

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aurora Theatre welcomes 2017 with theatrical programming for all ages

Audiences invited to warm up this winter with hot January and February happenings

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (January 17, 2017) – Usher in a new year of family fun with **Aurora Theatre's** packed programming schedule this January and February! Kids will delight in Aurora Children's Playhouse performances and winter classes, while adults sit back, relax and enjoy weekends filled with laugh-out-loud entertainment during Aurora Comedy Nights. Other theatrical happenings include the powerful Mainstage production "The Mountaintop" and the world premiere of the femme fantasy show "SWEEP." Whether audiences are looking for a fun night out or wishing to learn a new skill, Aurora Theatre has it all, ensuring 2017 is the best year yet!

The Mountaintop

Now through Sunday, February 12; varied times

Audiences will 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 17. 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. What happened in Room 306 imaginatively comes to life, as humor and history combine for a brilliantly portrayed intimate look at the man behind the Civil Rights Movement.

SWEEP

Friday, February 10 –Sunday, March 5; varied times

Step into a splintered world of strange imaginings as Aurora Theatre presents the world premiere of the femme fantasy story *SWEEP*, February 10 –March 5! The magical quest, written by rising Latina playwright Georgina Escobar, follows two sisters' attempt at resetting history's imperfections by hunting both biblical and modern-day targets through a set of alternate realities called the "multiverse." Imaginative and adventure-filled, this zany, time-traveling escapade is a can't-miss production this year!

Special Winter Programming

Teatro Aurora

Sangria, Tapas y Flamenco

Saturday, February 11 at 7 p.m.

Things are going to get physical this Valentine's Day! Pulse to the passionate rhythms of Caló Gitano Dance Company as Teatro Aurora once again presents *Sangria, Tapas y Flamenco*. A perfect evening of food, fun and romance with a side of Latin flair, guests will have access to a full bar and other menu items. Held at Stars and Strikes' private event hall, the evening is sure to be *muy caliente!* Tickets are \$30 for individuals, \$50 for couples and \$150 for a table (up to 10 guests). For more information, visit bit.ly/AuroraValentinesDay.

TIXSTER Exclusive Poetry & World

Tuesday, February 28 at 8 p.m.

It's time to take the stage! During the monthly Poetry & Word series, TIXTER members will mix and mingle while sharing original works during this exclusive event. January's theme is "Dreams," while February's is "Heroes." Signups begin at 7 p.m. on the day of the event, but participants are encouraged to arrive early to

guarantee a spot. Patrons can join TIXSTER, as well as sign up to participate online at bit.ly/AuroraPoetryandWord.

Aurora Children's Playhouse

Select Saturdays during January and February at 10 and 11:30 a.m.

Aurora Theatre assembles the best children's performers in the region, bringing them to Gwinnett County for a family-friendly series filled with an array of extraordinary performances. Playhouse tickets are \$7; PlayhouseTix punch cards are \$50 and good for 10 admissions to any Children's Playhouse show. For more information, visit bit.ly/AuroraChildrensPlayhouse.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Saturday, January 21

This rock and "troll" musical adventure follows three gruff little goats—Baby, Middle and Big—on their journey in crossing a bridge to the other side of the valley when drought begins to turn their pasture from green to brown. Will they make it safely to the other side and escape the goat-eating troll who lives beneath the bridge? Find out during this laugh-out-loud production directed by Justin Anderson. Tickets are \$7.

BlackTop Playground

Saturday, January 28

Welcome to the BlackTop Playground, where wit and humor rule the stage! Comprised of internationally known comedians who have appeared on BET, HBO and Comedy Central, BlackTop creates imaginative, laugh-out-loud scenes from audience participation, ensuring a hilarious, entertaining comedy show unlike any other. Tickets are \$7.

Big Thinkers Science Exploration: Air Up There!

Saturday, February 4

The Big Thinkers are exploring the properties of air and pressure, and kids of all ages are invited to join in the fun! With floating beach balls and children (via the Big Thinkers hovercraft!), a smoke ring cannon aimed at the audience and the screaming rocket balloons launching into the crowd, this show is sure to be a blast. Tickets are \$7.

Aurora Comedy Nights

Headliner Scott K with Travis Jones

Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21 at 7:15 and 9:15 p.m.

Aurora veteran Scotty K returns with a high energy, animated performance for adults and teens. Complete with improv, characterizations and music, Scotty K and Travis Jones will bring smart, creative and fun content for all audiences. Tickets are \$18. For more information, visit bit.ly/AuroraComedyNights.

Aurora Theatre Academy: Winter Classes

Mini, Master and Budding Broadway Classes (Grades 1-5)

Mondays, January 23 –March 13 from 4:30-6 p.m. (Budding Broadway class)

Tuesdays, January 24 –March 14 from 4:30-6 p.m. (Mini and Master class)

For elementary school students interested in acting, the Mini, Master and Budding Broadway classes are perfect in providing valuable stage experience, while also encouraging teamwork and collaboration with peers. Students will be active participants in creating portions of the sets, costumes and props for these exciting, whirlwind productions. Tuition is \$200 per session and there is a one-time student registration fee of \$25. With space limited to 15 students per class, pre-registration is highly recommended. A discount is available for students taking multiple sessions or for families with multiple students.

Acting Edge Classes (Grades 6-8)

Mondays, January 23 –March 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Calling all teens: take the drama out of life and put it where it belongs—on stage! Through a series of theatre games, exercises and exploration, the Acting Edge class will culminate with an ensemble of players rehearsing a collection of scenes to perform for friends and family. Tuition is \$200 per session. Enrollment is limited to 15 students in each class, and there is a one-time new student registration fee of \$25. A discount is available for students taking multiple sessions or for families with multiple students.

Adult Acting Classes (18+)

Mondays, January 30 –March 6 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

In the Aurora Theatre Academy Adult Acting Class, participants learn the acting craft and technique used by the professionals. The session will focus on skills like cold readings, monologue delivery, auditioning with confidence and learn how to succeed in the business of show business. Tuition is \$200 per session. Enrollment is limited to 15 students in each class, and there is a one-time new student registration fee of \$25. A discount is available for students taking multiple sessions or for families with multiple students.

#AllTheSkills Workshops (Grade 9-12)

Dates coming soon!

High school students will learn #AllTheSkills in this killer series of workshops led by some of Atlanta's best professional artists, happening once a month on Wednesday nights! Students can sign up for any individual workshop that fits their schedule or register for all workshops to receive a discount! There is a one-time student registration fee of \$25. With space limited to 15 students per class, pre-registration is highly recommended. All proceeds benefit the Aurora Apprentice Program. For more information, visit bit.ly/AuroraAlltheSkills.

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 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 .