



AURORA THEATRE COMPANY

25th

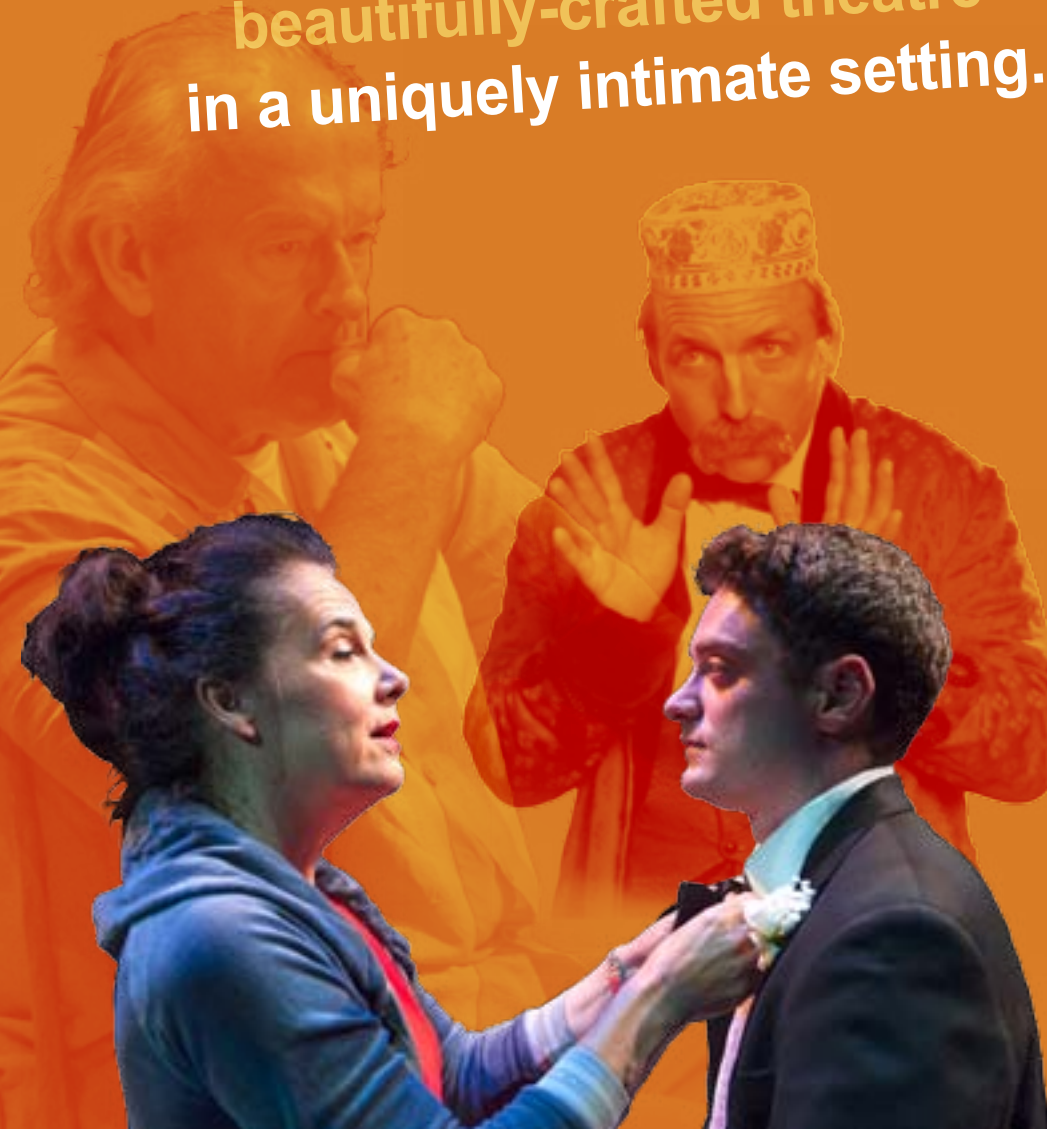


ANNIVERSARY SEASON

THE ULTIMATE INTIMATE THEATRE EXPERIENCE

25 YEARS

of thought-provoking,
conversation-starting,
beautifully-crafted theatre
in a uniquely intimate setting.



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 25th Anniversary Season!

When Founding Artistic Director Barbara Oliver first hired me a quarter century ago, I had no idea that Aurora Theatre Company would so gracefully evolve into a Bay Area institution, nor that I would be working with the company for so much of my life. Way back when, we all thought of our humble beginnings at the Berkeley City Club as a risky experiment. Starting a professional company in a room that sat only 67 patrons seemed like a financial disaster waiting to happen. However, with the help of a great many generous, caring people both onstage and off, we're now here to celebrate 25 years of intimate, exceptional theatre that spotlights the talents of our finest local artists.

Our sensational six-play season starts off the way Aurora did in 1991 with Dorothy Bryant's *Dear Master*, a dialogue in letters between George Sand and Gustave Flaubert.

Looking forward to the rest of the season, we'll be presenting two Bay Area premieres: *Leni*, a multimedia piece about German film director Leni Riefenstahl, and Abi Morgan's chilling *Splendour*; one West Coast Premiere: *Safe House*, a heart-wrenching drama about the antebellum South; and the US Premiere of a sold-out play I couldn't get a ticket to in London last year, the conversation-starting *Temple*. Additionally, we'll be producing our first play by Tom Stoppard, *The Real Thing*. Stoppard is the playwright most requested by our audiences over the years and we're thrilled to finally produce this masterwork. Each in its own way depict revolutions both personal and political.

We hope you'll join us for Aurora's 25th Anniversary Season! It will be a celebration not just of Aurora, but of the talent and tenacity of some of the very best theatre artists in the Bay Area and beyond.

TOM ROSS
Artistic Director



"I have nothing but praise for the Aurora, whose repertory is impressively wide-ranging. No matter where you're sitting, the 150-seat performance space puts you within a few yards of the performances."

- Terry Teachout, *The Wall Street Journal*



BY DOROTHY BRYANT | DIRECTED BY JOY CARLIN
SEPTEMBER 2 - OCTOBER 2

The flagship play upon which Aurora Theatre Company was built, *Dear Master* by prize-winning Berkeley author Dorothy Bryant was originally produced at the Berkeley City Club in 1991. A dialogue in letters between the two great 19th century French novelists, George Sand and Gustave Flaubert, *Dear Master* is an elegantly orchestrated play, providing flesh-and-blood portraits of these famed intellectual writers and revealing their fears, desires, heated opinions, and friendship during a time as violent and politically polarized as our own.

"A SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT." ~ *SF CHRONICLE*

Sponsors: Carol Emory & The Wingate Foundation
Associate Sponsors: Merrill Meltz & Gennaro DeVito, Trudy & Gary H. Moore

WEST COAST PREMIERE

WINNER! 1984 TONY® AWARD FOR BEST PLAY

SAFE HOUSE



BY KEITH JOSEF ADKINS | DIRECTED BY L. PETER CALLENDER
NOVEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 4

Set in Kentucky in 1843, *Safe House* examines the lives of one free family of color and the tensions that arise between two brothers with conflicting aspirations. While one brother dreams of opening his own business, the other risks everything in an effort to help fugitive slaves escape on the Underground Railroad. Based on true events in the lives of his ancestors, Adkins tells a gripping story of love, freedom, and survival against impossible odds.

"ADKINS IS AS HARD-HITTING AS HE IS POETIC AS HE REJECTS THE SIMPLISTIC NOTION OF A WORLD PAINTED IN BLACK AND WHITE, EITHER RACIALLY OR MORALLY." ~ CINCINNATI.COM

Associate Sponsors: Judith & Alex Glass, Carolyn Weinberger, Helen Marcus & David Williamson

THE REAL THING



BY TOM STOPPARD | DIRECTED BY TIMOTHY NEAR
JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 26

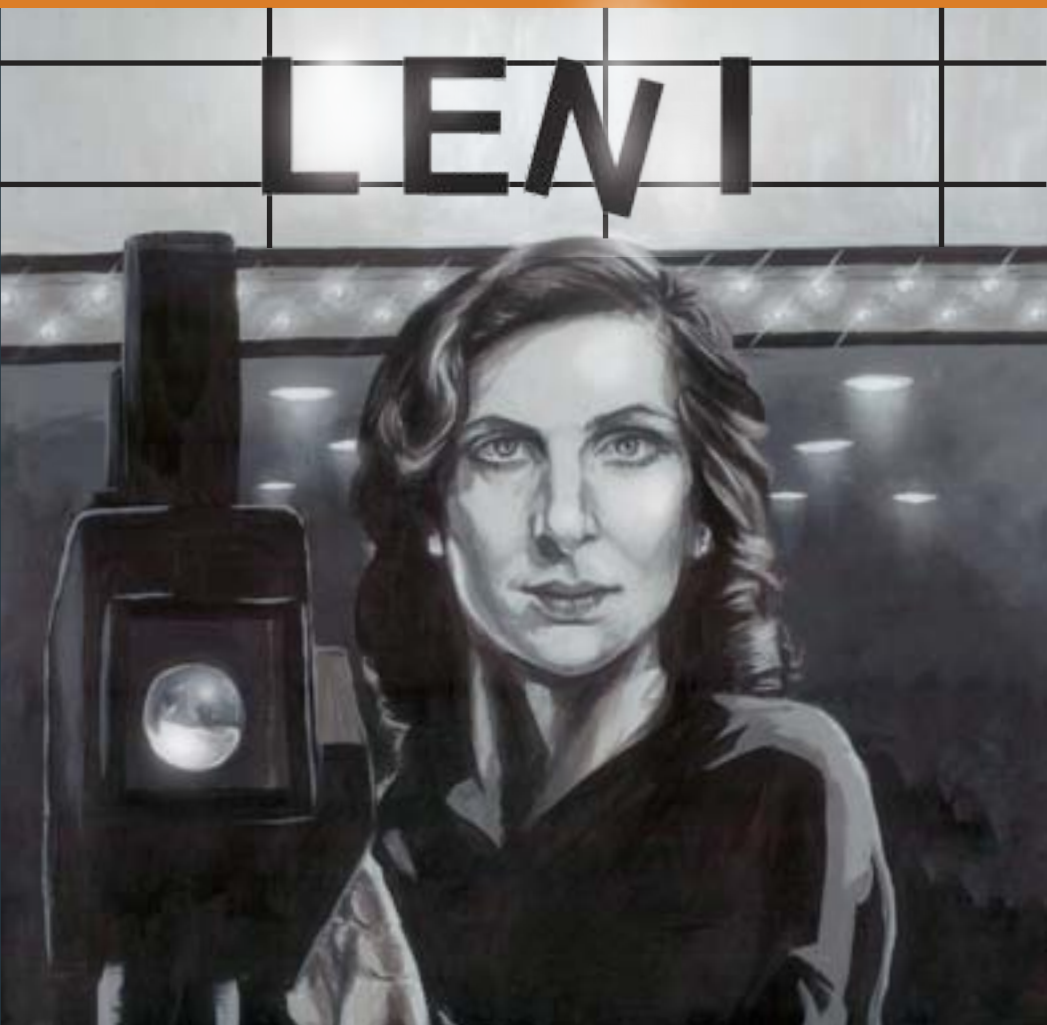
When Henry, a cerebral playwright, is asked by his mistress to ghost-write a script, his life begins to imitate his art too closely. More comfortable with words than feelings, Henry must decide which of his emotions are the "real thing." Stoppard tackles questions of love and marriage with dazzling comedy and more than one play-within-a-play, sending his characters and the audience reeling between authenticity and artifice, intellect and passion, and love and fidelity.

"SO PACKED WITH WIT, IDEAS AND FEELINGS ... STOPPARD'S MOST MOVING PLAY AND THE MOST BRACING PLAY ANYONE HAS WRITTEN ABOUT LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN YEARS." ~ NY TIMES

Sponsors: Liliane & Ed Schneider

Associate Sponsors: Paul Templeton & Darrell Louie, Deborah Dashow Ruth, Muffy & Harry Thorne

BAY AREA PREMIERE AT HARRY'S UPSTAGE IN THE DASHOW WING



BY SARAH GREENMAN | DIRECTED BY JON TRACY

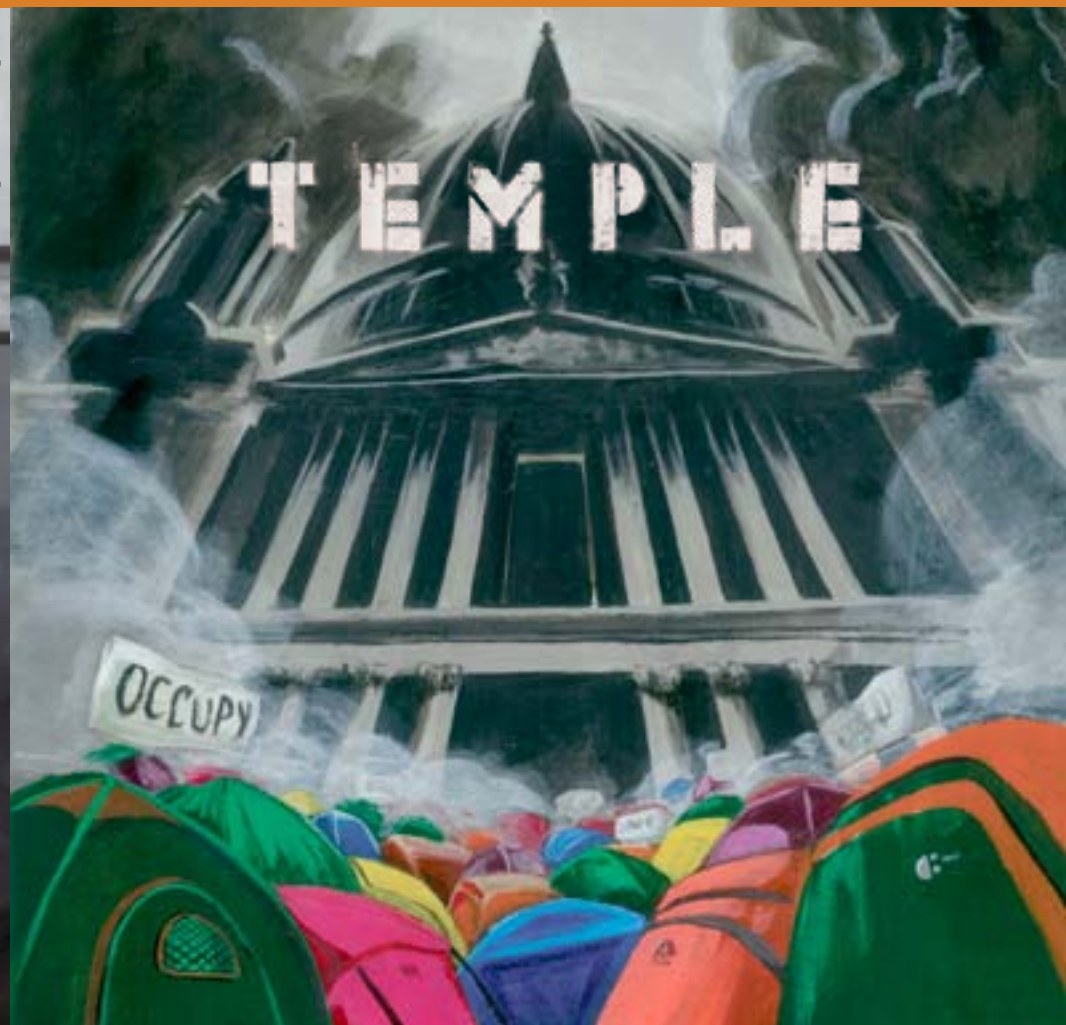
MARCH 10 - APRIL 23

Leni Riefenstahl was the brilliant German film director of *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympia*, films cited by Pauline Kael as “the two greatest films ever directed by a woman,” and which also served as propaganda for Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. In Sarah Greenman’s wildly creative multimedia play, Riefenstahl’s older and younger selves edit a film of the director’s life, playing out and reshooting scenes from her past until the director finds the beauty she is seeking. *Leni* is an extraordinary work about artistic responsibility, narcissism, and denial.

“GREENMAN DEMONSTRATES A MASTERFUL CONFIDENCE AS HER TEXT DARTS FROM ONE DECADE TO THE NEXT AND ONE LENI TO ANOTHER.” – SEATTLE WEEKLY

Associate Sponsors: Deborah & Howard Goodman, Candace & George Hisert, Ellen & Barry Levine

U.S. PREMIERE




BY STEVE WATERS | DIRECTED BY TOM ROSS

APRIL 14 - MAY 14

In October 2011, Occupy London set up camp outside one of London’s most beloved institutions, St. Paul’s Cathedral. Soon, the building that had famously survived floods, terrorist threats, and the Blitz closed its doors, and the City of London took legal action against Occupy to remove protesters. Steve Waters’ new play is a powerful, fictional account of the behind-the-scenes machinations by the church and city leadership, dramatizing the turmoil faced by those who must decide which of their ideals they’ll betray.

“A RICH, DEEPLY THOUGHTFUL PIECE ABOUT CONTEMPORARY VALUES.” – LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES

Associate Sponsors: Elizabeth Burwell, Deborah & Howard Goodman, Ellen & Barry Levine



Splendour

BY ABI MORGAN | DIRECTED BY BARBARA DAMASHEK

JUNE 23 - JULY 23

A revolution grows violent in an unnamed country while four women await the arrival of its embattled dictator inside the opulent Presidential Palace – his wife, her best friend, a British journalist, and a translator. As the political tension escalates, time refracts and earlier scenes replay from different perspectives. Morgan, the award-winning British playwright and screenwriter (*The Iron Lady*, *Suffragette*), takes the audience on a breath-taking journey with a fascinating theatricality that is at once compassionate, dispassionate, and probing.

"ABI MORGAN HAS ELABORATED A PLAY OF REMARKABLE INTENSITY AND RICHNESS. SPLENDOUR GLEAMS WITH ICE-COOL WIT, GLISTENS WITH THE SWEAT OF ANIMAL FEAR." ~ TIME OUT

Sponsors: Cindy & Stephen Snow, Alison Teeman & Michael Yovino-Young
Associate Sponsors: Leah & Neil MacNeil, Lisa & James Taylor

8 Reasons to Subscribe

1 PRIORITY SEATING

Choose your seats before the general public! You can also exchange your tickets and book additional single tickets one week before they go on sale to the public.

2 EASY EXCHANGES

Make unlimited ticket exchanges for free (with 25-hour notice).

3 MISSED PERFORMANCE DISCOUNT

Miss your show? Don't fret! Get half price tickets for a new date.

4 BIG SAVINGS

Buy a 6-play subscription and save up to \$120 off of single ticket prices.

5 GUEST TICKET DISCOUNTS

Buy additional tickets for friends at the subscriber price.

6 DINING PARTNER DISCOUNTS

Enjoy season-long dining discounts with our local restaurant partners on the day you come to the theatre.

7 PARKING

Guaranteed, discounted pre-paid parking available -- but spaces are limited, so please act quickly!

8 SPECIAL EVENTS & INSIDER INFO

Receive special information and advance notice about select Aurora Theatre Company-sponsored events.

Subscribe Now!

510.843.4822 | auroratheatre.org

SEASON 2016/2017 CALENDAR

MAINSTAGE

		DEAR MASTER	SAFE HOUSE	THE REAL THING	TEMPLE	SPLENDOR
P	FRI 8PM	Sep 2	Nov 4	Jan 27	Apr 14	Jun 23
P	SAT 8PM	Sep 3	Nov 5	Jan 28	Apr 15	Jun 24
P	SUN 2PM	Sep 4	Nov 6	Jan 29	Apr 16	Jun 25
P	TUE 7PM	Sep 6	Nov 8	Jan 31	Apr 18	Jun 27
P	WED 8PM	Sep 7	Nov 9	Feb 1	Apr 19	Jun 28
O	THU 8PM	Sep 8	Nov 10	Feb 2	Apr 20	Jun 29
T	FRI 8PM	Sep 9	Nov 11	Feb 3	Apr 21	Jun 30
	SAT 8PM	Sep 10	Nov 12	Feb 4	Apr 22	Jul 1
	SUN 2PM	Sep 11	Nov 13	Feb 5	Apr 23	Jul 2
	SUN 7PM	Sep 11	Nov 13	Feb 5	Apr 23	Jul 2
T	TUE 7PM	Sep 13	Nov 15	Feb 7	Apr 25	Jul 4
	WED 8PM	Sep 14	Nov 16	Feb 8	Apr 26	Jul 5
	THU 8PM	Sep 15	Nov 17	Feb 9	Apr 27	Jul 6
	FRI 8PM	Sep 16	Nov 18	Feb 10	Apr 28	Jul 7
	SAT 8PM	Sep 17	Nov 19	Feb 11	Apr 29	Jul 8
	SUN 2PM	Sep 18	Nov 20	Feb 12	Apr 30	Jul 9
	SUN 7PM	Sep 18	Nov 20	Feb 12	Apr 30	Jul 9
	TUE 7PM	Sep 20	Nov 22	Feb 14	May 2	Jul 11
T	WED 8PM	Sep 21	Nov 23	Feb 15	May 3	Jul 12
	THU 8PM	Sep 22	**	Feb 16	May 4	Jul 13
	FRI 8PM	Sep 23	Nov 25	Feb 17	May 5	Jul 14
	SAT 8PM	Sep 24	Nov 26	Feb 18	May 6	Jul 15
	SUN 2PM	Sep 25	Nov 27	Feb 19	May 7	Jul 16
	SUN 7PM	Sep 25	Nov 27	Feb 19	May 7	Jul 16
	TUE 7PM	Sep 27	Nov 29	Feb 21	May 9	Jul 18
	WED 8PM	Sep 28	Nov 30	Feb 22	May 10	Jul 19
T	THU 8PM	Sep 29	Dec 1	Feb 23	May 11	Jul 20
	FRI 8PM	Sep 30	Dec 2	Feb 24	May 12	Jul 21
	SAT 8PM	Oct 1	Dec 3	Feb 25	May 13	Jul 22
	SUN 2PM	Oct 2	Dec 4	Feb 26	May 14	Jul 23
	SUN 7PM	Oct 2	Dec 4	Feb 26	May 14	Jul 23

HARRY'S UPSTAGE

	LENI
P	Mar 10
P	Mar 11
P	Mar 12
P	Mar 14
P	Mar 15
O	Mar 16
T	Mar 17
	Mar 18
	Mar 19
	Mar 19
T	Mar 21
	Mar 22
	Mar 23
	Mar 24
	Mar 25
	Mar 26
	Mar 26
	Mar 28
T	Mar 29
	Mar 30
	Mar 31
	Apr 1
	Apr 2
	Apr 2
	Apr 4
	Apr 5
T	Apr 6
	Apr 7
	Apr 8
	Apr 9
	Apr 9

O - Opening
P - Preview
T - Talk Back
(a free event
after the show;
for details
contact the box
office.)

**Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, subscribers for this night will be moved to Saturday, November 26 at 2pm. Subscribers can make ticket exchanges beginning Tuesday, July 26.

PRICING

SUBSCRIPTION

	6-PLAY	5-PLAY	3-PLAY
PREVIEWS	\$192	\$160	\$99
OPENING NIGHT	\$350	\$295	NA
SAT, SUN MAT	\$280	\$240	\$150
TUE, FRI, SUN EVE	\$235	\$195	\$126
WED, THU	\$215	\$175	\$111

SINGLE TICKETS

MAIN STAGE	HARRY'S UPSTAGE
\$36	\$36
\$65	\$65
\$32-56*	\$45-55*
\$32-56*	\$45-55*
\$32-56*	\$45-55*

Single tickets go on sale for subscribers Tuesday, July 26, and for the general public on Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

A fee of \$8 will be added to each subscription order, and a fee of \$6 to each single ticket order.

*Ticket prices increase with demand. Buy early for the lowest prices!

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

6-PLAY PACKAGE Enjoy the complete season: five mainstage plays plus *Leni* at Harry's UpStage in the Dashow Wing. Save up to \$120 off single ticket prices.

5-PLAY PACKAGE See all five plays on the Mainstage - does not include *Leni* at Harry's UpStage. Save up to \$105 off single ticket prices.

3-PLAY PACKAGE Select tickets for any three shows during our season. This is a savings of up to \$45!

DISCOUNTS

35 & UNDER Get 50% off the regular subscription and single ticket prices.

EDUCATOR Full-time teachers get 20% off the regular subscription price.

MILITARY U.S. military personnel and veterans get 20% off the regular subscription price. We also offer \$10 off individual tickets for military families. (4 per ID)

STUDENT A single ticket is \$15 for full-time college students and \$10 for high school students.

GROUPS Bring a group of at least 10 or more and receive special discounted single ticket prices. The larger the group, the greater the discount! Call for more details.

Discounts are available for all Subscription Packages except for Opening Night. ID required for all discount subscriptions and select tickets. One discount per ID unless otherwise noted. Discounts cannot be combined. Subscription discounts are only available via fax, mail, or in person. For details about all of Aurora's discounts, please visit auroratheatre.org or call 510.843.4822.

WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

Online: auroratheatre.org

By phone: 510.843.4822

At the box office: 2081 Addison St.
Berkeley, CA 94794

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Non-performance weeks: Tue-Fri 1-5pm

Performance weeks: Tue 1-6pm, Wed-Fri 1-7pm, Sat 5-7pm, Sun 12-1pm & 5-6pm

Make a Night of It

RESTAURANT PARTNERS

It's easy to make your visit to Aurora a full sensory experience by dining in Downtown Berkeley before or after the show! Our restaurant partners are all located within easy walking distance of Aurora, and all offer discounts to subscribers. Just present your ticket stub when you order.

Here's a list of our current dining partners:



Season Restaurant Sponsor

Asian Fusion, 2101 Milvia St. 510.665.4811

ANGELINE'S LOUISIANA KITCHEN - Cajun/Creole, 2261 Shattuck Ave. 510.548.6900

BISTRO LIAISON - French Bistro, 1849 Shattuck Ave. 510.849.2155

CAFE PLATANO - Salvadoran/Latin American, 2042 University Ave. 510.704.0325

EUREKA! - Gourmet Burgers/Craft Beer, 2068 Center St. 510.809.8282

JAZZCAFFÉ - Light Cafe Fare, 2087 Addison St. 510.883.0231

JULIA'S AT BERKELEY CITY CLUB - American, 2315 Durant Ave. 510.280.1547

PATHOS ORGANIC GREEK KITCHEN - Greek Cuisine, 2430 Shattuck Ave. 510.981.8339

PHIL'S SLIDERS - Casual, 2024 Shattuck Ave. 510.843.4826

PIQ - Casual Italian Café, 91 Shattuck Sq. 510.540.7700

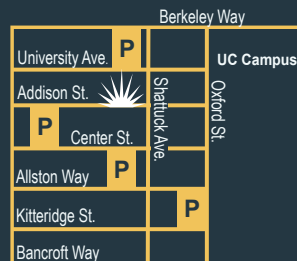
REVIVAL - Farm-to-Table Cuisine, 2102 Shattuck Ave. 510.549.9950

Restaurant partners and offers are subject to change, and new restaurant partners join us throughout the year. Please check auroratheatre.org for the most up-to-date information.

DIRECTIONS

Aurora Theatre Company is 1/2 block from Downtown Berkeley BART. Due to construction starting this summer, the Center Street Garage is scheduled for long-term closure on July 1. Other area garages will be adding extra parking spaces to accommodate. Subscribers can purchase pre-paid and guaranteed parking for the Allston Way Garage while supplies last.

(For detailed driving directions, list of AC transit routes, and updated parking information, please visit auroratheatre.org.)



Get Into Giving

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

Did you know that ticket sales cover only 55% of our budget? Thanks to generous gifts from donors like you, Aurora continues to produce award-winning, intimate theatre that engages our minds and touches our hearts.

Every donation helps Aurora:

- Welcome audiences from all walks of life with discounts and pay-what-you-can previews
- Offer equal pay to both union and non-union artists
- Hire top-notch local artists from all over the Bay Area
- Develop new plays through **Originate + Generate**, our new works initiative... and so much more!

The artisanal, insightful theatre you see at Aurora enriches our community and nourishes our souls. Please consider making a donation today to make this work possible!

For more information, call Aurora's development office at 510.843.4042 ext.312, or go to auroratheatre.org.

THANK YOU
for supporting Aurora's work and the artists
who make it happen!





25th
ANNIVERSARY SEASON

 AURORA THEATRE COMPANY
2081 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tom Ross, Artistic Director
Julie Saltzman Kellner, Managing Director

 AURORA THEATRE COMPANY
1/2 block from Downtown Berkeley BART
510.843.4822 | auroratheatre.org

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES FROM \$99!

Cover: (l-r) Jeremy Kahn in *Wittenberg*, L. Peter Callender in *Breakfast With Mugabe*, Elizabeth Carter in *The Hair Apparent*. **Page 1:** (clockwise from top left) Paul Vincent O'Connor in *American Buffalo*, Ken Grantham in *Dear Master*, Devin O'Brien and Jamie Jones in *Mud Blue Sky*. **Page 4:** (clockwise from top left) Danny Schiele in *Monster-Builder*, Barbara Oliver in *Dear Master*, Camie Paff and Gabriel Marin in *This Is How It Goes*. **Reasons To Subscribe:** Della MacDougal in *SEX Get Into Giving*; (l-r) Deborah Fink and Emile Talbot in *The Best Man*. **Back Cover:** Lauren English and Rolf Saxon in *Talley's Folly*. Photo Credit: David Allen.