins an eclectic mix of tunes at this pre-show event—including a 25% discount at the bar on specialty drinks plus a discounted ticket to this evening’s 7:30pm performance. $48 (reception and performance)

[***The Color Purple* Book Club**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/the-color-purple-book-club/)

**June 28 at 5pm**

Calling all book lovers! Dive into Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning novel *The Color Purple* for a discussion that bridges the page and the stage, inspired by the Tony Award-winning stage musical adaptation. Ideal for book clubs, solo readers and those experiencing the story for the first or hundredth time! Make a day of it: catch the show before or after the event. Use promo code BOOKEVENT to get 25% off tickets to the performance and Book Club event.

[***Play on Words*: Conversation with the Poet Zahra Baker**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/play-on-words-conversation-with-the-poet-zahra-baker/)

**July 2 at 6pm**

Poet **Zahra Glenda Baker** shares insights into her work, creative process and the power of poetry in dialogue with the stage. Baker is a Louisiana-born artist whose diverse talents as a vocalist, storyteller, poet, ritualist, and teaching artist have enhanced the Chicago arts scene for more than 35 years. The pre-show reception includes light refreshments and wine provided by Doña Amalia. $5 (event only)

[***The Color Purple*Hidden GEMSVendor Fair**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/the-color-purple-vendor-fair/)

**July 12 from 12:30pm to 7pm**

In its third year, the Hidden GEMS (Goodman Entrepreneur Market) showcases and celebrates the work of Black creators and brands across various fields—including fashion, art, music, literature, cuisine and more. Free and open to the public

**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

**Creative Team**

Music Director…**Jermaine Hill**

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.*

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

**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.

**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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