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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aurora Theatre welcomes 2018 with programming for all interests and audiences**

*Set the stage for the New Year with theatrical delight!*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (January 3, 2018)** – New year, new shows! It’s time to indulge in the excitement that accompanies **Aurora Theatre’s** January programming schedule. Patrons yearning to satisfy their multi-cultural palettes can treat themselves to the musical journey from Latin America’s bolero genre to the fusion of trova, jazz, Caribbean and Brazilian rhythms featured in Teatro Aurora’s multi-faceted musical experience. Belly-aching laughter awaits those who attend Aurora Comedy Nights, where adults can partake in an audience-stimulated improv show or laugh-out-loud stand-up comedy. Kids are welcome to join the fun in Aurora Children’s Playhouse and a variety of winter classes and adults can make their dreams come true by enrolling in the Adult Acting Class. Whether audiences are looking for a fun night out or wishing to learn a new skill, Aurora Theatre has it all, ensuring 2018 is the best year yet!

**Special Winter Programming**

 **Teatro Aurora**

 **Club Babalú**

 *Saturday, January 6 at 8 p.m.*

Teatro Aurora is heating up 2018 with a musical experience unlike any other. Audiences can expect to be serenaded by the musical prowess of powerhouse vocalist **Lilliangina Quinones**, shortly followed with salsa dancing. The series continues with Fusión Latina featuring the rhythmic stylings of the wildly popular Willie Ziavino and the C.O.T. Band. These multicultural artists combine a Latin fusion of trova, jazz, Caribbean, and Brazilian rhythms—a musical style that blends perfectly with the melting pot of Atlanta. Those who desire pre-show snacks may arrive early to enjoy authentic foods from The Real Mexican Vittles.

Tickets are $15 advance purchase or $20 at the door. For more information, visit [bit.ly/TeatroAurora](http://bit.ly/2DwAGd8) or [bit.ly/ClubBabalu](http://bit.ly/2BWA2Fe).

**Aurora Comedy Nights**

 **Dad’s Garage**

 *Friday, January 12 and Saturday, January 13 at 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.*

**Prepare for a night of hilarious, off-the-cuff comedy as award winning improv group Dad’s Garage returns to Aurora Comedy Nights. The group’s fast-paced comedy scenes and games stemmed from audience suggestions work harmoniously to create a boisterous evening.** Tickets are $10.

**Headliner Dan Mengini**

 *Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20 at 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.*

Dan’s “too worried about too little and not really smart enough to do anything about it” mindset presents audiences with truthful and brilliant comedy that will leave them laughing for a lifetime. **Featuring Jenny Jennings and hosted by Aurora Comedy Nights veteran Katie Causey, the show is sure to deliver smart, creative and fun content for all audiences. Tickets are $18 online or at the door. For more information, visit** [bit.ly/AuroraComedyNights](http://bit.ly/1lv5HNS)**.**

**Aurora Children’s Playhouse**

*Select Saturdays in January and February at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*

Aurora Theatre assembles the best children’s performers in the region, bringing them to Gwinnett County for a family-friendly series filled with an array of extraordinary performances. Playhouse tickets are $7; PlayhouseTix punch cards are $50 and good for 10 admissions to any Children’s Playhouse show. For more information, visit [bit.ly/AuroraChildrensPlayhouse](http://bit.ly/ZufkZY).

 **Cinderella: The Remix**

 *Saturday, January 20 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*

Welcome to 2018, where audiences get a fresh new spin on the classic Cinderella story. Girl power comes to the forefront when Cinderella, a talented DJ, must take drastic measures after a devastating set-back to follow her dreams of making it in the music industry. Will she nail her audition for the Hip-Hop Hollywood Jam despite all odds? Find out in this up-beat rendition of the familiar story, directed by Justin Anderson. Tickets are $7.

 **Freeze Frame!**

 *Saturday, January 27 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*

The Big Thinkers are exploring the properties of dry ice and inertia, and kids of all ages are invited
to join in the fun! Discover what dry ice is while creating huge clouds of foggy vapor, and gain a new perspective on inertia through “skate board science.” Don’t miss out on one of the ‘coolest’ shows of the year! Tickets are $7.

 **BlackTop Playground**

 *Saturday, February 3 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*

Time to make a visit to the BlackTop Playground, where wit and humor rule the stage! Comprised of internationally known comedians who have appeared on BET, HBO and Comedy Central,

BlackTop creates imaginative, laugh-out-loud scenes from audience participation, ensuring a hilarious, entertaining comedy show unlike any other. Tickets are $7.

**Aurora Theatre Academy: Winter Classes**

 **Mini, Master and Budding Broadway Classes (Grades 1-5)**

 *Mondays, January 22 – March 12 from 4:30-6 p.m. (Budding Broadway class)*

 *Tuesdays, January 23 – March 13 from 4:30-6 p.m. (Mini and Master class)*

For elementary school students interested in acting, the Mini, Master and Budding Broadway classes are perfect in providing valuable stage experience, while also encouraging teamwork and collaboration with peers. Students will be active participants in creating portions of the sets, costumes and props for these exciting, whirlwind productions. Tuition is $200 per session and there is a one-time student registration fee of $25. With space limited to 15 students per class, pre-registration is highly recommended. A discount is available for students taking multiple sessions or for families with multiple students.

**Acting Edge Classes (Grades 6-8)**

*Mondays, January 22 – March 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

Calling all teens: take the drama out of life and put it where it belongs—on stage! Through a series of theater games, exercises and exploration, the Acting Edge class will culminate with an ensemble of players rehearsing a collection of scenes to perform for friends and family. Tuition is $200 per session. Enrollment is limited to 15 students in each class, and there is a one-time new student registration fee of $25. A discount is available for students taking multiple sessions or for families with multiple students.

**Adult Acting Class (18+)**

*Mondays, January 29 – March 5 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.*

There’s no time like the present to learn a new trade or satisfy long-lived dreams of becoming an actor. In Aurora Theatre’s Adult Acting Class, future stars can learn the acting craft and technique used by professionals. Sessions focus on polishing skills like cold readings; monologue delivery; auditioning with confidence and learning how to succeed in the business of show business. Tuition is $200 per session. Enrollment is limited to 15 students in each class, and there is a one-time new student registration fee of $25. A discount is available for students taking multiple sessions or for families with multiple students.

Register for classes online by visiting [bit.ly/AuroraWinterClasses](http://bit.ly/2Ds6akC) or [bit.ly/AuroraTheatreAcademy](http://bit.ly/2E5P2Ct).

**Maytag Virgin**

*January 11 –February 11*

When two recent widows find themselves living as neighbors, both coping in their own way with the aftermath of tragedy, they drive each other crazy before finding common ground. Audiences will followLizzy Nash as she battles her grief and the quirky behaviors of her new neighbor, Jack Key, with whom she might have more in common than she realizes. Will this encounter between Lizzy and Jack change their paths and their hearts for good? Kick off the New Year with this non-traditional romance fromAurora Theatre’s 2017-2018 Signature Series! A Tuesday discount matinee show will be offered on**Tuesday, January 23** at **10 a.m.** with tickets starting at $16. Tickets range from $20-$55 and may be purchasedonline at [tickets.auroratheatre.com](http://tickets.auroratheatre.com/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=108061)or by calling the **Box Office** at **678.226.6222**.

Regular show times are as follows:

* Tuesday–Saturday: 8 p.m.
* Saturday and Sunday: 2:30 p.m.

**Upcoming in March…**

**Mamma Mia!**

*March 8 - April 22*

Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus’ *Mamma Mia!,* the smash hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, is one of the most successful musicals of all time, the eighth longest running show in Broadway history and one of only five musicals to have run for more than ten years on Broadway, combining timeless tunes with a sunny, funny tale that unfolds on a small Greek island. Sophie dreams of a perfect wedding where her father walks her down the aisle, but she is faced with one problem: the identity of her father is unknown! On a quest to discover his identity, she secretly invites the three possible candidates to her wedding, bringing them back into her mother’s life for the first time in 20 years. *Mamma Mia!* is an absolute must see, filled with ABBA hits, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers. In the title role of Donna Sheridan, Aurora Theatre proudly cast Kristin Markiton, the star of last season’s *The Bridges of Madison County*. Tickets are now on sale online at [tickets.auroratheatre.com](http://tickets.auroratheatre.com/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=108061)or by calling the **Box Office** at **678.226.6222**.

For more information or to purchase tickets for events, call the **Box Office** at **678.226.6222** or visit [www.auroratheatre.com](http://www.auroratheatre.com).

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*Under the artistic leadership of Co-Founders and Artistic Directors Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence, now in its 22nd Season, Aurora Theatre produces professional live entertainment to suit everyone’s taste. Aurora Theatre is home to over 750 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 a 2016 Governor’s Award for the Arts & Humanities, winner of ten 2017 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.*