



## Audition Notice:

### ***THE COLOR PURPLE***

Book: Marsha Norman

Music & Lyrics: Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, Stephen Bray

Director: Ahsha M. Daniels

Music Director: LeRoy Kennedy

Choreographer: Arialle Kennedy

#### **Synopsis:**

This musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and the popular 1985 Steven Spielberg film) spotlights Celie, a downtrodden young woman whose personal awakening over the course of 40 years forms the arc of this epic story.

With a joyous score featuring jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music and blues, THE COLOR PURPLE is a story of hope, a testament to the healing power of love, and a celebration of life. It premiered at the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, Georgia and opened on Broadway on November 1, 2005, where it was nominated for eleven 2006 Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Original Score. The London off-West End production moved to Broadway in 2015, winning the Tony Award® for Best Revival of a Musical.

#### **Audition Dates/Times:**

Sunday, September 19: 7 pm – 9 pm

Monday, September 20: 7 pm – 9 pm

#### **Audition Location:**

Chapman Cultural Center

200 East St. John Street

Spartanburg, SC 29306

#### **Rehearsal Dates:**

Beginning/Mid-October through January

#### **Performance Dates:**

January 14-23, 2022

#### **To Audition:**

All auditions are first-come first-served. Auditioners will audition in the order in which they arrive. No sign-ups or appointments necessary.

### **Covid-19 Safety Policy:**

- Spartanburg Little Theatre is committed to preserving the health and safety of our participants. **Therefore, all participants, including cast, musicians, backstage crew, etc. are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination prior to participation in a 2021-22 season production (by the first rehearsal date for cast and creative team, and first tech rehearsal for backstage crew and musicians).**
- Additionally, all members of the cast and production team will remain masked during the rehearsal period. During tech rehearsals and production run, all who are not actively performing will remain masked.
- Masks are required at auditions for all creative team and audition participants.
- We will continue to follow and monitor the evolving federal and state guidelines as well as best practices developing within the theatre community and change or modify this policy in accordance with those guidelines.

### **Audition Policy:**

All roles, unless otherwise announced, are open. SLT encourages anyone who is interested to audition and is always eager to welcome new faces and fresh talent to its stage. The Spartanburg Little Theatre has a non-discrimination casting policy, open to members of all ages, ethnic/national origins, races, sexes, creeds, orientations, and abilities. We encourage members of diverse backgrounds and abilities to audition for our productions.

### **Requirements:**

- **Vocal Audition:** All auditionees must come prepared with 16 bars of an appropriate song and sheet music. A pianist/accompanist will be provided.
- **Dance/Movement:** All auditionees must participate in a dance/movement audition. Wear or bring comfortable clothes and shoes. You will have the opportunity to change after your vocal audition.
- **Callbacks:** Performers who are called back after the vocal and dance audition will be asked to audition with cold readings from the script. No advance preparation is required.
- A tentative rehearsal calendar will be provided upon auditioning. Rehearsal conflicts must be noted on the audition form.
- Resumes and headshots are welcomed but not required.
- Auditionees should arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled audition time to complete audition forms or fill out and bring the audition form located on our website.
- Auditionees should plan on staying for the entirety of the audition or until dismissed by the director.

### **Roles/Characters:**

Age: The ages listed below are approximate. Performers should be able to play and appear those ages on stage.

Ethnicity: Black/African Descent

**Celie: Female, 20s-early 30s**

a radiant survivor who triumphantly journeys through a life filled with soul-reckoning challenges and emotional/physical violence; she is buoyed by a rock-solid faith in God, love and devotion for her sister Nettie, as well as the intimacy-awakening bond that she develops with Shug Avery. Note: Character age 14 to 40s.

**Shug Avery: Female, 30s-40s**

a sultry siren and juke-joint performer who has seen better days; a former lover of Mister and a 'good-time girl', whose body, soul, and desire to love again is reawakened by Celie and the intimate bond they form with one another.

**Nettie: Female, 20s-early 30s**

Celie's sister, and her rock; smart, driven, and protected by circumstance; unwaveringly devoted to her sister, she is nonetheless torn apart from her, and goes on to realize a fulfilled life in Africa, which includes serving as caretaker to Celie's 'lost' children, ultimately reuniting them with their mother. Note: Character age 13 to 40s.

**Mister: Male, 30s-40s**

A deeply troubled man, as well as Celie's husband and abuser; he is also the estranged love interest to Shug Avery for whom he still carries a torch; eventually he is redeemed by a self-reckoning and atoning for his transgressions. Note: Character age 30s to 50s.

**Harpo: Male, 20s**

Mister's hapless son from his first marriage; well-intended, but often falls short due to exceedingly bad parenting by Mister; falls deeply in love with –and is dominated by his wife Sophia, then later by his girlfriend Squeak; he eventually finds his firm footing and manhood soon after Mister's transformation and the return of his beloved Sofia. Note: Character age 18 – 40s.

**Sofia: Female, 30s**

Harpo's wife and Celie's friend for life; a full-figured woman who possesses a giant personality, along with an equally expansive lust for life, and a proud sense of justice; a domineering pacifist who suffers no fools. Note: Character age 20s-40s.

**Squeak/Ensemble: Female, 20s**

Harpo's devoted and fiercely protective girlfriend who serves as his great motivator; she possesses a voice that matches her name with mathematical exactness.

**Female Ensemble: Female, 16-50s**

any age; strong singers to portray several characters; Church Lady, Olivia and others.

**Male Ensemble: Male, 16-50s**

any age; strong singers to portray several characters; PA, Bobby/Guard, Buster/Grady, Adam and others.

- **Originally Posted:** September 9, 2021