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***Celebrate Life with Powerful and Poignant
Tony Award-winning Musical at The Phoenix
Theatre Company***

(Feb. 22, 2022 – PHOENIX) A story of triumph over tragedy has been the favorite story told on stage since Greek times. That’s one of many reasons why The Phoenix Theatre Company is presenting *The Color Purple*, a story of hope, and a testament to the healing power of love and a celebration of life. It runs March 2 through May 1, 2022.

Based on Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Color Purple* is an unforgettable story that chronicles the main character, Celie, as she journeys from childhood to adulthood experiencing happiness, despair, anguish and hope as she discovers the power of love. Set in Georgia in the early- to mid-20th century, the beloved story of sisterhood and perseverance is an uplifting tale of redemption and personal discovery, highlighting the struggles and joys of the African-American experience.

“I am excited to tell this story of extreme sadness, jubilation and anger, a rollercoaster of emotions, at The Phoenix Theatre Company,” said Daryl Brooks, director. “Unlike the movie or the novel, part of the magic of live theatre is that every performance is new and different and unique, something the audience will feel deeply.”

The original Broadway production ran from 2005 to 2008, earning 11 Tony Award nominations in 2006. An acclaimed Broadway revival opened in late 2015 and ran through early 2017, winning two 2016 Tony Awards — including Best Revival of a Musical. The musical’s book is by Marsha Norman with music and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray. Powerful songs include, “I’m Here”, “What About Love?”, “The Color Purple”, and many more.

“This show exemplifies the idea that everyone has their own story, their own burden to bear, but inevitably there is a light at the end of the tunnel,” Brooks said. “This cast leaves everything on the stage, the emotion is real and raw and moving beyond words.”

Oprah Winfrey, who portrayed Sofia in Steven Spielberg’s 1985 film, is currently producing a new Warner Bros. adaptation of the musical, scheduled for release in December 2023.

“The collaboration with the talented cast and production team at The Phoenix Theatre Company is inspiring, and we aren’t going to shy away from the challenging topics in this stage musical that continue to be so relevant in our world, even 100 years after the show is set,” Brooks added.

The Phoenix Theatre Company production features Jonice Bernard as Nettie, Andrea Fleming as Celie, A.D. Weaver as Pa, Jari Haile as Squeak, Noah Lee Hayes as Mister, Blu as Harpo, Shaunice Maudlyn Alexander as Sofia, and Meka King as Shug Avery. Additional cast members include Savannah Alfred, Jacqui Casitillo, Aaron Ford, Yariisa Tiara Millan, Jazmin Noel Moehring, Claxton Rabb III, Kyle Segar, Kendrick Stallings, Maya J. Christian, Justin Phillips, and Sheilah Utley.

Tickets for *The Color Purple* are on sale now. To purchase call [\(602\) 254-2151](tel:6022542151) or visit www.phoenixtheatre.com.

At The Phoenix Theatre Company, masks are strongly encouraged. Upon arrival to regular shows, all patrons will undergo a mandatory temperature check upon arrival. Seating is not socially distanced. Safety protocols will continue to be updated to ensure patron and staff comfort and wellbeing throughout the ongoing global pandemic. To provide patrons who would feel more comfortable in a fully masked and vaccinated environment with an opportunity to attend productions, the theatre has designated the following performances of *The Color Purple* as "Mask and Vaccination Required." Those performances are Saturday, April 2 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Friday, April 8 at 8 p.m.; Wednesday, April 13 at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, April 16 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

During these performances, masks and vaccines will be required for all patrons and staff in the lobby and theatres unless actively eating/drinking. No food or beverages will be allowed in the theatres. Patrons will still undergo the standard temp check at the door but also must show proof of vaccination at their time of entry into the theatre with their valid ticket. "Fully vaccinated" means the performance date must be at least 14 days after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, or at least 14 days after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

Exceptions are being made for children under 12 and people with a medical condition or closely held religious belief that prevents vaccination. These guests must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance start time, or a negative COVID-19 antigen test taken within six hours of the performance start time.

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ABOUT THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY

The Phoenix Theatre Company is the largest professional regional theatre company in the state. As the first arts organization in Arizona and a founding member of the Central Arts District, The Phoenix Theatre Company is committed to advancing performing arts in the Valley with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages. Located at [1825 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix](#), The Phoenix Theatre Company's mission is to create exceptional theatrical experiences by using the arts to articulate messages that inspire hope and understanding. For more information visit, www.phoenixtheatre.com.

