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

[**CELIE**] Female. Mezzo-soprano/alto. Age 20s – mid 30s.  African American. Drives the story. Vulnerable, spirited, introverted, and mischievous. She appears passive but is an astute observer with a deep soul. Insecure with a wicked sense of humor, she eventually breaks away from a hard life and finds love and independence. Seeking a strong actor with a big belt.

[**NETTIE**] Female. Alto. 25 to late 30s. African American. Celie’s sister, and her rock. Smart, adventurous, driven and a devoted sister, she is torn apart from Celie and goes on to realize her life in Africa. [MISTER] Male. 35s - 45. African American. Celie’s husband and abuser- a troubled man. In love with Shug Avery, his misdeeds in life are eventually redeemed as he transforms throughout the play. Character ages 30s to 50s.

[**HARPO**] Male. Tenor. 25 to late 30s. African American. Mister’s son from his first marriage. Well intended, he often falls short and in love, he falls hard.  Character ages 18 – 40s.

**[SOFIA]** Female. Alto. 20s to 40. African American. Harpo’s wife and Celie’s lifelong friend. A warrior woman who possesses a larger-than-life personality, along with great lust for life and sexual confidence. She is tough and demands justice.

**[SHUG AVERY]** Female. Alto. 30s – 40s. African American. A sultry juke-joint performer, past her prime, and at death's door. A former lover of Mister and a ‘good-time girl’, she forms a deep friendship bond with Celie who helps her rediscover her desire to love again.

**[SQUEAK/CHURCH SOLOIST]** Female. Soprano. 20s. African American. Harpo's girlfriend; sassy, fiery, and strong-willed with a caring heart; aspires to be a blues singer; although she is mistreated, she undergoes a thorough transformation by claiming her own independence and identity as a woman; actor should have a strong belt with Soprano.

**[OL’ MISTER/PREACHER]** Male. 30s – 50s. Mister’s father; a scathing, angry, selfish man who disapproves of his son and his relationship with Shug; he owns the farmland on which Mister lives and seems to believe that his own status as a landowner makes him better than other people; despite this, he is detested by most everyone; Preacher – the preacher at the local church; Bari-Tenor; ensemble.

**[CHURCH LADIES]** Female. Any age. African American. Seeking three actors to appear in the onstage ensemble as Doris, Darlene and Jarene, a trio of busybody types who love to gossip about the people of their town; they comment on the action throughout the show; these are country folk who shimmer with an eternally earthy and spiritual wisdom; will also cover the roles of Celia, Shug Avery and Sofia; fantastic high gospel belt; featured ensemble.

**[PA]** Male. Baritone. 40s – 50s. African American. An abuser and embittered man. He is father to Celie & Nettie, as well as father to Celie’s two children, whom he abducts from Celie and gives away at birth.