



# Audition Information

**Director – Michael J. Lasley**

**Choreographer - Nick Owens**

**Music Supervisor - Brent E. Marty**

**Vocal Director - Teneh B.C. Karimu**

**Audition Form-** Please complete all fields (An uploaded resume is appreciated but not required)

**Conflicts-** All expected rehearsal days are listed on the the form. Please indicate which dates you are not available

***Conflicts beyond April 25, 2021 will make it unlikely that you are cast.***

**Submissions/Uploads-**

1. Please upload a video of you singing 16 bars of an appropriate musical selection with accompaniment. If you are auditioning for Celie, Shug or Sofia, you may use the music that is included with the sides and/or the tracks linked below in the character descriptions. Preferably memorized.
2. Be sure to use a separate device than the one you're recording with to play a track for your audition. Please frame your
3. Pick sides from up to 2 characters and record their sides separately. Please have someone read opposite you from off camera. This does not have to be memorized..

***Please name your files in the following format:***

***(Last Name),(First Name) followed by "Headshot", "Side 1", "Side 2" or " Song"***

**Call Backs-** will be held if necessary – You will be notified if we need to see you again.

**Casting-** is projected to be completed by Monday, December 15, 2020 (Contingent on the auditions). The Cast will be posted on our website once a cast is secured. Please visit [civictheatre.org](http://civictheatre.org), click the shows tab and select "Learn More" under the appropriate show.

**Rehearsals Begin On or after March 7, 2021**

**In general rehearsals will be held Sunday 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm and Monday through Thursday 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm.**

**All actors are not called for all rehearsals.**

**Actual schedule will be determined once the show is cast.**

**Performance Schedule April 30 - May 15, 2021**

**Performance times are Thursday, Friday & Saturday @ 7pm, Sunday @ 2pm. There will be a 2pm performance on May 15th.**

**Call time is one hour before performance unless otherwise arranged.**

*Thank you for auditioning and volunteering your time. If we are unable to include you in the cast of "THE COLOR PURPLE", we encourage you to continue auditioning for our future productions. For more information on our auditions please visit [civictheatre.org](http://civictheatre.org) or attend the Civic Theatre audition workshops.*

*Regards,*

*Michael Lasley*

*Executive Artistic Director*

## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL AUDITION

Auditioning, by nature, is a subjective experience. However, the auditionee should remember that the production staff is making a technical assessment, as opposed to a personal one. We are always thinking of the 'big picture' and will assess each candidate equally based on look, sound and how that person might fit into the production as a whole. We hope the following pointers will help you have the best audition experience possible.

- **BE YOURSELF!** It is important to note that, even though it may be paradox to the essence of theatre, it is impossible to be something you're not. We always want to see the 'real you' – this will, no doubt, help you to shine and give us a clear picture of you, the actor.
- **BE LOUD!** Clarity & Quality of vocal sound are paramount to any performance. You may be the best actor ever, but if we can't hear or understand you, you might as well pack it in and hit the road! Be sure to be very conscious of your vocal production and how you infuse your 'volume' with the appropriate emotional quality for the role you are auditioning for.
- **FIND YOUR FOCAL POINT!** When auditioning (singing or reading) in a smaller room, it is customary to place your focus above and behind the people you are auditioning for. Beware of looking at those behind the table – it tends to make us uncomfortable as we are not actually part of any given scene or song you may be performing.
- **DRESS APPROPRIATELY!** Wear clothing that helps you to feel attractive, comfortable and confident. Try to keep it simple! If there is to be a movement audition, bring a change of clothes or be ready to dance in what you are wearing. Remember that clothing can also suggest character. If you feel so inclined, you may want to consider wearing something appropriate to the role you are reading for – but, try not to go overboard!
- **SIDES!** "Sides" is the term given to an excerpted bit of a scene, monologue or song from the actual show that you may be asked to read/sing from in an audition. If you are given a side, be sure to read through it very carefully so that you can perform your 'cold reading' well.
- **MAKE CLEAR CHOICES!** In all of your audition pieces, be sure to make strong, clear choices about things like tone of voice, emotional quality, rate of speech, intention/motivation in the scene or song and the five w's: where, when, why, what and to whom. Understanding these elements will help you relay the character you are portraying and give us a clear idea of your ability.
- **DO YOUR RESEARCH!** To give the best audition possible it is advisable to do some preliminary research so you know what it is your getting yourself into! Perhaps the most important part of this research, as it relates to musicals, is to have an appropriate song (or two!) to perform. In general, we prefer to hear uptempo material (as opposed to ballads) and songs from the musical theatre canon are best. Although, there are cases where pop songs or some other genre might be just right, it is usually best to go with a show-tune. (See the accompanying page for more info on preparing for a singing audition.)
- **TAKE YOUR TIME, TAKE YOUR TIME, TAKE YOUR TIME!** Being prepared and being relaxed is the best thing you can do to ensure a good and successful. Remember, we want you to succeed! Following these few suggestions may just help land you that big role! BREAK-A-LEG!

## Available Roles

**CELIE** (Mezzo Belter) Range: E3 to B5. Strong, soulful belt and confident head voice.

Suggested audition: 16-32 bars of "I'm Here"

Karaoke Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjPB02hut2g>

**SHUG AVERY** (Mezzo Belter) Range: E3 to E flat 5. Strong blues belter with confident head voice.

Suggested audition: 16-32 bars of "Push Da Button"

Karaoke Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hB1EeXXL2g>

**SOFIA** (Mezzo Belter) Range: E3 to B4. Tessitura sits low. Needs a good "growl" in her voice.

Suggested audition: 16-32 bars of "Hell No"

Karaoke Track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecqaxGHNBso>

**NETTIE** (Mezzo Soprano) Range: F3 to E5. Solid vocalist with wide range including confident head voice.

**HARPO** (High Baritone) Needs solid G4 (G above middle C) with falsetto range to B4

**ALBERT** (MISTER) (High Baritone) Needs a solid A flat 4 (AL above middle C).

**SQUEAK** (Mezzo Soprano) Affected "squeaky" voice. Top sustained note – E flat 5.

**CHURCH LADIES** – Doris, Jarene, Darlene – Busybody types that function as a Greek Chorus, of sorts. Need to be strong singers with very good ears for picking up tight harmonies.

**CHURCH SOLOIST** (Dynamic Mezzo)

**ENSEMBLE:** Males and females, 20s – 50s, African-American. All types and singing ranges. Need fantastic singing voices and dynamic personalities. To play various roles in the ensemble, including: Pa (Celie & Nettie's father), Preacher, Grady, Buster, Adam, Olivia, Ol' Mister