

All-star West End cast announced for The Color Purple in Concert!



An all-star West End cast is announced today for a one night only concert version of **The Color Purple** at London's Cadogan Hall on Sunday 21 May at 6.00pm.

The Color Purple tells the inspiring and unforgettable story of a woman who, through love, finds the strength to triumph over adversity and discover her unique voice in the world.

The Color Purple is being staged to raise funds for The British Theatre Academy, a unique performing arts programme that has inspired and nurtured the talent of thousands of young performers over the past 30 years. The concert will feature a chorus of over 40 current BTA participants.

The cast features:

Wendy Mae Brown (as Sofia) West End roles include Oda Mae Brown in the original cast of *Ghost the Musical*; Hattie in *Kiss Me Kate*; Serena in *Porgy and Bess*; Joanne in *Rent*.

Cavin Cornwall (Mister) Currently appearing in *Disney's Aladdin* at the Prince Edward. He was Caiaphas in the recent Regent's Park Open Air Theatre production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Other West End roles include Curtis Shanks in *Sister Act*; Crown in *Porgy & Bess*; Billy Flynn in *Chicago*.

Tyrone Huntley (Harpo) Currently appearing as C.C. White in *Dreamgirls* at the Savoy. He won the Emerging Talent Award at the Evening Standard Awards and has been nominated Best Actor in a Musical at this year's Olivier Award for his Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. He also appeared in the original London casts of *Memphis* and *The Book of Mormon*.

Rachel John (Shug) Recently returned from Toronto where she played the role of Nicki Marron in *The Bodyguard*, also in the West End. Other West End roles include Felicia in *Memphis*; *The Lion King*; *Sister Act*; three years as Meat in *We Will Rock You*. It has recently been announced that Rachel will play Angelica in the UK premiere of *Hamilton*.

Hugh Maynard (Pa) West End roles include John in the most recent revival of *Miss Saigon* (nominated Best Featured Actor in a New Production of a Musical in Broadway World Awards and Best Supporting Actor in a Musical in the WhatsOnStage Awards); Simba in *The Lion King*; Clopin in *Notre Dame de Paris*; Marvin Gaye in *Dancing in the Streets*; *Sister Act*. He recently became the first black performer in the UK to play the iconic role of Sweeney Todd.

Seyi Omooba (Nettie) Currently appearing in Headlong's *Junkyard* at Bristol Old Vic. She received rave reviews as Sarah's Friend in *Ragtime* at Charing Cross Theatre.

Marisha Wallace (Celie) The American star of *Dreamgirls*, she is currently the alternate Effie at the Savoy. Her Broadway shows include the original casts of *Something Rotten!* and *Disney's Aladdin*.

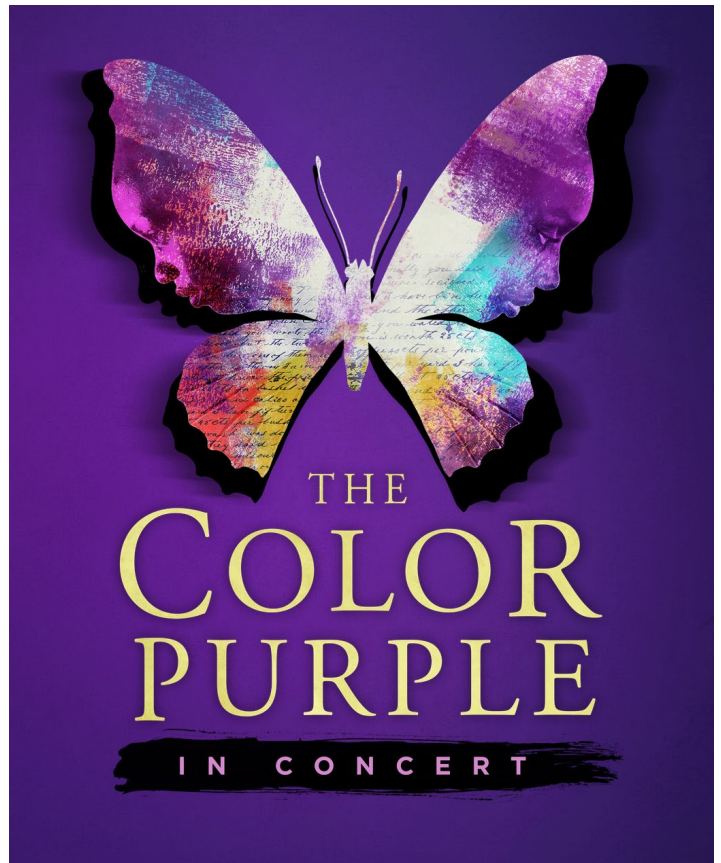
Creative team: Musical Director **James Taylor**, Choreographer **Mykal Rand**, Producer **Matthew Chandler**
Producer and Casting Director **Danielle Tarento**.

The British Theatre Academy

The British Theatre Academy is a unique performing arts programme that has inspired and nurtured the talent of thousands of young performers over the past 30 years. We believe that children should be trained as professionals by professionals. Our team maintains an established link with casting directors, music producers, and talent agents across the world. We are passionate about releasing the individual skill and flair of each student in all aspects of their chosen field. Our experienced creative team provide exceptional training and are dedicated in preparing and inspiring our students at the highest level.

Last Summer the BTA presented *The Secret Garden* at the Ambassadors Theatre for a month-long West End season and *Godspell* (featuring West End and Broadway stars Kerry Ellis, Ramin Karimloo and George Maguire) together with pupils from the Academy. Altogether, over 500 outstanding cast members wowed the audiences all summer long!

The BTA is auditioning for young people to take part in **The Color Purple**. You can register at www.thecolorpurple.co.uk



LISTINGS INFO

Sunday 21 May
at 6.00pm

The Color Purple

A Charity Gala
for The British Theatre Academy

Based upon the novel 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

CADOGAN HALL

5 Sloane Terrace,
London
SW1X 9D

Tickets
£75 (premium seats), £45, £32.50, £19.50

Box Office: 020 7730 4500
www.cadoganhall.com

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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