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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aurora Theatre commemorates 21 years of artistic excellence**  
**with Seventh Annual Aurora Gala on Friday, February 24**

*Support Gwinnett's largest nonprofit arts organization by 'celebrating what's ahead'*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (February 10, 2017) – Aurora Theatre** welcomes the community to be a part of their biggest party of the year during the **Seventh Annual Aurora Gala on Friday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m.** This sparkling evening of entertainment, food, drinks and FUN will benefit Aurora Theatre's programs, including the theatre's productions, educational workshops and cultural events to enrich the community. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased online at [auroratheatre.com](http://auroratheatre.com).

Each year, a special partner is honored for its support and contributions to success of the theater, and this year's honoree is none other than Georgia Gwinnett College. Over the last 10 years, Georgia Gwinnett College has been a partner that not only creates world-class educational opportunities for the region's students but also invests in the future of the arts and enhances quality of life for the entire community.

"As we celebrate those who contribute their time, talent, expertise and resources to make Aurora a theatre for ALL people, I think about the one person who can't attend. My dear friend and college roommate, the late Dr. Lonnie Harvel, came to me with the opportunity to collaborate with Georgia Gwinnett College. We realized immediately that our partnership would be significant, but we had no idea it was going to be life changing," said Anthony Rodriguez, Producing Artistic Director. "What we accomplished in the name of the arts is extraordinary, but we aren't done. What our partnership will achieve moving forward is the stuff of dreams. Just you wait!"

This year's gala will include musical performances from some of Aurora's brightest stars, as well as an auction featuring once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The fundraiser evening will also feature the presentation of the annual Barbara Awards, plus the announcement of the highly anticipated 2017-18 season! The Barbara Awards are presented to audience favorites from the past year, and online voting closes February 13. To cast a vote, please visit [bit.ly/2ku63vS](http://bit.ly/2ku63vS).

The evening will be hosted by Anthony Rodriguez, Marcie Miller and Mabel Tyler with Honorary Gala Chairs Greg and Tammy Shumate of BrandMortgage, and Jordan and Zach Shumate of Shuma Sports. Reception includes a cocktail hour where heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Attire is cocktail or black-tie optional.

Aurora Theatre has received an overwhelming support for this year's Gala. The 2017 Gala **Presenting Sponsor** is BrandMortgage. Delta Air Lines is a **Diamond Sponsor**, while **Platinum Sponsors** include Peach State Federal Credit Union and Shuma Sports. **Gold Sponsors** are Skooter & Theresa Bullock, Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation and Pimerica. Silver Sponsors include Andersen, Tate and Carr; Connectivity Wireless Solutions; Georgia Gwinnett College; McMichael & Gray, PC; Precision Fenceworks and Precision Landscaping. **Bronze Sponsors** are American Painting & Renovations, Inc.; Community Sustainability Enterprise; Explore Gwinnett; Gerrard Group; Georgia Power; Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce; Diana and Jeffrey Hartnett; Dana and Kathryn Kaufman; Law Office of J. Michael Levengood, LLC; Perimeter Staffing Placements; PK Martin for State Senate; Russell Landscape Company; Dr. Manfred and Fiona Sandler and Mitchell and Jennifer Stephens.

For more information on the gala or to purchase tickets, please visit [bit.ly/2kQgcnK](http://bit.ly/2kQgcnK). To become a sponsor, email Liz Hartnett Santamaria at [liz@auroratheatre.com](mailto:liz@auroratheatre.com) or call 678.226.6229.

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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 five 2015 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.*