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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aurora Theatre announces vibrant 2016-17 performance season

IN THE HEIGHTS, THE MOUNTAINTOP and SPLIT IN THREE all part of the Signature Series;
Holiday classic CHRISTMAS CANTEEN 2016 returns

ATLANTA (March 8, 2016) – Atlanta audiences will delight in premiere performances, as **Aurora Theatre** announces its **2016-2017 Peach State Federal Credit Union Signature Series!** Following a landmark 20th anniversary season, Georgia's second largest professional theater will once again bring Broadway-caliber productions of unsurpassed talent and theatrics to the charming downtown Lawrenceville square. This season's diverse line-up features **IN THE HEIGHTS**, **WOMEN IN JEOPARDY**, **THE MOUNTAINTOP**, **SPLIT IN THREE** and the highly anticipated return of the celebrated holiday classic **CHRISTMAS CANTEEN 2016**. Led by co-founders Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence, the upcoming season offers something for theatergoers of all ages with its main stage mix of musicals, comedies and dramas!

"After our successful anniversary season, we are eager to continue forward with even greater productions this year, giving audiences a wide range of theater to enjoy," says Aurora Theatre Producing Artistic Director Anthony Rodriguez. "With many different themes present in this series – diversity, friendship and perseverance - our hope is that these performances not only provide entertainment, but educate and inspire people too!"

The upcoming Signature Series includes both original and co-production collaborations with local theatrical organizations, made possible by devoted donors and subscribers.

"Through the help of our many donors, sponsors and season subscribers, we have been able to build Aurora to the great organization it is today," says Associate Producer Ann-Carol Pence. "We owe it to them, our community, the many talented people that work tirelessly to make these shows successes and ourselves, to continue to produce compelling and powerful theater for our region."

IN THE HEIGHTS

July 21- August 28, 2016

The duo of Atlanta theaters that brought last season's smash-hit MEMPHIS partners once again for the Tony Award and Grammy Award-winning **IN THE HEIGHTS!** A co-production with Theatrical Outfit, the highly acclaimed musical is a universal story of a vibrant Latin community in New York's Washington Heights, a place where the coffee from Usnavi's corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. While his neighborhood is on the brink of change – full of hopes, dreams and pressures – the biggest struggles lie in deciding which traditions to keep and which to leave behind, as they create a permanent home of their own.

WOMEN IN JEOPARDY

September 29- October 23, 2016

When divorcees Mary and Jo receive suspicious vibes from their friend Liz's new dentist boyfriend, they set out on a quest to discover the hidden truths of his potential dark past. Are they being too critical due to the recent disappearance of his oral hygienist, or does the dashing doctor actually have something to hide? A combination of *Thelma and Louise* meets *The First Wives Club*; **WOMEN IN JEOPARDY** is a fun, flirtatious and laugh-out-loud comedy about the happenings of two middle-aged women when they trade in their wine glasses for a pair of spy glasses!

CHRISTMAS CANTEEN 2016

November 17- December 23, 2016

An Aurora Theatre original and Gwinnett's longest-running theatrical holiday tradition, **CHRISTMAS CANTEEN 2016** returns to the Aurora stage this November for its 21st season run! An audience favorite, this nostalgic musical revue is a Winter Wonderland that just keeps getting better! Sketch comedy mixed with theatrical numbers and singing galore, **CHRISTMAS CANTEEN 2016** is a variety show that should be on every person's Christmas list!

THE MOUNTAINTOP

January 12- February 12, 2017

After delivering his memorable *I've Been to the Mountaintop* speech, civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. retires to his room at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis and orders a cup of coffee. When Camae, the mysterious maid with a much greater mission in mind arrives, the lightning from their conversation crackles more than the storm brewing outside. **THE MOUNTAINTOP** poignantly re-imagines Dr. King's final moments on earth, as he confronts his destiny and legacy.

SPLIT IN THREE

May 4-28, 2017

It's 1969, and the Supreme Court is forcing the last segregated school system in rural Mississippi to integrate. Two white sisters, Nola and Nell, are caught in the middle of a national fervor as the deadline draws near. As if tensions aren't high enough, their long-lost Yankee half-sister arrives unexpectedly at their doorstep. Faced with the difficult new reality of their blended world, nothing is black and white in this southern fried comedy about the bond of sisterhood.

The 2016-2017 series will also offer a new musical, March 9- April 16, which will be announced soon!

The 2016-2017 Peach State Federal Credit Union Signature Series lineup includes:

IN THE HEIGHTS

July 21 – August 28, 2016

WOMEN IN JEOPARDY

September 29– October 23, 2016

CHRISTMAS CANTEEN

November 17 – December 23, 2016

THE MOUNTAINTOP

January 12 – February 12, 2017

NEW MUSICAL – TBA

March 9 – April 16, 2017

SPLIT IN THREE

May 4-28, 2017

Ticket prices for the **2016-2017 Signature Series** vary by performance. Season subscribers have the opportunity to select preferred seating starting now, whereas single-show tickets go on sale to the public starting **July 5**. For more information on the series or to become a season subscriber, please visit auroratheatre.com, or call the **Box Office** at **678.226.6222**.

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Under the artistic leadership of Co-Founders and Artistic Directors Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence, now in its 21st Season, Aurora Theatre produces professional live entertainment to suit everyone's taste. Aurora Theatre is home to over 600 events each year. Two series of theatrical productions, the Peach State Federal Credit Union Signature Series and the GGC Harvel Lab Series, are comprised of the biggest Broadway plays and musicals alongside exciting contemporary theatre. Additionally, Aurora produces concerts, stand-up comedy, children's programs, metro Atlanta's top haunted attraction Lawrenceville Ghost Tours, as well as Atlanta's only professional Spanish language theatre, Teatro Aurora. Aurora Theatre is a world class theatrical facility with two performance venues. Nestled on the square in historic downtown Lawrenceville, Aurora has FREE attached covered parking and is surrounded by restaurants and shops. Aurora Theatre has garnered numerous accolades highlighted by recent achievements that include winner of five 2015 Suzi Bass Awards, Creative Loafing's "2010 Best Theatre Company," Georgia Trend Magazine's "2011 Best Places to Work in Georgia," Atlanta Business Chronicle's "2012 Best Places to Work", Atlanta Magazine's "Best of Atlanta 2013", Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 2014 President and CEO Award for Excellence in Arts, and Gwinnett Chamber's 2015 IMPACT Regional Business Award for Hospitality .