



PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Sandra Evans
510.843.4042 x311
sevans@auroratheatre.org

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2023/2024 SEASON

Aurora's 32nd Season comes with a new tagline: Intimate. Inclusive. Inspiring. Get IN.

BERKELEY, CA (April 5, 2023) Aurora Theatre Company's Artistic Director, Josh Costello, announced a five show program and the plays that will comprise the theatre's 32nd season. All shows will be presented live in Aurora's renown intimate theatre space and will be available to stream.

"Our 32nd Season marks a turning point for Aurora," said Costello. "As storytellers for our community, our new season embodies what we now embrace: stories that are authentic, inspiring, and relevant to the issues that we're facing today." He continued: "We have changed our tagline and our mission to reflect these changes: **Intimate. Inclusive. Inspiring. Get IN.** Coming on the heels of our successful current season, our 32nd Season will be so much more."

According to Costello, "Aurora is a place where our community's artists bring us together for a collective act of shared imagination, the conjuring of a story that can only happen right here and right now."

To commemorate the new season, Aurora has partnered with Oakland Artist, [Eddie Colla](#) as the new poster artist for Aurora. "Eddie's work is brilliant and we feel that his style reflects the exciting direction that we are taking our programming and our patrons."

Aurora's regular season will run September 2023 through July 2024. In chronological order, the Aurora 2023/2024 season is as follows:

BORN WITH TEETH

By **Liz Duffy Adams**

Directed by **Josh Costello**

Intimate. Ingenious. Intoxicating.

Will Shakespeare is an upstart crow looking to make his name. Kit Marlowe is the greatest poet of the age, and knows it. He's also a spy for the English crown. In the back room of a tavern, against the backdrop of a polarized and paranoid England where even the slightest misstep can lead to a death sentence, the two writers embark on a risky collaboration. Artistic partnership becomes a dangerous dance of inspiration, artistry, seduction, and possible betrayal. Experience the thrill of artistic expression and the precariousness of living in a society where every move is scrutinized.

“Glorious... [a] jewel of a script!”

-Houston Chronicle

September 1 - October 1, 2023 (Opens: September 7)

1984

By George Orwell Adapted by **Michael Gene Sullivan**

Directed by **TBA**

Intimate. Insidious. Intense.

Adapted from George Orwell by the Bay Area's own Michael Gene Sullivan, *1984* is a ferocious and provocative retelling of the prescient and iconic novel. Big Brother's surveillance state seeks to control not just our bodies but our minds as well, reaching into every corner of our lives. Accused of Thoughtcrime, Winston Smith faces an interrogation that will reveal his struggle for scraps of love and freedom in a world awash with paranoia and violence. Can the yearning for freedom be extinguished? Or is our shared humanity more powerful than any forces of repression? Experience the novel come to life with shocking relevance in this brilliant adaptation on the Aurora stage.

"This adaptation is multi-layered, intense, and disturbing – exactly how it should be."

-The South China Morning Post

November 10 - December 10, 2023 (Opens: November 16)

MANAHATTA

By **Mary Kathryn Nagle**

Directed by **TBA**

Intimate. Informed. Indefatigable.

A young Lenape woman, Jane Snake, returns to her ancestral homeland, Manahatta, to work as a securities trader on Wall Street – the once walled street built by enslaved Africans to keep the Indigenous Lenape out. Set against the backdrop of the Occupy Wall Street movement and across time, *Manahatta* draws parallels between the forced removal, taxation, and the fiscal impact on Native Americans during the 2008 financial crisis and the 1626 Dutch purchase of the island of Manahatta/Manhattan. Playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle (a citizen of the Cherokee Nation), teases the duality in Jane as she seeks to uncover her complicity in infrastructure designed to destroy her people; Jane’s career is thriving on “the island of many hills” (Manahatta in Lenape), while back home in Oklahoma, her mother and sister are grieving the loss of family, and struggling to maintain their culture, language, and their finances to stay in their over-mortgaged home.

“Fascinating and provocative.”

-New Haven Review

February 9 - March 10, 2024 (Opens: February 15)

BLUE DOOR

By **Tanya Barfield**

Directed by **TBA**

Intimate. Intrepid. Inspired.

Tanya Barfield’s two-man play, *Blue Door*, puts Lewis, a high-achieving Black mathematics professor, in conversation with three generations of his ancestors over the course of a fevered dream or night of sleepless delusion as he wrestles with his own sense of self and cultural identity. Estranged from his white wife, who accuses him of being out of touch with his heritage for refusing to attend the Million Man March, Lewis must journey through the past in order to determine his future. The ancestral visitations he receives call upon joy and pain, suffering and resiliency, music and song to situate Lewis in a long lineage of Black men in America from enslavement and Jim Crow to Black Power.

“Encapsulates more than a century of history on a very personal level... exhilarating!”

-CurtainUp

April 19 - May 12, 2024 (Opens: April 25)

THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT

By **Jeremy Kareken & David Murrell and Gordon Farrell**

based on the book by **John D'Agata and Jim Fingal**

Directed by TBA

Intimate. Intriguing. Insouciant.

An intern at a top magazine is given the assignment of a lifetime – fact-checking a masterpiece by a legendary essayist. What the no-nonsense editor means as a simple task becomes a hilarious misadventure when it becomes clear that most of the facts in the essay are embellished, adjusted, or just made up. The essay is brilliant, but has the essayist undermined his own work or revealed a deeper truth by playing fast and loose to make his point? Facts battle with truth when the intern bucks his instructions and confronts the essayist in this Broadway hit.

“Spry humor, rippling tension and provocative reflections... ingenious!”

-Hollywood Reporter

June 21 - July 21, 2024 (Opens: June 27)

Full-season, 5-play subscriptions are currently available (\$165-\$310) and offer priority seating, easy exchanges, missed performance and guest discounts, and more. Single tickets (\$38-\$75) go on sale for subscribers July 20, and on sale August 3 to the general public.

Current full-time teachers receive 20% off subscription prices, and active and retired military personnel also receive 20% off subscription prices through Theatre Communications Group's Blue Star Theatres program. Patrons 35 and under are eligible for half-price subscriptions, and deeply discounted subscriptions are available for full-time college and high school students.

For subscriptions or single tickets, the public can call 510.843.4822 or visit auroratheatre.org.

CALENDAR EDITORS

Aurora's regular season will run September 2023 through July 2024.

SCHEDULE

BORN WITH TEETH

By Liz Duffy Adams
Directed by Josh Costello
September 1 - October 1, 2023 (Opens: September 9)

1984
By George Orwell
Adapted by Michael Gene Sullivan
November 10 - December 10, 2023 (Opens: November 18)'

MANAHATTA
By Mary Kathryn Nagle
February 9 - March 10, 2024 (Opens: June 30)

BLUE DOOR
By Tanya Barfield
April 15 - May 19, 2024 (Opens: April 21)

THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT
By Jeremy Karen, David Murrell, and Gordon Farrell
based on the book by John D'Agata and Jim Fingal
June 21 - July 21, 2024 (Opens: June 30)

SHOWS Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.
Saturday at 8 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.

WHERE Aurora Theatre Company | 2081 Addison Street | Berkeley, CA

TICKETS For single tickets (\$38-\$75) or subscriptions (\$200-\$385), the public can call **(510) 843-4822** or visit **www.auroratheatre.org**.

Subscriptions on sale April 5th. Single tickets on sale for subscribers July 20, and on sale August 3 to the general public.

PHOTOS

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 profoundly 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. It has an operating budget of \$2.2 million.

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PHOTOS