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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Aurora Theatre commemorates 22 years of artistic excellence with Eighth Annual Aurora Gala on Friday, February 9

*Audiences invited to support Gwinnett’s largest nonprofit arts organization with new format*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (January 30, 2018)** – **Aurora Theatre** welcomes the community to join them for their biggest party of the year at the **Eighth Annual Aurora Gala** on **Friday, February 9** at **6 p.m.** This sparkling evening of live entertainment, food, drinks and fun will benefit Aurora Theatre’s programs, including the theater’s productions, educational programs and cultural events to enrich the community. New this year, ticket price includes a sit-down dinner where individuals or companies can purchase a table for ten to host friends, clients or family. Individual tickets are $100 each and can be purchased online at [auroratheatre.com.](http://www.auroratheatre.com/)

Each year, a special partner is honored for support and contributions to Aurora and its community, and this year’s honoree is the late Jon Richards. Until his unexpected passing in early 2017, Mr. Richards’ company Site ROI was a longtime season sponsor of Aurora Theatre, investing countless hours of in-kind services in the development and maintenance of the theater’s website. Jon was more than a supporter: he was a champion of Aurora Theatre and always looked for creative ways to tie his political affiliations to his passion for the success of Aurora and the arts in and around Gwinnett.

“I think I speak not only for myself, but the entire Aurora family, when I say that Jon will be deeply missed,” says Producing Artistic Director Anthony Rodriguez. “He was a hero to Aurora Theatre and we would not have grown to where we are now without him. We are privileged to be able to honor his life of service.”

The Aurora Theatre Gala puts art at the center of the evening, making for Gwinnett’s most exciting and entertaining fundraising event. This year’s gala will include musical performances from some of Aurora’s brightest stars, as well as an auction featuring unique experiences. The evening will also feature the announcement of the highly anticipated 2018-19 season! Aurora will award the Barbara Award and the Cindy Sutt Volunteer of the Year Award for service to the theater and the community.

The evening will be hosted by Anthony Rodriguez with Honorary Chairs Marshall and Lee Boutwell of Peach State Federal Credit Union.

For more information on the gala or to purchase tickets, please visit<http://tiny.cc/hthlqy>[.](http://bit.ly/2kQgcnK) To become a sponsor, email Liz Hartnett Santamaria at 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 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.*