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# THE COLOR PURPLE

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**BRENDA  
RUSSELL**

Music and Lyrics by  
**ALLEE  
WILLIS**

**STEPHEN  
BRAY**

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

with  
**MARIAH LYTTLE SANDIE LEE CHÉDRA ARIELLE**  
**ANDREW MALONE BRANDON A. WRIGHT NASHKA DESROSIERS**

ELIZABETH ADABALE JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT DAVID HOLBERT PARRIS LEWIS  
JENAY NAIMA MON'QUEZ DEON PIPPINS GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ SHELBY A. SYKES RENEE TITUS  
IVAN THOMPSON CARTREZE TUCKER JEREMY WHATLEY GERARD M. WILLIAMS

Set Design

**JOHN  
DOYLE**

Costume Design

**ANN  
HOULD-WARD**

Lighting Design

**JANE  
COX**

Sound Design

**DAN MOSES  
SCHREIER**

Hair Design

**CHARLES G.  
LAPOINTE**

Casting

**BINDER CASTING**  
**CHAD ERIC MURNANE, C.S.A.**

Associate Costume Design

**CHRISTOPHER VERGARA**

Music Supervisor

**DARRYL  
ARCHIBALD**

Music Director/Conductor

**JONATHAN  
GORST**

Orchestrations

**JOSEPH  
JOUBERT**

Music Coordinator

**TALITHA  
FEHR**

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**B.J. BELLARD**

Company  
Manager

**BARRY  
BRANFORD**

General Management

**BRIAN SCHRADER**

Production Management

**HEATHER CHOCKLEY**

Executive Producer

**KORI PRIOR**

Associate Director

**SAMANTHA SALTZMAN**

Direction and Musical Staging

**JOHN DOYLE**

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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# Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Church Lady .....	ELIZABETH ADABALE
Sofia .....	CHÉDRA ARIELLE
Nettie .....	NASHKA DESROSIERS
Bobby .....	DAVID HOLBERT
Shug Avery.....	SANDIE LEE
Church Lady/Olivia .....	PARRIS LEWIS
Celie.....	MARIAH LYTTLE
Mister .....	ANDREW MALONE
Preacher/Ol' Mister .....	MON'QUEZ DEON PIPPINS
Squeak .....	GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ
Church Lady .....	SHELBY A. SYKES
Buster/Adam.....	CARTREZE TUCKER
Pa/Guard .....	JEREMY WHATLEY
Grady.....	GERARD M. WILLIAMS
Harpo.....	BRANDON A. WRIGHT

## SWINGS

JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT, JENAY NAIMA,  
IVAN THOMPSON, RENEE TITUS

## UNDERSTUDIES

*Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless  
a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.*

*For Celie:* JENAY NAIMA, RENEE TITUS; *for Shug Avery:* PARRIS LEWIS, JENAY NAIMA; *for Sofia:* ELIZABETH ADABALE, SHELBY A. SYKES; *for Mister:* IVAN THOMPSON, JEREMY WHATLEY; *for Harpo:* CARTREZE TUCKER, JEREMY WHATLEY; *for Nettie:* GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ, RENEE TITUS; *for Squeak:* JENAY NAIMA, RENEE TITUS; *for Buster/Adam:* JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT, IVAN THOMPSON; *for Bobby:* JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT, IVAN THOMPSON; *for Pa/Guard:* JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT, IVAN THOMPSON; *for Church Ladies/Olivia:* JENAY NAIMA, RENEE TITUS; *for Preacher/Ol' Mister:* JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT, IVAN THOMPSON; *for Grady:* JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT, DAVID HOLBERT

## DANCE/FIGHT CAPTAIN

JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT

***There will be one 20-minute intermission***

## SETTING

*The story takes place in Georgia between 1909 and 1949.*



The taking of photographs, videotaping or other recording of this production is a violation of the copyright law and an actionable federal offense.

# Cast



MARIAH LYTTLE



SANDIE LEE



CHÉDRA  
ARIELLE



ANDREW  
MALONE



BRANDON A.  
WRIGHT



NASHKA  
DESROSIERS



ELIZABETH  
ADABALE



JARRETT ANTHONY  
BENNETT



DAVID HOLBERT



PARRIS LEWIS



JENAY NAIMA



MON'QUEZ DEON  
PIPPINS



GABRIELLA  
RODRIGUEZ



SHELBY A.  
SYKES



IVAN  
THOMPSON



RENEE TITUS



CARTREZE  
TUCKER



JEREMY  
WHATLEY



GERARD M.  
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# Musical Numbers

## ACT ONE

"Huckleberry Pie" .....	Celie and Nettie
"Mysterious Ways" .....	The Company
"Somebody Gonna Love You" .....	Celie
"Our Prayer" .....	Nettie, Celie and Mister
"Big Dog" .....	Mister and Men
"Hell No!" .....	Sofia and Women
"Brown Betty" .....	Harpo, Squeak and Men
"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
"Celie's Curse" .....	Mister
"Miss Celie's Pants" .....	Celie and Women
"Any Little Thing" .....	Harpo and Sofia
"I'm Here" .....	Celie
"The Color Purple" (Reprise) .....	Celie and Company

## ORCHESTRA

*Conductor / Keys 1:* JONATHAN GORST

*Associate Conductor / Keys 2:* SHANE FFRENCH

*Reed 1 (Alto Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Alto Flute):* ERIC LAMPMANN

*Reed 2 (Baritone Saxophone, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone):* BRIAN LANG

*Guitar (Electric, Acoustic, Dobro, Harmonica, 12 String):* JOE LEVENS

*Bass (Electric, Acoustic):* CRISSY MARTINEZ

*Trumpet:* NICO CURRENT

*Drums:* TERRENCE BATES

*Keyboard Programming:* SHANE FFRENCH

*Music Coordinator:* TALITHA FEHR

# Who's Who in the Cast

**MARIAH LYTTLE** (*Celie*) National Tour Debut. Regional credits include Dorothy in *The Wiz* at Virginia Repertory Theatre, Sarah in *Ragtime* at Park Playhouse. Ithaca College BFA '19. Many thanks to my family, friends and GOD for the love and endless support. Esther 4:14.

**SANDIE LEE** (*Shug Avery*) is a native of Columbus, MS. She holds a Master's Degree in Performing Arts from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). She has appeared on American Idol Season 13 and Norwegian Cruise Line's production of the Broadway musical *After Midnight*. Follow her on Instagram: sandieglee and Facebook: Sandie Ambitions Lee. sandielproductions.com. John 15:7.

**CHÉDRA ARIELLE** (*Sofia*) Originating from Savannah, GA and based in Los Angeles, CA, Chédra is making her theatrical debut. She holds a Bachelor in Architectural Design with a concentration in Theatre and Dramatic Studies. Chédra is noted among her peers for her dynamism and commitment to her artistry.

**ANDREW MALONE** (*Mister*) Tour: *Kinky Boots* (Nat'l/Int'l). Regional: ASOLO Rep, Marriott Theatre. Other credits: *Hairspray*, *Dreamgirls*, *Little Shop, A.C.L., Spelling Bee*. AMDA-NY. "The more us wonder, the more us love." IG: @angryactor bigmouthtalent.com

**BRANDON A. WRIGHT** (*Harpo*) is grateful to join this iconic production! Brandon hails from Newark, NJ, and holds an MFA in Acting from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Mr. Wright is happily represented by Paonessa Talent. Romans 8:28! @iactwright

**NASHKA DESROSIERS** (*Nettie*) Equally a New Jersey and Florida girl, Nashka is thrilled to be a part of the cast of *The Color Purple*. She was previously seen on the seas with Royal Caribbean. All thanks to God, her family, and Kai. @Nashka\_dezz

**ELIZABETH ADABALE** (*Ensemble/Church Lady/U/S Sofia*) National tour debut! Off-Broadway: *Revelation the Musical* (Woman 1). Regional: *Sister Act* (Deloris), *Into the Woods* (Witch), *Urinetown* (Pennywise), *Hairspray* (Motormouth). The good Lord works in mysterious ways! Endless love to her family, friends and her team at ATB and NOVA Talent. Stay connected at elizabethadabale.com or @lizadabale

**JARRETT ANTHONY BENNETT** (*Dance/Fight Captain/Swing/U/S Buster/Adam,*

*Bobby, Pa/Guard, Preacher/Ol' Mister, Grady*) Making his national tour debut! Regional credits include *Memphis* and *Dreamgirls*. A graduate of William Peace University and native of Roseboro, NC. Much love to his friends and family who support his endeavors!

**DAVID HOLBERT** (*Ensemble/Bobby*) is thrilled to be making his National Tour Debut! Regional: *Bring It On!* (Twig), *Hunchback* (Quasimodo), *Newsies* (Crutchie). David would like to thank God, Mom, Dad, Danny, Family, The Crew, and BWMT. IG: @davidholbert

**PARRIS LEWIS** (*Ensemble/Church Lady/Olivia/U/S Shug Avery*) Native of Brooklyn, NY, Parris Mone't Lewis is making her national tour debut! Other credits: *STONEWALL* (New York City Opera); *Pray* (Ars Nova); *A Time Like This* (Carnegie Hall); *Bars Workshop* (The Public Theatre); *Porgy & Bess* (Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra); *Pyer Moss* (New York Fashion Week). @renaissancewoman\_

**JENAY NAIMA** (*Swing/U/S Celie, Shug Avery, Squeak, Church Lady/Olivia*) is beyond excited to be a part of *The Color Purple* family. Credits include: National Tour of *Three Little Birds*. Disney Cruise Line. Signature Theatre: *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Constellation Theatre Company: *Avenue Q* (2016 Helen Hayes Award). Creative Cauldron: *Caroline or Change*. Mill Mountain Theatre: *Hairspray*. UMD Grad.

**MON'QUEZ DEON PIPPINS** (*Preacher/Ol' Mister*) is a seasoned performed experienced in theatre, TV and film. He has entertained audiences from all over the globe in venues such as The Hard Rock Hotel, Disney, Universal, Carnival Cruises and TV shows like "The Apollo" and "ER." He also recorded his first Original EP entitled *Fine By Me*, out in June 2020.

**GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ** (*Ensemble/Squeak/U/S Nettie*) is thrilled to be making her national tour debut! Huge thanks to the creative team, Chad at Binder Casting, and her supportive family. Point Park University. Jeremiah 29:11. Instagram: @gabriellajoy\_

**SHELBY A. SYKES** (*Ensemble/Church Lady/U/S Sofia*) is thrilled to make her Nat'l touring debut! Credits: *Once on this Island, Rent, The Wiz*. Shelby studied vocal performance at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music

# Who's Who in the Cast

Fraternity. Special thanks to her family for the love and prayers! IG: @shelbyasykes Jeremiah 29:11

**IVAN THOMPSON** (*Swing/U/S Mister, Buster/Adam, Bobby, Pa/Guard, Preacher/Ol' Mister*) is a St. Louis native, father of five, published author, retired Air Force Lt. Colonel and resides in Phoenix. He has performed the National Anthem for national sporting events and is a seasoned actor with numerous credits.

**RENEE TITUS** (*Swing/U/S Celie, Nettie, Squeak, Church Lady/Olivia*) is thrilled to be on her first National Tour telling this beautiful story. Past credits include: The Storyteller in *Festival of the Lion King* in Hong Kong Disneyland, *Sarah (Ragtime)*, *Crystal (Little Shop of Horrors)*. Love to Justin. IG: @renee\_m\_titus

**CARTREZE TUCKER** (*Ensemble/Buster/Adam/U/S Harpo*) **HAIR** (National/International Tour), *Motown: The Musical* (National Tour), *Trav'lin, Raisin: The Musical*, Disney's *Tarzan: A New Musical*, *Sister Act*, Disney's *Little Mermaid*, *Miss Saigon*, *RENT*, *Hairspray* and many more. IG: @Cartreze

**JEREMY WHATLEY** (*Ensemble/Pa/Guard/U/S Harpo, Mister*) is excited to make his national tour debut! Favorite Regional: *Sister Act* (Eddie), *In The Heights* (Benny), *Dreamgirls* (Jimmy Early), *The Color Purple* (Harpo). AMDA LA Grad! Much love to Ma, Pop, family/friends. Thank you God. Thank you Jim. @just.jer.emy #StriveForGreatness

**GERARD M. WILLIAMS** (*Ensemble/Grady*) First national tour. Former Spotlight Cabaret singer, student of Berklee College of Music and Music admin at The River Church. Credits: *Scottsboro Boys* (Roy Wright), *Ragtime* (Coalhouse), *A Motown Christmas* (vocal coach/Ensemble), *Memphis* (Gator), *Dreamgirls* (Dave/Ensemble), *Annie* (Rooster), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apostle), *Assassins* (Proprietor). TV: CW's *The Originals*. Celebrity Cruises Singer @Gmonwilliams

**BRENDA RUSSELL** (*Composer/Lyricist*) Brooklyn-born singer/songwriter and author of "Piano in the Dark," "If Only for One Night" and "Get Here." Brenda has collaborated with superstars such as Sting; Mary J. Blige; Stevie Wonder; Chaka Khan; Tina Turner; Donna Summer; Michael McDonald; Ray Charles; Earth, Wind & Fire; Luther Vandross; Diana Ross; and Patti LaBelle, among many others. She

was nominated for three Grammys for 1988's "Piano in the Dark." Since 1979 she has recorded eight solo albums, releasing "Between the Sun and the Moon" in 2004. Her work has also been featured in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and "Liberty Heights." brendarussell.com

**ALLEE WILLIS** (*Composer/Lyricist*) has sold more than 50 million records, including "September," "Boogie Wonderland," "Neutron Dance" and "What Have I Done to Deserve This?" She has a Grammy for the *Beverly Hills Cop* soundtrack and an Emmy nomination for the "Friends" theme song. She's an award-winning artist, performer, multimediaist, writer and director. Willis prototyped a social network in 1992 and addressed Congress on cyberspace in 1997. Willis's opus to Detroit, "The D", premiered at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the fifth largest museum in the world, on September 28, 2017. The song and video, written, arranged, produced, directed, edited, animated, and self-financed by Willis, features 5,000 lead singers and musicians, more people in history than have ever been on a record before.

**STEPHEN BRAY** (*Composer/Lyricist*) made his Broadway debut with *The Color Purple* in 2005. After training at Berklee College of Music, Bray wrote and produced many top-ten recordings for Madonna including "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. He has written and produced for multiplatinum artists including Gladys Knight and Kylie Minogue. Stephen's latest venture, Masterphonic, provides storytellers with original music and reimagined classics. He would like to thank Mom and Dad for blasting Broadway cast albums and insisting on those piano lessons.

**JOHN DOYLE** (*Direction/Set Design/Musical Staging*) Broadway: *Sweeney Todd* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Director of a Musical), *Company* (Tony Award for Best Musical Revival), *A Catered Affair* (Drama League Award for Best Musical Production), *The Visit* (Tony nomination for Best Musical), *The Color Purple* (Tony Award for Best Musical Revival, Drama Desk Award for Best Director of a Musical). Off-Broadway: *Wings* (Second Stage Theatre), *Road Show* (The Public Theater), *Where's Charley?*, *Irma La Douce* (City Center Encores!).



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# Who's Who in the Cast

Regional: *Kiss me, Kate* (Stratford Festival); *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (A.C.T.); *Merrily We Roll Along*; *The Three Sisters* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *Ten Cents a Dance* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *The Exorcist* (L.A.). In the U.K., John has been artistic director of four regional theatres. Numerous credits include *The Gondoliers*, *Mack and Mabel* (West End), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park), *Oklahoma!* (Chichester), *Amadeus* (Wilton's Musical Hall). Opera includes *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Sydney Opera House), *Peter Grimes* (Metropolitan Opera), *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahogany* (L.A. Opera). John is Artistic Director of CSC in New York City, where productions include *Passion*, *Dead Poets Society*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Carmen Jones* and *The Cradle will Rock*.

**ANN HOULD-WARD** (Costume Designer) has won, or been nominated for, virtually every major theatre award in existence, including the Tony, Drama Desk, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, American Theatre Wing, Outer Critics Circle and Olivier awards for her costume design. A Tony winner for *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and Tony nominee for the original Broadway productions of *Into the Woods* and *Sunday in the Park with George*, Ms. Hould-Ward's stage credits also includes the upcoming production of *The Prince of Egypt*, as well as countless Off-Broadway productions and designs for the most highly regarded regional theatres and the theatre-world's finest producers and directors. International audiences applaud her work as well, as do audiences for film, television, concerts, dance and opera. Ms. Hould-Ward's work has been seen in over 35 international companies of *Beauty and the Beast*, and her other designs are featured in shows all over the world. She also has more than 100 regional theatre credits. Ms. Hould-Ward is the recipient of the inaugural Patricia Zipprodt Award for 'Innovative Costume Design' and is a seasoned lecturer.

**JANE COX** (Lighting Designer) Previous collaborations with John Doyle include *Arturo Ui*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Peer Gynt*, *Allegro* and *Passion* at Classic Stage Company; *The Color Purple* on Broadway and in London; *Road Show*; and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Recent Broadway designs includes *True West*, *King Lear*, *Jitney*, *Amelie*, *Machinal* and *All the Way*. Jane has been nominated for two Tony Awards, is a member of the Monica Bill Barnes Company and the director of the theatre

program at Princeton University.

**DAN MOSES SCHREIER** (Sound Designer) Broadway: *Gary-A Sequel*, *The Iceman Cometh*, *Falsettos*, *American Psycho*, *The Visit*, *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *A Little Night Music*, *Gypsy* (Patti Lupone), *Radio Golf*, John Doyle's production of *Sweeney Todd*, *Gem Of the Ocean*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Assassins*, *Into The Woods*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Noise/Funk*. Composed scores for Broadway: *Merchant of Venice* (Al Pacino), *Julius Caesar* (Denzel Washington), *The Tempest* (Patrick Stewart). Recent Off-Broadway designs include the Yiddish *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Carmen Jones* at CSC. Awards: Five Tony Award nominations, four Drama Desk Awards. Dan is a Fellow of the MacDowell Colony.

**CHARLES G. LaPOINTE** (Wig & Hair Designer) Numerous Broadway, Touring, West End and International productions including: *Hamilton*; *The Cher Show* (Drama Desk Award); *The Band's Visit*; *Beautiful*; *Ain't Too Proud*; *Beetlejuice*; *The Lifespan of a Fact*; *SpongeBob SquarePants* (Drama Desk Award); *Jersey Boys*; *Motown*; *On Your Feet!*; *A Gentleman's Guide...*; *Newsies*; *In the Heights*. Television: "The Wiz Live!" (Emmy Award Nomination); "Jesus Christ Superstar Live!" (Emmy Award Nomination/Make-Up Artists & Hair Stylist Guild Award); "Hairspray."

**DARRYL ARCHIBALD** (Musical Supervisor) *The Color Purple* (2015 revival tour and Paper Mill Playhouse); *Motown The Musical* (Broadway 2016 and national tours); *Wicked* at the Pantages Theater (substitute conductor); *Memphis* (Broadway tour); Disney's *The Lion King* (Broadway tour - vocal coach/assistant conductor); *Ragtime*, *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Dear World* with Tyne Daly (VPAC); Jonathan Dove's *Innocence* (Banff Centre and Manhattan Theatre Club); *Next To Normal*, *Beauty and The Beast* (McCoy/ Rigby); *In The Heights* (TUTS); *Two By Two* with Jason Alexander, *How To Succeed...* with John O'Hurley, *The Fantasticks* with Eric McCormack, *Once On This Island* with Ledisi, *Li'l Abner* with Cathy Rigby and Fred Willard (Reprise); *Great Expectations*, *My Fair Lady*, *1776*, *Camelot*, and *Forever Plaid* (Utah Shakespearean Festival). Orchestration includes: *Great Expectations* (USF), *The Wiz* (The Muny); *A Hollywood Holiday Celebration* (ABC), *The Fountain Show*



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AGEE**

**Chris  
EARL**

# Who's Who in the Cast

and *Christmas Trolley Show* (The Grove Los Angeles).

**JOSEPH JOUBERT** (*Orchestrator*) Credits as orchestrator, arranger, conductor, musical director include Broadway's *Violet*; *Motown the Musical*; *Nice Work If You Can Get It*; *Leap of Faith*; *Caroline, or Change*; *The Color Purple*; *Billy Elliot*. TV: *Smash*. Film: *Nights in Rodanthe*. Recording: Fantasia, Broadway Inspirational Voices, Patti Labelle, Ashford & Simpson, Diana Ross. Grammy, Emmy and Drama Desk Award nominee.

**JONATHAN GORST** (*Music Director/Conductor*) was born and raised in Colorado Springs, CO. Jonathan began his professional career at the Imperial Hotel in Cripple Creek, CO, at the age of 16. Moving to New York at the age of 22, he soon became Music Director/Conductor for the National Tour of *CATS*, followed by his appointment to Music Director/Principle Conductor for the National Tour of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2007. Other credits include *Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular* at the Venetian Hotel and Casino, *The Woman in White* on Broadway, *Ghost The Musical*- First National Tour and *4U- A Symphonic Tribute to the Music of Prince* - European Tour. Jonathan would like to thank his wife, Marisa, for her constant support of pursuing his dreams—wherever they take him!

**TALITHA FEHR** (*Music Coordinator*) has worked on over 50 National and International tours and productions, highlights include *Sister Act*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Come Fly Away*, *School of Rock* and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Ceremonies. She dedicates her work on *The Color Purple* to the memory of Sam Lutfiyya.

**SAMANTHA SALTZMAN** (*Associate Director*) Resident Director credit: *Matilda the Musical* (1st National Tour/Broadway). Select Directing credits: *LadyShip*, *The Drama League Gala Honoring Steve Martin*, *Madam Fury's Traveling Show*. Additional Associate/Assistant credits: *The King & I* (2nd National Tour), *Lady in the Dark* (NYCC), *Southern Comfort* (The Public), Sarah Brightman's *Dreamchaser* World Tour. Drama League Directing Fellow. Love to Mom, Dad, Zach and Power Trio. [samanthasaltzman.com](http://samanthasaltzman.com)

## **BINDER CASTING/**

**CHAD ERIC MURNANE, CSA** (*Casting*) Binder Casting, now part of RWS Entertainment Group, was founded by

Jay Binder, CSA in 1984. Binder Casting has cast over 80 Broadway productions, dozens of National Tours, off-Broadway shows, full seasons for over 25 regional theatres, as well as feature films, episodic television and commercials. Binder has cast for Encores! at New York City Center since its inception in 1994. The office was also featured in the documentary, *Every Little Step*. Binder Casting is a twelve-time recipient of the Artios Award. [bindercasting.com](http://bindercasting.com)

**BARRY BRANFORD** (*Company Manager*), frequently seen with a suitcase in one hand and his phone in the other, has spent the last ten years as a tour manager for a wide variety of productions. He is thrilled to join TROIKA for this tour of *The Color Purple*.

**B.J. BELLARD** (*Production Supervisor*) is thrilled to be working on this beautiful story with such an amazing cast and crew! He has worked everywhere from a cruise ship to Walt Disney World. Regional: Southern Rep Theatre. BA, Loyola University New Orleans. Thank you to my family and friends. Look what God has done.

**BOND THEATRICAL GROUP** (*Marketing and Publicity Direction*) is a fully independent booking, marketing and publicity company for live entertainment productions. Current tour marketing and booking projects include *Blue Man Group*, *CATS*, *Clueless*, *Girl from the North Country*, *First Date*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Kathleen Turner's *Finding My Voice*, *Latin History for Morons*, *An Officer & A Gentleman*, *Once on this Island* and *Spamilton*. Current marketing and publicity projects include *Anastasia*, *The Band's Visit*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Diana*, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Color Purple*, *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and *The Prom*.

**THE BOOKING GROUP** (*Tour Booking Agency*) Since its inception in 1996, The Booking Group has represented 25 Tony Award-winning Best Musicals and Plays. Current touring productions include: *Hamilton*, *Anastasia*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Come From Away*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *Mean Girls*, *My Fair Lady*, *RENT: The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour* and *Waitress*. Future productions include: *Hadestown*, *1776*, *The Cher Show*, *Pretty Woman*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Tootsie*.

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## THE COLOR PURPLE TOUR STAFF

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TROIKA ENTERTAINMENT

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**GENERAL MANAGER**  
BRIAN SCHRADER  
Assistant General Manager.....A.J. Orth

---

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
HEATHER CHOCKLEY

---

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**  
DAVE BURCH

---

**COMPANY MANAGER**  
BARRY BRANFORD

---

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Jay Binder, CSA, Mark Brandon, CSA  
Justin Bohon, CSA, Chad Eric Murnane, CSA  
Kyle Coker, Anthony Pichette, Jarrett Reiche  
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**PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR.. B.J. BELLARD**  
Associate Scenic Designer..David L. Arsenault  
Associate Costume Designer..Christopher Vergara  
Associate Lighting Designer.....Tess James  
Associate Sound Designer.....Josh Reid  
Associate Hair Designer.....Ashley Callahan  
Assistant Director.....Lynn Spector  
Moving Lighting Programmer....Bridget Chervenka  
Fight Consultant.....Thomas Schall  
Production Electrician.....Justin Petito  
Production Audio.....Matthew Bell  
Keyboard Programmer.....Shane French  
Dance/Fight Captain...Jarrett Anthony Bennett  
Production Assistants Erin Magner, Morgan Walker

HEAD CARPENTER.....AARON ADAME  
Assistant Carpenter.....Jonathan Rogers  
Head Electrician.....Chris Lubik  
Assistant Electrician.....Jameson Willey  
Head Audio.....Tanner Elker  
Assistant Audio.....Ethan Fuller

Head Props.....Whitney Phelan  
Head Wardrobe.....Cecilia Gutierrez  
Head Hair & Makeup.....Tyree Robinson

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Executive Vice President, Production Kori Prior  
Executive Vice President, Marketing. Amy Katz  
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Schrader, Tyler Soltis  
Assistant General Managers..Madeline M. McCluskey,  
A.J. Orth, Mitzi Delgado  
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Gregg Damanti, Jessica Sentak  
Production Coordinator.....Drew Neitzey  
Director of Engagements.....Barrett Newman  
Director of Finance.....Brian Jacob  
Financial Controller.....George Lamberty  
Project Accountants.....Lourdes Castillo,  
Erika Goldthwaite  
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# The Actors' Gang *The New Colossus*

Saturday, February 29, 7:30 pm

Performed in twelve languages (with English supertitles) with live music, poetry, and kinetic movement, *The New Colossus* asks an essential question: Who are we as a nation? The play explores the true stories of twelve people in the United States today because their families fled their countries of origin to escape oppression. Actors from around the world share the stage to tell heart-wrenching stories, weaving a single narrative of desperate people drawn to the promise of America.

**AD** Audio Description is available for the performance.

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# Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

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STUDENT  
TICKETS

Robert Battle, Artistic Director  
Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm

The extraordinary dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater make their first appearance on the new Hancher stage with a program that will be undeniably revelatory. Artistic Director Robert Battle has remained true to the vision of his predecessors—Ailey himself and Judith Jamison—while also expanding the company's work with a wide array of choreographers. The performance will close with *Revelations*, Ailey's masterwork that is as powerful today as it was when it debuted in 1960.



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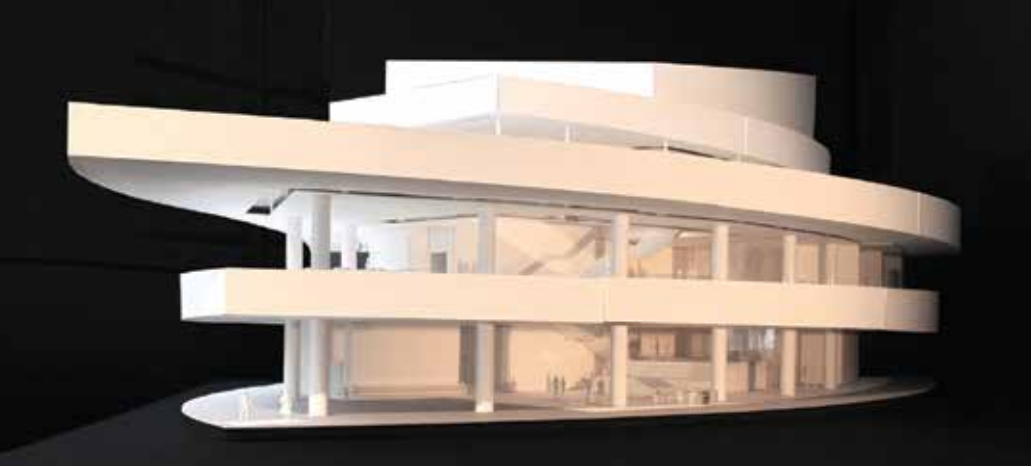


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# César Pelli (1926–2019)

## Hancher architect and friend

César Pelli was a brilliant architect, and it was truly an honor to have him design the current Hancher Auditorium. We were even more honored to call him our friend.

That friendship began immediately after Pelli Clark Pelli Architects was selected to design a new Hancher Auditorium following the destruction of the original building by the flooding of 2008. César felt a personal connection to Hancher's work, and he made sure to connect with members of the staff and the University of Iowa community to ensure his ideas honored Hancher's past and elevate its future. At his firm's offices in New Haven, Connecticut, he devoted an entire room to the project, and he was always happy to share his thoughts about the building with visitors.

César was delighted by the beautiful setting—often commenting that it was the most gorgeous site for which he had designed a building—and he was committed to making the most of the space. He brought the indoors and the outdoors together in the lobby spaces and rehearsal room and designed an exceptional performance space.

His joy for the project was palpable from beginning to end. He came to Iowa City for the major milestones of the project, including our Site Ceremony connecting the original Hancher to the new, our Leave Your Mark beam signing (after which he joined hundreds of construction workers on the as-yet-unfinished stage for lunch), and our Gala Opening. On opening night, César took the stage with Hancher Executive Director Chuck Swanson to launch a new era for Hancher. We'll always remember his words that night: "Hancher was built with love."

We are saddened to lose our friend. We are blessed to have the opportunity to serve our campus and community in a building that will always stand as a tribute to César.

Above: César Pelli at the opening night of the Hancher Auditorium, 2016 (Photo: Bill Adams)  
Opposite page photos: scale model of Hancher Auditorium at Pelli Clark Pelli offices in New Haven, 2012; Hancher Executive Director Chuck Swanson (seated) looks at scale model while César Pelli (holding glass) looks on from behind, 2012; Pelli and the rest of the Pelli Clark Pelli team in front of Hancher during the Leave Your Mark event, 2014, (Photo: Miriam Alarcón Avila); Pelli and Swanson in 2016 (Photo: Bill Adams); Pelli and Swanson at opening night of the new Hancher Auditorium, 2016 (Photo: Bill Adams); exterior of Hancher Auditorium (Jeff Goldberg/Esto).





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# The Vision for Hancher Auditorium: Cultivating the Arts at Iowa

*This is the third in a series of essays about Virgil Hancher and his vision for the arts in general, and Hancher Auditorium in particular, at the University of Iowa. The essays will appear in playbills throughout this season and will be available on the Hancher website, as well.*

By Daniel Boscaljon

Virgil Hancher was an important part of a larger context that championed innovations in the fusion of academics, the arts, and student life that coalesced in the vision for what is now called Hancher Auditorium on the University of Iowa campus. Hancher had recognized the need for a vital student center due to his experience of isolation as a freshman. Then he was part of campus life in the early 1920s when administrators first began to envision Iowa as a cultural leader.

President Walter Jessup and Graduate Dean Carl Seashore initiated the *Iowa Idea* of integrating creative and critical work and bringing artists into academic contexts. Thanks to them, Iowa was one of the first schools to reward creative work with graduate degrees beginning in 1922. This work came in conjunction with the creative leadership of departments in the arts that were beginning to emerge.



Walter Jessup



Carl Seashore

Philip Clapp came to Iowa in 1919 and both created and led the School of Music until his death in 1954, with courses earning academic credit beginning in 1921. One of Clapp's innovations was to broadcast his music appreciation/music theory course over the radio beginning in 1931, with a positive response



Philip Clapp



E. C. Mabie

from "students" all over the state. The Department of Speech was not far behind following the appointment of E. C. Mabie, who led the department from 1923-1956. Mabie worked together with the Englert Theatre and the university (using what is now Macbride Auditorium) as stages.

A third important ingredient in the foundation of what became Hancher Auditorium is the Iowa Memorial Union and its director Rufus Fitzgerald, who was also active in the cultural scene of the early 1920s. He left the YMCA in 1923 to become as the director of the IMU, which was beginning to raise funds to construct a building that would house extracurricular clubs as well as serve as a place where students and faculty could socialize. Virgil Hancher recognized the need for a Union early on, writing of the need for one in a 1919 editorial. He became one of Fitzgerald's active fundraisers among alumni in 1923.



Rufus Fitzgerald



Above: a map of proposed Fine Arts campus, The University of Iowa, 1933

By 1933, following SUI's acquisition of land on the west bank of the Iowa River, Jessup, Clapp, and Fitzgerald joined together to dream about an arts campus along the river.

Soon after, the campus saw an explosive expansion of academic and artistic hybrids in various departments throughout the liberal arts. Wilbur Schramm



Campus planning conference in UI president Jessup's office about fine arts campus, 1930s

began the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 1936, and Lester Longman, the first chair of the Department of Art, merged Art History and Studio Arts together beginning in 1938. Grant Wood taught at Iowa from 1934–1941, as did Robert Penn Warren in 1941.

This innovative foundation led to additional new developments. For example, a collaboration between Norman Foerster (English) and Harrison J. Thornton (History) using history and the social sciences as a way to discuss the production of literary texts became the American Studies program in 1947 with Alexander Kern serving as its first director.

Thus, by 1941 and Hancher's inauguration as President of SUI, the campus had created a clear culture of aesthetic and academic innovation—one that





Hancher had participated in from its beginnings. Some changes were made in leadership at this time, including Paul Engle taking over the Writers' Workshop. The idea for an auditorium was important as an expansion on the space of the IMU, one that was designed to provide a home that would showcase work of the caliber of its increasingly esteemed faculty and serve as a home for a vital, creative student body.

The larger international context of conflict and racialized hatred made the success of SUI's innovative leadership even more important. In an age of nationalistic attempts to use fear to unite people in hatred, the creation of a space of unity via the arts was an important alternative. It is in this spirit that Earl E. Harper—who took over Fitzgerald's role as Director of the IMU in 1938, declared in his October 30, 1943 speech *Fine Arts when Peace Comes*:

*...the more the limited interests of the present keep the minds of the people narrowed and subjugated, the more urgent becomes the desire to unite the politically divided world under the flag of truth and beauty. ...[while] the fine arts as the free expression of the free spirit of mankind are driven out or forgotten for a while in ancient centers where they once reigned supreme, they will find new homes.*

The State University of Iowa had developed a forty-year legacy of becoming an inviting home of the free expression of the free spirit of humans under the flag of truth and beauty. Hancher's vision for an auditorium would cement this vision and commit the University of Iowa to continuing to create, innovate, and promote a liberated and expanded vision of human community.

*Daniel Boscaljon is a longtime contributor to arts writing in the ICR, often providing interviews, reviews, and essays on aesthetics for Little Village and The Englert as well as for Hancher. An independent scholar, teacher, and arts critic, he is committed to inviting others to incorporate wisdom and joy as part of everyday life. In addition to teaching workshops and holding free public conversations in the area, Daniel also has three current ventures including the Center for Humanist Inquiries (professional consultations), Coffee with Dan (spiritual direction and philosophical life coaching), and The Thoughtful Life (a non-profit venture that includes his "Making Space for Yourself" podcast). You can find his writing and more information about his services at [danielboscaljon.com](http://danielboscaljon.com).*



Photo: Zak Neumann

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Above: The Dustbowl Revival, Tino Wallenda, Architects of Air, high-diver Dana Kunze, Red Baraat, a float design for The Amazing River Parade by Quixotic, The Flying Cortes, Master of Ceremonies Tomáš Kubínek, Machine Dazzle, Anne Glover, Terrance Simien, RUBBERBAND, The Flying Wallendas, Brien Engel, Al Simmons.



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- The Amazing River Parade
- Master of Ceremonies Tomáš Kubínek
- Architects of Air
- The Flying Wallendas and The Flying Cortes
- Victor Quijada and RUBBERBAND
- Machine Dazzle
- Red Baraat
- The Dustbowl Revival
- Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience
- Quixotic
- Al Simmons
- UI theme semester programs
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767 Mormon Trek Boulevard  
Iowa City
-  **North Liberty**  
720 Pacha Parkway, Suite 1  
North Liberty
-  **Old Capitol Town Center**  
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