

# 'Color Purple' Broadway bound

NEW YORK (AP) — "The Color Purple," a musical version of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, is coming to Broadway.

Casting isn't complete, but the show will open Dec. 1 at the Broadway Theatre. Preview performances begin Oct. 25.

Walker's book has been adapted by Marsha Norman, author of "night, Mother," while the score is by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray.

"The Color Purple" will be directed by Gary Griffin, a Chicago-based director best known for his spare, small-scale productions of

musicals such as "My Fair Lady" and "Pacific Overtures."

Griffin also won acclaim in New York for his concert versions of vintage shows such as "The New Moon" and "Pardon My English." The choreographer is Donald Byrd.

"The Color Purple" is told through the eyes of Celie, a timid young Southern woman who is raped by her father, gives birth to two children and suffers years of cruelty married to an abusive man.

Whoopi Goldberg played Celie in Steven Spielberg's 1985 screen version, which

also featured Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover.

The musical received its world premiere in Atlanta in September 2004 at the Alliance Theatre.

*Variety* called the Atlanta production "a solid, capably executed piece of musical theater... that carefully plots Celie's terrible life journey with dignity and integrity." The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, while criticizing the "absurdities of a convoluted plot," said the musical was "a visually mesmerizing, vocally soaring, gospel-jazz-and-blues pastiche that honors the shape of Walker's epistolary text."

# Chan: Tucker holding up 'Rush Hour'

HONG KONG (AP) - Jackie Chan says the third installment of "Rush Hour" is stuck in neutral because co-star Chris Tucker is making too many demands.

"He wants too much power. The movie company hasn't obliged. He wants final editing rights and the final look at the movie and so on," Chan told The Associated Press last Thursday. Chan called Tucker a "good friend" but questioned whether he had the stature to be so demanding.

"He's still a new actor," Chan, 51, said. "How many movies has he made? Two movies have already made him very famous and made him a lot of money."

"He needs to learn slowly," he added.

A call by The Associated Press to Tucker's publicist, Samantha Mast, wasn't returned Friday.

While "Rush Hour 3" remains in limbo, Chan said he's going ahead with another project — one with famed Chinese director Zhang Yimou. Zhang's recent films include "House of Flying Daggers" and "Hero."

Chan declined to reveal details of the movie, saying only that it would be "galvanizing" and is set in the 1980s. He said the idea is his, but Zhang will work on the script.

"He relies on imagination... like an arrow flying through water," said Chan. "He has elevated the martial arts genre. I believe he can make any type of movie now."

# Unity

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invitations and fliers in multiple languages, including Spanish.

When asked if a faith-based message is central to the event, Cunningham, who became an ordained minister in 2004, said, "We don't promote it as a Christian event."

Although many of the lead performers are Christians and use their performances to provide ministry outreach, Cunningham emphasized that the event is open and designed to appeal to the youth and family community in general.

That is why the entertainers and activities include various styles of music and dance. Other performers scheduled include: SOP, Anne Mead-

**"The reason we do Unity Day is because we love people... There's a positive message that comes from this [event]."**

— Pastor Randall Cunningham

"We are just trying to push that we need to get unified so that we will have a strong powerful voice here in this state," he said, encouraging families to work together in the community.

"There's a positive message that comes from this [event]," he said. "The message is: Let's come together as a city and be represented by grace rather than sin."

Their mission and community focus is expressed in part of their mission statement: "[Our] vision is to build a faith-based minis-

try reaching families. The family unit is the most important unit in the universe. Healthy families are the closest thing to Heaven on Earth."

Cunningham

and his wife are a part of Remnant Ministry located in Las Vegas. They are about to break ground for a new church.

The new facility will be at the southeast corner of Windmill Road and Placid on a 2.5 acre parcel.

The 16,000 sq ft building will hold approximately 400 people. The facility will be named The Cupbearer. Completion is scheduled for early 2006.

For more information on the event, visit the website at [www.unitydaylasvegas.com](http://www.unitydaylasvegas.com) or call Duana at (702) 647-0141.

Chelsi Cheatom and Ramon Savoy contributed to this article.

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