

The Color Purple's Felicia Fields receives warm Illinois honor

Welcome to another edition of In the Mix...your complete rundown of the who, what, when, where and why of our talented city and the fabulous people who are giving command performances all over the world. Enjoy!

From the South Side to Sofia through hard work...

What a joy and honor it was to attend the special celebration hosted by the State of Illinois as Lt. Governor Pat Quinn declared July 24 "Felicia P. Fields Day" throughout the Land of Lincoln. Fields, who originated the role of Sofia in her Broadway debut, has received numerous awards and nominations for her work on and off Broadway and in Chicago, including a Tony Award nomination for her stellar performance in *The Color Purple*. Field's past performances include: Ella Fitzgerald

School on the Near North Side of the city. As she honed her craft, Fields also made a mark in her community as the choir director for Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in the Englewood neighborhood.

The one thing about Field's is her dedication to her profession is so remarkable is that she is the only actor who was an original member of *The Color Purple* workshop company and not only continued with the production's run on Broadway, but also joined its North American Tour and to this day

she has not missed one performance since joining the company other than to take a well deserved vacation. Nominated for eleven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, for *The Color Purple* which is based on the classic Pulitzer prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the moving film by Steven Spielberg.

It is the unforgettable and inspiring story of a woman named Celie, who finds the strength to triumph over adversity and discover her unique voice in the world. With a joyous Grammy-nominated score featuring gospel, jazz, pop and the blues, *The Color Purple* is about hope and the healing power of love. If you have not had a chance to see the *The Color Purple* yet you're still in luck. Due to popular demand, the first North American Tour of the Broadway smash hit *The Color Purple* has added four final weeks to its Chicago engagement at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., before moving to San Francisco. By reading my column you are the first to get in on an exclusive offer of *The Color Purple* "Summer Savings" which will allow you to get \$39.50 orchestra seats through Sept. 2. This offer is good only at the following days and shows: Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. When getting your tickets please use the code word "SUMMER" in order to get this outstanding rate for such great seats.

Tickets are on sale at the Broadway In Chicago box offices (151 W. Randolph St., 24 W. Randolph St. and 18 W. Monroe St.) and by calling Ticketmaster at (312) 902-1400. For more information, go to www.BroadwayInChicago.com.

Thank you Felicia for being such a shining example of grace and mercy for the entire world to see through you.



Felicia P. Fields



Nick Colionne

in *Jammin' Boat*, Ma Rainey in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, Nell/Amelia in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* and Effie Melody White in *Dreamgirls*. The room was filled with family, friends and fellow cast members who all cheered, clapped and snapped away taking pictures of Ms. Sofia as Lt. Gov. Quinn gave a heartfelt speech. "Felicia Fields is a homegrown star and her life is a great example to young people everywhere," Quinn said. "If you work hard and stay focused, you will achieve your dreams. Ms. Fields is a fighter and on behalf of Illinois' nearly 13 million citizens, we are very proud of her success."

Field's is a South Side native and the mother of two, Aubriel and Sidney Fields. Field's grew up on 72nd and Perry attended Charles S. Deneen Elementary School in the Park Manor area and Von Stuben High