THE COLOR PURPLE
An American Musical

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

Book by MARSHA NORMAN

Music and Lyrics by BRENTA RUSSELL, ALLEE WILLIS & STEPHEN BRAY

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

DIRECTOR
AMINA ROBINSON*

MUSIC DESIGNER
AMANDA MORTON

CHOREOGRAPHER
SANCHEL BROWN

SET AND PROPS DESIGNER
SARA OUTING

COSTUME DESIGNER
ELIZABETH ENNIS

LIGHTING DESIGNER
ALYSSANDRA DOCHERTY

SOUND DESIGNER
MEGAN CULLEY

STAGE MANAGER
CHELSEA SANZ*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
COURTNEY BANKS

Executive Honorary Producers: Tom & Carol Beam

Associate Honorary Producers: Hugh & Carmen Simmons, Leslie & Ernestine Thornton

Artistic Sponsors: Bruce & Carol Caswell, Diane & Jon Edelman, Christina Kind, Zandra Maffett, David & Sachiyo Searles, Jeff Smith & Pamela Milcos-Smith

The taking of pictures or the making of recordings of any kind during the performance is prohibited.

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the United States.

THE COLOR PURPLE | 2018/19 SEASON

THEATRE HORIZON

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NOTE FROM OUR HONORARY PRODUCERS

Welcome to Theatre Horizon!

What a thrill and privilege it is for us to help produce this extraordinary show. The Color Purple has been making waves and breaking hearts since 1982, when Alice Walker first published her book. For ten years it sat proudly on the American Library Association’s list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books. The work is hateful, shocking and upsetting, but also full of joy, tenderness and love.

Women tell this story, the story of black women in Georgia in the 1930s. They are brought up as the lowest rung in a heartless society, but they never lose their strength. They are forces of nature, even when, as for the main character Celie, that force is endurance.

This production is powerful. Its truly exceptional cast members have voices that will shake you, melt you. They not only inhabit their characters, they clearly care deeply about them and the vision of them that Theatre Horizon has brought to us all. They will make you remember this experience for years to come.

Prepare to be blown away.

- Carol and Tom Bean

Executive Honorary Producers

ABOUT THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR

Alice Walker won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for her third novel, The Color Purple, which was made into an internationally popular film by Steven Spielberg. Her other best-selling novels, which have been translated into more than two dozen languages, include By the Light of My Father’s Smile, Possessing the Secret of Joy and The Temple of My Familiar. Ms. Walker is also the author of several collections of short stories, essays and poems as well as children’s books. Her work has appeared in numerous national and international journals and magazines. An activist and social visionary, Ms. Walker’s advocacy on behalf of the dispossessed has, in the words of her biographer, Evelyn C. White, “spanned the globe.”

ABOUT THE ARTISTS & STAFF

Jessica Muse Money (NETTIE) is thrilled to be making her professional theater debut with Theatre Horizon. She is a senior at Temple University with a concentration in musical theater. Past productions include Sarah Brown (Guys and Dolls) and Ermina Crump (Crumbs from the Table of Joy).

Economic Pullum (SHUG AVERY) is thrilled to be making her Theatre Horizon debut! Ebony is an enthusiastic stage and film actress with performances throughout the Philadelphia and NYC regions. Some of her regional credits include The Kimmel Center, Cristal Palac, The Academy of Music, Written on Skin, Carmen: Quintessence Theater, My Fair Lady, The Broken Heart, Love’s Labor’s Lost, Mother Courage and Her Children; Lantern Theater Co., The Velvets, New York: Robert Moss Theater, The Bride of Frankenstein; June Havoc Theater (NYMF), Freedom Riders.

Thanks to God! Love to my village, you keep me lifted. Ebonypullum.com.

Ryane Nicole Studinant** (DARLENE) is so ecstatic to be returning to Theatre Horizon. Recent: Media in Media’s New Year and a featured singer in Alex Keiper’s Next Generation Cabaret at Arden Theatre Company. Favorite credits: RENT, Avenue Q, Legally Blonde, Smokey Joe’s Cafe. Amber Studinant is the Executive Producer of the Philadelphia and NYC locations of the national murder mystery company, The Dinner Detective. Check out performances in Center City. Thanks to Amina, Amanda and Rebecca for the opportunity to tell this story. Thanks to my family and friends for traveling to support. Love to Ian. www.RyaneNicoleStudinant.com @RyaneStud

Garrick Vaughan (HARPO) is 2015 PHL LIVE Center Stage Classical Competition winner. Garrick has shared stages singing with Kristin Chenoweth and Aretha Franklin. Past productions include Antipholus of Syracusa (The Boys from Syracuse), Curly (Oklahoma) and Hud in the 2018 European tour of HAIR. #followme and HeartAtDreams on Instagram @GarrickVaughan

Chantel Thea Cumberbatch (SWING - CELE, NETTIE, SQUEAK) graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a musical theater major. This will be her first time in a production at Theatre Horizon and she is super excited to be performing here! Recently she’s worked in Millbrook, Pennsylvania at The Millbrook Playhouse, a summerstock theater troupe where she was performing The Marvelous Wonderettes. Chantel has also been in such shows as You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown as Lucy; Samuel Beckett’s Not I as The Mouth; Macbeth as Lady Macbeth; Hedwig and the Angry Inch as Yitzah and Dog sees God as Van’s Sister.

Aaron-Michael Soberos (SWING - PREACHER, ADAM) is thrilled to be making his Theatre Horizon debut as a Swing in The Color Purple. Aaron-Michael was trained in Musical Theater Performance at Temple University. Recent credits include the World Premiere of Legendary by Kemi Jweri and working as the assistant music director on Marry Me A Little.

Camille E. Young (SWING - DARLENE, JARENE, OLIVIA) is a Philadelphia-based actor, born and raised right outside of Philly. Camille is elated to be a part of the regional premiere of this special show. Recent credits include Close Your Legs, Honey (Philly Fringe Festival), The Drowsy Chaperone (Maples Repertory Theatre), Two Gentlemen of Verona (1970s Musical/EgoPo Classic Theater), and RENT at Arden Theatre Company. Thanks to my supportive family, pals, and mentors!

Erin Reilly (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A King of Prussia native and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, in 2005 Erin co-founded Theatre Horizon with Matthew Decker, and led a $3 million campaign to build and open a new venue for the company in Norristown in 2012. Erin has directed over 15 productions, working with both professional actors and students. As an Equity actress she has performed on numerous area stages including the Walnut Street Theatre and The Wilma. She established Theatre Horizon’s Education Department twelve years ago, and its programs now serve over 1,000 children per year. She helped to found Theatre Philadelphia and currently serves as Board President. Erin was named one of Philadelphia’s 35 Creative Connectors by Leadership Philadelphia.

Molly Braverman (MANAGING DIRECTOR) has returned to her native Montgomery County after working in New York, on Broadway, and on tour. Stage Management credits include Broadway and Workshops: Wicked, Collected Stories, Zorba (with Antonio Bandez and Chiara Rivera), Scandalous, Magic Mike. 1st National Tours: Wicked, Little House on the Prairie. Benefit performances: Ann Harada’s Christmas Eve with Christmas Eve, Wicked Rocky Horror Show (Las Vegas, Denver). Molly has directed regionally and worked around the country to build bridges between arts and service organizations. She received the Greater Philadelphia Arts and Business Council’s Ova Wind Designing Leadership Fellowship, founded the Philadelphia Green Alliance, and is a graduate of Columbia University.

Jennifer Pratt Johnson (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) is originally from Virginia, where she earned her BA in Theatre and History from The College of William & Mary before moving to Philadelphia by way of Portland, Maine. Prior to joining the team at Theatre Horizon, Jenny was the Marketing & Development Director at Lantern Theater Company. She is also a co-founder, former Managing Director, and former board member of Simpatico Theatre Project. Jenny has her MS in Arts Administration from Drexel University and is passionate about arts marketing and fundraising as important means of building community and ensuring organizational stability.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Candace Benson (ORIS) BET Sunday Best first runner up (Season 7) and a breakout star of Langston Hughes’ Black Nativity at Theatre Horizon (Barrymore winner), the actress/dancer/singer-songwriter/musician/music composer attributes her gifts and tutelage to her family’s varied musical background. Candace has performed alongside Roland Adams and Kirk Whalum at the Bosco’s Berk’s Jazz Fest’s “The Gospel According to Kirk Whalum.” She was invited to sing at “Divas Simply Singing,” a VH1 divas event and Benefit concert at Philadelphia’s Dolf Last Music Center whose founder is Sheri Lee Ralph (original Deena Jones from the Broadway hit DreamGirls and hit television show Moesha) and performed alongside Faith Evans, Kelly Price, and Angela Winbush among others at the concert. She is also a regular performer for The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization’s annual “Really Big Show” concert in Purchase, New York at the SUNY Theatre. Share in her journey of Faith, Boldness, Brightness, and Bravery.

Tiffany Dawn Christopher (OLIVIA/SHUG UNDERSTUDY) IS THRILLED to be making her Theatre Horizon debut! She’s a graduate of Howard University where she majored in Communications and minored in Theatre. Audiences most recently saw her in The Drowsy Chaperone playing the role of the Drowsy Chaperone and The Candlelight Theatre in Wilmington, DE. Her theatre credits include: Rapture (Sarah), Spasmalot (Lady of the Lake), How to Succeed, Young Frankenstein, The Odd Couple Female Version, Anything Goes, and Christmas by Candlelight. Her favorite shows include: Memphis the Musical (Felicia Farrell), Little Shop of Horrors (Kleenex), West Side Story (Anita), The King and I (Olga), and Into the Woods (The Witch – 2001 and 2004). She thanks God for blessing her with her talents and for allowing her to share them with the world. Thank you Amina for this amazing opportunity. Special thanks to her family and friends for all of their LOVE and SUPPORT! I dedicate this show to my BEAUTIFUL daughter Harper! Everything I do is for YOU!

Jordan Dobson* (ADAM/DANCE CAPTAIN/HARPO UNDERSTUDY) is thrilled to be back at Theatre Horizon after performing in concert readings of Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson and Zanni! Recent credits: Cabaret, Gypsy (Arden Theatre Co.), Kiss Me Kate, Camelot (Act II Playhouse), My Fair Lady (Quintessence Theatre Group), Black Nativity (New Freedom Theatre), Jane Eyre (Tenth Hour Theatre Co.), Spring Awakening (Avenue Theatre Co.), A Chorus Line, West Side Story, May Poppins (Ocean City Theatre Co.), Shelter (Drip Symphonic). Jordan is also a teaching artist and recent graduate of Temple University where he studied Musical Theatre (BFA). Many thanks to mom, dad, Jaz, Alma, and all the folks at Theatre Horizon! @jordandobson

Victoria Aaliyah Goins (SQUEAK) Born in Houston, Victoria is so excited to be making her Theatre Horizon debut. She began her professional acting career in Los Angeles in 2007, starring in several national commercials and appearing as the singer/performer on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, America’s Got Talent, and The Voice. After moving to Philadelphia, Victoria graduated with her B.A. in Communication from Temple University. Previous roles include: Maria (Maria Martin), or The Murder in the Red Barn), Zenna (Lydie Breeze Trilogy), Zenna in Yellow (For Colored Girls), Miss Pat (The Colored Museum), Oliva (Twelfth Night), and Elmer (Fartnshove). We’d like to thank Amina Robinson for this incredible opportunity, and also send love to her fiancé Dhoruba Governor. www.victoriaagoins.com

Donnie Hammond* (SGFIA) Theatre credits include: In The Heights (Walnut Street Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Geva Theatre), Ghost: The Musical (Media Theatre, Respect: The Musical (Society Hill Playhouse), Rent (Bucks County Playhouse), Hands on a Hardbody (TUTS). Thank you umi and thank you ancestors who continue to guide.

Tyson Jennette* (MSTER) made his Broadway debut as an original cast member of The Book of Mormon. 2011 Tony Award winner for Best Musical, and performed in the Australian Theatre Company. After seven and a half years on Broadway, Tyson is elated to take a brief hiatus to be here at Theatre Horizon. The Color Purple was a movie he loved and watched often, as well as seeing both the original production and revival in New York City several times. Regional credits include: Dreamgirls, Camelot, The Full Monty, Ragtime, and Sister Act. A proud CODA (child of deaf adults), and native Bronx born New Yorker, Tyson is also an American Sign Language interpreter who holds a master’s degree from Harvard University. Thanks to Rebecca, Amina and FireStarter Entertainment.

Jessica M. Johnson (CELIE) is proud to make her Theatre-Horizon debut. Some of her recent credits include: Hector in Troilus and Cressida (RockShelles), Jill, Ruth in Hope and Gravity (BET Productions), Girlfriend in Beauty (Theatre Exile), Lana Sherwood in J’S A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Walnut Street Theatre), A Period of Anxious Existence (Pig Iron), Marthia in The Swallowing Dark, Sonya in Uncle Vanya (Quintessence Theatre Group), and Jo in The Legend of Georgia McBride (Arden Theatre Company). So much love to my family and friends for their prayers and encouragement. -1 Corinthians 13

Chelsea-Ann Jones (JARENE/SOFIA UNDERSTUDY) is thrilled to be making her debut at Theatre Horizon! Currently a Senior at Temple University, Regional credits include: Hairspray, Chicago, Guys and Dolls (Temple University), Coriolanus (Shakespeare in the Park). She was also featured in Alex Koper’s Next Generation Cabaret at the Arden Theatre, and is a two-time winner at the Apollo. Much love to her family and Teaneck, New Jersey. @ms.cheslapines

Derrick L. Millard* (PREACHER/MSTER UNDERSTUDY) graduated from Temple University with a BA in Theatre with a concentration in acting. He has gone on to perform in several Philadelphia productions including Death of a Salesman at EgoPo, Moses: A Musical Retelling at John Graves Productions; How to Kill A Child And A Demon by Donja Love. He is the founder of Dream Live Movement, a performing arts company that creates theatrical discourse on biblical and societal topics, and currently works as Artistic Production Director at Spirit Of Faith Christian Center creating productions for more than 5,000 weekly attendees. This is his debut at Theatre Horizon and he could not be more excited to be a part of such a stellar cast!

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Color Purple. Where did it begin? For me, the story began in 1985 when the movie was released. My Mother, Cindy, and grandmother, Alma, were very excited to see the movie in the theater. I have a vivid memory of begging to see it and having the fantastically wild women who reared me, say that I was “too young” to handle it. Of course, that lit a fire inside of me to see it all the more.

Fast forward to my coming of age, which oftentimes found my mother and I on the couch watching the movie, crying. We always loved a good “tear-jerker,” and I was particularly hooked on this story.

Fast forward once again to my having received the book as a gift when on tour with the Broadway National Tour of Mamma Mia! reading the story of Celie, now in more detail, and finding bits and pieces of myself among the pages.

Fast forward yet again to the first Broadway musical version of The Color Purple, which I auditioned for about 10 times... I almost got it.

And finally, fast forward to this revival version that I feel so honored to direct at Theatre Horizon, which you are about to see.

To say this story has had a huge impact on the woman I am, is an understatement. The story of The Color Purple is one of people living with, surviving under, thriving in spite of, and fighting against oppression, both racial and patriarchal; that intersection with which women of all colors are inextricably connected. It is the resulting internalized oppression of a group of people, on full display. It forces us to reconsider even the people clearly identified as the “bad guys.”

This story explores the strength of will, humanity, and love found and embodied in its protagonist Celie, who as a Black woman, is considered the lowest of the low. We find her at a place in our shared American history, when the Black woman is the mule, a sexual object who does not own her own body, a whipping post, a garbage dump, to all. As Celie navigates the terrain of her life, we are reminded of the power of a human spirit. In the final analysis, everyone on stage and off then becomes illuminated by journeying with her.

In 2018, we find ourselves in a time where we are being reminded of the over-reaching power of racial bias and of patriarchy. We are being called upon to acknowledge the intersections present in race, class, gender, sexuality and the challenges those potential, vital connections. We are being called upon to do that which represents the undercurrent in every page of this story. So, as we are moved by this very timely story and by its music, let us remember we also are being called to search within ourselves for the important questions as well as the answers that lie between it all.

- Amina Robinson
CAST

Celeste "Celie" Johnson ................................................................. Jessica M. Johnson
Nettie "Nettie!* ................................................................. Jessica Muse Money
Mister ................................................................. Tyson Jennette*
Harpo ................................................................. Gerrick Vaughan
Sofia ................................................................. Donnie Hammond*
Shug Avery ................................................................. Ebony Pullum
Pa/Ol’Mister (Fight Captain) ................................................... Dorien Belle*
Jarene ................................................................. Chelsea-Ann Jones
Doris ................................................................. Candace Benson
Darlene ................................................................. Ryane Nicole Studivist*
Squeak ................................................................. Victoria Aaliyah Goins
Adam (Dance Captain) ....................................................... Jordan Dobson*
Olivia ................................................................. Tiffany Dawn Christopher
Preacher ................................................................. Derrick L. Millard II

UNDERSTUDIES:
Tiffany Dawn Christopher (SHUG AVERY), Jordan Dobson* (HARPO), Chelsea-Ann Jones (SOFIA), Derrick L. Millard II (MISTER)

SWINGS:
Chantel Thea Cumberbatch, Aaron-Michael Sobers, Camille E. Young

MUSICIANS:
Reeds ................................................................. Stephanie Olcese Esposito
Guitar ................................................................. Jake Hager
Bass ................................................................. Nicholas Rahn
Drums ................................................................. Skip Robinson
Trumpet ................................................................. Daniel Wright

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ................................................................. Amina Robinson*
Music Director ................................................................. Amanda Morton
Choreographer ................................................................. Sanchel Brown
Set and Props Designer ....................................................... Sara Outing
Costume Designer ............................................................... Elizabeth Ennis
Lighting Designer ............................................................... Alysandra Docherty
Sound Designer ................................................................. Megan Culley
Fight Director ................................................................. Lauren Williams
Stage Manager ............................................................... Chebea Sanz*
Assistant Stage Manager ...................................................... Courtney Banks
Production Assistant ............................................................ Madison Youngblood
Audio Engineer ................................................................. Michael Jacquot
Assistant Costume Designer ..................................................... Ariel Wang
Scenic Painter ................................................................. Sarah Sindelar
Production Manager ............................................................. Cara Frisina
Technical Director/Facilities Manager ...................................... Tom Macagnone
Master Electrician ................................................................. Elliot Konstant

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Marsha Norman (BOOK) 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 Old, Traveler in the Dark, Sarah and Abraham, Trusty Rac, and Last Dance. Her published work includes Four Plays, Vol. I: 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 American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and the Fellowship of Southern Writers. She is a native New Yorker who lives in New York City and Long Island with her husband and children.

Brenda Russell (MUSIC & LYRICS) 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 ‘Plains 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 2005 Grammy in the Best Musical Show Album category for the original cast album.

Allee Willis (MUSIC & LYRICS) 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’ ‘Neutral 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 I Am Legend.

Stephen Bray (MUSIC & LYRICS) was thrilled to make 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 multimillion-dollar artists including The Jets, Gladys Knight and Kylie Minogue. Film and television projects include Beverly Hills Cap II, Who’s That Girl, All About the Benjamin’s and the theme for PBS’s “California Connected.” Stephen is developing artists for his Soalute label and looks forward to more musical theatre. He would like to thank his daughter Mileena for her eternal patience and his family for their continuing support.

Amina Robinson* (DIRECTOR) is an actor, director, and professor of Acting and Musical Theater at Temple University. She has performed on Broadway (Godspell, Mamma Mia) Broaday National Tours (Little Shop of Horrors, Mamma Mia!), in film, television, national commercials, and in various regional productions, including shows at the Wilburtonan Theater Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and Baltimore CenterStage. She was nominated for an AUDELCO award for her work as Juliet in Romeo and Juliet at the Classical Theatre of Harlem. The highlight of her acting work in film has been her role as Jerome in the Oscar Award winning film Precious, also nominated for the Best Ensemble Screen Actors Guild Award and winning the Boston Society of Film Critics Best Ensemble Award. Directing credits include Godspell, Direct the Juilliard’s 2015 production of The Secret Garden, Seventy IV Seconds to Judgement as presented with Go Kush Onstage in Residence at the Arden, the short film How to Raise a Black Boy in America #1, and the web series S-Fabb Lives. She is so happy to be here at Theatre Horizon and is looking forward to directing a reboot of Seventy IV Seconds to Judgement, produced by Arden Theatre.

Amanda Morton (MUSIC DIRECTOR) is a Philadelphia-based Music Director and Senior Lecturer at University of the Arts. With Theatre Horizon, she has music directed Peter and the Starcatcher, A New Brain, Into the Woods (Barrymore Award recipient), and Spring Awakening. Other select credits include: Passing Strange (Willa – Barrymore Award recipient); KPOP (Arc Nova); A Period of Acute Existence (Pix Fest); A Year With Frog & Toad (Barrymore Award nomination); The Secret Garden, Passion, Parade (Arden); Broadcast, Kiss of the Spider Woman, A New Brain, Side Show (Th’ Hour); Moliere Makes Perfect (York Theatre Company); Peter & I (American Theatre of Actors); We Tell the Story: The Songs of Ahrens & Flaherty (Lortel Theatre). She has a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College.

Sanchel Brown (CHOREOGRAPHER) is a performer/choreographer originally from Baltimore, MD. Her performance credits include Urban Bush Women (Apprentice), Theatre Horizon’s Black Nativity (Mary), The Kimmel Center’s Kinetic Tree Story and 2018 Jazz Residency, First World Theater’s Say He Had More Than A Dream, Freedom Theater’s Black Nativity, Don’t Bother Me I Can’t Cope, JAMICA The Musical as well as Jummatu’s Poes’ Let’s Im Move You. She is a 2015 Barrymore Award nominee for Best Lead Actress in a Musical and winner for Best Ensemble for Theatre Horizon’s Black Nativity. Sanchel’s teaching highlights include Mark Morris Dance Center, Drexel University, University of the Arts, Princeton, and Yale University. She is currently a teaching artist in residence with Cumbe: Center of Diaspora Dance and Movementers Philly teaching her original gloss titled “Bmore-Alto” fusing Baltimore House Dances and Traditional West African dances. Her choreography credits include Black Nativity (Freedom Theatre), Dromegi (Yale University), and her self-produced show, Ode to Black Womanism (National Tour). She obtained her B.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and studied traditional dances of the African Diaspora at Elzobe De Sable in Senegal, West Africa. She is thrilled to continue her creative journey as choreographer of The Color Purple at Theatre Horizon.

Dorien Belle* (PA/OL’MISTER) is delighted to make his Theatre Horizon debut. He last appeared as Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls in Concert with R1 Prods. Prior to that, Dorien was seen as the Sultan in Storybook Musical Theatre Company’s Aladdin, Off-Broadway and United Kingdom credits: Have A Nice Life, Regional credits: Metamorphosis, The Frea and The Professor; Sunday in the Park with George at Arden Theatre; The Music Man, Finian’s Rainbow, Cats at the Walid St. Theatre; Lucky Stiff, The Sound of Music, Man of La Mancha, Little Shop of Horrors at Centre Theatre; A Little Night Music at City Theater Co. Dorien is a proud member of Actors Equity Association.

*A Member of Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the United States.