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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Ontario Was Here* delivers emotional drama to Aurora Theatre, February 10-March 4**

*Theatergoers invited to downtown Lawrenceville for a tale of service and the power of love*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (January 16, 2018)** – To celebrate the season of the heart, audiences are invited to the **Aurora Theatre** stage for the emotional drama, ***Ontario Was Here,*** from **February 10 – March 4, 2018.** This world premiere, by award-winning playwright Darren Canady, weaves an insightful look at the lives of social workers who serve disadvantaged children, unveiling the strife that these workers bear as a result of trying to help others while navigating the emotional balance between their clients’ lives and their own.

“Playwright Darren Canady has given us a rich, immensely complex, beautifully tragic and human story,” said Cynthia D. Barker, Director. “Audiences will walk away charged and engaged in dialogue that poses more questions than answers. These questions are good questions, important questions – questions that lead us on a journey of great introspection and challenge us to unwaveringly strive to evolve into the best versions of ourselves, ultimately creating better relationships, communities and the world at large.”

The story unfolds around Nathan and Penni, co-workers on the front lines of Kansas City’s Department of Children and Families. Both Nathan and Penni share a passion for helping others, but when the matters of nine-year-old Ontario are transferred from Nathan’s jurisdiction to Penni’s, tempers flare, and the two find themselves at odds over Ontario’s best interests. As tensions escalate between the pair and their varied perspectives, the stakes regarding Ontario’s case become a matter of life and death.

Directed by Suzi Bass award nominee **Cynthia D. Barker**, of Aurora Theatre’s production of *The Mountaintop,* the show includes a two-person cast featuring **Brittany L. Smith** as Penni and Broadway World Dallas Award winner **Seun Soyemi** as Nathan.

***Ontario Was Here*** will play at **Aurora Theatre** **February 10-March 4, 2018.** Tickets are currently on sale; general admission single ticket prices range from $20–$30 and may be purchasedonline at <http://bit.ly/ATOntario> or by calling the **Box Office** at **678-226-6222.** For more information on this production or other theater programming, please visit [auroratheatre.com](https://www.auroratheatre.com).

Regular show times are as follows:

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

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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.*