

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Aurora Theatre to host ghoulishly good programming this October**

*Magic, musicals and more in store for Atlanta audiences this fall*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (September 29, 2016)** – Celebrate the spooky season with spellbinding fun at **Aurora Theatre** this **October**! As one of metro-Atlanta's premier destinations for Halloween haunts, Aurora will host hocus pocus all month long with a variety of events like Spirits & Spirits: Ghost Stories & Cocktails, Lawrenceville Ghost Tours, Haunted Cemetery Tours and Arthur Atsma's Halloween Magic Show. While friendly frights abound, other less ghoulish happenings include Aurora Comedy Nights, the annual Aurora Charity Golf Tournament and Wendy MacLeod's laugh-out-loud production "Women in Jeopardy!" With this many offerings in October, fall at Aurora is guaranteed to be a delight for both the living and the undead!

### **Special October Programming**

#### **Poetry & Word**

*Tuesday, October 4 from 8-10 p.m.*

TIXSTER members, it's time to take the stage! During the monthly Poetry & Word series, attendees will mix and mingle while sharing original works during this exclusive members-only event. October's theme of "Misconceptions" is for females only, so creative ladies with skills of all levels are encouraged to attend. Signups begin at 7 p.m. on the day of the event, but participants are encouraged to arrive early to guarantee a spot. For rules and more information, visit [bit.ly/aurorapoetryandword](http://bit.ly/aurorapoetryandword).

#### **Aurora Children's Playhouse**

*Select Saturdays through October at 10 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. Including a political play, a delightful twist on traditional folktales and Arthur Atsma's annual Halloween Magic Show, October's lineup will bring screams of fun for all. Playhouse tickets are \$7; PlayhouseTix punch cards are \$50 and good for 10 admissions to any Children's Playhouse show.

#### **Grace for President**

*Saturday, October 8*

Current day realities collide with popular youth fiction in Aurora Learning Library's presentation of "Grace for President," based on the book by Kelly DiPucchio. Frustrated by the lack of female faces in the White House, plucky third-grader Grace Campbell inspires a school election to bring forth change. However, when the most popular boy in school runs against her, Grace discovers what it takes to be the best candidate, while finding fun in the world of politics. Directed by Jaclyn Hoffman, this performance aligns with current events and provides a civics lesson that merges learning with entertainment!

#### **Traditional Folktales with a Twist**

*Saturday, October 15*

Noted children's author, storyteller extraordinaire and talented actor, Aurora veteran Rob Cleveland returns to the Lawrenceville stage with a high-energy story time for kids of all ages. Cleveland's clever twist on traditional folktales will delight audiences, as he masters trickster characters like Anansi, High John and Br'er Rabbit.

### **Halloween Magic Show**

*Saturday, October 22*

Abracadabra, it's time for magic! Atlanta magician Arthur Atsma will return to the Aurora stage this October for his seventh annual Halloween Magic Show, complete with tricks for the entire family. Tickets for this event are known to disappear fast; reservations are recommended.

### **Aurora Theatre Charity Golf Tournament**

*Monday, October 10 at 9 a.m. with check-in from 7:30-8:30 a.m.*

Supporters will join the Aurora Theatre Charity Golf Tournament to assist the impressive arts leader in continuing its service to the downtown Lawrenceville community and beyond. With ticket sales covering only half of its budget, fundraisers like this make it possible for Aurora Theatre to continue its positive influence with contributions such as:

- Provide more than \$15,000 annually in summer camp scholarships to disadvantaged youth
- Attract 70,000 annual visitors to the City of Lawrenceville
- Offer children's programs such as Learning Library, Children's Playhouse and Aurora Academy & Conservatory
- Give annually for the past nine years to children in need through USMC Toys for Tots drive
- Help young composers and lyricists create Broadway's newest smash-hits through the New Musical Initiative
- Foster strong community relations with the Spanish-speaking community through Teatro Aurora

The tournament will be held at Northwood Country Club located at 3157 Club Drive in Lawrenceville. Tournament tickets can be purchased online; \$125 for individuals and \$500 for groups of four. For more information, visit [bit.ly/auroragolftournament](http://bit.ly/auroragolftournament).

### **Aurora Comedy Nights**

*Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15; 7:15 and 9:15 p.m.*

Creative Loafing's "Best Professional Funny Man" Mark Kendall will bring his one-man sketch show to audiences this October! Examining the depiction of black men in the media, the Dad's Garage performer will spice up weekend woes with his fresh comedy set.

### **Free PLAY Day**

*Monday, October 17 from 11:30 a.m. -4 p.m.*

Aurora Theatre Academy will once again offer its tremendously popular, one-day FREE acting workshop, Free PLAY Day, as part of its community outreach. Free PLAY Day is a way for Aurora Theatre artists to give back to the community by providing learning experiences to young, aspiring actors who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Offered to students K-12, attendees will practice improvisation, team building and acting techniques through various theater-based games and exercises. Lunch for students will be provided by Aurora's Volunteer Guild. Applications will be evaluated based on financial need, a short essay question and order received; apply online at [bit.ly/auroraplayday](http://bit.ly/auroraplayday)!

### **Spirits & Spirits: Ghost Stories & Cocktails**

*Monday, October 17 at 8 p.m.*

Grab a cocktail concoction and settle in for an adults-only spooky story time. Host Cynthia Rintye will welcome thrilling storytellers Tersa Bendiburg, Barry Stewart Mann and Tracey Sue Walker for a cultured evening of frightfully unfiltered fun for adults to celebrate the Halloween season. Tickets are \$15. Pre-show hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Explore Gwinnett as part of *Artober*.

## **Continuing in October**

### **Singles in Agriculture**

*Friday, September 16–Sunday, October 9; various times*

An unconventional convention filled with laugh-out-loud livestock-inspired comedy, the 2016-17 GGC Harvel Lab Series launched with the Southeastern regional premiere of *Singles in Agriculture*, September 16- October 9! This brand-new production, written by Abby Rosebrock, brings together lonely farmers looking for love – or at least the next best thing – during an annual dating conference. With only one weekend to graze the field for eligible matches, a whole new meaning of “love birds” will be imparted on Atlanta audiences. Featuring the dynamic cast of Jeremy Aggers, Lauren Boyd and Vallea Woodbury, this hilarious presentation will prove that everything really is bigger in Texas, including how far some people will go for love!

### **Lawrenceville Ghost Tours**

*Friday and Saturday throughout October; 8:30 p.m.*

Looking for a spine chilling scare this fall? Thrill-seekers will enjoy a ghostly stroll through downtown Lawrenceville with real stories about really spooky places. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for children. For more information, visit [scarystroll.com](http://scarystroll.com).

### **Lawrenceville Haunted Cemetery Tour**

*Select nights in October; 8:30 and 10 p.m.*

Experience the supernatural and take an out of this world, terrifying tour of the Southeast’s oldest and most haunted cemeteries with the Lawrenceville Haunted Cemetery Tour. Tickets can be purchased online for \$20. For more information, visit [scarystroll.com](http://scarystroll.com).

### **Women in Jeopardy!**

*Thursday, September 29–Sunday, October 23; various times*

Fun, flirtatious and filled with adventure, ***Women in Jeopardy!*** invites Atlanta audiences to play detective September 29-October 23! Written by Wendy MacLeod, imaginations will run wild as two divorcees set out on a mission to uncover the hidden truth of their friend’s new dashing dentist boyfriend! Does his dark past actually exist or will they uncover nothing at all? Join Mary and Jo as they trade in their wine glasses for a pair of spyglasses!

For more information on Aurora Theatre programming or to purchase tickets for events, visit [auroratheatre.com](http://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 650 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. 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 Seven 2013 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 the Gwinnett Chamber 2015 Regional Business Award for Hospitality.