



THE UMBRELLASM
STAGE COMPANY

The Umbrella Stage Closes Seasons with Joyous *The Color Purple*

CONCORD, MA— May 3, 2023 — The Umbrella Stage Company presents the musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic novel, *The Color Purple*, and the 1985 film by Steven Spielberg. The inspirational story set in the early 1900s follows a young woman, Celie, as she journeys through her childhood experiencing joy, despair, anguish, sisterhood and self-realization to find her voice and power. A story of hope and a testament to the healing power of love, the adaptation features a Tony Award-winning score infused with jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music and blues.

With a book by Marsha Norman and music and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray, the show first opened on Broadway in 2005 and was nominated for eleven Tony Awards; then reopened on Broadway in 2015, winning the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. A film version of the musical produced by Quincy Jones, Scott Sanders, Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey will be released in December of this year.

This production is directed for The Umbrella Stage Company by BW Gonzalez, who appeared in last season's *The Colored Museum*. Ms. Gonzalez has worked at theaters around the country including American Repertory Theater, American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, The Huntington Theatre Company, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She appeared in the recurring role of Lupe in the Netflix series, *Arrested Development*.

Opening May 12 and running through June 4, 2023 (press opening May 13, 8PM), this production features Shy'Kira Allen, Kai Clifton, Schanaya Barrows, Randell Benford, Yasmeen Duncan, Fatima Elmi, Crystin Gilmore*, Aaron Graham, Jordan Aaron Hall*, Sydney Jackson, Brian Demar Jones*, Nicole Franklin Kelley, Kayla Leacock*, Dashawn McClinton, Zachary McConnell*, Hanifa Nelson-Kamau, Aloura "Aeon" Smith and Treshor Webster. Shows run Thursday-Saturday at 8PM and Sundays at 3PM, with a number of planned special community engagements, dates TBA.

Shows are staged in the newly renovated 344-seat, state-of-the-art mainstage theater with easy on-site parking, or a short walk from the commuter rail. The Umbrella is ADA accessible, a proud partner in the Massachusetts Cultural Council's EBT Card-to-Culture program, and provides free parking and free admission to its visual arts galleries. See <https://theumbrellaarts.org/TCP>

CALENDAR LISTING & PRESS OPENING DETAILS

Theater | Performing Arts | Musicals

WHAT

The Color Purple

WHO

By Marsha Norman, Music and Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray; Directed by BW Gonzalez. With Shy'Kira Allen, Kai Clifton, Schanaya Barrows, Randell Benford, Yasmeen Duncan, Fatima Elmi, Crystin Gilmore*, Aaron Graham, Jordan Aaron Hall*, Sydney Jackson, Brian Demar Jones*, Nicole Franklin Kelley, Kayla Leacock*, Dashawn McClinton, Zachary McConnell*, Hanifa Nelson-Kamau, Aloura "Aeon" Smith and Treshor Webster.

WHEN

RUN: May 12 – June 4, 2023

PRESS OPENING: Saturday May 13 at 8:00PM

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 8PM; Sundays 3PM

ADJACENT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thursday, May 18 Night - Post-show Talk Back with the cast

Friday May 19 - 4PM - Pre-Show African American History of Concord Walking Tour

Saturday, May 20 - 4PM - Pre-Show Women of Concord Walking Tour

Sunday, May 21 - Kid-Care Performance*, Community Discussion with Kira Troilo

Thursday, May 25 Night - Post-show Talk Back with the cast

Friday, May 26 - 4PM - Pre-Show Women of Concord Walking Tour

Saturday, May 27 - 4PM - Pre-Show African American History of Concord Walking Tour

Sunday, May 28 - Brown Out Performance with Post-show Affinity Space

Friday, June 2 - 4PM - Pre-Show Women of Concord Walking Tour

Sunday, June 4 - Post-show Talk Back with the cast

WHERE

The Umbrella Arts Center, 40 Stow Street, Concord, MA 01742

ABOUT SUMMARY

The inspirational musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer-winning classic novel and the 1985 Steven Spielberg film, a story of hope and a testament to the healing power of love with a Tony-winning score featuring jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music and blues.

Tickets \$20-\$55

Discounts for students, seniors, Card-to-Culture eligible attendees. **Group Discounts:** Groups of 10 – 14 save 10%; groups of 15 and up save 15%. Contact the Box Office for more details.

Courtesy images available from Stewart@TheUmbrellaArts.org, 978-371-0820 x211, or [online here](#).

ACCESS

The Umbrella is wheelchair accessible. Large Print playbills and Assistive Listening Devices are available by advance request to boxoffice@theumbrellaarts.org or 978-371-0820 x204. Marked all-gender bathrooms available.

*The Umbrella's Kid-Care Show Program gives parents the opportunity to attend select performances while their child(ren) engage in art activities inspired by the production. This is a new pilot program aimed at providing better access to arts and culture events and creating a shared experience opportunity for families. Spaces are limited and can be reserved alongside ticket purchases.

BOX OFFICE & PRESS TICKETS CONTACT

boxoffice@theumbrellaarts.org | 978-371-0820 x204