**PRESS RELEASE**
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**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MARIN THEATRE PRESENTS**
**Jonathan Spector's *Eureka Day***
**August 28 - September 21, 2025**

**BERKELEY, CA (May 8, 2025):** Aurora Theatre Company is proud to announce its upcoming partnership with Marin Theatre in Fall 2025, in bringing back Jonathan Spector's ***Eureka Day*** – now nominated for the Best Revival of a Play Tony Award – which had its World Premiere at Aurora in 2018.

"When we premiered ***Eureka Day*** at Aurora in 2018, Jonathan Spector and I had no idea that the play would go on to such incredible success," says Aurora's artistic director, Josh Costello. "Would such a Berkeley story play in other places? Seven years later, after productions all over the world, the answer is a definitive yes, and the story is more relevant than ever. I'm so excited to bring this play to life again in the Bay Area."

Aurora's commission of Spector's play previously garnered the 2019 Will Glickman Award for best play to premiere in the Bay Area. The San Francisco Chronicle gave the production its highest rating and called it "so crisply defined that you might have to periodically remind yourself that you haven't already met these characters in real life." In 2024, it opened on Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club, where the New York Times lauded it with a Critic's Pick, calling it "the perfect play for our age of disagreement." Marin Theatre's production will reunite most of its World Premiere design team and cast, including **Charisse Loriaux**, **Lisa Anne Porter**, **Rolf Saxon**, and **Teddy Spencer**, joined by **Leontyne Mbele-Mbong**. Aurora Theatre Company Artistic Director **Josh Costello** returns as director.

Designers: Ray Archie (sound), Richard Olmsted* (scenic), Jeff Rowlings* (lighting), Maggie Whitaker* (costumes), Teddy Hulsker (video design).

Says **Lance Gardner**, "I was involved in an early developmental reading, and then saw the fantastic premiere production at Aurora, where I was blown away by the humor and nuance around a topic that has become exponentially more relevant since its premiere. I'm ecstatic to team up with Aurora to welcome this hilarious and necessary play back to the Bay."

**About Playwright Jonathan Spector**

**Jonathan Spector** (Playwright) is a playwright based in Oakland, California. His plays include *Eureka Day* (*New York Times* Critic's Pick, Will Glickman Award, Theatre Bay Area Award, SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Rella Lossy Award, 2025 Tony nomination), *This Much I Know* (Edgerton New Play Award), *Best Available* (Elizabeth George Commission), *In From The Cold* (Global Age Prize), *Siesta Key*, and *Good. Better. Best. Bested*. His work has been produced at theatres including Colt Coeur, Aurora Theatre Company, Syracuse Stage, Mosaic

Theater, InterAct Theatre, Shotgun Players, Custom Made Theatre Company, and Just Theater. He has developed work with Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout Underground, South Coast Repertory, Portland Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, New Harmony Project, PlayPenn, San Francisco Playhouse, and Crowded Fire, among others. Jonathan has been a Core Writer at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and the Playwrights' Center, a MacDowell Fellow, and a former Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation. He is currently under commission from La Jolla Playhouse, Roundabout Theatre Company, and Manhattan Theatre Club.

**About Director Josh Costello**

**Josh Costello**† is the Artistic Director of Aurora Theatre Company. Throughout his career, Josh has worked to make theatre more accessible for more people, sharing a passion for the visceral experience of live theatre with new audiences and underserved communities. He was the founding Artistic Director of Impact Theatre, which focused on audiences in their teens and twenties. As the Artistic Director of Expanded Programs at Marin Theatre Company, Josh created and administered several programs that built relationships with new audiences. At Aurora, Josh initiated student matinee and Community Partner programs and led a revision of Aurora's mission to emphasize the theatre's role as storyteller to the community. Josh has directed *Born with Teeth*, *Cyrano*, *This Much I Know*, *The Flats*, *Exit Strategy*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Detroit*, *Wittenberg*, and *The Heir Apparent* for Aurora, as well as the world premiere of *Eureka Day*, which won every Bay Area new play award. His world-premiere production of Aaron Loeb's *Ideation* with the San Francisco Playhouse in both SF and NYC won the Glickman Award for best new play in the Bay Area and the Theatre Bay Area Award for Outstanding Direction, and was named a New York Times Critic's Pick. Other directing work includes *My Children! My Africa!* at Marin Theatre Company, *House of Lucky* at Magic Theatre, and his adaptations of Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* and Aphra Behn's *The Rover*. Josh was the Education Director at Marin Shakespeare Company, and a faculty member at Cal Shakes, ACT, SF Shakes, UC Riverside, Cal State Long Beach, South Coast Rep, and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Josh holds a BFA in Theatre from Boston University, and an MFA in Directing from the University of Washington, Seattle.

**CALENDAR EDITORS**

Aurora Theatre Company in partnership with Marin Theatre is bringing back Jonathan Spector's now Tony Award-nominated ***Eureka Day***, featuring most of the original cast and creative team from the 2018 World Premiere production.

**WHERE**
Marin Theatre, 397 Miller Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941

**TICKETS**
General Admission: $59 - $89
The public can call (510) 843-4822 or visit www.auroratheatre.org

**Press Tickets:** Please do not respond to this media advisory for review tickets. Press review invites will be sent to selected media.

## 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.

## ABOUT MARIN THEATRE

**Marin Theatre** was founded in 1966, when 35 Mill Valley residents came together under the leadership of Sali Lieberman to create the Mill Valley Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA). The nonprofit organization brought arts as diverse as film, theatre, poetry, dance and concerts of classical, jazz and folk music to Marin County for a decade. After a number of successful community theatre productions, MVCPA began to exclusively produce and present theatre performances in 1977. The group staged critically acclaimed, award-winning plays in a golf clubhouse, a veterans' auditorium, and several schools and parks. MVCPA changed its name to Marin Theatre Company in 1984, beginning a period of extraordinary growth. By 1987, MTC had become a professional theatre company, opening its own theatre complex and joining with other local theatres to negotiate the first regional Actors' Equity contract in the Bay Area. MTC then created a new play program to support emerging American playwrights, launching a New Works developmental workshop and public reading series in 2004 and establishing two new play prizes in 2007. MTC joined both the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and the National New Play Network (NNPN) in 2008. Rechristened **Marin Theatre**, the company is the leading professional theatre in the North Bay and the premier mid-sized theatre in the Bay Area. In the fall of 2023, **Lance Gardner** was appointed executive artistic director. Gardner is well known to Bay Area audiences for his many leading appearances on stage at Marin Theatre, as well as at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and others. He served as president of the Board of Trustees at Aurora Theatre Company, and was live event producer at *KQED*, launching a series of public events for the acclaimed public broadcasting company, before assuming this role at Marin Theatre.

**PRESS CONTACTS**

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