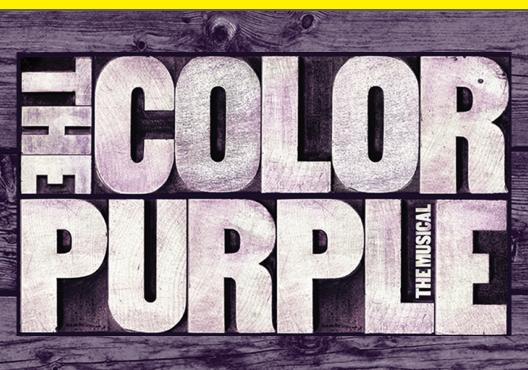
# **STAGEBILL**

## FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE



FEBRUARY 9-18, 2024





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> Since 1876, Barrett McNagny has been committed to supporting local organizations that enhance our community and our way of life through board service, volunteering time, donations, and monetary contributions. We are proud to have assisted over 100 organizations in northeast Indiana over the past year, including the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, an organization that brings art to life.



## 716th PRODUCTION



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.

*The Color Purple* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

#### FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director DIANNE B. SHAW

Choreographer CAPRI PARRISH WILLIAMS

> Asst. Stage Manager ELYSIA DALER

Sound Designer IRVING ARJONA-SALAZAR

Lighting Designer

Music Director HOLLY KNOTT

Stage Manager BETHANY NEUMANN

Costume Designer **SARAH MOLONEY** 

Props Master JIM HULBERT

Scenic Designer
ADAM FLETCHER

1



## 303 E. Main Street Fort Wayne, IN 46802 fwcivic.org

Business Office 260.422.8641

Box Office 260.424.5220

Executive/Artistic Director: Phillip H. Colglazier Director of Marketing: Capri Williams Director of Education/Admin. Assistant: Danielle Andersen Director of Philanthropy: Kathy Whiteman, CFRM Lighting Designer/Production Manager: Andrew Holderfield Technical Director/Scenic Designer: Adam Fletcher Costume Designer: Sarah Moloney Assistant Costumer/Rental Manager: Anna Slotterback Scenic Charge Artist/Volunteer Coord.: Ashley Brassell



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## 2023-2024 SEASON SPONSOR



#### Steel Dynamics, Inc. Mark Millett, President and CEO

Steel Dynamics is proud to support the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its cultural endeavor here in our community. We look forward to another season of outstanding performances.

## 2023-2024 SHOW SPONSORS - PRODUCERS

## **ADM - Asphalt Drum Mixers**

As the owners of Asphalt Drum Mixers, we are very excited that our employees, friends, and family have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful shows that the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre puts on each year. We love the diversity in the productions and really enjoy supporting all the Arts in the Fort Wayne area.





#### AWS Foundation Patti Hays, Chief Executive Officer

AWS Foundation applauds Civic Theatre's "Project Lights Up!" sensory friendly performances. Creating a performing arts experience that is welcoming to individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities and their families means everyone can enjoy the theatre experience. We are delighted to support the Civic Theatre as they answer the need for inclusion of people of all abilities.

#### Fort Wayne Metals Scott Glaze, Chairman and CEO

"Supporting the arts is integral to the essence of a community - plays, concerts, orchestras, and dance all have a vital role in forming a vibrant and well-rounded society." -Scott Glaze





#### Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® David Belew, Executive Officer

The Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® is privileged to support the Civic Theatre. As REALTORS®, we recognize the importance of building strong communities. The Civic Theatre is a unique gem that contributes to the vitality of Northeastern Indiana by celebrating the cultural arts and building community pride. We applaud the dedicated

cast members, staff, and volunteers at the Civic who help make Northeastern Indiana a great place to live, work and play. We look forward to more outstanding performances this season.

## 2023-2024 SHOW SPONSORS - CO-PRODUCERS



#### Ambassador Enterprises Arlan Friesen, President

The Civic Theatre and their extraordinary team make each performance memorable and provide experiences that enrich our lives. As a legacy-minded private equity firm, we're proud to support organizations like the Civic Theatre who make a positive impact on our community and help create a better tomorrow.

#### Apollo Mfg., Apollo Design Technology, Inc., Avid Labs, and Blue Pony - Joel Nichols, Owner

We are honored to sponsor the staff, actors, and volunteers of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. My family, friends, and employees have enjoyed countless outstanding performances by very talented individuals. We look forward to another year of first-class community theater. Let the show begin!





#### Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Guild Margaret Ankenbruck, Guild President

The Guild is so happy to be able to sponsor and support the Civic Theatre. We are grateful to the audience members who purchase products from us at all the performances. If you love theatre and want to support the Civic, then please contact me about becoming a Guild member. Sit back and enjoy another great Civic show!

## **OmniSource Corporation**

OmniSource is proud to sponsor Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the production of *Shrek The Musical*. We believe that the arts are vital to any community. We applaud Civic Theatre's outstanding performances



that involve so many talented volunteers from the community both on and off stage.



#### Sweetwater John Hopkins, CEO

Sweetwater is delighted to sponsor the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its mission to enrich northeast Indiana through music and drama. The Civic Theatre's ability to encourage, cultivate, and showcase local talent is remarkable. Sweetwater, and its more than 2,000 employees, looks forward to another great season of music, laughter, and entertainment.

## HERE'S TO ANOTHER SHOW-STEELING PERFORMANCE

Steel Dynamics is delighted to sponsor the 2023/2024 Season at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. On stage, as in steel production, it takes hard work, talented people, passion, and innovation to deliver a great performance. Enjoy the show!

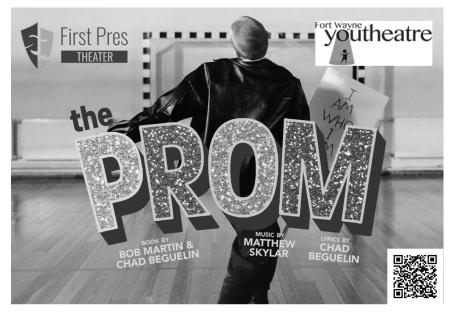


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## THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

## Fort Wayne Civic Theatre gratefully acknowledges the special contributions of the following individuals and businesses.

#### Choreographer \$15,000 and beyond

Anonymous (2) AWS Foundation Linn Bartling Steel Dynamics

#### Designer <u>\$7,500 to \$14,999</u>

Arts United of Greater Ft. Wayne Asphalt Drum Mixers Fort Wayne Metals Upstate Alliance of Realtors

#### Stage Manager <u>\$5,000 to \$7,499</u>

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#### Stage Hand <u>\$1,000 to \$2,499</u>

Allendale Treatment Beth & Kelly Clevenger Valorie A. Colglazier Ben & Sharon Eisbart John & Sharon Fallon Jerry & Dorothy Fickle Valiant Foundation In Honor of Ben & Sharon Eisbart

#### Stage Hand <u>\$1,000 to \$2,499, cont'd</u>

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Anonymous Robert & Doris Albertson John & Cathy Batuello Ann S. Borné Marcia Crawford Tara Hartman Joe & Tammy Hyndman Bob & Donna Jesse Robert & Elizabeth Keen Ed & Linda Kos Tom & Joan Marcuccilli Stephen & Catrina O'Shaughnessey Deb Overcash & Mary Anna Bradshaw In Honor of Larry Wardlaw Matt & Emily Roussel Geoff & Jordan Saalfrank Carol & Dick Schwartz Dr. Gloria Shamanoff Robert & Mary Short Carole & Jeff Slater Eric Van Cleave & John Metzinger Marcie & Steve Weissner Steven & Judy Zacher

#### Supporting Role \$200 to \$349

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#### Ensemble Role <u>\$100 to \$199</u>

Anonymous (2) James Amstutz Margaret Ankenbruck Craig & Diana Bartscht Ted & Janet Bendall The Bohlender Family Jason & Jamie Broekhuizen Robert Buesching Justin & Jessica Clupper Debra & Ralph Compagnone Nancy & George Dodd Greg & Terry Lynn Douple V. Jane Drummer & Kristine Call Lenny & Anne Duff Michael & Emilu Elko Eric & Patrice Ellingson

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Fort Wayne Civic Theatre gratefully acknowledges the special contributions of the following individuals and businesses.

#### Ensemble Role \$100 to \$199, cont'd

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#### The Encore Society

Kelly & Beth Clevenger Ben & Sharon Eisbart Elise Ramel (L)

To make a donation, visit fwcivic.org/donate or contact Kathy Whiteman, Director of Philanthropy, at KWhiteman@fwcivic.org or (260) 422-8641 x 230.

Individual gifts of \$100 or more are recognized for the 12-month period following the date of the donation. Totals are recalculated prior to each production and recognized accordingly. Any recent donations of \$100 or more not listed will be included in the next Stagebill. Grants and Sponsorships are recognized by season.



#### NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

#### Welcome to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre!

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is proud to be one of the oldest downtown arts destinations in Northeast Indiana and to be celebrating our 96th Season. We continue to enrich the Arts and Cultural makeup of our community, bringing tourism downtown while other area businesses benefit from patrons pre- and post-show activities.

**Our Vision** - To be the regional leader in live theatre experiences through artistic excellence and innovation.

**Our Mission** - Fort Wayne Civic Theatre entertains, educates, inspires, and enriches the community through exceptional live theatre experiences.

Our Values - In pursuit of our vision and mission we:

Strive for excellence Steward our resources Promote diversity Change lives Nurture the creative soul Pursue innovation Educate our community

We are thrilled to have Dianne Shaw return from Chicago to direct *The Color Purple*. Thank you to Dianne, to the Civic Theatre staff, and volunteers who dedicated many hours of creativity and hard work on this show!

#### Fort Wayne Civic Theatre remaining shows of the 2023-2024 Season! Six Degrees of Separation: Mar. 15-24, 2024 Jersey Boys: May 4-19, 2024 Get Your Tickets Online at www.fwcivic.org

Arts United will be renovating this building, the Arts United Center. The Civic Theatre will be temporarily moving out starting June 2024 and relocating to 1940 Bluffton Road on the Foster Park Plaza just West of the Clyde. We will continue to produce high quality shows at the Embassy Theatre and the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, including a special collaboration with the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

#### 2024-2025 On the Road Season, our 97th Season:

*The Rocky Horror Show*: Sept. 13-14, 2024 at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*: Nov. 22-23, 2024 at Embassy Theatre *Waitress*: Feb. 8-9, 2025 at Embassy Theatre *Red*, a dramatic play about American Painter Mark Rothko: Mar. 21–Apr. 6, 2025 at FWMoA

Disney's Freaky Friday - May 17-18, 2025 at Embassy Theatre

Soon we will be sharing all the details about our *Inspire Campaign: Impact Tomorrow, Today*, which will empower us during this temporary transition and will ignite creative imaginations for generations to come. We must raise over \$600,000 to cover the additional costs of this relocation of all operations. Please consider making an additional donation to the Inspire Campaign above and beyond your annual gift!

Thank you to all for your support, your return, and for your applause! Phillip H. Colglazier, Executive/Artistic Director



Phillip H. Colglazier



### **100% Club** Donors who have completed the total (\$1,480 or more) contribution to our 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

## Lead Gift - Wayne & Linda Boyd

Anonymous (2) **Robert & Doris Albertson** Bruce Aulick & Deborah McMahan Linda S. & Kenneth I. Balthaser Linnea & George Bartling John & Cathy Batuello Cheri & Mark Becker **Chuck & Lynn Betack** Annie & David Bobilya The Brookshire Family Albert & Tamarah Brownlee **David & Susan Chipps Civic Theatre Guild Rick & Laura Claypool** Kelly & Beth Clevenger Phillip H. Colglazier Valorie A. Colglazier **Judith A. Cox Derek & Lindsey Daniels** Holly & Tom DeLong George & Nancy Dodd V. Jane Drummer & Aniya Hart David Dyer **Ben & Sharon Eisbart Cynthia Elick** Sandra & Thomas Elyea Merry E. Ewing Sharon & John Fallon Steve & Brenda Fishbaugh **Beth Fisher Chris & Karan Flick** Linda Gaff Rev. John P. Gardner Michael Gavin & Carol Shuttleworth **GE Foundation** (Matching Funds) **Roy & Mary Gilliom** Melanie & Bob Hall John D. & Sharon Hartman Patti Hays **Cindy S. Henry** Leslie L. Hormann **Edward & Mary Lou Hutter** Indiana Michigan Power/Marc Lewis Jerry & Rosalyn Isch Bob & Donna Jesse

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#### In just 4 years we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary Season!

You can be a part of securing the future of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for years to come with your gift to Civic Theatre's 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.



If you would like to be a part of this important campaign we ask you to pledge to contribute a total of \$1,500 or more to be paid by June 2028 (over and above your traditional annual giving). You can determine a payment schedule at the time you submit your pledge form. Or, if you prefer, simply make a one-time 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund donation of \$1,500 or more.

Your donation to the 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund will be appropriately recognized in each Civic Stagebill program through our 100th Anniversary Season. Your generous gift will be part of a strong financial foundation that will ensure the Civic Theatre's place in our community for decades to come, nurturing generations of actors and technical stage volunteers.

> Call or email Civic Theatre's Director of Philanthropy to request your pledge form or to make your 100th Anniversary Endowment donation today! Kathy Whiteman - (260) 422-8641 x 230 kwhiteman@fwcivic.org

Thank you to these donors who are making an on-going commitment to support the 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

David Belew Dr. Tom Blake Matthew & Nicole Booker Daniel & Alexa Hansen Ed & Linda Kos Harry & Cynthia Laffkas Dr. Christopher & Kirsten LaSalle Mark Luttik & Suzanne Wagner Justin Molitoris & Leandra Lee Stacey Ottenweller & Abe Aspy Rena & Patrick Shown Marshall Weadick

## IN THE WINGS ARTS-IN-EDUCATION

Acting for the stage is an all-encompassing process which involves a great deal of collaboration from many different people. The art, process, and effects of live performance have a profound impact on the human spirit. We're shown psychology, motivation, conflict, and resolution. Live theatre is a cultural phenomenon which not only demands that society examine itself in the mirror, but also opens hearts to our shared humanity in the process. Whether we are experiencing it from the perspective of an audience Danielle Andersen

member or as part of the artistic and production process itself, live theatre encourages us to take risks, to give power

Director of Education

to truth, and to advocate for new and diverse perspectives. It shows us that our strength lies in our authenticity and vulnerability. It helps us feel that we are not so isolated and gives us the sense of being connected to one another in a tangible and organic way.

In an educational environment where funding for the arts in our schools continues to be restricted, the importance of having community arts education accessible to area youth is at an all-time high. The mission of In The Wings is to enrich the educational experience of youth through the medium of Theatre Arts, with an emphasis on reaching the most underserved, economically disadvantaged, and at-risk populations. We do this through partnering with area schools and social service organizations. It is a great investment in the future of our community to ignite a spark of inspiration in the lives of these kids. Having exposure to and hands-on involvement with the theatrical process ignites this spark.

Although free attendance for our special In The Wings performances is an important aspect of the program, it is only one piece of what is available to the youth the program serves. In addition to these performances, we have a robust internship program for both high school and college students, in-depth backstage tours, and workshops for all areas of performance, design, and technical aspects of theatre. The talkbacks with cast and crew following each In The Wings performance offer youth a chance to ask and receive answers to their most pressing questions about the entire theatrical process.

For more information on how you can support our In The Wings program or to get your organization or school involved, email Danielle Andersen at dandersen@fwcivic.org or call 260.422.8641x226

#### In The Wings is funded in part by grants from the following:

AWS Foundation Dr. Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation Edward M. & Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation Journal Gazette Foundation Magee - O'Connor Foundation

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Outreach Programs are made possible with generous support from:



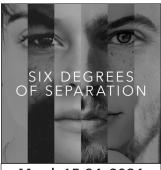


## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Celie	Timya Townsend
Nettie	Tamia Beverly
Mister	MarTeze D. Hammonds
Pa	Shaquan Walker
Harpo	Ennis L. Brown II
Sofia	Shaneequa Swain
Shug Avery	Rockell Allen
Jarene	Imogene Bibbs
Doris	Peggy Lattimore Rivera
Darlene	Sharon Tucker
Church Soloist	Adrienne Santos
Preacher	Eddie Foggs
Squeak	Zynnah Hubbard
Ol' Mister	Dereck Jackson

#### ENSEMBLE

Maci Alston, Jayleena Hill, Rachael Kilgore, Anton Phillips Jr., Albert Pippins, Tristan Robinson, Dimples Smith, Cortney White, and Dalaysha Wright



March 15-24, 2024

<u>Audience Survey</u> Performing for you completes the artistic process for us! We would like your opinion of the Civic Theatre, the show, and your experience with us.

Take the Audience Survey by February 28 and you could win 2 free tickets to Six Degrees of Separation

Visit our website fwcivic.org to complete

### ACT ONE

"Huckleberry Pie/Mysterious W "Somebody Gonna Love You" "Our Prayer" "That Fine Mister" "Big Dog" "Lily of the Field"	Celie, Nettie, Women Celie, Nettie, Church Ladies Jarene, Doris, Darlene Mister, Field Hands, Celie
"Dear God-Sofia"	
"A Tree Named Sofia"	
"Hell No!"	
"Brown Betty"	
"Shug Avery Comin' To Town"	Company
"All We Got To Say"	
"Dear God-Shug"	Celie, Shug
"Too Beautiful For Words"	Shug
"Push Da Button"	
"Uh-Oh"	
"What About Love?"	Celie, Shug

#### **ACT TWO**

"African Homeland"	Company
"The Color Purple"	Shug
"It's Easter Sunday"	Nettie
"Celie's Curse"	Mister, Townspeople
"Miss Celie's Pants"Celie, S	hug, Doris, Darlene, Jarene
"Any Little Thing"	Harpo, Sofia
"What About Love? (Reprise)"	Celie
"I'm Here"	Celie
"The Color Purple"	Company

There will be a 15-minute intermission after Act One.

## BECOME PART OF THE FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE FAMILY

We rely on the support from our amazing community. It is what has kept us around for nearly 100 years! *How can YOU help?!* 

## BE A PATRON

Ticket sales are a vital part of our revenue. And it's just not any fun to perform to an empty house, so come see us often. And bring your friends!

"I have been attending Civic Theater for many years and enjoy it every time! There are many very good, very talented people in our area and it is a chance to enjoy their performances. Being at the Theater gives me a chance to sit back and relax for awhile. Thank you, Civic Theater, for being part of the Ft. Wayne arts community!

-- Patti Robertson

## **BECOME A SUBSCRIBER**

Support Civic Theatre, receive subscriber-only benefits, AND save money on tickets. It's a no-brainer! With Flex Passes, tickets come in quantities of 6 or 20, can be used in any combination, and are available for purchase all season long.

"As a near 40 year supporter of the Civic Theatre, we are thankful and appreciative of the quality of talent that blesses our stage with amazing live performances. The Civic Theatre is a lasting gem that not only is a key to the arts in Fort Wayne, but a cornerstone to the overall quality of life we experience."

-- Al & Cathy Moll

## DONATE ON YOUR TERMS

Make an annual gift; Set up recurring monthly donations; Contribute to our 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund; Set the stage for others by leaving Civic Theatre a gift in your will with our Encore Society; and more. The choice is yours!

"I appreciate the opportunity to budget an affordable monthly gift, but I really value the monthly reminder of who/what I'm giving. There are so many wonderful arts and humanitarian causes to support in Fort Wayne that it's easy to become lost in where my money goes and what it benefits. The monthly transactions and thank you notes are a topnotch way for me to remember the good we're trying to do."

> -- Joe (& Tammy) Hyndman Inaugural Marquee Club members, 2020

## VOLUNTEER

Whether in the scene shop, costume shop, on-stage, or backstage, we are always looking for passionate, dedicated individuals to help create our shows. No experience needed - we will train you!

"The Civic Theatre has such a welcoming and encouraging environment for volunteers. I knew very little about what goes into a theatre set when I started volunteering years ago and now I can paint almost anything from walls, doors, and stairs, to all varieties and colors of bricks!"

> -- Sharon Fallon Volunteer since 2015

For more information on how you can support Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, please contact: Kathy Whiteman, Director of Philanthropy (260) 422-8641 x 230 or KWhiteman@fwcivic.org

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

## DIANNE B. SHAW



*The Color Purple*, Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, inspired a blockbuster film and now, by some accounts, a landmark musical. Perhaps a musical version of Walker's original epistolary novel was inevitable. The musical hints at the little-known history of Black letters written in search of family members lost during 300+ years of enslavement.

However, the musical does powerful work that the novel could not do. It engages the language and history of Black music--gospel and jazz performances undergirded by the Negro spiritual, the blues, and the work song. This music provides the soundtrack of the Black American experience.

Celebrate with us tonight the journey of Celie, a young girl born into rural Georgia of the early 1900s. Her life is restricted by cultures and rituals of dominance coded by colors, white and black; by sex and gender, male and female; by wealth and poverty; by dictates of law, the language of power. What power does a poor, illiterate Black girl summon that she might navigate a world embedded in histories and practices of cruelty, abuse, denial, and silence? Alice Walker gives Celie fortitude, sisterhood, love, and imagination. Composer par excellence, Quincy Jones, gives her music.

*The Color Purple* is a uniquely American story situated in a larger history of women, men, and children around the world working to evolve toward a culture that honors a dream of community defined by love. Alice Walker has stated that Purple is a story about love. "Love is big. It can hold anger, hatred, and pain." Love must also make room for forgiveness and redemption.

Celie's story, for me, is one of simple grace, an enduring faith in our capacity to love others and more importantly, ourselves.

**DIANNE B. SHAW (Director)** is extremely pleased to be returning to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for this production of *The Color Purple*. She has directed *Dreamgirls* and 9 to 5 in the past seasons, along with two winning pieces in the Northeast Indiana Playwright Festival. Dianne holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Directing and Theater Arts from MacMurray College in Jacksonville IL., with continuing studies at Northwestern University, Indiana State, and Chicago's Second City. As an actress, Dianne has been seen on the Civic stage along with other theaters in Fort Wayne. She has several films/TV credits including *Chicago Med, Chasing Gold* with Paul Sorvino, and *The Women of Brewster Place* with Oprah Winfrey along with roles in the beloved classics, *Home Alone* and *Groundhog Day*. Dianne has worked with Fort Wayne film director Steve Miller on several independent films.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**MARSHA NORMAN (Book)** won the Pulitzer Prize for her play, 'Night, Mother, and a Tony Award for her book of the Broadway musical, *The Secret Garden*. Ms. Norman is co-chair, with Christopher Durang, of the Playwriting Department of the Juilliard School and vice president of the Dramatists Guild of America. Her other plays include *Getting Out*, *Traveler in the Dark*, *Sarah and Abraham*, *Trudy Blue*, and *Last Dance*. Her published work includes "Four Plays, Vol. I: Collected Plays of Marsha Norman" and a novel, "The Fortune Teller". She has numerous film and TV credits, Grammy and Emmy nominations, and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and the Fellowship of Southern Writers. She is a native of Kentucky who lives in New York City and Long Island with her two children. (Bio courtesy of TRW).

**BRENDA RUSSELL (Music & Lyrics)** has a unique musical perspective, intimate voice, and prolific treasure-trove of lyrics, that prove that a truly glowing talent only deepens with time. Composer of the classics "Get Here", "If Only For One Night", and the Grammy-nominated "Piano In The Dark". Brenda's songwriting prowess and chameleon-like ability to shift between musical genres and combine styles trumpeted ovations in 2005 with the opening of the Tony Award-winning hit Broadway musical, *The Color Purple*. Brenda and her co-authors were also nominated for a 2007 Grammy in the Best Musical Show Album category for the original cast album. (Bio courtesy of TRW).

ALLEE WILLIS (Music & Lyrics) is a one-woman creative think-tank. A multi-disciplinary artist and visionary thinker whose range of imagination and productivity knows no bounds, her success exuberantly defies categorization; 'unique' pales as a descriptor. Willis is a Grammy-winning and Emmy- and Tony- nominated composer whose hit songs – including Earth, Wind & Fire's, "September" and "Boogie Wonderland", The Pointer Sisters' "Neutron Dance", Pet Shop Boys with Dusty Springfield's "What Have I Done To Deserve This", and The Rembrandts' "I'll Be There For You (Theme From Friends)" – have sold over 50 million records. In 2006, Willis' songs were also featured in three of the top grossing films of the year, *Happy Feet, Night at the Museum*, and *Babel*. (Bio courtesy of TRW).

**STEPHEN BRAY (Music & Lyrics)** is thrilled to be making his Broadway debut with *The Color Purple*. After beginning music studies with private instruction in Detroit, Bray continued training at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Working with Madonna, he wrote and produced many of her top-ten recordings, including "Angel", "Into the Groove", "Papa Don't Preach", "True Blue", and "Express Yourself". Performing with Breakfast Club, he earned a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist and a top-ten single. He has composed and produced for multiplatinum artists including The Jets, Gladys Knight, and Kylie Minogue. Film and television projects include *Beverly Hills Cop II, Who's That Girl?, All About the Benjamins*, and the theme for PBS's *California Connected*. Stephen is developing artists for his Soultone label and looks forward to more musical theatre. He would like to thank his daughter Milena for her eternal patience and his family for their continuing support. (Bio courtesy of TRW).



**TIMYA MARIE COETTE TOWNSEND (Celie)** is very excited to be back for her second time at the Civic Theatre. Along with being a South Side High School Alumni, #ARCHER NATION, Timya recently graduated from Purdue Fort Wayne University, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Musical Theatre. Some of her

credits include Grease (Sandy Dumbrowski), In the Heights (Vanessa), Charlotte (Flora/Red Menace), The Laramie Project (Ensemble), Ghetto (Dummy/Dijigan), Sondheim on Sondheim (Ensemble), The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Saint Monica), and recently, Shrek The Musical (Donkey). Big shoutout to the Townsend Family and Friends. Long live Craig Humphrey. IG: @timinipooh

**TAMIA BEVERLY (Nettie)** is excited for her first show with Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. She was part of Homestead's show choirs in high school and is very thankful for the opportunity to be playing her first role in *The Color Purple*. She has sung in various cabarets through IMTF and will be a part of their Stevie Wonder



Tribute show next. Tamia would like to thank her family and friends for the support and encouragement.



**MARTEZE "DOC" HAMMONDS (Mister)** is excited for his Civic Theatre debut as Mister in *The Color Purple*. Doc graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Theatre and Movement from Murray State University. Some of his theatre experiences include *Fame* (Tyrone) at Red Barn Theatre, two stints in *Young Abe Lincoln* (Jim)

at Lincoln Amphitheatre, and a host of community theatre (as early as age 6), college, and summer stock theatre opportunities. Doc would like to thank God, his family, and friends for their unconditional support. This show is dedicated to Baby Miliyiah as it's her first time seeing her Dauncle perform on stage.

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## CAST



**SHAQUAN WALKER (Pa)** is a native of Fort Wayne, IN, with roots deeply embedded in gospel music. Playing the role of Pa and leading the tenor section for Chris Ford & Sounds of Redemption showcases his talent and commitment to his craft. As a radio announcer for Gospel Flight on WBOI 89.1 FM, he demonstrates his

passion of music beyond the stage. Early experiences on stage at South Side High School and participation in Indiana University Voices of Hope are noted musical milestones. Being cast marks an exciting new chapter for Shaquan.

**ENNIS L. BROWN II (Harpo)** is a multi-talented theater actor, who has graced the stage for many years with brilliance and charisma. He has won two Anthony awards, one for his unforgettable portrayal of Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* and the other for *Working*. Not stopping there, he also earned a nomination for Best



Supporting Actor in the productions of *Memphis* and *A Christmas Carol*. After a five-year hiatus, he is thrilled to be back on the Civic stage, ready to captivate audiences once again with his unmatched showcase of passion and skill. Ennis would love to give thanks to his 4 sons and loving mother.



**SHANEEQUA SWAIN (Sofia)** is excited to be back on stage for the Civic Theare after performing 10 years ago in *Dreamgirls* (Lorelle)! She's beyond thrilled to play Sofia in *The Color Purple*. Shaneequa would like to thank her daughter for being her #1 supporter and her wife for always supporting her and helping her gain

the courage to get back into theater.

**ROCKELL ALLEN (Shug Avery)** is excited to be making her 3rd appearance on the Civic Theatre stage, this time as Shug Avery in the iconic musical, *The Color Purple*. She made her debut appearance in *Memphis* (2017). Since then, Rockell has performed on several stages around the city of Fort Wayne including,



*Ruby Bridges* (2017) at Youtheatre, *Annie* at the Embassy (2020), *Greatest Showman* at First Presbyterian (2022), and *Godspell* at First Presbyterian (2023). She would like to thank all her family and friends for their continued support and love.

**IMOGENE BIBBS (Jarene)** is super elated to join the brilliant cast and crew of *The Color Purple* for her first Civic show. She attended Emerson School for the Visual & Performing Arts in Gary, Indiana. Imogene played the role of Cinderella and Carmen during her time there and has sung in many bands. It has always been her dream to get back to theatre. Imogene loves

spending her time learning and growing in all aspects of life. She would like to thank her mom and dad for the beautifully blessed gift of song.

**PEGGY RIVERA (Doris)** first appeared at the Civic Theatre as Addaperle in *The Wiz* and is excited to return as Doris in *The Color Purple*. She and her family are made for the Arts, as they perform singing and acting with appearances on National Television on *The Price is Right, Let's Make a Deal*, and *Kendrick* 



CAST

*Lamar's: Witness Greatness Grammy Award Performance.* The family has more appearances to come but always enjoys the opportunity to perform in their hometown. Peggy is married to Shahaun and they share 4 children and 4 grandchildren.



**SHARON TUCKER (Darlene)** has had a constant love for theater in her life since her teenage years, where she eagerly participated in numerous plays. However, life took her on a different path for years, keeping her away from the stage. Perseverance and determination pushed her to embark on a journey to reignite her

connection to the theater. Sharon also plays important roles in her community. She serves as the Executive Director of Vincent Villages and the 6th District City Councilwoman. Sharon finds solace and happiness spending time with her family.

**ADRIENNE SANTOS (Church Soloist)** began her theater journey at the Palace Theater in Lorain, Ohio at age four. She continued to perform in school, church, and Civic productions through high school. After a busy life of military service, career, marriage, children, and ministry, she is excited to return to the theater in her



first performance in over 30 years. Adrienne would like to salute the cast and crew of *The Color Purple* for their excellence, and give a standing ovation to her family, co-workers, and ministry teams for never-ending support and encouragement.

**EDDIE FOGGS (Preacher)** is deeply honored to take part in this exciting and important show! This will be his second show on the Civic stage, as you may have seen him recently as Shrek in *Shrek The Musical*. Eddie is so excited to be back on stage surrounded by a brilliant cast and crew! Special thanks to all his friends and

family that have shown up and supported the arts.

**ZYNNAH HUBBARD (Squeak)** is very excited to be a part of *The Color Purple*! She has previously performed in *The Music Man* (Ensemble). Singing has always been her joy and she can't wait to express it on stage. Not only does Zynnah love musicals but also producing & performing her own music while studying at Purdue



CAST

Fort Wayne. You can find her music on many different platforms as LiyaŻ, along with an upcoming single! Zynnah wants to thank her parents, auntie, and Lola for motivating and supporting her passions!



**DERECK JACKSON (OI' Mister)** is the Executive Director of Rock Summit Basketball, Owner of Sharpshooter Benefit Solutions, and lead vocalist for JacksonVibe. He is a Graduate of Ohio Northern University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Technology and Manufacturing. Dereck

attributes his success to God's unchanging love. Growing up as a foster child in Ohio, he began singing at a very young age to cope with life's challenges. Dereck's first musical was *Jesus Christ Superstar*, where he portrayed King Herrod. "I dedicate my performance to my foster mother, Stella Sherard!"

**MACI ALSTON (Ensemble)** has never done musical theatre before, so she's experienced an abundance of firsts in her journey with *The Color Purple*. Maci has her regular time slot at karaoke on Wednesdays, and a long history of performing with her sisters during family functions. She's always been theatrical, except she



covered it with the word "extra" because she's never known what to call it. "I did this for my son, Jordan, who has autism, to show him that his mother also has a shell that she can work on breaking out of, and lead to something wonderful!"



**JAYLEENA HILL (Ensemble)** is a 9th grader at Bellmont High School, in Decatur, and this is her first show at Fort Wayne Civic Theatre! During her week, Jayleena spends her time doing show choir, taking voice lessons, and being a proud member of the Voices of Unity Youth Choir, on the weekends. She would

like to thank Marshall White, Jamie Macklin, and June McCullough for bettering her singing and encouraging her to be a loudmouth! Jayleena would also like to thank her parents for going nights without sleep due to her singing...

**RACHAEL KILGORE (Ensemble)** is excited to return to the Civic Theatre stage with this show. She has been involved with theater and drama throughout her high school career at Garrett. Her post-high school shows have been FWSMT's *Hairspray* (2022) and most recently Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's *Shrek The* 



*Musical*, as Humpty Dumpty. Rachael has assisted with costumes for IMTF's *Phantom of the Opera* and *RENT*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and mentors who have all helped her get to where she is today.



girlfriend.

**ANTON PHILLIPS JR. (Ensemble)** is so excited to be returning to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre stage for a second time this season!! You may have seen him as one of the three pigs in Civic's last musical *Shrek The Musical*. When Anton is not singing and dancing on a stage, he loves hanging out with family, friends, and

ALBERT "AL" PIPPINS (Ensemble) is very excited to be a part of this production. Albert performed in one show at the Civic Theatre back when he was in 5th grade, *Tom Sawyer*. He was in show choir all through middle and high school and did productions there as well. He says when he performs it's always for his



grandfather Donald and brother Allen that have both moved to Heaven. Every time he hits a stage, he hears them cheering him on. He wants to give a huge shout out to family but specifically his mother for all her support and love. Albert says without her, he doesn't know if his love for singing and dancing would even exist as much as it does today.



**TRISTAN ROBINSON (Ensemble)** can't wait to be back on the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre stage after a 3-year break. He is excited to be in this show and to be a part of this story! Tristan hopes you enjoy the show. He would like to dedicate these performances to his cousin, Mandi Barger, and his Theatre teacher, Craig

Humphrey.

## CAST



**DIMPLES SMITH (Ensemble)** is treetop happy to join the talented cast and crew of *The Color Purple* in her first "ever" theatre debut. At 61, Dimples is honored to have a role in this deeply moving musical about strength, hope, love, and the transforming power of positive belief. She would like to thank the directors

and crew for the opportunity, her co-worker for encouraging her, her family for supporting her, and God for placing this opportunity on her pathway. Her experience includes being a mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and avid worshipper.

**CORTNEY WHITE (Ensemble)** is glad to be back on the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre stage with the opportunity to bring such a powerful production to life. The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the Arts United Center is the most prominent stage in the city and he's proud to have a chance to perform on it once again!





**DALAYSHA WRIGHT (Ensemble)** is hitting the stage for the first time with the Civic Theatre! She has had over 10 years of musical/dance experience in show choir, dance companies, and church choir, as well as serving in leadership roles directing, performing, and envisioning full on productions. Her love for performing

comes from her parents who greatly influenced the performer she is today. At just 23 years old, she believes that there is much more in store for her musical career and that the heart of this show will inspire that along with so many others!



## CREATIVE TEAM



**HOLLY KNOTT (Music Director)** has served as Music Director for several Civic productions, including *Hello*, *Dolly!*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (with director Craig Humphrey), *White Christmas*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*, as well as Assistant Music Director for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *The Producers*. For over twenty years, she was Music/Instrumental Director for Purdue Fort Wayne's Music

Theatre program on productions including *Little Shop of Horrors, The* 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, On the Twentieth Century, The Fantasticks, How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, Urinetown, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Into The Woods, and Sondheim on Sondheim. Holly has played for shows at Arena Dinner Theatre, Grey Lite Theatre, Excelsior Arts Academy, Three Rivers Music Theatre, and numerous area high schools.

#### CAPRI PARRISH WILLIAMS (Choreographer) a

native of Edon, Ohio, is an active dance educator, choreographer, and performer in the tri-state area. She received her B.A. in Dance Performance & Choreography from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Capri made her Fort Wayne Civic Theatre directorial debut this past Spring with *Into The Woods*.



Local Choreography credits include Shrek The Musical, The Wedding Singer, The SpongeBob Musical (Assistant Director), The Christmas Schooner (Assistant Director), Legally Blonde, Carrie, The Wild Party, How To Succeed..., You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, The Sound of Music, and Grease. Local performance credits include The Wedding Singer (Holly), A Funny Thing Happened...Forum (Vibrata, Anthony Award), Annie (Star to Be), Legally Blonde (Elle Woods, Anthony Award), Sweeney Todd (Ensemble), Mamma Mia! (Sophie), Newsies (Dancer, Anthony Award), and White Christmas (Dancer). @capriannapaige



ANDREW HOLDERFIELD (Production Manager/ Lighting Designer) is honored to be given the opportunity to serve the theatre and community of Fort Wayne. He is a graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit and originally from Alabama. Previously, Andrew worked for companies including Carnival Cruise Lines, The Gateway Playhouse, and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. Outside of work, Andrew loves reading and

playing lots of board games. Andrew would like to thank the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre family for welcoming him.

## CREATIVE TEAM



**ADAM FLETCHER (Technical Director/Scenic Designer)** is a native of nearby North Manchester and first became invested in theatre as a carpenter for the Muncie Civic Theatre in 2002. After earning a BA in Theatre from IPFW in 2013, he has since served the area's theatre community as Head Carpenter for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, where he began interning in 2011, and as a Seasonal Scenic Designer for Fort Wayne

Youtheatre, Canterbury Schools, Wabash Area Community Theatre, and Fort Wayne Ballet. He recently completed his seventh season as Scenic Designer for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre.

#### ASHLEY BRASSELL (Scenic Charge Artist/Volunteer

**Coordinator)** is proud to be the Scenic Charge Artist and Volunteer Coordinator for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. Ashley attended Purdue Fort Wayne earning a Bachelors in Theatre with emphasis in Technology and Design. Ashley has been involved with many local theatre organizations and has been active in theatre for over a decade. She hopes to continue to give back to



this amazing community through educating and fostering a safe and welcoming space to collaborate to create wonderful productions.



**IRVING ARJONA-SALAZAR (Sound Designer/Audio Engineer)** is a native of Aguascalientes, Mexico, but has been in Indiana for the past 20 years, most recently moving to Fort Wayne in 2018. Irving's background was originally as a touring musician but he has spent the past 8 years cultivating his skills as an Audio Engineer. This has led to him starting a production company that does events of all sizes from your local dive bar to festivals with

multiple stages.

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## CREATIVE TEAM



**SARAH MOLONEY (Costume Designer)** has worked multiple seasons at The Santa Fe Opera, Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts, the local IATSE, as well as owning and operating an alteration shop, Hot Button Alteration, throughout the pandemic years. As a Fort Wayne resident for 8+ years, she is beyond excited to be part of the arts community in Fort Wayne. Sarah wants to give special thanks to every crew, actor, friend, and mentor she has

met along the way, and to Aunt Donna who set her on this journey.

**ANNA SLOTTERBACK (Assistant Costumer/Rental Manager)** is excited to work on her second season at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. She received a BFA in Costume Technology in 2015 from DePaul University in Chicago. Anna freelanced in the Bay Area working at Berkeley Rep in wardrobe and as an over hire stitcher for 11 productions. She was also able to work at the SF Opera as an over hire stitcher for two seasons.





JAMES HULBERT (Properties Master) has been actively involved in theatre for over fifty years, beginning in college, followed by his Bachelor's Degree from Tayor University. He has served in the role of Prop Master for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre since 2014, highlighting one of first: a collaboration with renowned Performer and Director Jane Lanier in *Mary Poppins*. Jim has contributed his skills in design and production support to

the Fort Wayne Ballet and Dance Collective, University of Saint Francis, and Purdue University at Fort Wayne. On occasion, he has taken the stage as performer in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (UFC); *The Wedding Gift* (FW Civic); and *Young Harriet Tubman* (FW Youtheatre). Jim prides himself in his philosophy of 'the illustration of the disregarded' – a lofty title for his habit of using anything and everything to make the prop effective for the production. Under the leadership of Robert Shoquist, he received the Fort Wayne Civic Anthony Award for Excellence in Technical Theatre in 2014. Jim wishes to thank his heroes of collaboration and inspiration, Lori Freistroffer and Emma Humbarger.



## STAGE MANAGEMENT



**BETHANY NEUMANN (Stage Manager)** has earned "Show Ducks" for the past seven Civic Theatre productions. Bethany feels blessed to be working alongside such an amazing team as she earns her next duck! Previous stage management credits include *Something Rotten!* (Civic, ASM), *The Sound of Music* (CYT-New Braunfels, ASM), *Cactus Flower* (Navasota Theatre Alliance, ASM), *Antigone* (Concordia University

Texas, SM), *The Container* (Concordia University Texas, SM), and *Doubt: A Parable* (Concordia University Texas, SM). She would like to thank her husband for letting her disappear to the theater for weeks at a time - "Love ya babe!"

**ELYSIA DALER (Assistant Stage Manager)** is excited to be back at Civic Theatre for another season. She previously worked as a Dresser for *Seussical* and *Elf The Musical*, as well as a Spotlight Operator for *Into The Woods*. This season she is making her debut as an Assistant Stage Manager!

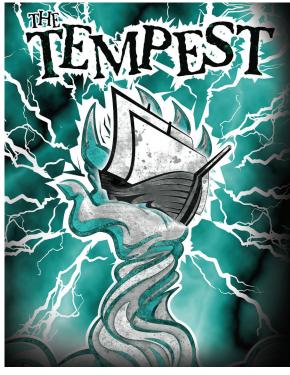




Scenic Charge Artist/Volunteer Coord	dinatorAshley Brassell	
Assistant Costumer/Rental Manager.	Anna Slotterback	
Stage Manager	Bethany Neumann	
Assistant Stage Manager		
Light Board Operator		
Floor Crew		
Props Runners		
Props AssistanceLo		
	and Gregory Stieber	
Build & Paint CrewScott Brow		
Ted Horne, Jeff Kacl	nmar, George Miller, Lee Nayes,	
	Craig Welch, and Loren Woody	
College Intern	Lex Wright	
High School Interns		
Wardrobe Crew.		
Costume Shop VolunteerRose E		
Special Thanks ToDavid Dyer/Tonn & Blank Construction		
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