



THE COLOR PURPLE- Revival Version **Auditions Information for 2023 Production**

AUDITIONS: Saturday, March 25: 6:00-9:00 pm
Sunday, March 26: 2:00-5:00 pm
Sunday, March 26: 6:00-9:00 pm
Sign up for one of the 3-hour time slots at HawthornePlayers.com

CALL BACKS: By invitation Saturday, April 1: 9:00 am-6 pm
Those being considered for principal or featured roles must be present for acting combinations that will be announced.

PLACE: Florissant Performing Arts Center at the Florissant Civic Center
#1 James J. Eagan Dr. – corner of Parker Rd. and Waterford Dr., Florissant 63033

2023 PRODUCTION DATES: **Fridays, July 28 and August 4 and Saturday, August 5 at 7:30 pm**
Saturday, July 29 and Sunday August 6 at 2:00 pm
Tech Week begins Sunday, July 23

AUDITION DETAILS:

- Talent must sign up for a 3-hour audition time slot
- Talent should download and complete the Audition Form and either submit it by email to HawthorneAuditions@gmail.com or bring to auditions with a current headshot (selfie accepted)
- Talent should bring sheet music in your key to give to the accompanist with a 2-minute segment clearly marked that you will perform with appropriate moves from memory. A cappella auditions are not permitted.
- Talent should memorize a 2-minute monologue or interpret the Lord's Prayer or 23rd Psalm
- Talent will be taught in a group a brief vocal selection and will perform it as a group and perhaps individually
- Talent will be taught in a group a brief dance combination and will perform it as a group and perhaps individually
- Note: Wear appropriate clothing and shoes that you move in easily and comfortably.

Auditions are open to non-union actors of all races, sexes, creeds, orientations and abilities, ages 16 and older. Hawthorne Players encourages performers of diverse backgrounds and abilities to audition for our productions. Hawthorne Players is a community theatre and, as such, all roles are volunteer, unpaid positions.

Only actors available for production dates, tech week and rehearsals will be cast. Actors are expected to help with move-in, set build and strike in some capacity.

COVID/SAFETY: Anyone auditioning will be required to show proof of full COVID vaccination. All cast and production team members will be fully vaccinated.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The casting committee is looking for 18-22 multi-talented individuals (at least 9 women and 9 men), ages 16 and older, who can sing, move well-preferably dance, and act who will make the commitment to be on time to all rehearsals when they are needed to create a superlative production.

Callbacks will only be for lead or featured roles and are mandatory for anyone being considered for those roles. Sides will be provided and used for callbacks. Individuals who are not asked to callbacks could still be cast in the ensemble.

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals will begin Tuesday, May 30 at North Hills UMC in Ferguson and are currently planned for Sunday afternoons/evenings and Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 6:00-10:00 pm. All actors, except Celie, will not be needed at all rehearsals until late in the schedule.

SCHEDULE AND CONFLICTS: Conflicts will not necessarily eliminate you from being cast. However, excessive additional conflicts after being cast may result in a role being recast. Please do not audition if you are not available for all rehearsals during tech week and all performances.

HAWTHORNE DUES: Individuals cast are expected to become a paid member of Hawthorne Players to cover insurance, photos of show and eligibility for Hawthorne's Best Performance Awards. The cost to join Hawthorne Players is \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family, per calendar year.

For additional questions, please contact Director Nancy Crouse by phone or text at (314) 607-0078.

Female Roles

Celie: African-American female lead playing ages 13 to 50 - Celie is the heart of this musical with an extraordinary mezzo-soprano/alto voice including a belting Gospel quality enhanced by a phenomenal acting range. This is her story of survival from an ugly duckling young teen to a beautiful, self-possessed middle-aged business woman because she has gained the strength to overcome the sexual abuse of Pa, the physical and emotional abuse of Mister, and the coerced separation from her two babies, Adam and Olivia, her beloved sister Nettie and finally from her lover Shug Avery to become the loving, forgiving center of everyone in her orbit.

Shug Avery: African-American female lead playing a stylish, sexy mid 20s-60s touring professional blues singer-dancer. Shug's charismatic, free-spirited unapologetic nature captivates Mister, Celie and others. She's a lover of life and those who love her on her terms.

Nettie: African-American female supporting role with a soprano/alto voice who plays the beloved, attractive, intelligent younger sister of Celie who becomes a teacher in Africa and helps raise and educate Celie's children, Adam and Olivia. Her bond with Celie is a main through-line.

Sofia: A brash, independent, sexy African-American woman with a big belting alto voice and an acting range from comedy to tragedy; she's older, bigger and stronger than her husband Harpo, whom she loves yet leaves when he expects her to mind him, exclaiming, "Hell, No!"

Doris, Darlene, Jarene: Supporting roles, these African-American church ladies are a through-line trio of comedic, gossipy busybodies, capable of tight harmonies and great moves, yet they need to exhibit individuality. They are their own counterparts in Africa as well.

Squeak: A petite, sassy dancing soprano with a high-pitched speaking voice and a big heart. She loves Harpo and is unafraid of confronting Sofia, yet is big-hearted enough to try to help her get out of jail. Will possibly double as church soloist and one of Sofia's sisters early in Act I.

Olivia: Mezzo-soprano or alto in a featured role as Celie's and Pa's daughter, raised and schooled by missionary parents with the help of Nettie. Actress will play child through adult as well as doubling with other roles in Act I- depending on vocal range.

Male Roles

Pa: Supporting male role (baritone) he is the despicable, abusive stepfather of Celie and Nettie, whom they believe to be their father. He's the father of Celie's babies, who takes them away from her and gives them to a Minister. He convinces Mister to marry Celie because he's now interested in Nettie.

Mister: Lead male role (baritone, bass), he must have an impressive presence, vocal and acting range from a brutish, self-indulgent farmer to a redeemed almost philosophical neighbor and friend. He's always loved Shug Avery, but Ol' Mister wouldn't allow him to marry her. He lusts for Nettie, but begrudgingly marries Celie to take care of his wild children and his home, unmercifully working her and beating her unfeelingly until Celie's curse causes him to change.

Harpo: Important (tenor) supporting role who dances. As Mister's son, Ol' Mister's grandson and Sofia's and Squeak's love interest, he's confused when Sofia won't mind him like Celie minds his dad, but Sofia fights and leaves him. He then builds a Juke Joint and gets Shug to sing there. He always loves Sofia, whom he must have great charisma with throughout.

Ol' Mister: Featured spoken role is an older man whose self-centered, brutish, uncaring attitude sets the model for his son, Mister. He disapproves of Shug Avery. Role will probably be doubled.

Buster (Henry Broadnax): Featured role can be a tenor, baritone or bass. He's a good looking, well-built prize fighter, who is Sofia's arm candy in the juke joint and when she's beaten and jailed. Role will be doubled.

Grady: Featured tenor who becomes Shug's agent and husband, but later becomes infatuated with Squeak. Role will be doubled.

Bobby: Featured spoken role as Celie's young plumber, coming from the ensemble.

Preacher: Featured tenor/baritone role at top of the show will be doubled.

Prison Guard: Coming from the ensemble, a spoken role who is somewhat empathetic to Sophia's incarceration.

Chief: Featured African Olinkan Village Chief chants at top of Act II-baritone bass-doubled.

Adam: From ensemble who plays Celie's son as boy through adult. Can be tenor, baritone or bass.

Ensemble: Talented men and women who sing, dance and play several roles such as some listed above and also the following: Sofia's sisters, Church congregation/Juke Joint patrons, African men & women, Celie's customers, Field hands/Harpo's friends.