



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Tim Etheridge

tim@etheridgepr.com

415.786.1377

**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETURN UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP
Berkeley Based Theatre Had Previously Announced A Hibernation**

Berkeley, CA. — June 8, 2026 — After a period of hibernation, **Aurora Theatre Company's (Aurora) Board of Directors** is proud to announce its return and the beginning of a new chapter under the new leadership of **Artistic Director Jennifer King and Managing Director Jenn Ruygt**.

For more than three decades, **Aurora** has been recognized for creating intimate theatre that places artists and audiences in profound conversation with one another. Like many arts organizations, **Aurora** faced significant challenges in recent years and entered a period of pause to reflect, regroup, and reimagine its future.

"We are thrilled to bring Aurora back into the community," said **Jennifer King, Artistic Director**. "As we move forward, we are embracing both legacy and renewal—honoring Aurora's rich history while reimagining what intimate theatre can mean for this moment."

Although **Aurora** does not currently have a permanent physical home, the company remains committed to the artistic values that have defined its work for more than thirty years: bold storytelling, extraordinary acting, deep emotional engagement, and the uniquely transformative experience that occurs when artists and audiences gather in shared space.

"Aurora has always been defined by its intimacy, said **Jenn Ruygt, Managing Director**. "The excitement created when actors and audiences share imagination, vulnerability, humor, and human connection in close proximity. That spirit remains very much alive."

As **Aurora** rebuilds and prepares for a return to producing in the **2027/2028 season**, the company is exploring new partnerships, performance opportunities, and ways to reconnect with artists, audiences, and supporters throughout the Bay Area. **Aurora's** renewed vision is rooted in producing work that is artistically rigorous, emotionally resonant, surprising, theatrical, and deeply human. The company will share additional information about programming, partnerships, events, and opportunities for community engagement in the months ahead.

"We cannot wait to gather together again," said Ruygt. "The people who have continued to believe in Aurora through a challenging period have made this next chapter possible. Their encouragement, advocacy, and generosity inspired Aurora's Board of Directors, Jennifer, and me to find a path forward. We are deeply grateful for their support and look forward to reconnecting with those who have sustained Aurora for more than three decades, while cultivating new relationships and rebuilding a vibrant future together."

ABOUT JENNIFER KING

Jennifer King (she/her) is Artistic Director of Aurora Theatre Company and an award-winning director, educator, and arts leader. Her work is known for bold storytelling, collaborative ensemble practice, and a commitment to creating theater that engages contemporary audiences. A longtime member of the Aurora artistic community, her directing credits with the company include Dry Powder, Hurricane Diane, and the 2025 revival of The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe. King has directed nationally and internationally, founded Shakespeare Napa Valley, and served for more than twenty years as Professor and Head of Theater Arts & Film Studies at Napa Valley College. She is guided by a belief in theater as a transformative civic art form that fosters connection, expands perspectives, and strengthens community.

ABOUT JENN RUYGT

Jenn Ruygt (she/her) is Managing Director of Aurora Theatre Company with more than twenty years of experience in theatre production, arts administration, and live event management. Prior to joining Aurora Theatre Company in 2021, she built a career spanning the nonprofit, educational, and private sectors, serving in leadership roles in production management, arts administration, and event production. Her experience includes extensive work with Bay Area theatres, Napa Valley College, and national event producers. Ruygt holds a BA in Theatre Arts from San Diego State University, as well as an MA in Arts Administration and an MFA in Production Management from Boston University. Her work is guided by a commitment to collaboration, organizational excellence, and creating environments where artists and staff can do their best work.

ABOUT AURORA THEATRE COMPANY

As the storyteller for our community, Aurora Theatre Company inspires new audiences and longtime theatre lovers alike with the visceral power of live theatre. Our venues, the most intimate professional stages in the Bay Area, highlight great acting, nuanced language, and an immediacy that makes for exhilarating theatre. By telling deeply relevant stories, we're building a new culture of theatregoing in the Bay Area and contributing to a revitalization of theatre nationwide, challenging all of us to think deeper, laugh louder, and engage more purposefully and profoundly with our neighbors and our world.