

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ***THE COLOR PURPLE* OPENS CITADEL'S 2019/20 SEASON WITH AN UPLIFTING, INSPIRING HIT**

**September 3, 2019**

First, a Pulitzer-winning novel by Alice Walker. Then, an Oscar-winning film from Steven Spielberg. Now, the Oprah Winfrey-produced, Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical adaptation hits the Citadel stage. Featuring an array of lively music ranging from old-school gospel to contemporary R&B and an empowering story of resilience, *The Color Purple* is heartfelt musical theatre at its finest.

At the helm is **Kimberley Rampersad** (recently lauded for her work as choreographer for the Citadel's production of *Matilda The Musical*). Rampersad was recently the recipient of the Gina Wilkinson Prize, [featured in the New York Times](#) for her work at the 2019 Shaw Festival, and director of the critically-acclaimed Canadian Premiere of *The Color Purple* at Halifax's Neptune Theatre. Joining her is musical director **Floydd Ricketts** whose work as a choral conductor for Montreal's Ensemble Noir and with McGill University has put him strongly in-demand across Canada.

Portraying embattled underdog Celie is Alberta's own **Tara Jackson**. Audiences will remember Jackson from dynamite roles in Citadel hits *Hadestown*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Bittergirl: The Musical*. [She recently visited Calgary's National Music Centre to show off some of the powerhouse music](#) featured in this Broadway smash hit.

Joining her in the spotlight are **Karen Burthwright** (Shug) whose work includes the Tony-nominated 2012 revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and **Janelle Cooper** (Sofia), a Calgary-based actor, writer, director, and 2019 finalist for the Gina Wilkinson Prize. They're part of this all-Canadian 16-member cast, ranging from screen stars like **David Comrie** (*Money Heist*, Netflix) and **Ryan Allen** (*Between*, Netflix; *Working Moms*, CBC; *Orphan Black*, BBC America), to local favourites like **Jesse Lipscombe** (*The Candidate/The Party*, Citadel; *John Ware Reimagined*, Workshop West) and **Jameela McNeil** (*Sister Act*, Mayfield Dinner Theatre).

With its empowering story exploring resilience over prejudice, abuse, and poverty; an all-star cast of some of Edmonton and Canada's top theatrical talents; plus an award-winning soundtrack of high-energy gospel hits; *The Color Purple* is an unmissable triumph to start what is set to be a landmark season at Citadel Theatre.

*The Color Purple* runs September 21 to October 13, 2019. Tickets are available at [www.citadeltheatre.com](http://www.citadeltheatre.com) and 780.425.1820. Tickets start at just \$30 plus fees and GST.

## CAST

RYAN ALLEN	Mister
ANDREW BRODERICK	Harpo
KAREN BURTHWRIGHT	Shug
DAVID COMRIE	Preacher
JANELLE COOPER	Sofia
ALLISON EDWARDS-CREWE	Nettie
OMAR FORREST	Adam
TARA JACKSON	Celie
JESSE LIPSCOMBE	Buster
MICHAEL-LAMONT LYTLE	Pa
MASINI McDERMOTT	Church Lady
JAMEELA McNEIL	Olivia
MAIKO MUNROE	Church Lady
SARAH NAIRNE	Church Lady
AMBER TOMLIN	Squeak
TENAJ WILLIAMS	Grady

## CREATIVE TEAM

KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD	Director
FLOYDD RICKETTS	Music Director
BRIAN PERCHALUK	Set Designer
MING WONG	Costume Designer
HUGH CONACHER	Lighting Designer
PETER McBOYLE	Sound Designer
MIRANDA ALLEN	Fight Director
PATRICIA DARBASIE	Assistant Director
MUKONZI MUSYOKI	Dramaturg
GINA MOE	Stage Manager
MICHAEL DUGGAN	Assistant Stage Manager
ERIN HAYES	Apprentice Stage Manager

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For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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**NOTE:** The company will be available for interviews until **September 14**. We may not be able to accommodate requests after that date.

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**SPONSORS:**

**Season Sponsor:** Capital Power

**Government Funders:** Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Alberta Lottery Fund, The City of Edmonton; Edmonton Community Foundation; The Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage.

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