



OUR STAFF IS VERY ATTRACTIVE; PHOTO BY GLENN MARTIN

# Aurora Theatre Family

## Christmas Newsletter

GET READY FOR SOME HOLIDAY CHEESE

## Dear Friends,

**Ho ho ho! How lucky we are to be alive right now!** During this holiday season we want to take a step back and look at all we have to be grateful from the past year. 2017 has been a banner year for us as individuals and Aurora as a whole. **Aurora won 10 Suzi Awards this year, including AC's 5<sup>th</sup> award for Outstanding Musical Direction.** We broke all sorts of sales records and smashed marketing goals, and we have grown as individuals, too. This year, once again, Anthony had the pleasure of participating in Encuentro (a Latin-American Theatre Conference) in Los Angeles, as well as traveling to Toronto for a Strategic Leadership Visit with the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the International Hispanic Theatre Festival in Miami. As a couple, AC and he visited the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Fall Conference in New York City, the Theatre Communications Group Conference in Portland, Oregon.

*All of these experiences helped us grow as an organization by both raising our national profile and helping us see areas we can improve and cast vision for our future.*

**NEW HOME:** One of the most exciting things to come out of 2017 is that we have begun planning for our new facility! Lawrenceville approved construction of a new Performing Arts Center that will be a gathering place for the community. This expansion is another innovative partnership between the City of Lawrenceville, Aurora Theatre, and our educational community, and will boast a 500-seat theatre, classrooms, and lab space for new work development. We anticipate opening our 2020-2021 season on that new stage!



Look at all those awards!



We got new headshots this year thanks to AppCo15 Alumna Casey Gardner!

## NEW FACES

**Daniel Pope, Production Manager** – after several years working as a Sound Designer and Board Operator for many of your favorite shows, Daniel Pope has joined us full-time as our Production Manager. He enjoys fixing toilets on the weekends (or whenever they break).

**Juan Carlos Unzueta, Director of Cross-Cultural Programs** – Juan joined our staff right around Christmas last year, and was overjoyed to experience Encuentro with Anthony last month. His armpit won a Suzi-award! (Kind of.)

**Andrew O’Neal, Technical Director** – our new TD is a big fan of monster truck rallies and has won several demolition derby competitions.



**Box Office Team** – New faces in the Box Office include **Robby** (a die-hard “I Love Lucy” fan), **Sofie** (a former volunteer), and **Diana** (who is trained in ninjitsu).

**APPCO18**

PHOTO BY GLENN MARTIN

Our newest Apprentice Company features 12 amazing artists. They are already having a blast and making major contributions as part of our company.



## OLD FACES, NEW PLACES

**EB Hooyer, Sales Manager** – EB moved upstairs to work with AI on marketing. She also gave birth to her second baby boy; you can call him Potato.

**Jennifer Owens, Box Office Manager** – Jennifer has taken over the Box Office and hopes Santa brings her vodka this year instead of coal.

**Elliott Folds, Box Office Associate** – Elliott was an apprentice last year and has joined our Box Office Team this year. He is the son of THE Frank Folds.



**Cate Lightburn, Bookkeeper** – Cate is a proud alumna of AppCo15 and we are thrilled she still wants to hang around us. She loves hugs!

## STAFF FUN FACTS

**Al Stilo, Director of Sales and Marketing** – Al learned a whole bunch at the National Arts Marketing Project Conference. He also took some personal time to visit San Fran with his fam.

**Ari McBride, Graphic Designer** – Ari has created literally thousands of graphics this year and is cooking up a new website in 2018.

**Britt Hultgren Ramroop, Director of Community Outreach** – Britt’s family farm is growing... in addition to goats, they now have chickens!

**Liz Hartnett Santamaria, Director of Institutional Giving** – Liz participated in Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta this year and survived her first year of marriage.

**Katie Pelkey, Company Manager** – Katie was nominated for a Suzi Bass Callboard Award for all she does to make Aurora work. We can’t think of anyone more deserving! She easily retained Starbucks Gold Status.

**Jaclyn Hofmann, Director of Education** – Jaclyn continues to teach & direct at GGC, represented Aurora at the Southeastern Theatre Conference, spearheaded our Learning Library’s expansion to Clayton County, and ensured her son inherited her sweet dance moves.

**Renita James, Education Coordinator** – Renita traveled to San Francisco for the One Theatre World Conference, and also participated in the Arts Equity Conference in Los Angeles. She’s basically a California girl now.

**Katie Chambers, Resident Stage Manager** – K2 welcomed a new family member; Oslove was found alone in our parking garage and now has a loving home with her.

**Justin Anderson, Associate Artistic Director** – Justin was blessed to spend several weeks in Albania this year directing William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night for Teatri Metropol.

**D.H. Malcolm, General Manager** – D.H. traveled to San Diego for Tessitura Learning and Community Conference. He’s also helping his youngest, Cam, apply for colleges, which is insane.

**In the Box Office, Sonya** is pursuing her Masters in Counseling, **Molly** is perfecting her *Firefly* fanfiction, and **Daisie** learned to swim.

