

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aurora Theatre to honor Black History Month with *The Mountaintop*, January 12–February 12, 2017**

*Powerful drama to showcase final days of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (December 1, 2016)** – Atlanta audiences are invited to experience the poignantly re-imagined story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his final moments on earth in **Aurora Theatre's** riveting production of ***The Mountaintop***, playing **January 12–February 12, 2017**. The 2010 Laurence Olivier Award-winning drama, written by Katori Hall, explores the thunderous night of April 3, 1968 when the civil rights leader enters the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., never to return again. What happened in Room 306 imaginatively comes to life, as humor and history combine to give audiences a brilliant portrayal and intimate look at the man behind the Civil Rights Movement.

"With the volume of plays in existence, I find it surprising that it is still so difficult to find hopeful plays about Southerners and even more rare are plays about Christians," said Ann-Carol Pence, Aurora Theatre Associate Producer. "*The Mountaintop* is a play about one of the most famous Georgians in American History. He was educated; he was a Southerner; he was strong in his faith. And most importantly, he was an agent of change. A play this poetic reminds us that we are more alike than different. These are the very plays that are capable of both broadening our audience and changing our community."

Directed by two-time Suzi Award winner and Clark Atlanta professor Eric J. Little, ***The Mountaintop*** takes place after Dr. King delivers his memorable "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech and retires to his room at the Lorraine Hotel. When Camae, the mysterious maid with a much greater mission in mind, arrives at room 306 with a cup of coffee for the exhausted Dr. King, the lightning from their conversation crackles more than the storm brewing outside. As the reverend reflects on the unwelcomed news and chaos of the world around him, Dr. King is forced to confront both his legacy and destiny.

Two-time Suzi Bass Award winner and nine-time nominee Neal Ghant will depict the valiant Dr. King, while Cynthia D. Barker will take on the role of the mystifying maid Camae. Behind the scenes, the talented production team will consist of award-winning design duo Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay (Set and Costumes), Thom Jenkins (Sound), Andre C. Allen (Lighting), Trevor Carrier (Props) and Sarah Thomson (Scenic Painter).

***The Mountaintop*** is presented **January 12 –February 17**. A discount matinee will be offered on **Wednesday, February 1** at **10 a.m.** with tickets starting at \$16. Regular tickets range from \$20-\$55 and can be purchased online at [tickets.auroratheatre.com](http://tickets.auroratheatre.com) or by calling the **Box Office** at **678-226-6222**. For more information on this production or other programming, please visit [auroratheatre.com](http://auroratheatre.com).

Regular show times are as follows:

- Tuesday –Friday: 8 p.m.
- Saturday: 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- 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 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, 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 .*