

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurel Haislip

BRAVE Public Relations, 404.233.3993

[lhaislip@bravepublicrelations.com](mailto:lhaislip@bravepublicrelations.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aurora Theatre rings in holiday season with *Christmas Canteen 2017***

*Theatergoers to take delight in the 22nd anniversary of theatrical holiday tradition*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (October 12, 2017) –** It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas at **Aurora Theatre!** ***Christmas Canteen 2017*** will ring in its fan-favorite seasonal phenomenon **November 16-December 23**, with new hosts Caroline and Nick Arapoglou.The stunning musical revue celebrates its 22nd anniversary as Gwinnett’s longest-running theatrical holiday tradition, wowing audience members year after year with joyous musical numbers and hysterical comedy – all the ingredients for a very merry Christmas!

“Christmas Canteen serves as a personal way for Aurora Theatre to spread holiday cheer to our incredible community,” said Anthony Rodriguez, Producing Artistic Director of Aurora Theatre. “Audiences of all ages will leave this show feeling the joy and goodwill signature to the holiday season. We are delighted to be the destination for this winter wonderland celebration for the 22nd consecutive year!”

This year’s magical, musical performance is co-directed by Jen MacQueen and Anthony Rodriguez , with original writing by Brandon O’Dell, musical direction by Ann-Carol Pence and choreography by Jen MacQueen. The jolly variety show comes to life with the talents of new co-hosts Nick and Caroline Arapoglou who will be joined by ***Canteen*** favorites Jen MacQueen, Lyndsay Ricketson Brown, Christian Magby and Cecil Washington Jr. New this year, the show will feature Chani Maisonet and Cansler McGhee, as well as Aurora Apprentice Company members Cheyanne Osoria and Daisean Garrett. Christmas Canteen 2017 opens the week before Thanksgiving to welcome in the winter season!

Aurora Theatre’s annual **Festival of Trees** will also continue this spirited season, ensuring no shortage of holiday cheer in downtown Lawrenceville! The Festival of Trees will be held in the Aurora Theatre lobby throughout the season, featuring nearly 30 trees decorated by local businesses, supporting both the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots and local food banks. Theatergoers are encouraged to leave unwrapped toys or non-perishable food items under their favorite tree, casting their vote for most decorative tree by their offerings. Join in the fun to help ensure that all have a warm, heartfelt holiday season!

***Christmas Canteen 2017*** is presented **November 16-December 23** and is appropriate for all ages**.** Tickets range from $30-$65 with an additional matinee showing on Tuesday, December 5, 12 and 19 at 10 a.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [tickets.auroratheatre.com](http://tickets.auroratheatre.com/) or by calling the box office at **678-226-6222.**

Regular show times are as follows:

* Tuesday- Saturday: 8 p.m.
* Saturday & Sunday: 2:30 p.m.

*\*There will be no performances on Tuesday, November 21, Wednesday, November 22 or Thursday, November 23 in honor of Thanksgiving.*

*\*Performances at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5 and 12 and Saturday, December 16 are sold out.*

*###*

*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 seven 2016 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 .*