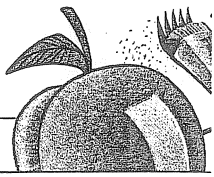


# Monday Talk

PEACH BUZZ • Q&A ON THE NEWS • THE VENT



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## 'Wicked' cast nice to help Park Pride

Before the cast of "Wicked" turned the Fox Theatre green twice Sunday during two performances, they used their green thumbs to spruce up Renaissance Park in central Atlanta.

Partnering with the non-profit Park Pride, the cast members, many clad in "Wicked" hoodies, grabbed pitchforks and wheelbarrows to distribute much-needed mulch around the public park.

"We picked something manageable for them to do, since they have a long day ahead of them," Park Pride's **Ayanna Williams** told us as cast members clustered around her. "The mulch is really needed for the trees right now because of the drought. There's a noticeable difference immediately."

Williams says the park projects have generated many green-minded volunteers recently.

"We even have the members of a bar mitzvah party coming out to help next month," she added.

"Wicked" cast member **Maia Evwaraye-Griffin** was enjoying the cool sunny Atlanta morning. Much of her family is based here, and she's been excited to be able to perform on the Fox stage for them. Her niece and nephew are also impressed with her cool role as one of the show's

signature flying monkeys.

"When you stand in the wings, and you look up at those stars it's really amazing," she said. "We love doing the show here. No matter what kind of day you've had, when you hit the stage and you hear those cheers, everything else just goes away. Atlanta really loves this show."

Over the weekend, the cast celebrated its 1,500th performance as well.

"It's a story that connects with everyone," Evwaraye-Griffin explained. "It's great to be a part of a show like that. Plus, today we get outside and have a chance to spread a little 'Wicked' joy around out here for this green project. I just hope I can get through those two performances now!"

"Wicked" runs through Sunday at the Fox Theatre. For info: [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org).