

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aurora Theatre shines spotlight on May with plentiful programming

Adults and kids invited to enjoy performances, comedy nights and more fun in downtown Lawrenceville

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (May 2, 2017) – May flowers are in full bloom, just like the offerings at Aurora Theatre! With a bouquet of options from comedy to the children's playhouse, enjoy top-notch entertainment all month long in abundance. Little ones experiencing their first show will love the classics *Cinderella* and *Brer Rabbit* at the Aurora Children's Playhouse, while adults can marvel under the moonlight with *Memphis the Musical* or laugh off their worries with Dan Mengini at Aurora Comedy Nights. Guests of all ages can enjoy a good scare with spooky Lawrenceville Ghost Tours lead by Aurora Theatre actors. Rocking the main stage with humor and heart, *Split in Three* brings a poignant take on race and history through the eyes of three sisters. With so many diverse selections, Aurora Theatre has everything audiences need for a fun-filled May!

Special May Programming

Aurora Children's Playhouse

Saturdays during May at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Aurora Theatre brings the best children's performers in the region to Gwinnett County, including puppeteers, magicians, storytellers, jugglers and musicians as a part of this series intended for youngsters to have their first theatrical experience. Parents and their children will witness world-class artistry in Aurora's amazing facility in downtown Lawrenceville. At about 45 minutes in length, these lively performances are designed perfectly for the young attention span but are fun for the whole family. Playhouse tickets are \$7; Playhouse Ticket punch cards are \$50 and good for 10 admissions to any Children's Playhouse show. For more information, visit bit.ly/AuroraChildrensPlayhouse.

Korean Drums and Dance

Saturday, May 6

Celebrate Korean heritage with this performance by Atlanta Korean Cultural Center. As part of Georgia's largest free comic book day, guests to this show will receive a free copy for *Fresh Off the Boat* comic. For more information on comic book day please visit bit.ly/ComicBookDay

Cinderella by Wendy Bennett

Saturday, May 13

Fun for all little princes and princess, this rendition of *Cinderella* is not your average fairytale. Audience favorite Wendy Bennett puts her own spin on the beloved tale with puppets, costumes, props and plenty of audience participation. Audiences can watch pumpkins turn into coaches, mice turn into horses, shabby rags turn into a glistening ball gown and even talented singer and actress Wendy turn into Cinderella herself in this true tale of transformations! Along the way, interactive games like "Show Me on Your Face" and "High/Low Voices" will encourage children to exercise their imaginations, cueing parts of the story and playing multiple roles in this make-believe fantasy.

The New Adventures of Brer Rabbit by All Hands Productions

Saturday May 20

This fun show for all ages is new meets old in a tale of classic adventure. *The New Adventures of Brer*

Rabbit combines the classic characters with new, original stories. In *Brer Rabbit and the Fly*, Brer Rabbit has his toughness put to the test, while *Brer Bear and the Beehive* has Brer Bear falling for one of Brer Fox's tricks. Audiences will learn Brer Rabbit's special fishing technique in *Brer Rabbit Goes Fishing* and watch him learn to play the banjo in *Brer Rabbit Tries to Sing*. Featuring hand and rod puppets like those on Sesame Street, this show is sure to bring a smile to kids and adults alike.

Aurora Theatre Main Stage

Split in Three

Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 28; varied times

Filled with humor and heart, ***Split in Three*** is set to take the stage at **Aurora Theatre, May 4-28**. Change can be exhilarating and excruciating at the same time. Written by Atlanta's own Daryl Lisa Fazio, this highly-anticipated comic drama looks at a quintet of people in the Mississippi Delta struggling with personal change during a time of great historic change: the Civil Rights movement in the late 60s. Sisters Nola and Nell have opposite views on the subject on integration. Nell believes that change is a bad thing and that they must do everything in their power to protect the current state of life. Nola, on the other hand, believes a person should think for themselves. Under the national spotlight this small Mississippi town is a pressure cooker of emotion as historical, life-changing events unfold. Nola and Nell are in for a dramatic life-change themselves when their long lost, bi-racial half-sister shows up at the front door. For more information and tickets, please visit bit.ly/SplitInThree.

Aurora Comedy Nights

Let the laughter take over with Aurora Theatre's Comedy Nights! On select weekends in May, bright young comedienne Katie Causey will lead the fun, with a full bar and side-splitting good time. For more information and ticket purchase please visit bit.ly/AuroraComedyNights

Headliner: Dan Mengini

Featuring Jenny Jennings with host Katie Causey

Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13

7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

Tickets \$18

Headliner: Lawrence Killebrew

Featuring Carlos Rodriguez with host Katie Causey

Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27

7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

Tickets \$18

Aurora Theatre's Musicals by Moonlight

Memphis, The Musical

Book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro, music and lyrics by David Bryan

Based on a concept by George W. George

Suwanee Town Center

330 Town Center Ave., Suwanee, Ga. 30024

Saturday, May 20

7 p.m.

The City of Suwanee and Aurora Theatre present Musicals by Moonlight under the stars on the Suwanee Town Center stage! Relive the magic of *Memphis* for this FREE, one-night-only performance. The birth of Rock 'n' Roll in the South may have happened in *Memphis* but there is a lot more to this story than Graceland. Winner of the 2010 Tony Award for Best Musical, Aurora Theatre brings this show to life for anyone looking for a great night of music and fun. Guests to the show are also invited to Suwanee's new *Sip & See* event, featuring guided, strolling

wine tours of the newest sculptures in their SculpTour program and an opportunity to meet some of the featured artists and discuss their work. For more information, please visit bit.ly/MusicalsbyMoonlight.

Lawrenceville Ghost Tours

Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Adults \$12, Children \$9

Aurora Theatre actors give thrill seekers a chill-down-their-spine scare to the core with this spooky tour around Lawrenceville, featuring real stories and places. Tour begins and ends at Aurora Theatre and runs May through September, with tours continuing every night in October. To purchase tickets online, please visit www.scarystroll.com or call 678.226.6222.

Aurora Theatre: 2017 Apprentice Company Showcase

Sunday, May 21 and Monday, May 22

8 p.m.

Witness the up-and-coming talent of Atlanta area actors! The 2017 Apprentice Company will showcase their work for the public at this one-weekend-only, FREE event.

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

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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 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 .