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Nick Nurse Discovers Game Winning Beneficiary for his Paisley Park Gala

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Philadelphia 76ers basketball coach Nick Nurse adores Prince so much that he will travel from Philadelphia to Chanhassen to hold his 2024 Nick Nurse Foundation Gala. “The Purple Experience” takes place on Friday, September 27th at Paisley Park: It features Prince associated artists Morris Day and The Time, The New Power Generation and Sheila E. Surprise special guests, perhaps of the NBA variety are expected to attend. Nurse spent many years coaching with Timberwolves Coach Chris Finch, first in the D-League and then on the Toronto Raptors.

Thanks to a shared admiration of Prince, and a mission to use music to inspire confidence and support mental health, local Minneapolis nonprofit, Purple Playground, will be among the beneficiaries for this event.

A serendipitous meeting in line outside of First Avenue introduced Nick to a young woman and her mother this summer as they eagerly waited to enter The Revolution concert at First Avenue. As they talked about how excited they were to see Prince’s famous band, the mother raved about a Prince inspired nonprofit in Minneapolis that offered “Academy of Prince” programs. She spoke of the confidence, friends and songwriting skills her daughter gained due to her experience. She also explained that Purple Playground offered the classes for free, fully funded by donations and grants. A few days later he contacted Heidi Vader, Director of Purple Playground and explained his longtime passion for Prince and his music. He invited Academy of Prince students to perform at his upcoming gala, promising to donate some of the funds raised to Purple Playground.

Purple Playground formed in 2017 to raise money for kid’s music education in honor of Prince. In 2018 they started their own curriculum, Academy of Prince. The free music programs teach teens how to collaborate and write original songs inspired by Prince and his musical influences. Classes are taught by Prince aficionados and musicians who worked with Prince. Singer, Elisa Fiorillo and saxophonist, Adrian Crutchfield started as guests, then joined the board and now return to Minneapolis regularly to teach. Elisa will attend the Gala. Other guests over the years have included musicians Bobby Z and Matt Fink, Jellybean Johnson, St. Paul Peterson, Michael Bland, Liv Warfield, Shelby J., Andy Allo and Prince author historians, Andrea Swensson, Jon Bream and Jim Walsh.

“The Purple Experience” Nick Nurse Foundation Gala

***Featuring Morris Day and The Time, The New Power Generation,
Sheila E., And Special Guests***

***Paisley Park
7801 Audobon Rd.
Chanhassen, MN 55317
September 27th, 2024
VIP Mixer at 6pm and Main Event at 7:30***

The event is open to the general public and tickets can be found at paisleypark.com/events.