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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sizzling summer programming to heat up Aurora Theatre this July

Special holiday event, new comedy nights and 2016-17 Season debut show in store!

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (June 30, 2016) – Sun's out, fun's out! **Aurora Theatre** is kicking summertime into gear with its sun-sational July programming! Theatre goers of all ages are invited to explore the many offerings of Georgia's second largest theater including the annual City of Lawrenceville Prelude to the Fourth featuring Aurora's production of *The Little Mermaid* and the ATL Comedy Arts Fest semifinals and grand finale competitions, in addition to the opening of the 2016-17 Peach State Federal Credit Union Signature Series with Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash-hit sensation *In the Heights*! With this much fun in store, this is sure to be a summer to remember!

Special Summer Programming

Prelude to the Fourth: Disney's *The Little Mermaid*
Sunday, July 3; 7 p.m.

Celebrate Independence Day with City of Lawrenceville's annual Prelude to the Fourth featuring Aurora's production of the Disney family favorite *The Little Mermaid*, as well as a dazzling display of fireworks immediately following the show! Enjoy a variety of cuisine options from food trucks, as well as libations from McCray's Tavern (on tap for purchase for those 21 and up). Admission to the show is FREE with seating on the Lawrenceville Lawn beginning at 5 p.m. For families wishing to pack their own dinner and snacks, outside food and drinks are permitted.

VIP tables are available for parties of six for \$100.

ATL Comedy Arts Fest: Semifinal Competition and Grand Finale Presentation
July 22-23; 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. (semifinals)
July 24; 8 p.m. (grand finale)

Comedy lovers are invited to join Aurora in its first-class Studio for the semifinal round of the citywide, multi-venue stand-up ATL Comedy Arts Festival and Symposium featuring the top comedians in the region, as well as up-and-coming comics! The festival will culminate with eight half-hour TV episodes and two one-hour-long specials being filmed at Aurora Theatre and one other venue! Tickets are \$18 for the semifinals and \$20 for the grand finale, and festival passes will be accepted. For more information, visit bit.ly/atlcomedytix.

La Esquinita, USA
July 28-31; Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Acclaimed actor, filmmaker and solo artist Ruben C. Gonzalez will bring his fascinating one-man show to Aurora Theatre for a limited one-week engagement, July 28-31! The new theatrical work will bring the story of the once booming fictional town of La Esquinita in disarray when the Thompson Tire Factory moves to China, leaving the residents scavenging for what little remains. Narrated by Lencho and experienced through the eyes of Daniel, a young man standing at the threshold between light and darkness, audiences will be captivated by this tale of love, forgiveness and ultimate redemption. Tickets range from \$20-\$30.

Henry Cho on the Mainstage

July 31; 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Wrapping up the month with his witty, yet clean comedy is Aurora Comedy Nights alum and audience favorite Henry Cho! For one night only, Cho will dish out his unmistakable blend of Asian and Southern humor for Atlanta patrons, as he takes the comedy stage by storm with his versatile stand-up routine. Tickets are \$18.

Summer Comedy Nights

Headliner Brad Tassell featuring David Perdue and Joe Pettis

July 8-9; 7:15 and 9 p.m.

Kicking off the 2016-17 Aurora Comedy Nights season, club comedy on the square will bring full-time funny guy, author, speaker and educator Brad Tassell to the forefront of the favorite Aurora tradition! With seven books, major publications, a new television show set to debut this fall and a feature film under his belt, Tassell is a funny force to be reckoned with this season! Along with featured comedians David Perdue and Joe Pettis, Aurora will set the stage for a weekend of laughter and good times to be had by all! Tickets are \$18.

Continuing Summer Events

Aurora Theatre Academy Summer Camps

Camp Aurora

July 11-15, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. (Mini)

July 11-15, 1 p.m. -4 p.m. (Master)

For younger students interested in learning what it takes to put on an actual performance, Camp Aurora is a weeklong session giving students the opportunity to have valuable stage experience, all the while encouraging teamwork and collaboration with peers. These half-day sessions will allow students to become hands-on and create portions of the sets, costumes and props! Tuition is \$200 per morning or afternoon session.

Acting Edge Camp

July 11-22; 10:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. (grades 6-12)

Atlanta's favorite improv group will bring back belly laughter to Aurora Theatre with its one-of-a-kind interactive performances this summer for middle and high school students! Tickets are \$10.

2016-17 Season Opener: *In the Heights*

Thursday, July 21- Sunday, August 28; various times

Atlanta audiences are invited to sway along to the salsa rhythms and rich melodies of New York's vibrant Washington Heights community, a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the pulse of three generations of music through the Manhattan streets. Written by *Hamilton* creator and pop culture icon Lin-Manuel Miranda, the Tony Award and Grammy Award-winning *In the Heights* will open Aurora Theatre's 2016-17 Peach State Federal Credit Union Signature Series! This universal tale, a co-production with Theatrical Outfit, will deliver a poignant message on the power of family and the strength of community in the face of adversity.

Lawrenceville Ghost Tours

Friday and Saturday throughout July; 8:30 p.m.

Looking for a spine chilling scare this summer? 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.

For more information on Aurora Theatre programming or to purchase tickets for events, visit www.auroratheatre.com or call the **Box Office** at **678.226.6222**.

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Under the artistic leadership of Co-Founders Anthony Rodriguez (Producing Artistic Director) and Ann-Carol Pence (Associate Producer), 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.