

WINNER of the 2025
PULITZER PRIZE for DRAMA



STAPPENWOLF'S PRODUCTION of
PURPOSE
By BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS
Directed by PHYLICIA RASHAD

★★★★★ (OUT OF 5 STARS)

“BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS MAKES QUESTIONS INTO A MEAL — AND SERVES THEM HOT. *PURPOSE* IS A BIG SWING, BUT THAT’S WHAT IT TAKES TO GET A BIG HIT.”

TimeOut NEW YORK



“BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS FOLLOWS UP HIS STUNNER OF A FAMILY THRILLER, LAST SEASON’S *APPROPRIATE*, WITH A FAMILY DRAMA THAT HAS A QUITE DIFFERENT POWER ALL ITS OWN ... PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER IS PHYLICIA RASHAD, WHO DIRECTS HER EXCELLENT CAST WITH INSIGHT AND NUANCE, NO FALSE MOVES FROM BEGINNING TO END.”

DEADLINE

“A THRILLING BATTLE ROYALE. A HILARIOUS WAR OF ALL AGAINST ALL.”

THE NEW YORKER

DAVID STONE DEBRA MARTIN CHASE MARC PLATT
LACHANZE RASHAD V. CHAMBERS AARON GLICK
UNIVERSAL THEATRICAL GROUP EASTERN STANDARD TIME TRATE PRODUCTIONS NANCY NAGEL GIBBS
JAMES L. NEDERLANDER JOHN GORE ATG ENTERTAINMENT THE SHUBERT ORGANIZATION
STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENT

LATANYA RICHARDSON JACKSON HARRY LENNIX JON MICHAEL HILL

IN

THE STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION OF

PURPOSE

BY

BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS

ALSO STARRING

ALANA ARENAS GLENN DAVIS

AND

KARA YOUNG

SCENIC DESIGN TODD ROSENTHAL COSTUME DESIGN DEDE AYITE LIGHTING DESIGN AMITH CHANDRASHAKER SOUND DESIGN ROB MILBURN & MICHAEL BODEEN

HAIR & WIG DESIGN NIKIYA MATHIS FIGHT DIRECTOR MICHAEL ROSSMY VOCAL COACH KATE WILSON

CASTING BY CALLERI JENSEN DAVIS ORIGINAL CASTING BY JC CLEMENTZ, CSA DRAMATURG JONATHAN L. GREEN

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER TIFFANY N. ROBINSON PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT BETHANY WEINSTEIN STEWERT PRESS POLK & CO. GENERAL MANAGEMENT 321 THEATRICAL MANAGEMENT

DIRECTED BY

PHYLICIA RASHAD

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH SECOND STAGE THEATER BENNETT LEAK LISA LAWER POST

PURPOSE WAS COMMISSIONED BY AND ITS WORLD PREMIERE WAS PRODUCED AND PRESENTED AT STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY, CHICAGO, IL GLENN DAVIS AND AUDREY FRANCIS, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS / E. BROOKE FLANAGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

PURPOSE WAS CREATED WITH FUNDS FROM THE PRINCE PRIZE FOR COMMISSIONING NEW WORK, WHICH WAS AWARDED TO BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS AND STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY IN 2015.

PURPOSE WAS DEVELOPED AT THE COLORADO NEW PLAY FESTIVAL, STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO, 2019.



“THE TONYS HAVE A FRONTRUNNER FOR BEST NEW PLAY... I NEED, AND WANT, TO SEE *PURPOSE* AGAIN.”

THE WRAP

6 TONY AWARD NOMINATIONS

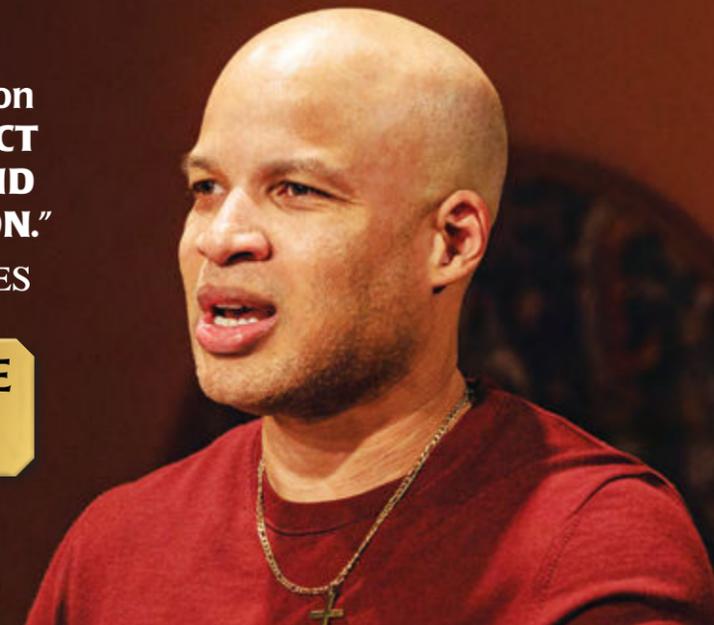
INCLUDING

BEST PLAY

"GLENN DAVIS plays Solomon 'Junior' Jasper with A PERFECT MIX OF CHARISMA AND CRAVEN CALCULATION."

FINANCIAL TIMES

2025 TONY AWARD NOMINEE
GLENN DAVIS



"JON MICHAEL HILL is a deeply empathetic actor and HIS CHARACTER PULLS THE AUDIENCE THROUGH THIS STORY BY THE HAND."

DAILY NEWS

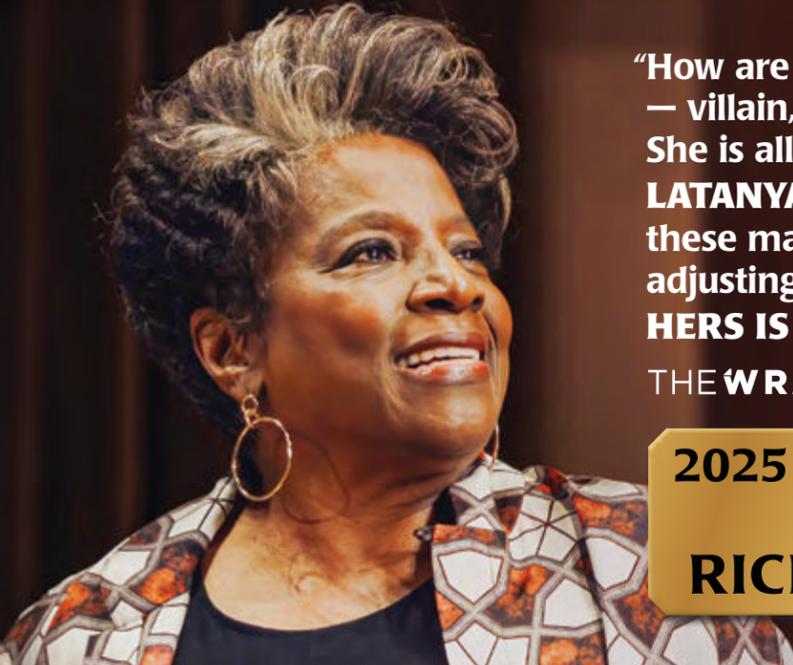
2025 TONY AWARD NOMINEE
JON MICHAEL HILL



"How are we supposed to perceive Claudine — villain, hero, tragic figure, total monster? She is all these people plus a few more, and LATANYA RICHARDSON JACKSON achieves these many mercurial changes by simply adjusting the temperature of her voice. HERS IS A MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE."

THE WRAP

2025 TONY AWARD NOMINEE
LATANYA RICHARDSON JACKSON



"THE PLAY'S BIGGEST AND MOST COMPELLING ARC in *Purpose* may be the one traveled by Solomon, and the great HARRY LENNIX charts it with tremendous nuance. This renowned man of God can be as tyrannical and cruel as Tennessee Williams' Big Daddy."

NEW YORK
The Sun

2025 TONY AWARD NOMINEE
HARRY LENNIX



"The hilarious KARA YOUNG, playing a woman in awe of these nightly news celebrities, PRACTICALLY PUPPETEERS THE AUDIENCE WITH COMEDY — until she breaks them."

NEW YORK POST

2025 TONY AWARD NOMINEE
KARA YOUNG





"A MERCILESS DISSECTION OF HYPOCRISY. YOU MAY HAVE TROUBLE CATCHING YOUR BREATH FROM LAUGHING SO HARD."

The New York Times



“AN ABSORBING, FIERCELY INTELLIGENT DRAMA THAT IS AS EMOTIONALLY BRUISING AS IT IS DARKLY FUNNY... THE DIALLED-TO-11 INTENSITY RECALLS TRACY LETTS’ *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY*.”

FINANCIAL TIMES

“PLAYWRIGHT BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS’ LATEST IS A FEAST OF THE GOOD STUFF — CRACKLING DIALOGUE, POWERHOUSE ENSEMBLE ... AS ELECTRIFYING AN ENSEMBLE AS YOU’LL EVER SEE.”

BROADWAY NEWS

“A BRILLIANT EXAMINATION OF LEGACY, AMBITION AND SHATTERED EXPECTATIONS ... A WHIRLWIND OF A PLAY, THE CAST DELIVERS INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCES AND SEEMS AT EASE IN THIS WORLD CULTIVATED BY BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS AND STRUCTURED BY PHYLICIA RASHAD.”

VARIETY

“A FUNNY, HEADY, IRREVERENT EXCAVATION INTO THE PSYCHE OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY.”

VOGUE

“THE MOST EXPLOSIVE FAMILY DRAMA ON BROADWAY.”

DAILY BEAST

“PURPOSE CHANNELS EVERYTHING FROM AUGUST WILSON TO TENNESSEE WILLIAMS. IT IS A SPARRING MATCH, CRACKLING WITH SHARP PUNCHLINES, PULLING US INTO AN ALL-OUT BRAWL.”

NEW YORK

“MY FAVORITE BROADWAY SHOW OF THE SEASON. MORE THAN ANYTHING, *PURPOSE* CHALLENGES YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE LIFE COURSE THAT WE FIND OURSELVES ON, OR THAT WE CHOSE, AND WHETHER IT’S RIGHT FOR US AND WHETHER IT’S ENOUGH. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE LOSE OUR SENSE OF PURPOSE SO MUCH THAT WE ARE NO LONGER INTACT — AS HUMANS, AS A FAMILY, AS AMERICA? IT IS A PLAY THAT MEETS OUR NATIONAL MOMENT.”

—Patrick Healy, Deputy Opinion Editor

The New York Times



“*PURPOSE* IS A MAJOR NEW AMERICAN PLAY... A THUMPING BLEND OF TRAGIC-PROXIMATE HORROR AND SCHADENFREUDE, IT’S RIVETING TO WATCH.”

DAILY@NEWS