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**CHRISTMAS
CANTEEN**
AN AURORA ORIGINAL
Season's Greetings

direction &
choreography by
**DAVID
ROSSETTI**

musical direction by
**ANN-CAROL
PENCE**

written by
**SCOTT
ROUSSEAU**

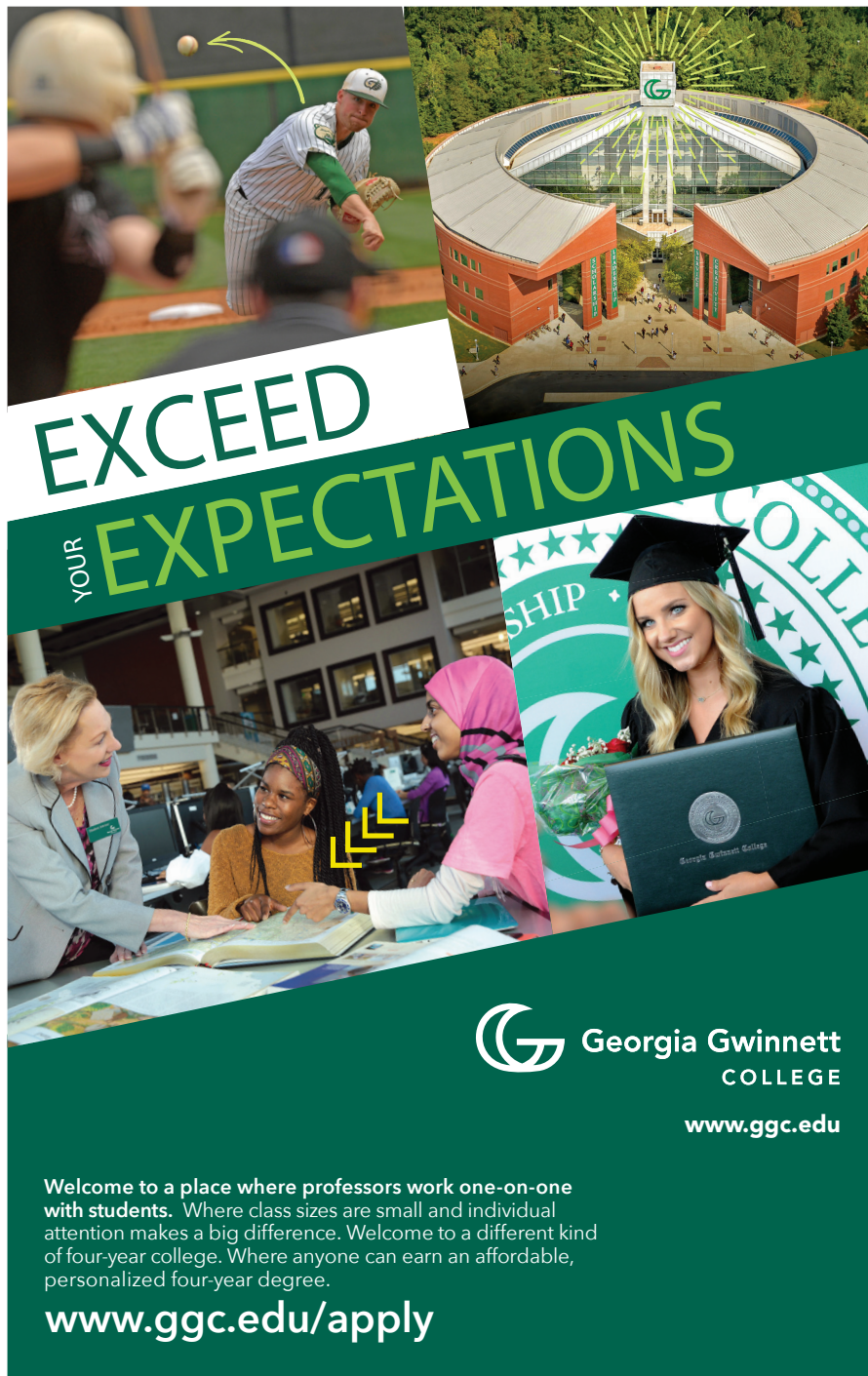
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STARRING

GALEN CRAWLEY* MEG JOHNS BRIANNE KNIGHTS JIMI KOCINA*
CHANI MAISONET* HADEN RIDER SCOTT ROUSSEAU CECIL WASHINGTON JR.*

SCENIC DESIGN
JULIE RAY**

LIGHTING DESIGN
KEVIN FRAZIER

SOUND DESIGN
DANIEL TERRY

PROJECTION DESIGN
MILTON CORDERO

COSTUME DESIGN
ALAN YEONG**

PROPERTIES DESIGN
CODY RUSSELL

STAGE MANAGER
KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS*

TECHNICAL DIRECTION
JON SANDMAIER

GENERAL MANAGER
KATIE PELNEY

PRODUCTION MANAGER
DANIEL POPE

DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY BY
DAVID ROSSETTI

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY
ANN-CAROL PENCE

WRITTEN BY
SCOTT ROUSSEAU



* Appearing through an agreement between Aurora Theatre, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the U.S.



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PRODUCTION STAFF

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Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder	ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
Associate Producer/Co-Founder/Music Director	ANN-CAROL PENCE
Associate Artistic Director	JUSTIN ANDERSON
Resident Stage Manager	KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS*
Assistant Stage Manager.....	LENA ARMAS
Assistant Technical Director.....	ASHLEY HOGAN
Associate Sound Designer/Sound Board Operator	ANNA LEE
Scenic Painter.....	SARAH THOMSON
Technical Theatre Apprentice	NICOLE KISS
Costume Shop Manager	SHAY BUCKLEY
Wardrobe Supervisor	EMILY GRACE BLACKSTONE
Costume Shop Apprentice.....	ANSLEIGH HARRISON
Dance Captain	CHANI MAISONET*
Running Crew/Featured Ensemble	CONNER KOCKS, KRISTIN TALLEY
Swings	ANDREW LAMPLEY, SARAH NATHANSON
Master Electrician	CODY EVINS
Follow Spot.....	JASMINE RENEE ELLIS, MOLLY HUNTINGTON



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FROM THE PRODUCERS

WHAT IS THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS?

As a kid, Christmas was always a time for dreaming. I would spend every night between Thanksgiving and Christmas waiting to spy Santa's arrival, hoping he wouldn't forget to bring the big ticket item on my list (for me, it was an Evil Knievel Stunt Cycle). And I prayed for snow. These were the dreams of my youth. I'll admit, even as an adult, I still stay up late on Christmas Eve hoping to hear reindeer hooves on my roof (even though I know Bella will bark her head off if she sees a deer in our neighborhood).

As one of the founders of Aurora Theatre, my Christmas dreams have changed, but they are no less grand. I now dream of bringing a million visitors to Lawrenceville in the next decade. I dream of being a place where people of every age gather to learn. I dream of being a place artists call their artistic home - where critically acclaimed work is produced, where our best artists are in residence, and where new musicals receive their world premiere. And I dream of creating a legacy for the arts in Gwinnett County.

With a gigantic hole out my window, Ann-Carol and I might have begun an incredible dream, but our blessings lie with all the people who are working day and night to build an arts center that will serve not only Lawrenceville, but the entire region. There are lots of people to thank – the innovative architects from Stevens & Wilkinson who designed the building, the folks at Carroll Daniel who are building it and the City of Lawrenceville, who is fully investing in it.

The Secret of Christmas is to **DREAM BIG**. Santa always comes through, and so do you, our Aurora friends and family. Thank you for making all of our dreams come true.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Anthony Rodriguez

Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder



Ann-Carol Pence

Associate Producer/Co-Founder



Bella Rodriguez
Barx Office Manager



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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Sleigh Ride
Chattanooga Choo Choo
California Here I Come
Choo Choo Ch'Boogie
I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo
Georgia On My Mind
Do You Know What it Means to Miss
New Orleans?
Oklahoma!/Atchison Topeka
Any Place I Hang My Hat
Triplets
I Want a Hippopotamus
Sparklejollytwinklejingley

Christmas Waltz
You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch
Christmas Time is Here
The Prayer
Swinging Little Chritmas
Oh Christmas Tree
Candy Cane Lane
Glow
Deck the Halls
Hang Up Your Stockings
Big Bulbs
Christmas Lights/Swinging Little
Christmas (reprise)

ACT 2

12 Days of Christmas
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year
Hanukkah Blessings
Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning
Andrews Sisters Medley
GI Jive
Armed Forces Medley
I'll Be Home for Christmas
Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Mister Santa
Santa Baby
Hey There, Santa
Man with a Bag
Our Favorite Claus
The Secret of Christmas
O Holy Night
Turkey Lurkey Time

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



SANTA CLAUS is also known as Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, or simply Santa. He brings gifts to the homes of well-behaved children on the night of Christmas Eve and the early hours of Christmas day. Santa is a jolly old elf with his white beard and sparkling eyes. He sometimes wears a red coat trimmed with fur when driving his sleigh, along with his red hat trimmed in white fur and carries a bag full of toys for children in the back of his sizeable sleigh.

It is said that Santa Claus makes lists of children throughout the world and checks to see if they are naughty or nice. He wishes to thank all his elves for their hard work throughout the year at the North Pole, his reindeer who guide him safely to the homes of good little children, and especially his lovely wife for all her support. "I love you, Mrs. C!"



GALEN CRAWLEY* loves the holiday season and spending it at Aurora. This is her second *Canteen*, and you may also remember her as the eponymous nanny in *Mary Poppins* (Suzi Bass Award, Best Actress in a Musical). Notable credits: *Urinetown*, *The Last 5 Years* (Nashville Repertory Theatre), *Beehive* (Flat Rock Playhouse), *Shrek* and *Broke* (Alliance Theatre), *My Fair Lady*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Miss Bennet* and *110 in*

the Shade (Theatrical Outfit), *Our Town* (Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern) and *Bad Jews* (Actors Express). She has a BFA in musical theatre from Webster University, and she coaches dialects for the stage. Follow her adventures at GalenCrawley.com. Thanks always to Jacob, Mom, Dad, Devyn and Abigail. Merry Christmas and Chanukah Sameach!



BRIANNE KNIGHTS Has appeared in several theatre productions across the U.S. and abroad. You may have seen her most recently at Aurora Theatre in the staged reading of *Out of the Box*, *'Da Kink in my Hair* by Trey Anthony at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre or on various stages in Atlanta, like 7 stages, Horizon Theatre and the Rialto to name a few. BriAnne has been fortunate to travel to China where she was a key vocalist and ensemble member of the Power of

One Tour with the Youth Ensemble of Atlanta. A native of Atlanta, BriAnne continues to pursue her passion and is thrilled to have the chance to spend this holiday season with the Aurora Theatre family.



JIMI KOCINA* is a fool for the Holidays. He's a fool most days-and I should know-I am the guy. Christmas holds a special place in his heart. As a guy who likes to see everyone happy, Christmas and The Holidays seem to get the closest to granting that wish. Past credits at Aurora include *Canteen* last year, *Canteen* 12 and 13 years ago, and what you might call a slew in between. Most recently performed in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* at Horizon Theatre. Next

Jimi can be seen here at Aurora in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. Forever thanks to AC and Tony.



Christmas Canteen 2019 is dedicated to the memory of

Barbara Howard

MAY 17, 1934 - NOVEMBER 7, 2019

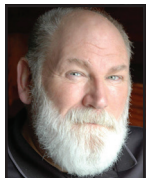
Founding Board Member, Mentor, & Friend



CHANI MAISONET* They say the 3rd time is a charm so Happy Holidays once again, Canteen! Chani is a Vocal Performance alumna of Kennesaw State University. Theatre Credits: *Becoming Nancy*, *Ever After*, *Paige In Full*, *Beautiful Blackbird*, *The Dancing Granny* (Alliance), *Hairspray* (City Springs Theatre), *110 In The Shade*, *Simply Simone* (Theatrical Outfit), *Holler If Ya Hear Me* (Kenny Leon's True Colors), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *In The Heights* (Aurora/Theatrical Outfit), *A Chorus Line* (Lyric). When Chani isn't performing, she is running her own business teaching voice. Visit @Made4Stage for more information and follow her @ChaniMaisonet on IG.



HADEN RIDER is thrilled to be back at the Aurora Theatre and is honored to share the stage with such an incredible cast and crew this holiday season! Haden is the Co-Founder/Director of Play On Players and a proud member of the Freddie G. Fellowship. Haden holds a BA theatre degree (Brenau University- GTA '14). Besides performing and directing, Haden is a self-employed vocal teacher/pedagog. Past Atlanta Credits: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*- Quasimodo [Suzi Bass Award, Outstanding Lead Actor- Musical] (Aurora/Theatrical Outfit), *Aida*- Radames, *Jesus Christ Superstar*- Jesus (Atlanta Lyric), *Next To Normal*- Gabe, *Parade*- Tom Watson (WBTC)- Boundless thanks to the Aurora team and his family/friends for their love and support. www.hadenrider.com



SCOTT ROUSSEAU has been acting and directing in the Atlanta and surrounding areas since the 80s. Favorites include *The Fantasticks* at Aurora Theatre, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Charlie's Aunt* for Theatrical Outfit at the Madison Theatre Festival, as Reb Morcha in *Fiddler On The Roof* at the Fox with Theodore Bikel; *The Odd Couple*, *How The Other Half Loves*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Second Samuel*, and *On A Clear Day* with Shirley Jones. Scott wrote and directed the original *Christmas Canteen* for Aurora Theatre. The show played for the first 7 seasons. Thank you, Tony, AC, and David, for this opportunity to return to a show he has always loved in this legendary role.



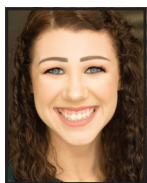
CECIL WASHINGTON JR.*, born in Birmingham, AL., B.A. in Theatre Arts from Alabama State University; Certificate in film and television from The NY Conservatory For Dramatic Arts, Manhattan, NY. Recent shows include *Men with Money*, George in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Benny in Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight *In the Heights*, Delray Jones in *Memphis The Musical*, Sam Cooke in *The Sam Cooke Story*, Mister in *The Color Purple*, and Curtis Taylor Jr in *Dreamgirls*. Cecil has appeared on shows such as "The Resident" and "Law & Order"; credits also w/ Indie Films, Commercials, Promotional, & Music videos. Coming next will be *Guys and Dolls* concert at The Jennie T. Anderson Theatre, and Porgy in Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess" at Red Mountain Theatre. "I am Always Grateful to return to the Aurora Stage, and especially thankful to God to be able to share my gifts with the world.



MEG JOHNS, a recent Grad of Central Michigan University's BFA Musical Theatre program, is grateful and excited to be a part of this wonderful company as well as Aurora's AppCo20! Most recently Meg was in Aurora's *Rock the Presidents*. Previous to that she was seen as Sally in the National Tour of *Cat in the Hat* (TheatreWorksUSA/ Two Beans). Favorite credits include *Vanya* and *Sonia* and *Masha* and *Spike* (Nina/ CMU), *Never in my Lifetime* (Tessie/ Six Eleven Theatre Company), *A Chorus Line* (Cassie- Irene Ryan Acting Nominee/ CMU), and *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Suzy Simpson/ CMU).



CONNER KOCKS is thrilled to be making his Aurora Theatre debut. He is a recent graduate of Georgia College where he earned his B.A. in Theatre. He also spent a summer training at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City. Some of his favorite theatre credits include *A Doll's House Part 2* (Torvald), *American Idiot* (Theo), and his many performances of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Frank N Furter, Brad, Rocky). Conner is so honored to be a member of Aurora's AppCo20 and work with such amazing people. He'd like to dedicate this show to everyone who comes to see it. A huge thank you to those who have supported me every step of the way. I wouldn't be where I am today without you. Also hi mom :)



KRISTIN TALLEY is a recent Young Harris College Alum (BFA Musical Theatre with minor in History) and a current member of the Aurora's AppCo20. She is honored to be able to debut in her first show at the Aurora Theatre with such a talented cast. Some of her previous roles with Theatre Young Harris include Eurydice (*Eurydice*), Granny (*Wanda's Monster*), Penelope Pennywise (*Urinetown*), Mrs. Higgins (*My Fair Lady*), and Candy Striper (*9 to 5*). Kristin has also had the opportunity of choreographing two mainstage shows with Theatre Young Harris, they include *Taming of the Shrew* and *Everyman*. Over the summer, Kristin was given the incredible opportunity being cast in a new Netflix movie as a principal dancer. She cannot wait for you to see her hard work on screen next Christmas! She would like to dedicate today's performance to her Grandma Williams and Grandma Sally who are watching today's show from heaven. God bless and enjoy the show!



ANDREW LAMPLEY (Male Swing) is from Benton, Illinois. He recently graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale with his BFA in Musical Theatre. Some of his favorite collegiate credits were *Sunday in the Park with George* (George), *Pippin* (Charlemagne), *Punk Rock* (Nicholas), and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Aster). Andrew is a proud member of the Aurora AppCo20. Most recently he's been seen in Aurora's *Rock the Presidents* and in *Children of Eden* as a Storyteller. Andrew would like to thank his friends, family, and mentors who made it possible for him to be here in the lovely Lawrenceville.



SARAH NATHANSON (Female Swing) is a graduate of Oberlin College & Conservatory where she earned a B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in Acting and a minor in Dance. She spent a semester at the LaMama Experimental Theatre Club in Manhattan, where she studied devised performance art and developed her own original work. She also trained at the British American Drama Academy in London and was a Core Company member at The Orchard Project in Saratoga Springs. Her favorite theatre credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive Ostrovsky), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Michael), *Fly By Night* (Miriam), and *What We Look Like* (Zoey Beckons). Sarah most recently had the opportunity to perform in Aurora's *Children of Eden* and to understudy in *The Roommate*. She is thrilled to be a member of AppCo20 this season.

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BAND BIOGRAPHIES

ANN-CAROL PENCE (Associate Producer/Co-Founder/Music Director) See Aurora Theatre Staff Biographies

MARK BIERING (PERCUSSION) has been part of the Aurora team since 1997, when he played for the second-ever *Christmas Canteen*. He also plays at other theatres around town when the opportunity arises, and during the day he slaves over a hot computer doing software (and occasionally hardware) support. Likes: Airplanes, strawberries, kittens. Dislikes: Licorice, mean people, and seeing pictures of himself (so no photography during the show, please!)


FUJI FUJIMOTO (BASS) is a full-time bassist in Atlanta and was most recently a member of the Aurora Theatre Orchestra for *Children Of Eden*. Fuji's work as a composer can be heard on her album of original music, "Skyrise", available on iTunes and CD Baby. She has also arranged music for songwriters BJ Wilbanks, Kalliope Ray and Princess Cruise Lines headliner Judith Franklin. As a studio musician Fuji has recorded bass tracks for many songwriters, including Victoria Canal, BJ Wilbanks, Carly Gibson, Peter Gantt, Jacob Boyd and Kezia Alford. Fuji has a Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music and a Master Certificate for Orchestration for Film and TV from Berklee Online. Her film scoring tracks can be found on her website, fujifujimoto.com.

BRIAN SMITH (GUITAR) is a guitarist and teacher in the Athens, GA area. Originally from Augusta, GA, he moved to Athens in 1995 to study guitar at the University of Georgia under the tutelage of John Sutherland. While there, Brian met the members of the Georgia Guitar Quartet and began a more than twenty year career with the ensemble, taking the group to various performance halls across the country and recording five albums together. Brian is also a founding member of the ensemble, Reven. The group, which features cello and two classical guitars and electronics, has recorded two albums together and has toured around the Southeast. Brian has been performing as a solo artist for the past two years, developing his style and technique to showcase original pieces and newly commissioned works as well as more traditional classical guitar pieces. In addition to performing and recording, Brian plays guitar for several musical theater companies including Aurora Theatre, Gainesville Theatre Alliance, and Oconee Youth Playhouse.


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PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID ROSSETTI (Director/Choreographer) is thrilled to join his friends at The Aurora Theatre for his very first *Christmas Canteen*! Previous artistic work includes Associate Choreographer to Andy Blankenbuehler (*Hamilton*, *In The Heights*, *Cats* revival) for the *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* national tour and Dance Captain and swing for the Broadway revival of *Annie*. Choreography and directing credits: *Legally Blonde* at Gainesville Theatre Alliance, *Thanksgiving: The Musical*, *Nightfall on Miranga Island* (2012 Fringe Festival "Encore Series") the viral sensation *The Spidey Project* which was an official selection for the 2018 New York Musicals Festival (retitled *Peter, Who*), *Once on this Island*, *Hairspray*, *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Singin' in the Rain*. He also served as an Assistant Director for the *Hairspray* National Tour and at Paper Mill Playhouse. He thanks his uber-talented cast, crew, and creative team for their dedication to this beloved Holiday spectacular and being gentle with his first *Canteen*. He also thanks his Aurora family, especially Tony & AC, for bringing him on board this year and his now-hubby Dustin (10/6/19) for letting him leave NYC to come down South. Check out more at www.davidrossetti.com

SCOTT ROUSSEAU (Script Writer) See *Christmas Canteen* Cast Biographies

KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS* (Resident Stage Manager) See Aurora Theatre Staff Biographies

JULIE RAY (Scenic Designers)** designs for theatre, film and television, and is Associate Professor of Scenic Design at the University of Georgia. For the Aurora Theatre, she has designed *Christmas Canteen* for the last five seasons in addition to *Mamma Mia!*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, and *Men With Money*. Her UGA designs include *Cabaret*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Spring Awakening*. Film and television credits include Netflix's "Mindhunter", "The X Files", "Babylon 5", NEIGHBORS 2, ABDUCTION and LOVE & OTHER DRUGS. Julie holds a BFA from California Institute of the Arts, and a MFA from the University of California, Irvine. www.jraydesign.com.

KEVIN FRAZIER (Lighting Designer) Atlanta credits include: Actors Express, 7 Stages, Fabrefaction, Pinch 'N' Ouch, Synchronicity and Serenbe Playhouse. Other credits include Merrimack Rep and Stoneham Theatre (MA), The Peterborough Players (NH), Glow Lyric Theatre, The Warehouse Theatre, the Distracted Globe and Centre Stage (SC) and both the New York and DC Fringe Festivals. Educational credits include: Furman University (SC), Case Western Reserve University (OH), Lafayette College (PA) and the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. Thanks to God and his family for their love and support. www.kevinfrazier.net

MILTON CORDERO (Projection Designer) is happy to return to Aurora for this wonderful time of the year! Milton grew up in Puerto Rico where he had his first theatre experience with the Community Theater group and The Music Conservatory. He subsequently earned a BA in Theatre from the University of Puerto Rico and MA in Film Industry from University Carlos III in Madrid, Spain. This led him to develop a keen interest in digital technologies and their potential for the live arts. Cordero has developed a professional career as a light and sound technician, and video projection designer. Milton's designs have been seen on stages in New York, Atlanta and Puerto Rico. His most recent work was seen in Theater Emory's production *The Nether* and in Horizon Theatre and Aurora Theatre's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. www.miltoncordero.com

DANIEL TERRY (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be back at Aurora working on another blockbuster show! He has nearly ten years of professional experience working in the Atlanta theatre community for companies that include the Alliance Theatre,

Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Actor's Express, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, and Aurora Theatre. He had the pleasure to be a staff member with Aurora Theatre for 5 years—three years as Assistant Technical Director, and two years as Technical Director. Daniel is currently working at Kennesaw State University in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies from which he holds a BA, graduating in 2011. Much love to my beautiful wife Marsha, thanks for all your support!

ALAN YEONG (Costume Designer)** is honored to be a part of *Christmas Canteen*. Alan is lucky to be collaborating with an amazing production design team and acting company. He is a Professor of Costume Design at The University of West Georgia during the day, occasionally freelancing with metro Atlanta theatre companies for the past 17 years. He recently was honored with 2016 Broadway World Atlanta Regional Best Professional Costume Design for a Musical for *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe Playhouse). Several Suzi Bass Award nominations - *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit), *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe Playhouse), *Les Misérables* (Aurora Theatre), *The Little Foxes* (Theatre in the Square). Also a special thank you to Aurora Theatre for believing in my work. Special thanks to all of his friends, colleagues, students, and University of West Georgia Theatre Arts Department for allowing him to continually be part of the vibrant metro Atlanta theatre community. Alan is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Come visit, alanyeong.com

CODY RUSSELL (Properties Designer) is happy to be back with the Canteen Crew. Some past prop designs include: *Christmas Canteen*, *Space Girl*, *Damn Yankees*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Bring it On*, and *Heidi*. Recent scenic design credits: *Zombie Prom*, *Addams Family*, and *...Spelling Bee*. When not backstage or teaching with the Aurora Academy, Shakespeare Tavern and Alliance Summer camps you may find him music directing emerging artist apprentice showcases at GET or Serenbe.

Merry
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Or on stage himself; most recently as Cooper Barlow in 7Stages' *Angry Fags*. Cody is a proud alumnus of Aurora's AppCo17.

ANNA LEE (Associate Sound Designer/Sound Board Operator) is thrilled as always to be back designing at Aurora. She graduated from Kennesaw State University with a B.A. in Theatre and Performance Studies. Her credits include *Zombie Prom*, *Addams Family* (GGC), *Spring Awakening* (Oglethorpe), *Ragtime* (KSU), *Christmas Canteen*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Suzi Nominated), and *Children of Eden* (Aurora Theatre). Big thanks to Justin, her family, Jeffrey, CB, and all the Katies she knows.

SHAY BUCKLEY (Costume Shop Manager) is an Atlanta based costumer who works in theater, dance, film, puppetry and commercials. This is her first show for Aurora Theater and she is delighted to be here.

SARAH THOMSON (Scenic Painter) loves to paint and has enjoyed over 20 seasons with Aurora Theatre. In a previous life, she was the scenic artist for Casa Mañana Theatre, Casa on the Square, Fort Worth Ballet, Dallas Shakespeare in the Park, Dallas Summer Musicals and Six Flags. She has worked with Southwest Studios and Stageworks where she served as scenic artist. She is accompanied by her man of the North, Ian.

LENA ARMAS (Stage Management Apprentice) is thrilled to be making her Atlanta debut at Aurora Theatre and to be a member of AppCo20! She is a recent graduate of Western Carolina University in North Carolina with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. Most recently, she was the Assistant Stage Manager on Aurora Theatre's productions of *Children of Eden* and *The Roommate*. Lena is excited to work this year with such a great team of artists! LIOB lenarmas.com

ANSLEIGH HARRISON (Costume Apprentice) is a Lawrenceville native and a recent graduate of Piedmont College with a BA in Theatre Arts. She began working with costumes during her time at Piedmont and designed several shows there, including *The Shadow Box* and *Crimes of the Heart*, as well as *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at North Georgia Theatre. When she's not sewing or designing, Ansleigh enjoys performing, reading and watching movies. Ansleigh is very excited to join AppCo20!

NICOLE KISS (Technical Theatre Apprentice) is excited to be joining this year's Apprentice Company. She is a recent graduate from the University of West Georgia where she earned her BA in Theatre. During her time there she took on several projects including Lighting Design, and Stage Management. Some of her most recent credits include Lighting Design of *She Kills Monsters* and *Speech and Debate*.

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AURORA THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ (Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder) Aurora Theatre opened in the summer of 1996 and Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence established Aurora Theatre, Inc. as a non-profit organization in 1999. Under their leadership, the theatre grew from 120 season subscribers to the 5100 subscribers Aurora Theatre currently boasts. Aurora's success led to an ABBY Award nomination in 2002 for Arts Professional of the Year. Mr. Rodriguez's greatest accomplishment to date was the successful negotiation to relocate Aurora Theatre to downtown Lawrenceville, Georgia where it serves as the cornerstone for their revitalization. This nearly \$7.5 million complex houses 2 theatres, rehearsal space and offices and opened in the spring of 2007. Aurora's accomplishments include: Learning Library, an Educational Theatre Program, Aurora's Apprenticeship for recent college graduates, Aurora Academy and Conservatory where students learn about theatre from working professionals, Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight an annual outdoor summer concert, Cabaret and Comedy Series musical and stand-up comedy evenings between mainstage events, and Teatro Aurora, a professional Spanish-language theatre company that was created to highlight Latino cultural heritage and to help build social bridges in our community. Anthony is past Chair of Partnership Gwinnett and past Chair of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, where he was the first Latino and Arts leader to serve in that position. Mr. Rodriguez is a member of Screen Actor's Guild, Duluth Rotary Club, is on the boards of NAMT (National Alliance for Musical Theatre) and TCG (Theatre Communications Group), and serves on the national steering committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Marist High School, the University of Georgia with a BFA in theatre, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute

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and the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures' Leadership Institute and Advocacy Institute. Mr. Rodriguez is a Cancer Survivor and has been cancer free for 28 years.

ANN-CAROL PENCE (Associate Producer/Co-Founder) arranged the music for Aurora's first *Christmas Canteen* in 1996 and was hired full-time in September of 1998 as Resident Musical Director. An education major at James Madison University, she used her background to develop Learning Library (or L2). As a musician, she created Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight, and Aurora's New Musical Initiative. She has performed as pianist and/or music director both nationally (Goodspeed Opera House, Pasadena Playhouse, The Cleveland Playhouse, The Kennedy Center) and locally (The Alliance, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, The Horizon). As a passionate citizen of Gwinnett, Ann-Carol is most proud of Aurora Theatre winning the first ever Pinnacle Award for Large Non-Profit and the first ever Moxie Award (for women led businesses). These go well with her 5 Suzi Awards for Outstanding Music Direction for *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, Aurora's world premiere of *Clyde 'n Bonnie: A Folktale*, and *A Catered Affair* and multiple past nominations. Currently, Ann-Carol is a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Selection Committee, reading 40-50 new musicals each year. She was a proud participant in the 2016 Atlanta Regional Leadership Institute and member of the "Best Class Ever!"

KATIE PELKEY (General Manager) is celebrating twelve seasons with Aurora! In 2013, Katie transitioned to the role of Company Manager, having previously served as Resident Stage Manager. She also created the highly-successful Stage Management and Costume Apprentice programs that operate simultaneously with Aurora's Acting Apprentice Company program. For five seasons, she worked

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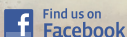
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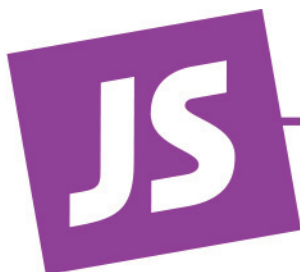
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as Aurora's Educational Resources Associate developing educational curriculum for teachers to use in conjunction with Aurora's TYA Learning Library offerings. And for over a decade, Katie served as Production Stage Manager for New Plays for Young Audiences, a prestigious TYA summer staged reading series based at New York University. She received her BA in Educational Theatre from New York University with a minor in Dramatic Literature. Many thanks to Michael, Maxwell, and Alexander for their love and support!

JUSTIN ANDERSON (Associate Artistic Director) has served as Aurora Theatre's Associate Artistic Director since 2014. His directorial work has earned Ten Suzi Bass Award Nominations for Outstanding Direction (Winner for *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Les Misérables* at Aurora Theatre, in 2017 and 2013 respectively). He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia where he directs and teaches courses in acting and musical theatre. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Campbell University and an M.A. in Theatre Studies from Regent University, with additional course study at Rutgers.

RENITA JAMES (Director of Education) is a proud graduate of AppCo 2013. It was during that year that she furthered her love of educational theatre while performing in *Unnecessary Monsters* and teaching several classes and workshops. Upon completion of her apprenticeship Renita performed with theatres across the country. She also completed a teaching artist fellowship with Metro Theater Company, before returning home Atlanta. Renita also has the great pleasure of being a Weird Sister! Some of her favorite acting credits include: *FML: How Carson McCullers Saved My Life* (7 stages), *Once Upon A Mattress* (Stage Door Players), and *The 12 Dates Of Christmas* (Aurora).



JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA (Director of Cross-Cultural Programs) has been with Aurora since December 2016. He spent the previous decade in Jacksonville, FL as the Education Director at Theatre Jacksonville, where he also handled the design of all marketing collateral and general marketing for the theatre's education programming. He served as a grant panelist for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, was a member of ACE (Arts and Continuing Education) Jacksonville, and founder of Theatre Jacksonville/Cathedral Arts Project/The Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Program's Autism Outreach in the Performing Arts. Most recently he is so honored to have served as an Endowment Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to his work in education, he has spent much of the last decade performing and directing. Notable credits include *Into the Woods* (The Baker), *The Light in the Piazza* (Fabrizio), *In the Heights* (Piragua Guy), *Pippin* (Pippin), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch), *Tick, Tick, BOOM!* (Jonathan), guest artist roles with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and First Coast Opera, and most recently in BUICentennial Productions' *Songs for a New World*.

KELLY CRISS (Director of Corporate & Individual Giving) has been working in Atlanta for a little over a decade as an Arts Administrator, Actor, Director, Producer, and Teaching Artist. She joins the Aurora Theatre team after serving as Manager of Special Projects at the High Museum of Art. Before the High, she worked at Horizon Theatre in various capacities including artistic support, mentoring the apprentice company, and as the primary coordinator for the Young Playwrights Festival. Kelly currently teaches beginning acting courses for teens at the Alliance Theatre. She also taught elementary aged children through adult professionals here at the Aurora Theatre with both the after school and summer drama academy programs. Additionally, Kelly is a founding member and former producer with the Weird Sisters Theatre Project, where she currently serves on the Board of Directors

SHELLI DELGADO (Development Coordinator) graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Georgia with BA degrees in both Theatre and English Studies. Shortly after, she joined the 2013-14 Aurora Theatre Apprentice Company and has since worked as a professional actor and education artist in and around the metro-Atlanta area. Since 2014, Shelli has worked directly with the Alliance Theatre as a resident teaching artist and script/curriculum writer. In 2016, she co-produced, developed and wrote *Quarter Life**, an Atlanta-based web series which became an official selection for the Acme Comedy Film Festival, the New Haven International Film Festival and the Atlanta Underground Film Festival, among others. Shelli has spent the last two years serving as co-producer for the Weird Sisters Theatre Project, a local theatre company who seeks to create "theatre by women, for everyone". She is thrilled to join her Aurora family with this new position.

DANIEL POPE (Production Manager) is proud to be a member of the team at Aurora Theatre as Production Manager. Daniel has been a sound designer and engineer in the Atlanta area for the past eight years. He's had the pleasure of designing sound for the Aurora Theatre on many occasions on shows such as: *Into the Woods*, *Christmas Canteen*, *Sweep*, and most recently *The Bridges of Madison County*. Additionally, he's worked on countless other productions in the Atlanta theatre community including: *Evita* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Sound Designer and Production Manager at Serenbe Playhouse. Daniel received a Bachelors in Marketing with a specialization in sales and a minor in Music from The University of West Georgia in 2010.

JON SANDMAIER (Technical Director) has worked as Master Carpenter at Aurora for the last couple years. After graduating from IPFW at the end of the last millennium, Jon spent most of his time designing and building sets for various arts orga-

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nizations in and around Fort Wayne, Indiana. He and his wife relocated to Georgia in the summer of 2016.

ASHLEY HOGAN (Assistant Technical Director) is excited to officially join Aurora's family as a staff member. She has enjoyed working her summers at Aurora the past few years while pursuing her degree at Georgia State University. After graduating summer of '18, she has spent the past year expanding her skill craft as an over-hire carpenter at Aurora.

KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS* (Resident Stage Manager) is excited to be in her 7th season with Aurora Theatre. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia, a member of Actor's Equity, and a proud alumna of Aurora's 2013-14 Apprentice Company. She has previously stage managed in Atlanta for Horizon Theatre Company, Theatrical Outfit, Synchronicity Theatre and Habima Theatre. She has also served as coordinator for the New South Young Playwrights' Festival, production manager for the Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival, and coordinator for the Atlanta Unified Auditions.

AL STILO (Director of Sales & Marketing), now in his 15th season at Aurora Theatre, is proud to be a part of the fastest-growing theatre the region. During his tenure, Aurora Theatre has tripled its season ticket base, expanded programming to over 800 annual events, and become one of the most decorated arts organizations in the region. Al shares his knowledge and expertise both locally and nationally with presentations for organizations like ArtWorks! Gwinnett and the Americans for the Arts National Arts Marketing Project Conference. Al has received multiple professional distinctions for marketing from the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau, served three years on the executive committee of Atlanta Performs and two on the Board of Directors for Georgia Arts Network, your advocate for the arts in Georgia. Al has been a professional actor for 30 years, onstage at Aurora he has appeared in *The Explorers Club*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers* and several others. Al started his arts administration career with Soulstice Repertory Ensemble from 1995–2001 before serving as Sales Manager for Georgia Shakespeare from 2000–2004. All my love to my wife Holly and son Dominic.

EB HOOYER (Marketing & Retention Manager) has been with Aurora Theatre since 2011, working as a Stage Manager, Props Designer, and Box Office Manager before transitioning to Marketing in 2017. EB is proud to have created Aurora's Need a Little Christmas Giveaway, which has provided theatre tickets and dinner to families in need since 2013. She initiated Aurora's TIXSTER program for patrons age 16-35 and previously served on the board of Hoosier Shakes, a theatre company based out of her alma mater, Indiana Wesleyan University. EB loves laughing, tacos, her husband Jared, and their two rambunctious boys.

ARÍ MCBRIDE (Graphic Designer/Marketing Associate) is excited to start a fifth season with Aurora. Arí spent the previous 18 years working as Art Director in the Atlanta advertising industry. At Clockwork Advertising she had a blast as an instrumental part to the launch of Don Julio Tequila in the US (which came with its own perks). After starting a family, Arí went on her own to develop BoyMeetsGirl Creative, an 11-year marketing & design partnership servicing clients in the corporate world from Suntrust to local manufacturers like Biolab and the occasional start-up looking to find their spot in the marketplace. Ari is a graduate of The Atlanta College of Art & Design with a degree in Advertising Design—but has always had a deep love for the performing arts. Now at Aurora, Ari handles all branding, print and web design—adding a fresh and colorful perspective to all our programming. Ari, along with Aurora's savvy marketing, team helps promote our broad range of now more than 800 events a year, creating memorable campaigns and eye-catching visuals that make Aurora one of a kind. She's blessed with a testosterone-heavy



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JENNIFER OWENS (Box Office Manager) is proud to be embarking on her 6th season at Aurora Theatre! After receiving her BFA in Acting from Brenau University in 2014, she set her sights on Aurora where she successfully became a part of the family in 2014. With a one-year-old in tow, she began as a part time Box Office Associate, later transitioning to Front of House Coordinator and Teaching Artist in 2016 and then finally the Box Office Manager and Marketing team member in June of 2017. You may have also seen her occasionally step out of the Box Office to perform in Prelude to the 4th Celebrations, Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight, or as an Improviser in Reindeer Games. A huge THANK YOU for the constant love and support of the Aurora Staff, Box Office team, Mom, and my little man, Truett.

DAISIE AKKASHA (Front of House Manager) is happy to be joining Aurora Theatre's staff as their first ever Front of House Manager. This is her fifth season with Aurora, having begun working with the Theatre in 2015 as a Box Office Associate. Aurora has become a home for her and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to help make magic happen with them. On her days off she enjoys spending time with her best friend, her German Shepherd, Goliath.

BOX OFFICE & FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF.....Blair Campbell, Aaliyah Heyward, Molly Huntington, Meg Johns, Luna Manela, Conner Kocks, Robyn Rogers, and Jackelyn Segui

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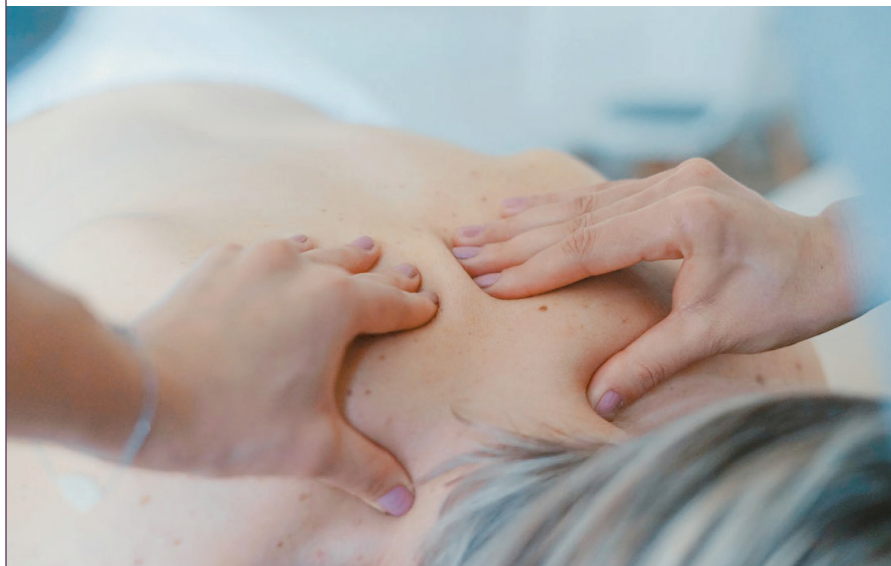
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Because everyone makes mistakes, please let us know if there are any corrections that need to be made. This list reflects giving from 10/25/2018-10/25/2019.
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