

THE COLOR PURPLE  
BASED UPON THE NOVEL WRITTEN BY ALICE WALKER AND THE WARNER BROS./AMBLIN  
ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE  
Book by MARSHA NORMAN  
Music and Lyrics by BRENDA RUSSELL, ALLEE WILLIS AND STEPHEN BRAY

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

[NETTIE] Female. Alto. 25 to late 30s. African American. Celie's sister, and her rock. Smart, adventurous, driven and a devoted sister, she is torn apart from Celie and goes on to realize her life in Africa.

[MISTER] Male. 35s - 45. African American. Celie's husband and abuser- a troubled man. In love with Shug Avery, his misdeeds in life are eventually redeemed as he transforms throughout the play. Character ages 30s to 50s.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE COLOR PURPLE  
BASED UPON THE NOVEL WRITTEN BY ALICE WALKER AND THE WARNER BROS./AMBLIN  
ENTERTAINMENT MOTION PICTURE  
Book by MARSHA NORMAN  
Music and Lyrics by BRENDA RUSSELL, ALLEE WILLIS AND STEPHEN BRAY

[BUSTER] Male. 30s - 40s. African American. Sofia's good-time man with whom she takes up between her relationship stints with Harpo

[PRISON GUARD] Male. 30s – 50s. Prison guard at the jail where Sofia is being held; Bari-Tenor; ensemble.

[GRADY] Male. 20s – 30s. Shug's husband; extremely boring and plain, not good enough for Shug; Celie can't stand the way he treats Shug; will cover the role of Harpo; soulful Bari-Tenor; featured ensemble.

[BOBBY] Male. 20s. African American. Celie's handyman in her later life / tends to Sophia during her jail stay.

[ADAM] Male. Tenor, Baritone, Bass. 20s. African American. Celie's son raised by Nettie in Africa and later reunited with his mother.

[OLIVIA] Female. Soprano. 20s. African American. Celie's daughter raised by Nettie in Africa and later reunited with her mother.

[ENSEMBLE ROLES] Male and Female. Henrietta, Daisy, Chief, Young Celie (to play 12-14), Young Nettie (to play 10 – 12).