

# Neptune Theatre reveals cast for Canadian premiere of *The Color Purple*

October 5, 2018 (Halifax, NS) – Neptune Theatre unveiled the cast of its spring production *The Color Purple* yesterday. The unforgettable story of hope and the healing power of love, based on the novel by Alice Walker, begins April 9 and runs until June 2 on Neptune’s Fountain Hall stage in downtown Halifax.

Local veteran actor Jeremiah Sparks is returning to the Neptune stage, alongside homegrown talent Jacob Sampson (*Shakespeare in Love*), Deborah Castrilli (*Mamma Mia!*), and Lyris Daye (Neptune debut). Calgary’s Tara Jackson will star as Celie alongside Ryan Allen (Mister), Andrew Broderick (Harpo), Karen Burthwright (Shug Avery), Janelle Cooper (Sofia), with the cast also including Melinda Carroll, Beau Dixon, Keisha T. Fraser, Nadine Roden, Tenaj Williams, David Andrew Reid and Sarah Nairne.

**Neptune THEATRE**  
 JEREMY WEBB artistic director  
 BOOK YOUR TICKETS  
 NEPTUNETHEATRE.COM  
 ON STAGE APRIL 9 - JUNE 2, 2019

**THE COLOR PURPLE THE MUSICAL**

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

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.

TARA JACKSON CELIE	ANDREW BRODERICK HARPO	KAREN BURTHWRIGHT SHUG AVERY	RYAN ALLEN MISTER	MALINDA CARROLL NETTIE/ ENSEMBLE	BEAU DIXON PREACHER/ OL' MISTER ENSEMBLE	JANELLE COOPER SOFIA	JACOB SAMPSON BUSTER/ BOBBY/ ENSEMBLE
KEISHA T. FRASER CHURCH LADY/ ENSEMBLE	JEREMIAH SPARKS PA/ENSEMBLE	NADINE RODEN CHURCH LADY/ ENSEMBLE	TENAJ WILLIAMS GRADY/ENSEMBLE	DEBORAH CASTRILLI SQUEAK/ENSEMBLE	DAVID ANDREW REID ADAM/GUARD/ENSEMBLE DANCE/MOVEMENT CAPTAIN	LYRIS DAYE CHURCH LADY/OLIVIA ENSEMBLE	SARAH NAIRNE CHURCH LADY/ ENSEMBLE
KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD DIRECTOR	SEAN MAYES MUSICAL DIRECTOR	TAMARA MARIE KUCHERAN SET/COSTUME DESIGNER	LEIGH ANN VARDY LIGHTING DESIGNER				

“It is my absolute honor today to be able to share the casting announcement for the Canadian premiere of ***The Color Purple***,” said Jeremy Webb, Neptune Theatre’s Artistic Director. “When I hired director Kimberly Rampersad and musical director Sean Mayes, I knew we were lucky to have two incredible artists to lead this company for this special show.”

Casting was conducted by Rampersad and Mayes earlier this year and includes artists from the local African-Nova Scotian community as well as actors from across Canada.

“Now we can share the names of the artists who will participate on stage and share this beautiful, dynamic, inspirational story. It is also gratifying to see local artists in this line-up,” added Webb.

Rounding out the creative team are set and costume designer Tamara Marie Kucheran and lighting designer Leigh Ann Vardy. Heather Lewis is stage manager, assistant stage managers are Hannah Burrows and Sylvia Bell.

The original Broadway production produced by Scott Sanders, Quincy Jones and Oprah Winfrey, was nominated for 11 Tony Awards, and the 2015 revival won two including *Best Revival of a Musical*.

Tickets for Halifax’s ***The Color Purple*** are now available. They can be purchased online at [neptunetheatre.com](http://neptunetheatre.com), by phone at 902-429-7070 (or toll-free 1-800-565-7345) and at Neptune’s box office at 1593 Argyle Street. Find out more about Neptune Theatre on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel NeptuneHFX.

Neptune Theatre kicked off its 56th season with the summer production ***Argyle Street Kitchen Party***. The 2018-19 season features a diverse playbill of dramas, comedies, musicals and premieres. Located on Argyle Street, in the heart of Halifax’s theatre and entertainment district, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round theatre school.

Media Contact:

Jennifer MacNeil    [jmacneil@neptunetheatre.com](mailto:jmacneil@neptunetheatre.com)    902-494-8465