

**Curve at Home & Birmingham Hippodrome**

**The Color Purple at Home**

**Digital Programme**

Large Print, 18pt Arial font

## **The Color Purple at Home**

Based upon the novel written by Alice Walker and the Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment motion picture

Book by **Marsha Norman**  
Music & Lyrics by **Brenda Russell,**  
**Allee Willis & 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.

Director **Tinuke Craig**  
Designer **Alex Lowde**  
Musical Supervisor & Musical Director **Alex Parker**  
Orchestrator **Martin Higgins**  
Choreographer **Mark Smith**  
Lighting Designer **Ben Cracknell**  
Sound Designer **Tom Marshall**  
Casting Director **Kay Magson CDG**

***The Color Purple*** in concert is presented by special arrangement with **Theatrical Rights Worldwide LTD**,  
[www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)

## Welcome

A very warm welcome to this streamed performance of **Marsha Norman, Brenda Russell, Allee Willis** and **Stephen Bray's** Tony-award winning musical ***The Color Purple***.

It is a huge thrill for all of us at Curve, in association with our friends at **Birmingham Hippodrome**, to present this great musical for audiences to enjoy at home. After the unprecedented events of the past year, the musical's message of solidarity, unity and accepting who you truly are, has never felt more important or relevant. The Civil Rights Movement and rights of LGBT+ people have been intertwined over many decades of persecution and struggle; the character of Celie represents many of these struggles and **Alice Walker's** novel celebrates the progress made, whilst exposing battles still to be won. We are proud these voices collide in this extraordinary musical and the memories of people who have fought injustice.

No production of *The Color Purple* could happen without a blazing star at its centre. In Alice Walker's original novel and this musical, the actress playing Celie has inevitably provided the heartbeat and soul of the production. We are blessed **T'Shan Williams** once again plays this iconic role and makes it her own with such a beautifully nuanced performance. As you will see, it is a stupendous performance and all of us at Curve are proud to see such accomplished work happening on our stage and in our city. Alongside T'Shan are a company of astonishing actors – dazzling talent – and it is a pleasure to welcome the entire cast, crew and musicians back to Leicester and marvel at their truly world-class work. And a warm Leicester welcome to **Carly Mercedes Dyer**, who takes on the role of Shug Avery in this concert staging. Carly returns to the city after her staggering performance as Anita in *West Side Story* in 2019.

We first saw **Tinuke Craig's** work at Chichester Festival Theatre, where Tinu directed acclaimed productions of **debbie tucker**

**green**'s plays *random* and *generations*. The productions were directed with such searing intelligence, imagination and sensitivity, that it meant Tinuke was the only choice to work on this major revival of *The Color Purple* in 2019, which went on to win the WhatsOnStage Award for Best Regional Production. We are sure you will agree, Tinuke and her team have done great work and created a piece all of us in the Midlands can be proud of.

Alongside Tinuke, we are pleased choreographer **Mark Smith**, whose work we first encountered with his dance company **Deaf Man Dancing**, returns to Curve. And **Alex Parker** did incredible work for our 10th Anniversary celebrations and it is wonderful to see him back in Leicester, again holding the musical baton for this astonishing score, magnificently orchestrated by **Martin Higgins**. In 2019 **Alex Lowde** created a world to perfectly frame this fast-changing story and in this streamed version, Alex once again brings early 20th century Southern America to our stage through his beautifully detailed costumes. All of this is complimented and framed superbly by Curve Associate **Ben Cracknell**'s lighting. As you know, sound design is so important in the theatre, but especially with musicals. You will recognise **Tom Marshall**'s name from many hit Made at Curve productions. Tom has the finest ears in the business and is always a joy to work with; we are thrilled he's back with us at Curve, working his sound magic on the mixing desk.

A large-scale production like this cannot happen without partners and in addition to the incredible creative talents of those mentioned above, we are pleased to be working in association with our friend **Fiona Allan** and her **Birmingham Hippodrome** team on this production. We are also thrilled to have the support of **Andrea Gray** and her **PPL PRS** team and **Sarah Thompson** and her colleagues at **De Montfort University**, whose sponsorship enables us to offer free tickets to stream this show to local community groups and young people. Our thanks also go to **Steve Spiegel** at **Theatrical Rights Worldwide**, **Arts Council**

**England, Leicester City Council and the DCMS' Culture Recovery Fund.**

Our final thanks go to all our **NHS** staff members who have worked tirelessly and selflessly for all of us over the last year. We are pleased to offer 2,000 free tickets to **NHS** workers in Leicester and Birmingham and sincerely hope this production can provide some much-needed escapism during this time. Enjoy the show and share its songs of freedom and equality in your communities, wherever you are.

**Chris Stafford**  
Chief Executive

**Nikolai Foster**  
Artistic Director

## Director's Note

It's a strange thing coming back to a show. The assumption when one makes theatre is almost always that the last day is the last day, that the thing you created has gone, vanished almost as quickly as it came about, and on you go to the next project hopefully with some good memories and the sense that you did some good and gave the audiences something. But every now and then, you get a chance to revisit and reanimate your show, and in doing so you get to transport yourself back to a past-self, a past-community, a past-time.

That's a particularly weird thing to do when your past-self, past-community and past-time existed before a global pandemic changed the world and decimated your industry. Reuniting *The Color Purple* team was like escaping to a pre-2020 existence (albeit one with masks and social distancing). It was really exciting to be back with such a wonderful group of people, all of whom had had been starved of being able to do their job for a year and were chomping at the bit.

The show means something different now, or at least feels more potent thematically. A piece about community, connection, a need for time with loved ones and about isolation is inevitably going to hit harder off the back of 2020 (and let's be honest, 2021 so far). Even more so, a piece that highlights black struggle and systemic racism, celebrates black lives, and champions black love is needed more than ever, and will surely hit different for audiences now.

It's a privilege to be able to tell the story of Celie and in doing so celebrate all those who live on the margins of society, or within the intersections of identity. Celie navigates being black in a white supremacist world, being a woman in a man's world, poor in a capitalist world and queer in a world where that's not even presented as a possibility for her. Celie's story is at once

extremely specific and entirely universal. She's based on a real person. We don't take that responsibility lightly.

Our new version of *The Color Purple* is in the round, and without our set and most of our props. All we have is the stage, the words and the story. Alex Lowde's wonderful costumes remain to help to locate us and give us insight into our characters, Ben Cracknell has lit our 'magic circle' of a stage to feel close and intimate, and Tom Marshall has designed a soundscape that keeps us rooted in rural Tennessee. It's been really thrilling to boil it all down to its essentials and find that the heart of the story and of our original production is still beating.

We only had ten days to make the show. The cast turned up on day one and – led by Alex Parker – pulled the melodies, lyrics and harmonies from deep in their memories from almost two years ago. Mark Smith reimagined and simplified our choreography to fit a world of social distancing whilst retaining the fun and expressiveness of the company and our original show. I worked with the actors to find the truth and detail behind the words and figure out how to tell our story for people not sitting with us in the auditorium but at home in their living rooms. The team at Crosscut Media have done an amazing job in capturing our work for screen and we're excited to share it with you.

All of us on *The Color Purple* team hope you enjoy experiencing *The Color Purple at Home*. And we look forward to when we can all be reunited with audiences in the theatre again.

**Tinuke Craig**

Director

## Scenes and Songs List - Part One

Church

### **Opening**

Nettie, Celie, Soloist, Darlene, Doris,  
Jarene, Preacher & Ensemble

Celie's Father's Shed

### **Somebody Gonna Love You**

Celie, Nettie & Women

Pa's Store

### **Our Prayer**

Celie, Nettie & Church Ladies

### **That Fine Mister**

Jarene, Doris & Darlene

Approaching Mister's House

### **Big Dog**

Mister, Field Hands & Celie

Another Day

### **Mister-Nettie**

Mister & Celie

### **Lily of the Field**

Celie

Mister's House

### **Sofia**

Harpo & Sofia

### **Dear God – Sofia**

Celie



The Field/The Woods  
**A Tree Named Sofia**  
Doris, Jarene & Darlene

**Hell No!**  
Sofia & Sofia's Sisters

**Brown Betty**  
Harpo, Buddies & Squeak

Mister's House  
**Shug Avery Comin' To Town**  
Mister, Church Ladies, Celie, Men & Townspeople

**All We Got To Say**  
Doris, Jarene & Darlene

**Dear God – Shug**  
Celie & Shug

**Too Beautiful For Words**  
Shug

The Juke Joint  
**Push Da Button**  
Shug, Band & Crowd

**Uh-Oh**  
Church Ladies, Sofia, Mister, Harpo, Squeak & Crowd

Mister's House  
**What About Love?**  
Celie & Shug

## Scenes and Songs List - Part Two

Africa/Main Street

### **Africa**

Nettie, Celie, Chief, Villagers,  
Olinka Children & African Wives

### **We Walk Away**

Ensemble

The Jail

Mister's House

### **The Color Purple**

Shug

### **It's Easter Sunday**

Nettie

Inside Mister's House

### **End Easter Dinner**

Celie

The Road

### **Mister Song**

Mister

Shug's House in Memphis

### **Letter To Nettie**

Underscore

Outside the Store

### **In Miss Celie's Pants**

Celie, Shug, Doris, Darlene & Jarene

Harpo's House

**Any Little Thing** cont.

Harpo & Sofia

Shug's Yard

**What About Love** Reprise

Celie

**I'm Here**

Celie

Celie's Yard

**Reunion**

Underscore

**The Color Purple**

Celie, Nettie, Sofia, Adam, Olivia, Shug,  
Harpo, Mister & Ensemble

Bows

**Mysterious Ways**

Company

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## **Cast**

In order of appearance

Celie	<b>T'Shan Williams</b>
Nettie	<b>Danielle Fiamanya</b>
Church Soloist	<b>Anelisa Lamola</b>
Darlene	<b>Rosemary Annabella Nkrumah</b>
Doris	<b>Danielle Kassarate</b>
Jarene	<b>Landi Oshinowo</b>
Church Tamborinist	<b>Jochebel Ohene MacCarthy</b>
Pa & Bobby	<b>KM Drew Boateng</b>
Preacher & Grady	<b>Jo Servi</b>
Mister	<b>Ako Mitchell</b>
Harpo	<b>Simon-Anthony Rhoden</b>
Sofia	<b>Karen Mavundukure</b>
Squeak	<b>Perola Congo</b>
Shug Avery	<b>Carly Mercedes Dyer</b>
Ol' Mister	<b>Geoff Aymer</b>
Guard	<b>Owen Chaponda</b>

All other parts played by members of the Company

## **Band**

Musical Director & Keys 1	<b>Alex Parker</b>
Reed	<b>Jennie Chilton</b>
Drums & Percussion	<b>Damian Fisher</b>
Guitars	<b>Ben Fletcher</b>
Double Bass & Electric Bass	<b>Adam Higgs</b>
Cello & Keys 2	<b>Dave Hornberger</b>
Trumpet	<b>Graham Justin</b>

## **Production Team**

Director	<b>Tinuke Craig</b>
Designer	<b>Alex Lowde</b>
Choreographer	<b>Mark Smith</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Ben Cracknell</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Tom Marshall</b>
Casting Director	<b>Kay Magson CDG</b>
Hair, Wigs & Make-Up Supervisor	<b>Alice Townes</b>
Wigs and Hair No 2	<b>Bianca Jules</b>
Trainee Director	<b>Jenny Baker</b>
Production Manager	<b>Sam Paterson</b>
Company Stage Manager	<b>Julia Reid</b>
Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Anne Baxter</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Mason Walter Cooper</b>
Sound Engineer	<b>David Coops Cooper</b>
SSE Interpreter	<b>Stacey Green</b>
SSE Interpreter	<b>Caroline Richardson</b>
SSE Interpreter	<b>Lael Traylor</b>
Photographer	<b>Pamela Raith</b>
Orchestrations	<b>Martin Higgins</b>
Original Projection Designs	<b>Joshua Pharo</b>
Original Hair & Make-Up Designs	<b>Cynthia De La Rosa</b>

## **Technical Team**

Automation Engineer	<b>James Dainty</b>
Automation Programmer/Op	<b>Emily Walker</b>
Stage Assistant	<b>Milton Robinson</b>
Stage Assistant	<b>Jasdeep Singh</b>
Production Electrician	<b>Jonny Laidlow</b>
Lighting Programmer/Op	<b>David Hately</b>
Followspot Operator	<b>Adam Bee</b>
Followspot Operator	<b>Judith Moulton</b>
Lighting Assistant	<b>Jude Michell</b>
Lighting Assistant	<b>Aaron Patchett</b>

Production Sound Engineer  
Sound No. 1  
Sound No. 2  
Sound Assistant  
Head of Wardrobe  
Wardrobe Assistant  
Covid Safety Nurse  
Lighting Hires

**Dave Norton**  
**Jack Harper**  
**Sean McCabe**  
**Angel Rossell De Pablos**  
**Edd Lindley**  
**Lucy Duncan**  
**Sam Petterson**  
**Hawthorn & GLP German**  
**Light Products**

## **For Crosscut Media**

Video Producer & Editor  
Director of Photography  
Camera Operator  
Gimbal Operator  
Crane Operator  
Camera Operator  
Camera Operator  
Behind the Scenes Producer  
Behind the Scenes Camera

**Dan Flanders**  
**Jordan Dean**  
**Duncan Macleod**  
**Mbili Munthali**  
**Dan Hunt**  
**Francesca Costa**  
**Migle Cimzaite**  
**Georgina Tuffen**  
**Natasha James**

## **Special Thanks To**

Team Curve • The Team at Birmingham Hippodrome • Steve Spiegel • Ben Newsome • Theatrical Rights Worldwide • Peter Leatham and the team at PPL PRS • De Montfort University • De Montfort Hall • Jon Ashworth MP • Holiday Inn • ANR PR

Nadine Beasley, Kate Taylor Davies & Gary Giles at Talking Sense Audio Description Services.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for supporting Curve and Birmingham Hippodrome through the Culture Recovery Fund.

Finally, thanks to our principal funders Leicester City Council and Arts Council England, in particular Sir Peter Soulsby, Cllr Piara Singh Clair, Mike Dalzell, Sir Nicholas Serota, Darren Henley, Laura Dyer, Peter Knott, Claire Simpson and Sharon Joinson.



## Cast Biographies

### **Geoff Aymer – Ol' Mister**

Theatre credits include: *GHBoy*, Charing Cross Theatre; *Apollo 13 Dark Side of the Moon*, Original Theatre; *Two Trains Running*, English Touring Theatre/Royal and Derngate; *The Color Purple*, Leicester Curve Theatre and Birmingham Hippodrome; *Robin Hood And The Arrow Of Destiny*, Theatre Peckham; *The Plague*, Arcola Theatre; *Driving Miss Daisy*, Frinton Summer Theatre and Canal Cafe Theatre; *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, Original Theatre National tour; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, The Young Vic; *The Albatross, 3rd and Main*, Emporium, Brighton; *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Regents Park Open Air, National tour, Barbican; *Cheese and Crackwhores*, Soho Theatre; *The Lightning Child, Macbeth*, Shakespeare's Globe; *Neighbors*, Nuffield Theatre, Southampton; *That Old Feeling*, The Mill At Sonning; *Angel House*, Eclipse Theatre, National tour; *Anansi Trades Places*, Talawa Theatre; *Brixton Stories*, the Lyric, Hammersmith; *What's In The Cat*, Royal Court Theatre and *The Big Life*, Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue.

Live sketch shows: *HMS Comedy's Revolution*, C Venues, Edinburgh; *Newsrevue*, Canal Cafe Theatre and *Lee Mack's Gagging For It*, Gilded Balloon II, Edinburgh.

Film credits include: *Sket*, Gunslinger Productions and *Rag Tag*, Mucka Flicks.

TV credits include: *Mr Winner*, BBC1; *Guerilla*, Sky Atlantic and Showtime; *Eastenders*, BBC 1; *The A Force* and *The Real McCoy* (both BBC 2) and *Club Class* (Channel 5)

Writing credits include: *Anansi and the Magic Mirror*, Talawa Theatre, *The Oddest Couple*, Theatre Royal Stratford East, *What A Wonderful World*, Blue Elephant Theatre and Chatsworth, Celador Productions, TV pilot.

**KM Drew Boateng – Pa & Bobby**

Training: WAC Arts.

Theatre credits include: *The Color Purple* (Curve, Leicester); *Motown the Musical* (Shaftesbury Theatre); *The Spalding Suite* (UK Tour); *The Realness* (Hackney Studios); *Hotel* (National Theatre); *Blues in the Night* (Hackney Empire); *Aladdin* (Waddon Leisure Centre, Croydon); *Aladdin* (De Montfort Hall, Leicester); *Dick Whittington*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Mother Goose* (all Hackney Empire); Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hackney Empire, Edinburgh Fringe and The National Black Theatre, New York); Papa Arnold in *The Warriors* (Barbican Theatre) and *Breakin' Convention* (Sadler's Wells).

Workshops include: *Once Upon A...; Heartbreak Hotel*; and *Futebol: The Alternative World Cup*.

Film credits include: *Walking On Sunshine*.

**Owen Chaponda – Guard**

Training: The Brit School and Bird College Conservatoire For Dance & Musical Theatre.

Theatre credits include: Financier/Cover Cecil B. DeMille/Cover Myron in *Sunset Boulevard* (Leicester Curve); Cover Goldie/Onstage Swing in *Back To The Future* (Universal Pictures); Adam/Onstage Swing in *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve/Birmingham Hippodrome) and 1st Cover Simba/Swing/Ensemble in *The Lion King* (Disney).

Workshops: *On The Team* (The Other Palace) and *African Diaspora* (Arcola Theatre).

**Perola Congo – Squeak**

Training: The BRIT School of Performing Arts, Stageworks Studios and Arts Educational Schools London.

Theatre credits include: *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), *The Color Purple* (Curve Theatre), Original Cast of *Tina – The Tina Turner Musical* (Aldwych Theatre), *The Addams Family* (UK tour/Mediacorp Singapore), *Pinocchio* (Stephen Joseph Theatre), *Moby Dick* (Union Theatre) and *Oliver!* (Grange Park Opera).

TV credits include: *Britain's Got Talent Final 2018* (ITV), *Tonight at the London Palladium* (ITV) and Olivier Awards 2015 and 2016 (ITV).

Concerts/workshops include: *Hamlet* (National Theatre Studio-Workshop), *Rocky 'The Musical'* (Workshop) and *Hey, Old Friends! 85th Birthday Tribute to Stephen Sondheim* (Concert: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane).

Radio credits include: *Friday Night is Music Night: We Can Be Heroes* (BBC Radio 2) and *D-Day 70 Years On* (BBC Radio 2 at the Royal Albert Hall).

**Carly Mercedes Dyer** – Shug Avery

Training: The Arts Educational School, BA (Hons) Musical Theatre.

Theatre credits include: Anita in *West Side Story* (Curve Theatre); Henri in *The View Upstairs* (Soho Theatre); *Aint Misbehavin'* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester & Southwark Playhouse); Fate in *Hadestown* (National Theatre); Helene in *Sweet Charity* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Dreamgirls*; Original Cast (Savoy Theatre), *West Side Story* (Salzburg Festival), *The Lorax* (Old Vic Theatre), *Memphis*, Original London Cast (Shaftesbury Theatre), *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Royal Festival Hall 2015), *Kiss Me Kate*; *BBC Proms 2014* (Royal Albert Hall), *Dance 'Til Dawn*; Original Cast (UK tour). *Rock of Ages*, Original London Cast (Shaftesbury Theatre and Garrick Theatre), *Dirty Dancing* (Aldwych Theatre), *Chicago*

(Cambridge Theatre), *Hair* (English Theatre, Frankfurt) and *High School Musical* (Hammersmith Apollo).

Workshops include: *Hugo* directed by Christopher Wheeldon OBE produced by Greene Light Stage (2020); *The Oroznah in Vanara the Musical* directed by Jonathan O'Boyle (2018); Lene in *The Lost Ones* directed by Tania Azevedo (The Bush Theatre and Beam Festival: Theatre Royal Stratford East 2018); *The Boy In The Dress* (The RSC) directed by Sarah Tipple (2017); *Stable Productions Platform* (Beam Festival: The Park Theatre) directed by Alastair Knights (2016); *The Happy Prince* produced by Stable Productions, directed by Maria Friedman, choreographed by Drew McOnie (2015); *The Lorax* (The Old Vic) directed by Max Webster and choreographed by Drew McOnie (2014); *But I'm a Cheerleader! the Musical* (Crow and Elk Productions LTD and Adam Bialow, with Lionsgate), directed by Jerry Mitchell (2013) and *Matilda* (The RSC) directed by Matthew Warchus (2009).

Concerts include: *Fangirls Musical* (The Southbank Centre: Women of The World Festival) written and directed by Yve Blake and Barbara Cook and Friends (80th Birthday Celebration Concert, London Coliseum).

### **Danielle Fiamanya – Nettie**

Theatre credits include: Dionne in *Hair* (The Turbine Theatre), Anne Egerman in *A Little Night Music Concert* (Holland Park), Lucy/2nd Cover *Juliet in & Juliet* (Shaftsbury Theatre), Nettie in *The Color Purple* (Curve, Leicester and Birmingham Hippodrome) for which she received the 2019 Stage Debut Award for Best Actress in a Musical.

Film credits include: Beatrice in *Shielders Short Film* (Traverse Theatre) and Rane in *Lucid* (Southside Films).

Danielle is soon to play Ensemble/1st Cover Elsa in *Frozen* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane).

Credits whilst training include: Carly in *Prom Queen* (The Other Palace), Violet in *9 to 5*, Marmee in *Little Women*, Vera in *Pal Joey* (GSA) and *With A Little Bit Of Lerner* (BBC).

**Danielle Kassaraté – Doris**

Theatre credits include: *Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-Time* at The Gielgud Theatre and the International tour; *The Color Purple* at Birmingham Hippodrome & Leicester Curve; *Macbeth* at Queen's Theatre Hornchurch; *Wildfire* at Hampstead Theatre; *Guys and Dolls* at The Royal Exchange Theatre and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Theatre Clwyd; *One Hundred Trillion* at The Old Vic Workrooms; *Blues and Soul European Tour* and *Dusty* at Charing Cross Theatre.

Workshops: *Dagger Lane* at The Hull Truck Theatre; *Trumpet* at Sheffield Theatres; *Yarico* at Trestle Theatre Company; *Hamlet*, *Hyenas in Petticoats* and an actor with the NT/TRSE Directors Course all at the National Theatre Studios.

**Anelisa Lamola – Church Soloist**

Training: London College of Music, Mountview Academy of Musical Theatre.

Theatre credits include: Church Soloist/Cover Sophia in *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve) Genie in *Aladdin* (Evolution Productions), Arethia & Erynill, *Some Like It Hip Hop* (UK tour & Peacock Theatre); Church Soloist, *The Color Purple* (Curve Leicester/Birmingham Rep); Rafiki, *The Lion King* (Disneyland, Paris); God/Caretaker, *How To Change The World In 7 Days* (Plymouth Barbican) and Motormouth Maybelle, *Hairspray* (Carminians).

TV, radio & recording credits include: Featured National Anthem soloist – *Rugby World Cup* (ITV); Mrs Weaver, *Hey Duggee* (BBC Worldwide); *Comic Relief* (BBC), *Later with Jools Holland* (Performing with Chase & Status) and *The X Factor* (ITV).

## **Jochebel Ohene MacCarthy** – Church Tamborinist

Jochebel is a 2018 graduate of 'Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance'.

Theatre credits include: Sarabi in Disney's *The Lion King* (UK tour); Ensemble/Fight Captain/Understudy Celie & Nettie in *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve & Birmingham Hippodrome); Louise/Understudy Oda Mae in *Ghost: the Musical* (International & UK tour) and Choir/Ensemble in *The Color Purple: In Concert* (Cadogan Hall; Tarento Productions).

Other work includes: Choir in *Abide With Me: FA Cup Final 2017 & 2018* (Wembley); Drummer/Dancer in *NFL London Game 4* (Minnesota Vikings vs. Cleveland Browns, Twickenham Stadium) and Model in *African, Caribbean & European Fashion Show & Evening Dance* (JT Aphrique, Joyce Tetteh).

## **Karen Mavundukure** – Sofia

Training: Liverpool Institution for Performing Arts.

Theatre credits include: *Respect: The Aretha Franklin Tour* (UK tour), Sofia in *The Color Purple* (Birmingham Hippodrome) and Effie White in *Dreamgirls* (West End).

TV credits include: *The X Factor* (ITV).

## **Ako Mitchell** – Mister

Theatre credits include: *Europa Projekt Season: Europeana* and *Peer Gynt* (RSC), *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve and Birmingham Hippodrome); *Caroline, Or Change* (Chichester, Hampstead and West End); *Guys And Dolls* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *The Wild Party* (The Other Place Theatre); *Ragtime* (Charing Cross Theatre); *The Trial Of Jane Fonda* (Park Theatre); *Grey Gardens* (Southwark Playhouse); *Misanthropes* (Old Vic New Voices), *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (Royal Festival Hall); *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Klook's Last Stand* (Park

Theatre); *August Wilson's Fences* (Duchess Theatre), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Donmar Warehouse); *Sister Act* (London Palladium), *The Lion King* (Lyceum Theatre); *Dr. Dolittle* (UK tour); *The Mystery Plays* (Bath Music Festival) and *Broadway in the Shadows* (Luxembourg National Theatre and Arcola).

TV credits include: *The Grinch That Stole Christmas* (NBC); *Hilda* (Netflix); *Gameface* (Channel 4); *Avenue 5* (HBO), *Silent Witness* (BBC) and *Berlin Station* (Epix).

Radio credits include: BBC Radio 4 Drama *Mueller: Trump Tower Moscow*. Ako narrates the series *Strangest Weather on Earth* (Discovery/Weather Channel USA). Ako narrates the audiobooks: *White Freedom* (Princeton University Press), *Wild Thing: Jimi Hendrix Story* (Penguin), *Optimism Over Despair* (Penguin), *Occupy* (Penguin), *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (Penguin), *Judges: Volume II* (Rebellion) and the Alex Cross novels: *Along Came A Spider*, *Kiss the Girls*, *Jack and Jill*, *I*, *Alex Cross*, *Cross Country* and *Alex Cross Trial*.

Film credits include: *The Lion vs The Little People*; *Lake Placid: The Final Chapter* (Syfy – UFO Films); *Johnny English Strikes Again* (Universal). Ako directed and co-wrote the short *I'm In The Corner With The Bluebells* which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won Best Director at the Mica Film Festival in Brazil. Ako also wrote and directed the short *I Promise* – winner of the Cineuropa Shorts/Filminute Audience Award.

**Rosemary Annabella Nkrumah** – Darlene

Training: The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance.

Theatre credits include: *Waitress* (Adelphi Theatre), *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child* (Palace Theatre), *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve/Birmingham Hippodrome), *Seussical* (Selladoor Theatre Company/International tour), *Hairspray* (Stage Productions), *Oliva Tweest* (The Marimba Project), *Blues*

*Brothers, Blues and Soul* (Icon Theatrical/European tour), *Muscovado* (burnt out Theatre) and *Love Beyond* (Commissioned Productions).

TV credits include: *Autopsy* (ITV) and *Break Up Of The Bands* (ITV).

Film credits include: *White Girl* (Bullion Productions), *Hummingbird* (Lionsgate), *Cemetery Junction* (Columbia Pictures) and *Street Dace* (Vertigo Films).

### **Landi Oshinowo** – Jarene

Theatre credits include: Mrs Phelps in *Matilda* (Cambridge Theatre), Featured Ensemble in *A Little Princess* (Royal Festival Hall), The Witch/Jenny Hill in *Big Fish* (The Other Palace), Hattie in *Kiss Me Kate* (Welsh National Opera), Heather Jones in *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road* (Jermyn Street Theatre), The Empress of China in *Aladdin* (Birmingham Hippodrome), Joyce Heath in *Barnum* (UK tour), Miss Sherman in *Fame* (UK tour), Ensemble/Sargent (u/s) in *The Light Princess* (National Theatre), Poopsie in *The Pajama Game* (Chichester Festival Theatre), Dragon/Ugly Duckling in *Shrek the Musical* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), Deloris (u/s) in *Sister Act* (London Palladium), Gospel Singer in *Blues Brothers* (Tivoli Theatre), Martha R/Gladys K in *Dancing In The Streets* (UK tour), Etta James in *Sweet Soul Music* (UK tour), Rafiki/Nala in *Legend of Lion King* (Euro Disney) and Acid Queen in *Tommy* (UK tour).

Recording credits include: *The Light Princess* (Original Cast Recording) and *Sister Act* (Original Cast Recording).

Film credits include: Shona in *Rage* (Granite Filmworks) and Ba Honors in *The Secret Laughter of Women* (Peter Schwabach).

TV credits include: *I'd Do Anything* (BBC).

Instagram: @landioshinowo



## **Simon-Anthony Rhoden – Harpo**

London born Simon-Anthony Rhoden trained at LAMDA graduating in 2009 with a BA (Hons) in Classical Theatre.

Theatre credits include: Aaron Burr in *Hamilton* (Cameron Mackintosh/Victoria Palace Theatre), Lola/Simon in *Kinky Boots* (Playful Productions/Adelphi Theatre), Harpo in *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve/Birmingham Hippodrome), Lance in *Beauty's Legacy* (The Keeper's Daughter) and Jim Conley in *Parade* (Edinburgh Fringe).

TV & film credits include: *Temple 2* (Sky/Hera), *Let it Snow* (Endor/Sky TV), *Feel Good* (Netflix/E4) and *Blue* (Blue Spring Pictures).

Simon-Anthony made his West End debut in *Kinky Boots* in 2016 and played the lead role of Lola for two years earning him an award for Best Long-running West End Show Performer for Broadway World UK.

Other awards include: Best Regional Production for *The Color Purple* at WhatsOnStage Awards.

Simon-Anthony enjoys devising and writing and looks forward to creating new and inclusive ideas of work.

## **Jo Servi – Preacher & Grady**

Training: Laine Theatre Arts.

Theatre credits include: Gentleman Starkey in *Peter Pan* and Robert Shallow in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Maltings Theatre); Henry Davis in *Street Scene* (Opera North UK tour); Crow/Laplander/Wallflower in *The Snow Queen* (Sherman Theatre); Preacher/Grady in *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve/Birmingham Hippodrome); Elnathan/Benjamin/Dwain in *Barber Shop Chronicles* North American & U.K. Spring tours; E.D. Nixon/Freedom Four (Bass) in *King* (Hackney Empire);

Hotel Manager in *Chess* (London Coliseum); Horace de Vil in *The One Hundred And One Dalmatians* (Birmingham Repertory Theatre); The Voice Of Oak King in *Robin Hood: The Arrow Of Destiny* (York Theatre Royal); Lacey in *The Life* (Southwark Playhouse); Tito in *Dirty Dancing* (UK tour), Tumnus/Maugrim in *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe* (Birmingham Repertory Theatre); Gregory Piven in *Sunny Afternoon* (Harold Pinter Theatre); Angel City Four Bass/Del Dacosta, in *City of Angels* (Donmar Warehouse); Witchfinder/Chorus in *Before The Dawn – Kate Bush* (Hammersmith Eventim Apollo); Emmanuel in *Fast Cuts & Snapshots* (Oran Mor); Barberini/Ballad Singer in *A Life of Galileo* (Birmingham Rep. & UK tour); Marley/Old Joe & u/s Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Birmingham Rep.); Daddy Brubeck in *Sweet Charity* (English Theatre Frankfurt); Grandfather in *Ragtime* (Regent's Park); Robin Starveling in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park); Barry Belson in *Jersey Boys* (Prince Edward Theatre); Spangler in *The Human Comedy* (The Young Vic & Watford Palace); Street Chorus Baritone in *Bernstein's Mass* (Royal Festival Hall); King Hildebrand/Mr. Northwind in *The Enchanted Pig* (Linbury Studio Theatre – Royal Opera House, UK tour and New Victory Theatre, New York); Ace in *It's A Wonderful Life* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); Papa Ge in *Once On This Island* (Birmingham Rep, Nottingham Playhouse and Hackney Empire); Mullins in *Peter Pan – A Musical Adventure* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); the voice of Audrey II in *Little Shop Of Horrors*, (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); Masana in *Rebellion* (Hackney Empire Studio Theatre); Dick Whittington u/s King Neville, in Stephen Fry's *Cinderella* (The Old Vic Theatre); The Man In The Saloon in *Blues In The Night* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); Lt. Brannigan/Arvide Abernathy in *Guys And Dolls* (Piccadilly Theatre), where he created the roles of Calvin and The Greek; u/s Quickly Robinson in *Jailhouse Rock* (Piccadilly Theatre); Marvin and u/s Brutus T. Firefly in *Oh! What A Night* (U.K. & European tour); u/s Booker T. Washington in *Ragtime* (Piccadilly Theatre); Sam in *Whistle Down The Wind* (UK National tour); Rhythm Boy *My One & Only* (Piccadilly Theatre) and Shenzi &

u/s Banzai and Ed in the original London cast of Disney's *The Lion King* (Lyceum Theatre).

Recording credits include: *You're Criminal, If We Try* Boyzone (Warners); *Running With Scissors* album, Janet Devlin (Insomnia Music Records); *Leanne Mitchell* album (Universal – Island Records); *Mercy*, Marcus Collins (R.C.A Records); *Sister Brother* (Arista Records); *The Foundations: Greatest Hits* (Tring International); *Saturday Night Fever* (Italy); *Bush Tales* (Zorilla Entertainment); *Morris: A Life With Bells On* (Twist Films); *Peter Pan – A Musical Adventure*; *Flashdance: the Musical*; *Zou* (Disney Junior); *Skins* (E4), *Disney's Dinosaur*, *Hollywood Action Movie* (Surface Films) and *Gophers!* (Zenith/Central Television, for Channel 4).

Film & TV credits include: *Muppets Most Wanted* (Disney); *The Six O'Clock Show* (Granada); *The Royal Variety Performance* (Granada); *Erru Gaeær'n* (Rubicon TV/TV2 Norway); *Barrymore* (LWT); *Saturday Live* (Triffic Films) and *Children In Need* (BBC).

Other credits include: *The Southlanders Vocal Quartet*, *Honda: Dreamscape*; *Pumpkin Soup For The Soul*, workshop (Stratford East) and *The Bet*, workshop (Criterion Theatre).

## **T'Shan Williams – Celie**

Training: Guildford School of Acting.

Theatre credits include: Celie in *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve 2019); Heather Duke in *Heathers the Musical* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket & The Other Palace); *Caroline, or Change* (Hampstead Theatre); *Guys and Dolls* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester); *The Color Purple: In Concert* (Cadogan Hall); Queen in *The Life* (Southwark Playhouse) for which she won the Off-West End award for Best Female in a Musical; *The Book of Mormon* (Prince of Wales Theatre); *Love Me Tender* (No.1 UK tour) and *The Blues Brothers* (Arts Theatre).

## Production Team Biographies

### **Marsha Norman** – Book

Marsha Norman 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.

### **Brenda Russell** – Music & Lyrics

Brenda Russell 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*, for which she, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray co-wrote the music and lyrics. Brenda and her co-authors were also nominated for a 2007 Grammy in the Best Musical Show Album category for the original cast album.

### **Allee Willis** – Music & Lyrics

Allee Willis 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*.

### **Stephen Bray** – Music & Lyrics

Stephen Bray 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.

### **Theatrical Rights Worldwide** – Licensor

TRW administers the live-stage performance rights of Broadway & West End musicals to theatres around the world. Established in 2006, TRW has quickly brought numerous top-tier Broadway titles into the catalogue, including *The Addams Family*, *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*, *Memphis* and *The Color Purple*. TRW leads the way in theatrical licensing with customizable performance and rehearsal products, unmatched customer service and innovative script and musical materials. Concurrent with developing our Broadway and West End collection, the TRW development arm (triVeLup) focuses its resources on the development and discovery of new musical properties geared for the regional,

international, community, school, youth theatre and family sectors. TRW has firmly established themselves as an industry leader in the theatrical marketplace and is a trusted agency for both authors and customers alike.

### **Tinuke Craig** – Director

Directing credits include: *Crave* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Hamlet For Young Audiences* (National Theatre Tour), *Cinderella* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Vassa* (Almeida Theatre), *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve/Birmingham Hippodrome), *random/generations* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *I Call My Brothers* (Gate Theatre), *dirty butterfly* (Young Vic).

Tinuke trained as a director at LAMDA. She was the Gate's Associate Director 2015-2016 and in 2014 received the Genesis Future Director Award. She is an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith, and an Associate at the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain.

### **Alex Lowde** – Designer

Alex read Drama at Hull University before training in design at Motley.

Set & Costume designs include: *The Color Purple* (Curve Theatre, Leicester); *Crave* (Chichester Festival); *La clemenza di Tito* (Theater An Der Wien); *All My Sons*, *August Osage County*, *She Town*, *The Elephant Man*, *A Doll's House* and *The Glass Menagerie* (Dundee Rep); *random/generations* (Chichester Minerva); *The Master Builder* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Persuasion* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Pygmalion* (Headlong/West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Dutchman* (Young Vic); *Three Sisters* (Lyric Belfast); *Stink Foot* and *Lines* (The Yard); *Froken Julie* (Aarhus Theatre); *Krapp's Last Tape* (Sheffield Theatres); *Rigoletto* (Wexford Opera); *Enjoy* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Wanamaker Playhouse); *Excursions of Mr Broucek* (Opera North/Scottish Opera); *One for the Road/Victoria Station* (Young Vic); *The Lion's Face*, *The*

*Gentle Giant* and *The Nose* (ROH Linbury); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Lyceum); *Blake Diptych* (Laban Dance/Southbank Centre); *While You Lie* (Traverse); *Takin' Over the Asylum* (Lyceum/Citizens); *The Body of An American* (The Gate); *Tobias And The Angel* (Young Vic); *Dedication* (Nuffield Theatre); *Victory Condition* (Residenz Theatre, Munich).

Costume designs include: *Edward II* (National Theatre); *Machinal and Game* (Almeida Theatre); *Linda* (Royal Court); *Greek* (Scottish Opera).

**Alex Parker** – Musical Supervisor & Musical Director

Alex graduated from Birmingham University in 2012 with a BMus Honours degree in music.

His musical director credits include: *A Little Night Music* (Holland Park Opera), *Mame* (Hope Mill Theatre/Tour), *The Color Purple* (Curve), *My Left/Right Foot* (National Theatre Of Scotland), *Hairspray*, *Sweet Charity* (Pimlico Opera), *Barnum*, *The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4* (Menier), *Wonderland* (UK Tour), *A Little Night Music 40th Anniversary Concert* (Palace), *South Pacific* (Cadogan Hall), *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Follies* (Yvonne Arnaud), *The Whatsonstage Awards 2015 – present* (Prince Of Wales).

Assistant and associate musical director credits include: *West Side Story*, *On The Town* (BBC Proms), *Les Miserables* (Queens and Dubai Opera), *Stephen Ward* (Aldwych), *The Pajama Game* (Minerva) and *Soho Cinders* (Soho).

Alex produced and served as the musical supervisor to the London premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Putting It Together* at the St. James Theatre in 2013. He was also the musical supervisor for the London premiere of *Working* at the Southwark Playhouse in 2017.

As a composer, Alex has written five musicals with his writing partner Katie Lam. These include *AmDram*, *All Aboard*, *The Railway Children* and *After You*. *After You* was recently filmed at the London Coliseum for streaming. They have recently completed their new musical *Henrietta* commissioned by National Youth Music Theatre, and are also writing a musical adaptation of David Ebershoff's book *The Danish Girl*.

### **Martin Higgins** – Orchestrator

Martin trained at the University of Birmingham and now works as a composer and orchestrator in both the film and theatre industries. He frequently collaborates with the writing duo Alex Parker and Katie Lam.

Theatre credits include: *Working* (Southwark Playhouse); *AmDram: A Musical Comedy* (The Other Palace); *A West End Christmas* (Cadogan Hall); *West End Does: The Magic Of Animation* (Cadogan Hall); *Carrie Hope Fletcher In Concert* (Cadogan Hall); *The Railway Children* (Cadogan Hall); *After You* (Crazy Coqs) and *All Aboard* (Electric Theatre, Guildford). He is also the current orchestrator of the annual WhatsOnStage Awards, a position he has held since 2015.

Film credits include: *Aladdin* (2019); *Late Night* (2019); *All Is True* (2018); *Murder On The Orient Express* (2017); *A United Kingdom* (2016); *Whisky Galore* (2016) and *Cinderella* (2015). He is currently scoring an original film musical with his writing partner Olivia Thomas called *The Secret* which is due to be released later this year.

### **Mark Smith** – Choreographer

Mark Smith is the Founder and Artistic Director of Deaf Men Dancing. Mark was nominated as Best Choreographer in the Off-West End Awards and the Broadway World UK Awards for *Ace of Clubs*, *Call Me Madam* & *Iolanthe* and Live Theatre & British Theatre Awards for *Tommy* and *The Last Five Years*.



Credits include: *No One In The World* (London School of Musical Theatre); *The Last Five Years* (Wales Millennium Centre & Tour); *Iolanthe* (Wiltons Music Hall & UK Tour); *Tommy* (Ramps on the Moon UK Tour); *Reasons To Be Cheerful* (Graeae Theatre UK Tour); *The Threepenny Opera* (UK Tour); *My Silent World* (Commissioned by Michael Nunn & Billy Trevvit, Artistic Directors of Ballet Boyz, a short film for Ch4 Random Acts); *The Rhythmics* (Metta Theatre); *Orfeo Ed Euridice* (Longborough Festival); *West Side Story* (Music Theatre Project); *Let Us Tell You A Story* (Deaf Men Dancing commissioned by Exceptional & Extraordinary); *Time* (Deaf Man Dancing – Laban Theatre, Greenwich); *Groomed To Perfection* (Theatre Royal Brighton); *Corazon A Corazon* (Deaf Men Dancing commissioned by Without Walls); *Cabaret* and *Legally Blonde* (Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts); *Shoes and Hear! Hear!* (Sadlers Wells); *The Soundmen* (Includu Festival), *Money Makes The World Go Round* (Carnival UK/3 Pins Productions); *Echoes In The Night* (Carnival UK/3 Pins Productions); *The Who's Tommy* (Greenwich Theatre); *Ace Of Clubs* and *The Boys From Syracuse* (The Union Theatre); *As You Like It* (Oxford Shakespeare Company); *Alive!* (Outdoor UK Festivals); *Ten/Embrace* (Mayor of London's Liberty Festival); *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* (Arts Educational School); *Die Fledermaus* (Den Norske Opera & Ballet); *National English Ballet Theatre* (Choreography Lab 2017); *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Sequins And Snowballs* (Graeae Theatre, Queen Elizabeth Hall); *Carousel* (Royal Academy of Music); *Blood Wedding* (Dundee Rep Ensemble), *Wheels On Broadway* (Graeae Theatre); *101 Dalmations*, *The Meeting*, *A Marvelous Year For Plums* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Peter Pan*, *Just So*, *Marry Me A Little* and *Starting Here, Starting Now* (Chichester University); *The Lion*, *The Witch And The Wardrobe*, *Noah* (Chichester Festival Youth Theatre); *Duckie* (Le Gateau Chocolat, Southbank Centre); *Vogue: The Unlimited House Of Krip* (Southbank Centre); *Fables And Fairytales* (Bridlington Spa Theatre) and *Paralympic Opening Ceremony* (LONDON 2012).

## **Ben Cracknell** – Lighting Designer

Ben is an Associate Artist of Curve in Leicester. He trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama in London.

West End includes: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat* (London Palladium); *Heathers* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Inala* (Peacock Theatre); *Young Frankenstein* (Garrick); *Annie* (Piccadilly); *Pantoland at The Palladium*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Snow White*, *Dick Whittington* and *Cinderella* (London Palladium); *Breakfast at Tiffanys* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *All the Fun of the Fair* (Garrick); *Visiting Mr Green* (Trafalgar Studios); *Dancing in the Streets* (Cambridge) and *African Snow* (Trafalgar Studios).

Regional and UK tours include: *Sunset Boulevard at Home* (Curve), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Rough Crossing*, *Dracula*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Addams Family*, *La Cage Aux Folles* (UK Tours); *Love on the Links* and *Before the Party* (Salisbury Playhouse); *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Beautiful Thing* (Curve/UK tour); *What the Butler Saw* (Curve/Theatre Royal Bath); *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Birmingham Rep/Curve); *Kiss Me Kate* (WNO/Opera North), *Saturday Night Fever* (Theatre Royal, Bath/UK tour); *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It* (Stafford Shakespeare Festival); *The Memory of Water* (New Vic, Stoke); *Our House* (New Wolsey, Ipswich/UK tour); *Sherlock Holmes*, *Angus*, *Thongs and Even More Snogging* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Theatre Clwyd).

International includes: *Chess* (Tokyo & Osaka); *La Clemenza di Tito* (Opera de Lausanne/Opera de Oviedo); *Romeo und Julia* (Theater Trier); *Annie* and *Chess* (Toronto); *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, *The Life*, *Strangers On A Train*, *Sweet Charity* and *Tommy* (English Theatre, Frankfurt); *Legally Blonde* (South Korea); *Inala* (Sadlers Wells/International tour); *Faust*, *1984* (Altes

Schauspielhaus, Stuttgart); *Dracula* (Singapore/Bangkok) and *Voices of The Amazon*.

Television includes: *Quadrophenia*, *The Classic Brit Awards* (Royal Albert Hall); *The Olivier Awards 2011 – 2019* (2014 & 2019 Knight of Illumination Award for Best Lighting), (Royal Opera House and Royal Albert Hall); *The Kinshasa Symphony Orchestra* (Royal Festival Hall) and *Il Divo* (Coliseum).

Twitter: @bcracknell

Instagram: ben.cracknell.lighting

### **Tom Marshall** – Sound Designer

Tom Marshall has worked in sound for the past twenty five years. Current & upcoming work includes: *The Drifters Girl & Sister Act the Musical*.

Sound Design credits include: *Sunset Boulevard at Home* (Curve), *The Boy In The Dress* (RSC), *Curtains* (UK Tour) and the West End transfers of *White Christmas*, *Amelie* (UK tour), *Grease* (UK tour), *My Beautiful Laundrette* (Curve), *The Color Purple* (Curve), *White Christmas* (Curve), *Amelie* (UK tour), *Moll Flanders* (Mercury Theatre), *Oklahoma!* (Grange Park Opera), *An Officer And A Gentleman* (UK tour), *The Jungle Book* (UK tour), *Sunset Boulevard* (UK tour), *Project Polunin* (Sadlers Wells & London Coliseum), *Crazy for You* (UK tour), *Nativity!* (UK tour), *Flashdance* (UK tour), *A Little Night Music* (Watermill Theatre), *Working* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Life* (Arts Ed School, London), *Brass* (Hackney Empire), *Bugsy Malone* (Curve), *Crazy for You* (Watermill Theatre), *Oliver!* (Grange Park Opera) *Legally Blonde* (Curve), *Tell Me on a Sunday* (UK tour), *The Silver Sword* (UK tour), *Sweet Charity* (Curve), *Oliver!* (Watermill Theatre), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (UK tour), *Women On the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Playhouse Theatre), *The Hired Man* (St. James Theatre), *West Side Story* (Victoria Warehouse, Manchester), *My Favourite Year* (Bridewell Theatre), *The Tailor Made Man* (Arts Theatre), *Legally Blonde* (Arts Educational School), *Pushing up Poppies* (Theatre 503), *Legally Blonde*, *The*

*Life, Crazy For You, Cry Baby* and *Newsies* (Arts Educational School, London).

Tom has acted as an associate sound designer on over thirty shows in the UK and internationally, including *The Bodyguard*, *Warhorse* and *Gypsy* to name a few. Prior to this he worked as No.1 (Head of Sound), opening and mixing numerous large West End shows over the past two decades.

As a freelance mix engineer Tom has had the privilege of working on countless events, such as the *2012 Olympics* stadium athletics and touring with many artists including; The Coral, The Bees, The Lightning Seeds, Elaine Paige, Lewis Taylor, Martina-Topley-Bird and PJ Harvey.

### **Cynthia De La Rosa** – Hair & Make-Up Designer

Supervisor & Design credits include: *The Half God Of Rainfall* (Somerset House); *The Twilight Zone* (Ambassador's Theatre); *Standing At The Sky's Edge*, *Frost/Nixon* (Sheffield Theatres); *Shipwreck*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Against*, *They Drink It In The Congo*, *Boy* (Almeida); *The Convert*, *Twelfth Night*, *Yellowman*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Once In A Lifetime* (The Young Vic); *Running Wild* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Sylvia* (The Old Vic); *Allelujah!* (The Bridge Theatre); *Beginning* (National Theatre/Ambassadors); *The Threepenny Opera*, *Carousel* (Royal Academy of Music) *The Days Run Away Like Wild Horses* (Sadler's Wells); *Promises, Promises* (Southwark Playhouse); *Boys Will Be Boys* (Bush Theatre); *Little Red Riding Hood* (The Pleasance Theatre) and *The Light In The Piazza* (Curve Theatre, Leicester).

Theatre credits include: *Follies*, *Angels In America*, *Common*, *The Plow In Their Stars* (National Theatre); *Torandot*, *Le Grande Macabre*, *The Mikado*, *Norma*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *Rigoletto*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Barber Of Seville*, *La Boheme*, *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*, *Peter Grimes*, *Jenufa*, *L' Amour De Leon*, *Riders To The Sea*, *Madame Butterfly*, *The Elixir Of Love*,

*Messiah, Tosca, The Turn Of The Screw, The Damnation Of Faust, Faust, Simon Boccanegra, The Return Of Ulysses, Castor And Pollox, Don Giovanni, Medea, The Perfect American, The Magic Flute, Jenufa, Kismet, Satygraha, Madame Butterfly, On The Town, Aida, Candide, Carmen, The Magic Flute, Lucia Di Lammermoor, Punch And Judy, The Coronation Of Poppea and Die Rosenkavalier* (English National Opera).

Film & TV credits include: *The Windsor's Wedding Special, The Windsor's Season Two, The Windsor's Christmas Special* (Channel 4/Noho); *The Hustle* (U.K. Productions Ltd); *The Angel* (Adama Pictures/Netflix); *Dinner With Herve* (Red Castle Productions); *Murder In Successville* (Tigeraspects/BBC) and *Guerrilla* (Fifty Fathoms Production/BBC).

Other credits include: *Irma* (South London Art Gallery) and *The Windsor's* (Marie Claire Magazine).

**Kay Magson CDG** – Casting Director  
Kay is an Associate Artist of Curve.

Theatre credits include: *West Side Story* (Curve), *The Color Purple* (Curve & Birmingham Hippodrome), *Beautiful Thing* (Arts Theatre/U.K. tour), *The Solid Gold Cadillac* (Garrick), *Sweeney Todd* (Royal Festival Hall), *Breakfast at Tiffanys* (Curve/National tour), *Dangerous Corner* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/West End), *Round the Horne... Revisited*, *Aspects of Love*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *All the Fun of the Fair* (National tours), *Kes* (Liverpool Playhouse/National tour), *Great Expectations* (Watford Palace Theatre/National tour), *Bat Boy* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/West End), *Young America Season* (Northampton/National Theatre) and *Singin' in the Rain* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/National Theatre/National tour).

Kay was resident casting director at West Yorkshire Playhouse where she cast many shows including *Hamlet*, the *McKellen*

*Ensemble Season and the Patrick Stewart Priestley Season amongst others.*

Kay casts regularly for Sherman Cardiff (*Iphigenia in Splott, The Cherry Orchard, A Doll's House, The Weir* (co-production with the Tobacco Factory), Dublin Carol, *The Motherf\*\*\*er with the Hat* (co pro with The Tron, Wind in the Willows et al), Derby Theatre (*Two, Look Back in Anger, Alice, A Christmas Carol, Solace of the Road and Great Expectations* amongst others), Storyhouse Chester (*The Beggar's Opera, The Secret 7, Much Ado About Nothing, The Tempest, The Crucible, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth, The Secret Garden, Stig of the Dump, Julius Caesar* et al), Liverpool Everyman (*Hope Place, Macbeth, Bright Phoenix* and the *Rock and Roll Panto* every year), Birmingham Stage Company (including *James and the Giant Peach, Horrible Histories, Gangsta Granny* and *Awful Auntie*). She is Associate Artist at Curve (where she has cast *A Streetcar Named Desire, Wipers, The Importance Of Being Earnest, Grease, Legally Blonde the Musical, Scrooge, The Witches, The Twits, George's Marvellous Medicine* and *An Officer And A Gentleman* amongst others) and Casting Associate at West Yorkshire Playhouse, where she works on artist development as well as casting shows (recently *Talking Heads, Richard III, Enjoy, Kes, Romeo and Juliet*).

Kay is a member of the Casting Director's Guild of Great Britain (CDG).

### **Crosscut Media** – Film Production

Crosscut Media is an award-winning video production agency based in Leicester. They strive to make use of the latest advancements in video production technology whilst employing some of the freshest and most skilled practitioners around. Whilst the core team can deliver the majority of projects in-house, they have a wider freelance team who bring specialist disciplines to the table such as drone, steadicam and crane operation, script supervision and complex content strategy plans.



## About Curve

Over 750,000 people annually engage with Curve through performances and projects at our home in Leicester, across the UK and internationally. Under the leadership of Chief Executive Chris Stafford and Artistic Director Nikolai Foster, Curve has developed a reputation for producing, programming and touring a bold and diverse programme of musicals, plays, new work, dance and opera. All of this presented alongside a dynamic mix of community engagement, artist development and learning programmes, which firmly places audiences, artists and communities at the heart of everything we do.

In 2019, three Curve originated productions played in London's West End; *On Your Feet!* (London Coliseum), *Sue Townsend's The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4 – The Musical* (The Ambassadors Theatre) and *White Christmas* (Dominion Theatre).

Recent Made at Curve productions include a streamed production of *Sunset Boulevard at Home*, Giles Andreae and Guy Parker Rees' *Giraffes Can't Dance*, *West Side Story*, Hanif Kureishi's *My Beautiful Laundrette* (co-produced with Belgrade Theatre Coventry, Everyman Theatre Cheltenham and Leeds Playhouse), John Osborne's *The Entertainer* (co-produced with Anthology Theatre and Simon Friend), A Curve Young Company and Community production of *Bollywood Jane*, a new UK tour of Jim Jacobs & Warren Casey's *Grease*, Alice Walker's Tony award-winning musical *The Color Purple* (co-produced with Birmingham Hippodrome), Winner – Best Regional Production at the WhatsOnStage Awards, Gloria and Emilio Estefan's *On Your Feet!*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat* (& UK tour) the world-premiere of Dougal Irvine's adaptation of Riaz Khan's *Memoirs of an Asian Football Casual*, the Curve Young Company and Community production of Joseph Stein's *Fiddler on the Roof*, the world premiere production of *An Officer And A Gentleman* (& on national tour), Leslie Bricusse's *Scrooge*, the world premiere of Amana Fontanella Khan's *Pink Sari Revolution*, adapted by Purva Naresh (with Belgrade Theatre



Coventry, English Touring Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds); a major revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* (& UK tour), Winner – Best Musical, Manchester Theatre Awards and Best Regional Production, WhatsOnStage Awards; the world premiere of Ravi Shankar's opera *Sukanya* (co-produced with the Royal Opera House & London Philharmonic Orchestra) and the 50th anniversary production of Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw* (with Theatre Royal Bath).

## About Birmingham Hippodrome

At Birmingham Hippodrome we are on a mission to enrich the cultural life of the region.

We are an independent charity, funding our wide-ranging and dynamic programme of theatre, musicals, dance, opera, festivals, education and community activities through ticket sales from our 1,800-seat auditorium, 200-seat Patrick Studio, donations and generous support from local and national trusts and foundations. In 2019/20 – our 120th anniversary year – we proudly fulfilled our ambitious vision to double our impact to one million moments of cultural engagement: welcoming 550,000 people to performances on our stages and reaching a further 450,000 through our work with our communities, schools and co-produced performances on tour nationally and internationally.

We produced our first main stage youth musical *West Side Story*, involving over 1,000 young people in the process, and co-produced the WhatsOnStage Award-winning *The Color Purple* with Curve. New, co-commissioned productions with Hippodrome Associates included: Aakash Odedra Company (*Samsara*), Motionhouse (*WILD*), Open Theatre (*The Twisted Tale of Hansel & Gretel*), Rosie Kay Dance Company (*10 Soldiers*), Sonia Sabri Company (*Same Same But Different*) and Zoo Nation: The Kate Prince Company (*Message in a Bottle*, with Sadler's Wells and Universal Music); and a new work from Cuban choreographer Raul Reinosa as part of Acosta Danzaís acclaimed *Evolution* touring programme.

We are the largest dance campus outside London, home to Birmingham Royal Ballet (led by Carlos Acosta), DanceXchange, Dance Consortium, OneDanceUK and The Space; recently developing a new partnership with Chaillot: Theatre National de la Danse (Paris) and being hailed as 'a new capital for dance'.

Off stage, we further enhanced our reputation as the leading provider for festivals in the Midlands, engaging over 150,000

people through performances and participation on our city's streets through *B-Side Hip Hop Festival*, co-producing the city's Chinese New Year celebrations, and a monthly cultural programme in Bullring Grand Central, Birmingham's flagship retail centre. Our Hippodrome Education Network delivers creative activities in 28 partner schools every week – 19 of which are in the UK's top 10% most disadvantaged communities – with over 20,000 young people taking part over 100,000 times each year.

Even though our doors have been closed for live performance for 12 months we have continued to find ways to bring arts and culture to our communities, and in October 2020 reimaged our auditorium to open the UK premiere of *Van Gogh Alive*, a socially distanced, multi-sensory experience that brought much-needed joy to the region. We followed this with a message of hope and peace beamed across Birmingham and the Black Country over the new year: the stunning light installation *Global Rainbow* by Yvette Mattern, in partnership with Global Streets.

As we look to the future, we are proud to place inclusion at the heart of all we do and were delighted to receive the West Midlands Tourism Award for Most Accessible and Inclusive Venue in 2020.

To learn more and find out how you can support Birmingham Hippodrome visit: [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

Facebook: Birmingham Hippodrome

Twitter: @brumhippodrome

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Cathy Tyson

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## **Observers to the Board**

Kevan Grantham

Claire Simpson

## Team Curve

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Jay Bridges	Buildings & Technical Director
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James Dainty	Assistant Head of Automation & Stage
Colette Davies	Duty Manager
Louise-Ann Dennard	Sales & Data Assistant
Linda Dixon	Finance Director
Jessica Dobbie	Box Office Assistant
Lucy Duncan	Assistant Head of Wardrobe
Joanne Dunn	Executive Officer
Elizabeth Ellis	Lead Systems Administrator
Tess Ellison	Producer
Ali Hassan Elsayed	Hospitality Supervisor
Layla Eyres	Group Sales Manager
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Clare Geeson	Communications Officer
Andrew Gibbs	Senior Maintenance Technician
Justin Gladwin	Graphic Designer
Michelle Golding	Cleaner
Pamela Grant	Finance Officer
Aidan Grounds	Executive Producer
Jack Harper	Technician
David Hately	Senior Lighting Technician
Simon Henry	Security Officer
Lindsey Heslop	Stage Door Receptionist
Edward Hingley	Head of Stage & Automation
Hannah Holden	Senior Hospitality Supervisor
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Peter Jackson	Senior Finance Officer
Binoy Jacob	Kitchen Assistant
Murphy Jake	ICT Technician
Will Kenny	Maintenance Technician
Mark Kenny	Technician
Jonathan Laidlow	Head Of Lighting
Edward Lindley	Head of Wardrobe
Sean McCabe	Technician
Jude Michell	Technician
Shilpa Mistry	HR Officer
Fiona Moore	Press & Digital Manager
Chris Moore	Assistant ICT Manager
Judith Moulton	Technician
Dave Norton	Head of Sound
Tom Owen	Chef
Aaron Patchett	Technician
Johnathon Peace	Box Office Assistant
Joana Periera	Cleaner
Alexander Perry	Memberships & Fundraising Coordinator
Francesca Picciano Moss	Production Coordinator
Martin Pickard	Assistant Head of Stage & Automation
Charlotte Powell	Box Office Manager
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Chetna Ratan	Senior Communications Officer
Steven Ratcliffe	Assistant Head of Lighting
Andrew Reeves	Creative Programmes Associate
Milton Robinson	Technician
Paul Rogers	Creative Programmes Coordinator
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Angel Rossell De Pablos	Assistant Head of Sound
Michelle Rossington	Hospitality Manager
Matthew Shepherd	Hospitality Supervisor
Hannah Tully	Stage Door Receptionist
Elizabeth Shouler	Head of Creative Programmes
Chris Simons	Cleaner
Jasdeep Singh	Technician

Christopher Stafford	CEO
Emily Walker	Technician
Diane Walker	Payroll Administrator
Claire Ward	Director of Audiences
Carl White	Security Officer
Sarah Williamson	Visitor Experience Administrator
Mary Wills-Wilson Eve	Memberships & Fundraising Coordinator
Tracey Wyatt	Cleaner
Ciara Wynne	Box Office Supervisor
Yuliya Zla-kova	Hospitality Supervisor

### **For Birmingham Hippodrome**

Fiona Allan	Artistic Director & Chief Executive
Chris Sudworth	Director of Artistic Programme
Bayley Pielow	Head of Executive Office
Chilina Madon	Director of Marketing & Sales
Jacky Barron	Head of Marketing
Hannah Carroll	Marketing Manager (Projects)
Matthew Neuenhaus	Marketing Officer
Jenna Hadley	Head of Communications
Ben Wooldridge	Communications Manager (Productions)
Amy Stutz	Digital Content Officer
Donna Scott	Head of Sales
Matt Lloyd	Information & Sales Manager
Declan Carroll	Information & Sales Supervisors
Marina Gilmore	Information & Sales Supervisors
Audrey Guest	Information & Sales Supervisors
Joe Parker	Information & Sales Supervisors
Debbie Sangha	Information & Sales Supervisors
Zaylie-Dawn Wilson	Head of Learning & Participation
Rachel Smith	Learning & Participation Manager

## **Please consider donating to Curve**

Your donation will support all the work we deliver both on and off our stages.

Text **PURPLE 5** to **70490** to donate **£5**

Text **PURPLE 10** to **70490** to donate **£10**

Text **PURPLE 20** to **70490** to donate **£20**

UK networks only. Texts cost your donation amount plus one standard rate message.

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