



Fill Your Heart and Awaken Your Soul

Village Theatre's Soaring New Production of *The Color Purple* on Stage May 27–July 27

Based upon the novel written 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

Directed by TIMOTHY MCCUEN PIGGEE
Music Supervised by SHEILAH V WALKER
Choreographed by NIKKI LONG

ISSAQUAH, WA (May 2, 2025) – Beloved Seattle theater mainstay, Director **Timothy McCuen Piggee** (*Hello, Dolly!*), brings a triumphant new take to Village Theatre's production of ***The Color Purple***, a powerful musical celebration of resilience and self-discovery featuring a **Grammy Award-winning score** infused with jazz, gospel, ragtime and the blues, with music supervision by American theater legend **Sheilah V Walker** (Broadway's *Porgy and Bess* and *Ragtime*, *The Color Purple* National Tour).

Adapted from **Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel**, Village Theatre's soaring new production tells the deeply moving and inspiring story of Celie, a young woman in early 1900s Georgia who—despite the anguishing circumstances she endures—comes to discover her voice, find herself, and celebrate life. *The Color Purple* is on stage in Issaquah May 27–June 29, 2025, and in Everett July 5-27, 2025. Tickets are on sale now at VillageTheatre.org/Purple.

"I think **Celie Johnson is the very hero we need right now**," says Piggee. "Celie's story doesn't end steeped in mistreatment and misery because of misogyny, abuse and ignorance, it only starts there. Through the journey she becomes a quiet, unassuming force in caring for others and loving herself. But Celie isn't alone. We also find inspiration in Shug Avery's robust passion for life and Nellie's pure, enduring love; and we witness Mister and Harpo develop a sense of awareness and a capacity to change. We need this story now—in working on this play, I'm choosing to shine the brightest light on the hope, resilience, and joy that is *The Color Purple*."

One of the great stories of the 20th century, the 1982 novel *The Color Purple* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, then was adapted into the 1985 film directed by **Stephen Spielberg**. The Broadway musical followed in 2005, which then blossomed into national tours, international productions, a Grammy- and Tony Award-winning Broadway revival, and a 2023 movie-musical directed by **Blitz Bazawule** and produced by **Oprah Winfrey**.

The cast stars **Mariah Lyttle** as Celie and also includes **Jahmaul Bakare** (Mister), **Isaiah Banks** (Bobby), **Melany**

Bell (Church Lady), **Brandi Birdsong** (Nettie), **Dwelvan David** (Preacher, Buster, u/s Ol' Mister), **Anteia DeLaney** (Squeak, u/s Nettie), **Crystal Hairston** (Church Lady), **Jesimiel R. Jenkins** (Harpo), **Terence Kelley** (Guard, Ol' Mister), **Aniah Long** (Olivia, u/s Shug Avery), **Kataka J. Mackenzie** (Church Lady), **Shermona Mitchell** (Sofia), **Claudine Mboligikpelani Nako** (Shug Avery), **Charles L. Simmons** (Adam, Dance Captain, u/s Harpo, Preacher), **Chandler T. Thomas** (Pa, u/s Mister), and **Tarquinn White** (Grady). Understudies include **Eyual Degaga** (Swing), **Zhanea June** (u/s Celie), **Sophia Mendez** (Swing), **Rae Nellie** (Swing), and **Brodrick Santeze Ryans** (Swing).

Joining Piggee and Walker to create this gripping story of resilience are Choreographer **Nikki Long**, Piano/Conductor **Tim Symons**, Set Designer **Carey Wong**, Costume Designer **Ricky German**, Lighting Designer **Sherrice Mojgani**, Sound Designer **Rob Witmer**, and Stage Manager **Miranda Mikolaizik**.

The creative team also includes Associate Director/Cultural Consultant **Aishé Keita**, Associate Lighting Designer **Casey Price**, Fight Choreographer **Geoffrey Alm**, Intimacy Consultant **Jasmine Lomax**, Dialect Coach/Textured Hair & Wig Consultant **Yusef D Seevers**, Vocal Coach **Aaron M. Davis Norman**, and Assistant Scenic Designer **Charlotte Emrys**.

Single tickets can be purchased now at VillageTheatre.org/Purple, by phone at (425) 392-2202, or through Village Theatre's box office in-person in Issaquah (303 Front Street N) or Everett (2710 Wetmore Avenue).

ABOUT VILLAGE THEATRE

Based in Issaquah, Wash., with operations in Everett, Wash., Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theater in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village has grown into one of the region's best-attended theatres. Village is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having supported the creation of more than 180 new works to date; and also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its Youth Education programs, serving thousands of young people and their families annually.

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FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS

WHAT:

The Color Purple

Based upon the novel written 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

Directed by TIMOTHY MCCUEN PIGGEE

Music Supervised by SHEILAH V WALKER

Choreographed by NIKKI LONG

WHERE:

Village Theatre

Francis J. Gaudette Theatre

303 Front Street N, Issaquah

Everett Performing Arts Center (EPAC)

2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

WHEN:

May 27–July 27, 2025

Issaquah: May 27–June 29, 2025

Everett: July 5-27, 2025

TICKETS:

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW starting at \$44

For tickets and information >> VillageTheatre.org/Purple

CONNECT WITH VILLAGE THEATRE

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YouTube - [/villagetheatre1](https://villagetheatre1)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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