

Christmas canteen

An Aurora Original

Direction and Choreography by
David Rossetti

Associate Direction and Choreography by
Candy McLellan

Musical Direction by
Ann-Carol Pence

Inaugural
Production in the New
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Christmas canteen

An Aurora Original

starring

Joe Arnotti Amy Duffy Peyton McDaniel* Mona Swain
India Tyree* Juan Carlos Unzueta Cecil Washington Jr.* Brie Wolfe

Scenic Design

Julie Ray**

Lighting Design

Kevin Frazier*

Sound Design

Anna Lee

Costume Design

Alan Yeong**

Properties Design

Kristin Talley

Director of Production

Stage Manager

Katie Erin Chambers*

Technical Director

Rafael Toribio

Production Manager

Daniel Pope

* Direction and Choreography by *

David Rossetti

Associate Direction and Choreography by

Candy McLellan

Musical Direction by

Ann-Carol Pence



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of
Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.



**Member of United Scenic Artists

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION
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FROM THE PRODUCERS

Bienvenido, 환영하다, kaabo, 欢迎, dobrodošli, karibu, וסירגאב, Welcome!!

With the opening of *Christmas Canteen*, we welcome you to a world of POSSIBILITY!

The Lawrenceville Arts Center is the culmination of a vision that began 26 years ago in a small hardware store on the trackside of Duluth. We call Lawrenceville home because of the vision of a man named Emory Morsberger, who knew that Aurora was worth investing in. We never forget that. When I looked out my office window in 2007, I saw possibility. How fitting that the magic of the holidays leads us here – to the Clyde and Sandra Strickland Grand Stage, a family who sees unparalleled possibility in Lawrenceville, the place they call home.

We christened the building in late October. Even though there are many finishing touches still to be completed, it is important we start welcoming visitors now. A million people will enter our doors in the next decade. It is our job to treat each human being with dignity and respect as each person ventures to create their own unforgettable memories alongside the devoted artists and loyal patrons who have embraced Aurora Theatre for the past 26 years.

For those Ann-Carol and I are fortunate enough to call friends and family, thank you for standing with us, for investing in this innovative arts partnership, for forgiving us when we falter, and for graciously supporting a dream too large to contain.

So friends... join with us as we dedicate this place as a beacon of hope for what a community of belonging should be!!!!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Noche de Velas,
Happy Kwanzaa!

Whatever you celebrate, may we celebrate together,



Anthony Rodriguez
Co-Founder/President & CEO



Bella Rodriguez
Barx Office Manager



Ann-Carol Pence
Co-Founder/Associate Producer



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ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Script Development.....	DAVID ROSSETTI
Additional Lyrics	BRANDON O'DELL, JOE ARNOTTI
Assistant Stage Manager.....	JANHAVI SHIVALKAR
Assistant Technical Director	ASHLEY HOGAN
Scenic Painter.....	SARAH THOMSON
Technical Theatre Apprentice.....	RONDALD JAMES OWENS
Master Electrician	ISAAC BURRIER
Follow Spots.....	KEVIN DAVIS, MOLLY HUNTINGTON
Fly Rail Operators	JOEL HICKS, RONDALD JAMES OWENS
Sound Designer/Sound Board Operator.....	ANNA LEE
Costume Shop Director.....	SUZANNE HOLTkamp
Draper	ALICE NEFF
Stitcher	NAN STEPHENS, CAYLEE FRANKLIN
Volunteer Stitcher	GWEN FULSANG, BONNIE HAGEN
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	EMILY GRACE BLACKSTONE
Wardrobe Assistant	AUTUMNE SNEAD-LYONS

BAND

Music Director/Keyboard.....	ANN-CAROL PENCE
Keyboard and Music Director stanby	ASHLEY PRINCE
Drums.....	MARK BIERING
Guitar	BRIAN SMITH OR SEAN THROWER
Bass.....	FUJI FUJIMOTO



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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

In the Christmas Mood	Cast
Cool Yule	India & Cecil
Andrews Sisters Medley	Mona, Amy, Brie
Oh, How I Hate to Get Up/GI Jive	Peyton, Joe, Cecil
Raise the Roof	India & Cast
Christmas in Our Town Square	Joe
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year	Cecil
Santa Baby	Mona
The Man with the Bag	Brie
Mr. Santa	Mona, Brie, Kymberli
Give a Hand for Mrs. Claus	Amy
Carrying the Banner (<i>Newsies</i>)	Full Cast
Santa Fe (<i>Newsies</i>)	Joe & Peyton
Super Trouper (<i>Mamma Mia!</i>)	Brie, Amy, Mona
Bring Him Home (<i>Les Misérables</i>)	Juan
Unexpected Song (<i>Song & Dance</i>)	India
Mega Mix (<i>On Your Feet!</i>)	Mona & Full Cast
Out There (<i>Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>)	Cecil
A Spoonful of Sugar (<i>Mary Poppins</i>)	Amy
One (<i>A Chorus Line</i>)	Full Cast
I Need a Silent Night	Ann-Carol
Our Favorite Claus	Full Cast

ACT II

Sparklejollytwinklejingley	Peyton & Cast
We're Having a Heat Wave	Cast
(Love is Like a) Heatwave	Cecil & Amy, Mona, India
I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm	India
Too Darn Hot	Joe
Bangin' on the Pipes/Steam Heat	Full Cast
That Time of Year	Cole & Full Cast
Run, Run, Rudolph/Up on the House Top	Juan & India
Cocoa Break/Hot Cocoa	Full Cast
Blue Christmas	Joe
Need a Little Christmas	Peyton, Mona, & Amy
Underneath the Tree	India
Mary, Did You Know?	Juan
Give Love on Christmas Day	India, Cecil, & Full Cast
Bringing in a Brand New Year	Full Cast



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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JOE ARNOTTI (he/him) is returning from *Christmas Canteen in July*, Joe is honored to be bringing in the season with this outrageously talented cast. Other past Aurora credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *Hairspray: in concert* (Cory Collins), and most recently Independent Artists' Playhouse *I Feel Good: A James Brown Tribute* presented as part of the Aurora Welcomes Series. Atlanta and other regional credits include *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Holiday Inn*, *Aida*, *Elf the musical*, and others. Joe is the co-founder of the Newnan based entertainment company Arnotti-Stephens Productions and is a proud member of the community's Kiwanis Club. He would like to extend his sincerest gratitude to AC and the rest of the Aurora production team, and is so proud and thankful for his sweet husband Taj. IG: @JoeArnotti



AMY DUFFY (she/her), an AppCo19 alum, is always happy to be back at Aurora Theatre. Amy is an actor, music director, and arts administrator. Previous Aurora credits include: *Christmas Canteen 2018*, *Men with Money*, *Beat Bugs: A Musical Adventure*, and more! Atlanta Theatre Credits: Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Buicentennial Productions, Horizon Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Stone Mountain Park, and Georgia Aquarium. She is the co-founder of Destination Theatre. She loves her family and husband, Cory very much. This Christmas season, she's especially thankful for her grandparents - long time season ticket holders at Aurora and big supporters of the arts and her.



PEYTON MCDANIEL* (he/him) is a proud graduate of both The University of Alabama and Aurora's AppCo. Since then, he's been seen kick-ball-changing all around the greater Atlanta area. Some favorite productions include *Head Over Heels* (Actors Express), *La Cage aux Folles* (Out Front Theatre Company), *Men with Money*, and *Newsies* (Aurora). Peyton is incredibly excited and immensely grateful to be back onstage and back home at Aurora!



MONA SWAIN (she/her) is thrilled to make her Aurora Theatre debut! She is a local Atlanta actress. Since her graduation from Pebblebrook High School in 2019, she has built a social media following of more than 1.6 million people @monaswain. Credits: *War Paint* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Let's Hang On* (City Springs Theatre Company), *She Loves Me* / *Ilona* (Reinhardt University), *Jukebox Giants* (Strand Theatre).



INDIA TYREE* (she/her), Recent Credits: Aurora Theatre's *Song and Dance* and *Christmas Canteen at the Bowl at Sugar Hill*. *Twelfth Night* (Olivia) at Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, *Rock of Ages* (Justice) and *Burn The Floor* (Lead Vocalist) on Norwegian Breakaway. *Aida* (Aida) at Atlanta Lyric Theatre. 2016 Alum of Aurora Theatre Appco! Representation: People Store Agency. Follow artistic journey on IG: @indiatyree



JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA (he/him) See Staff Biographies



Cecil Washington Jr.* (he/him), 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 James in *Henry Box Brown*, Porgy in Gershwin's *"Porgy & Bess"*, Marvatech in *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*, Sam Cooke in *The Sam Cooke Story*, Mister in *The Color Purple*, and Curtis Taylor Jr in *Dreamgirls*. Cecil has appeared in featured roles on television shows such as "The Resident" and "Law & Order"; credits also w/ Indie Films, Commercials, Promotional, & Music videos. "I am Always Grateful to return to the Aurora and now debut on the new stage at The LAC. I especially am thankful to God for being able to share my gifts with the world with support from a host of family, friends, and followers."



Brie Wolfe (she/her) is thrilled to make her Aurora Theatre debut in *Christmas Canteen!* A part of the Aurora's AppCo22, Brie is a recent graduate from the University of Georgia (GO DAWGS!), where she earned a B.A. in Theatre and a B.A. in Journalism. Brie has been honored to work with so many incredibly talented and passionate people in this industry and is so excited to be back on the stage! Some of her more recent credits include: *Wild Party* (Kate), *Equus* (Jill Mason), and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Julia). Brie would like to thank her friends and family, especially her dad, Elmer, for his unwavering support and love, and Garrett and Gus for being her rock.



Cole Ferguson (he/him-Ensemble/Crew) is excited to make his Aurora Theatre debut as a member of AppCo22. Cole is a recent graduate of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance at Brenau University, earning his B.F.A in Acting. Some of Cole's recent credits include: *Cabaret* (Cliff), *The Bra and Panty Club* (Rob), and *The Ugly Duckling* (Great Blue Heron). Cole would like to thank Anthony, AC, and David for their support and mentorship. As well as his parents, sisters, friends, and Katie for their unending love and inspiration.

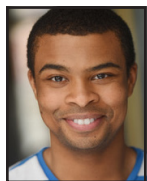


Kymberli Green (she/her-Ensemble/Crew) is super excited for her debut at Aurora Theatre in *Christmas Canteen!* As a current member of AppCo22 and a graduate of Clayton State University's performing arts program, Kymberli has been honored to work and share the stage with many talented artists. Notable performances include: *Bat Boy: The Musical* (Bat Boy), Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *A, My name is Alice* (Actress 5), *No, No Nanette* (Pauline), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Elizabeth), and various roles in the devised virtual work *IDEA: Stories*. Kym enjoys playing the guitar and having a good belly laugh. She is always eager to perform and looks forward to getting that opportunity on Aurora's stage!



Isa Martinez (they/them-Swing) is an actor and educator from Florida. They are a part of Aurora's AppCo22 and recently appeared onstage in *Song and Dance*. Past credits include *In the Heights* (Nina), *Light in the Piazza* (Franca Naccarelli) and *Urinetown* (Penelope Pennywise) and *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife) both of which earned them an Irene Ryan nomination at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

*MEMBER OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE U.S.



CAMERON SMITH (he/him-Swing) is delighted to make his debut at Aurora Theatre for *Christmas Canteen* and as part of AppCo22. Cameron is an actor and singer in Atlanta, who earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from Reinhardt University in 2018. Since then, he has done children's shows with Cleveland Playhouse, Virginia Repertory Theatre, and Hampstead Stage Company such as *Harriet Tubman* and *the Underground Railroad*, *Stuart Little*, and *Hercules and the Heroes*.

Some shows he's done outside of children's theatre are *Picnic* and *The Meeting* with Merely Players Presents. He's also been a Dramaturgy and Production intern for True Colors Theatre Company. Cameron would like to thank Aurora Theatre for giving him this wonderful opportunity. Please enjoy the show and Cameron hopes you express much laughter and love. Merry Chrismahanukwanzadan, everyone!

BAND BIOGRAPHIES

ANN-CAROL PENCE (she/her-Co-Founder/Associate Producer/Music Director)
See 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 (she/her-Bass) is a musician and composer based in Atlanta. She is excited to be back with the *Canteen* crew and was most recently in the orchestra for Aurora's production of *Christmas Canteen In July and Song & Dance*. Fuji's freelance credits for 2021 include Buicentennial Productions' *In The Groove*, *She's A Rebel* and *Somebody To Love* and the Atlanta Blues Society Women In Blues Festival. Her busy freelance life includes the tribute band Elton Live!, Blue Velvet at Blind Willie's, jazz jams at the Velvet Note and Nick and the Grooves. She also serves as a jazz clinician at Pace Academy. Fuji loves recording bass tracks for local songwriters and composes original cinematic music in her home studio. Her tracks can be found on her website, fujifujimoto.com.

BRIAN SMITH (he/him-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, Revien. 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.

ASHLEY PRINCE (she/her-Keyboard & Music Director standby) serves as Music Director for Aurora's Cabaret Series. She most recently plays in the band for *Song and Dance*. Performer credits: Medium Alison (*Fun Home*, Out of Box Theater), Princess of France (*Love's Labour's Lost*, Zero Circle Theater Company),

Dr. Berensteiner (A New Brain, Zero Circle Theater Company), Casey (First Date, Marietta Theatre Company), Columbia (The Rocky Horror Show, Actor's Express), and Tess Kittredge (Six Degrees of Separation, Actor's Express). As a musician at Aurora, you may have heard her as The Bells and Cathedral Organ in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, All Your Favorite Disco Riffs in *Mamma Mia!*, That Harmonica in *Newsies*, So Many Saxophones in *Men With Money*, and All Those Outer Space Sounds in *Children of Eden*.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID ROSSETTI (he/him-Director & Choreographer) is thrilled to join his friends at Aurora Theatre for another *Christmas Canteen*! Previous artistic work includes Associate Choreographer to Andy Blankenbuehler (*Hamilton*, *In The Heights*) 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 in NY: *Thanksgiving: The Musical*, *Nightfall on Miranga Island* (2012 Fringe Festival "Encore Series") the viral sensation *The Spidey Project* (retitled *Peter, Who*) which was an official selection for the 2018 New York Musicals Festival (Best Choreography nomination). Atlanta credits: *Drowsy Chaperone* at Atlanta Lyric, *Broadway in Review* at City Springs (Virtual Presentation), and *Legally Blonde*, *Once on this Island*, *Hairspray*, *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Singin' in the Rain* at Gainesville Theatre Alliance. He also served as an Assistant Director for the *Hairspray* National Tour and at Paper Mill Playhouse. He thanks his multi-talented cast, crew, and creative team (especially his right-hand gal, Candy!) for their dedication to this beloved Holiday tradition and letting him dream big. He also thanks Tony & AC for trusting him and his hubby

Merry CHRISTMAS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the

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Dustin (and dog Mr. Benson) for letting him spend so much time away from home. Merry Christmas and enjoy the show! Check out more at www.davidrossetti.com

CANDY MCLELLAN (she/her-Associate Director & Choreographer), graduate from the University of West Georgia, is also a graduate of Aurora Theatre's AppCo17. She's an actor, dancer, singer, choreographer, writer and teaching artist. Her professional credits include: *In The Heights*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Co-Production w/Theatrical Outfit) *Christmas Canteen*, *3 Billy Goats Gruff*, *Sweep*, *Cinderella the Remix*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Beat Bugs A Musical Adventure* and *Men With Money* (Aurora Theatre), *110 in the Shade* at Theatrical Outfit, *Black Nerd* (Dad's Garage) *Aida* and *Oliver!* (Atlanta Lyric), *An Octoroon*, *Head Over Heels* (Actor's Express), *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Horizon Theatre) and *Caroline, or Change* at West Coast Black Theatre Troupe in Florida. Most recently Candy guest starred on "Creepshow: Holiday Special" on Shudder. She is represented by the Alexander White Agency. IG: @candymclove

JULIE RAY (she/her-Scenic Designer)** is a scenic designer for theatre, film, and television, and Associate Professor of Scenic Design at UGA. For the Aurora Theatre, Julie's had the honor of designing *Christmas Canteen* since 2015. Other Aurora designs include *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Men With Money*. Julie is currently designing *As You Like It* for The Hippodrome theatre in Gainesville, FL. She has held various roles in multiple art departments, including Production Designer, Art Director, and Set Designer. TV and film credits include Netflix's "Mindhunter", "The X Files", "Babylon 5", NEIGHBORS 2, ABDUCTION, LOVE & OTHER DRUGS, and 13 DAYS. Julie holds a BFA from Cal Arts, and a MFA from the University of California, Irvine. www.jraydesign.com

KEVIN FRAZIER (he/him-Lighting Designer), Favorite Aurora credits include *Mamma Mia!* (2018) and *Wit* (2016). Atlanta credits include: Actors Express, 7 Stages, Fabrefaction, Pinch N' Ouch, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, and Synchronicity. Other credits include Cleveland Playhouse (OH), Merrimack Rep and Stoneham Theatre (MA), The Peterborough Players (NH), Glow Lyric Theatre and The Warehouse Theatre (SC), and both the New York and DC Fringe Festivals. International credits include Teatro Metropol (Tirana, Albania). Educational credits include Furman University (SC), Case Western Reserve University (OH), Lafayette College (PA), The Gainesville Theatre Alliance (GA), and Wake Forest University (NC). Kevin is an Assistant Professor at Wake Forest University, and the recipient of the Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical for *The Bridges of Madison County* in 2017. Thanks to his family for their love and support. www.kevinfrazier.net

ANNA LEE (she/her-Sound Designer) is thrilled as always to be back designing at Aurora. Past Aurora credits include *This Wonderful Life* (Suzi Nominated), *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Suzi Nominated), *Children of Eden*, *Christmas Canteen* 2019, and *On Your Feet!* She is a graduate of Kennesaw State University with a B.A. in Theatre and Performance Studies. Currently you can see her at Marist High School as their Technical Director. Big thanks to all the Katies and Daniels she knows, her family, Jeffrey, and Douglas.

ALAN YEONG (he/him-Costume Designer)** Alan is honored to be celebrating Aurora's Christmas tradition again for his 10th year costume designing for the show. Atlanta: Aurora Theatre--over 20 productions including *On Your Feet!*, *The Children of Eden*, *Christmas Canteen*, *Newsies*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2018 Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Musical Costume Design), *Les Misérables* (Suzi Bass nominee); Theatrical Outfit: *An Iliad*, *Indecent*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Savannah Disputation*; Synchronicity Theatre: *The*

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Bluest Eye; Actor's Express-- *Falsettos*, *End of The Rainbow*; Theater Emory-- *The Nether*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *Ravished*, *Marisol*, *Macbeth*, *Pe er Gynt*; Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Onstage Theatre, Process Theatre. Others: Professor of Costume Design/Head of Design at University of West Georgia Theatre program with over 20 years of design credits. Education: MFA in Design (University of Kansas), MFA in Costume Design (Wayne State University), and BA in Theatre (Bemidji State University). Member of United Scenic Artist Local 829. www.alanyeong.com

SUZANNE HOLTKAMP (Costume Shop Director) Well, my, my, my, how we've grown! Suzanne is honored to be back working with Alan and the Aurora cast and crew for her sixth *Christmas Canteen*, not necessarily in order. Suzanne's latest tv and film credits include Head Tailor on Season 2 of "Sweet Magnolias" and season 4 of "Greenleaf". She is a proud member of the Artworks Gwinnett Board. Suzanne is still not sure what she wants to be when she grows up but is giddy to be married to her crazy husband, Matthew and is all too willing to instruct her daughters, Margaret and Annabelle, on the finer points of hats and overalls.

EMILY GRACE BLACKSTONE (she/her-Wardrobe Supervisor) is excited to be back with Aurora for another season. Her previous shows at Aurora include *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Men with Money & Newsies*. She has also worked with the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta as well as Arena Stage and the Shakespeare Theater in Washington, DC. She thanks her family and Patty for all their support. Happy Holidays!

KRISTIN TALLEY (she/her-Properties Designer) is currently a working Atlanta teaching artist, actor, singer and dancer and a member of Aurora's AppCo20. In 2019, she graduated from Young Harris College with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and a Minor in History. While working at Aurora, Kristin was able to start designing props. This is the second mainstage show Kristin has been able to design props for at Aurora, after *On Your Feet!*. She has also designed props for two shows at GGC as well as *Sylvia* at RoleCall Theatre. After graduating college in 2019, she was cast as a principal dancer in DOLLY PARTON'S: CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE on Netflix.

SARAH THOMSON (Scenic Painter) loves to paint and has been gracing the sets of Aurora Theatre for the last 11+ seasons. A resident of Johns Creek, she brings her talents and her crew of Jack and Dylan to support her in her endeavors. Sarah designed and painted sets for many years while her daughter danced with Susan Chambers Theatre Dance. 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. *Children of a Lesser God* also featured Sarah's original artwork. She is accompanied by her man of the North, Ian.

JANHAVI SHIVALKAR (she/her-Assistant Stage Manager) is an actor and stage manager from Atlanta. She recently graduated from Georgia State University and is super excited to be a part of the Aurora AppCo22. Previous Atlanta credits include: *Safety Net* (Theatrical Outfit), *Bull in a China Shop* (Out Front Theatre Company), and *Tome* (House of Five Productions).

2021-22 AURORA THEATRE APPRENTICE COMPANY

Cole Ferguson-he/him

Kymberli Green-she/her

Isa Martinez-they/them

Rondald James Owens-they/them

Janhavi Shivalkar-she/her

Cameron Smith-he/him

Brie Wolfe-she/her

LAC & AURORA THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ (he/him-Co-Founder/President & CEO) 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. 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. Anthony is a member of Screen Actor's Guild, Theatre Communications Group, Duluth Rotary Club and serves on the national steering committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons. He is a graduate of Marist High School, the University of Georgia, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures' Leadership & Advocacy Institutes. Currently, Anthony is a member of Leadership Atlanta Class of 2022 #twoclasses. He is a Cancer Survivor and has been cancer free for 30 years.

ANN-CAROL PENCE (she/her-Co-Founder/Associate Producer) 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 Aurora's 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 music director both nationally (Goodspeed Opera House, Pasadena Playhouse, The Cleveland Playhouse, The Kennedy Center) and locally (The Alliance, Theatrical Outfit, The Horizon, Georgia Ensemble Theatre,). As a proud 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 woman-led businesses) for Aurora Theatre. These distinctions go well with her 5 Suzi Awards for Outstanding Music Direction. She was a participant in the 2016 Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute and member of the "Best Class Ever!"

KATIE PELKEY (she/her-Managing Director) is celebrating fourteen seasons with Aurora and has served in many roles, including Resident Stage Manager and Company Manager. She also created the highly-successful Stage Management and Costume Apprentice Company program that operates simultaneously with Aurora's Acting Apprentice Company program. For five seasons, she worked 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 Maxwell and Alexander for their love and support!

THOMAS J. CARTO, D.M. (he/him-Interim General Manager/Project Consultant) joined the Aurora/LAC staff earlier this fall to assist in developing an operating structure for the new Lawrenceville Arts Center with Aurora Theatre as operator. He has more than 30 years of experience as the CEO of various Performing Arts Centers around the country, including Ohio, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Earning a Doctorate in Music from Indiana University, Tom also has University experience as Division Director of the Theatre Arts/Arts Administration Division at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Currently a project consultant for the Arts Consulting Group out of Boston, Tom resides in Cincinnati with his wife and two teenage boys.

NIKKI TOOMBS (she/her-Director of Education) is a notable American playwright, director, actress, and producer who hails from the “Magic City” of Birmingham, Alabama. She has authored eight plays, has directed 40+ productions, and is a nationally commissioned presenter and curriculum specialist. With over 14 years in public education, Toombs is no stranger to the classroom. From teaching Gifted Language Arts to Stage Craft and Advanced Theatre, and more, she has shaped the minds of her students warranting Teacher of the Year honors in two schools districts. Currently, she serves as an adjunct professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. As an arts educator, Toombs has created original programming such as Act like a Lady and Page to the Stage (Toombstone Productions and True Colors Theatre Company), S.T.A.R. Arts Camps (for East Metro Health) and D.I.M.E. by Design for the (Fred and Mattie Jackson Foundation). She has curated curriculum design work for the National Endowment for the Arts, Educational Theatre Association and the August Wilson House to mention a few. Prior to her new role as Director of Education at the Aurora Theatre, she proudly served as the Director of Education at Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company, where she was the

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producer and director of the Annual August Wilson Monologue Competition. Her innovative approach, artistic impact, and undeniable connection with youth in the arts have earned her national recognition and deemed her as one of the most sought-after arts educators in the country.

KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS* (she/her-Director of Production & Resident Stage Manager) is excited to be starting her 8th season with Aurora Theatre and stepping into the new role of Director of Production. 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.

JACKY SEGUÍ (she/ella-Director of Community Impact), former 2020 Apprentice, feels honored to be re-joining the Aurora Theatre family as Director of Community Impact. Born and raised in the Caribbean Island of Puerto Rico, Jacky is part of the arts community as a singer, actor, writer, and arts administrator. She holds a Masters in Arts Presenting and Live Entertainment Management from the University of Miami, and a Masters in Performing Arts from Savannah College of Art and Design. As part of her thesis, she created a verbatim theatre piece called *Puerto Rico Goes Dark: Stories of My People*. In the last few years, Jacky has explored the stage in productions like *Rock the Presidents*, *On Your Feet!* (Aurora), and *In the Heights* (SCAD). As Director of Community Impact, she is dedicated to connecting with Gwinnett stakeholders to strengthen partnerships while simultaneously educating others about communities we do not know as much about in order to gain understanding and empathy. It is her hope to continue helping Aurora Theatre be one of inclusion, acceptance, and opportunity to our diverse communities.

SKYLER RESNA JACKSON (she/her-Development Associate & Grant Writer) is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana but raised right here in Lawrenceville. She is a product of the Gwinnett County Public School system, as a student, a substitute teacher, and a substitute coordinator for Phoenix High School. During her last two years as a Central Gwinnett student, she interned as a teaching assistant for Aurora's Summer Camp. She received her Bachelors in Theatre and Performance Studies with a minor in African and African Diaspora Studies from Kennesaw State University. While attending Kennesaw State, she became a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, INC. and served on their executive board as well as the Kennesaw State chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council executive board for two years. She has supported her local community as the Performing Arts Director of Reverent Sound Music, Inc. and a long-term volunteer with Mending the Gap, Inc. As a storyteller, she created Resna Productions LLC to share and support stories from underrepresented communities. Currently, she is the host of Stories Retold Podcast, where she retells books and other works from marginalized peoples. After earning her Masters in Arts and Culture Management from the University of Denver, she transitioned to Aurora to support the Development department in the artistic mission to create something amazing together that we cannot build on our own.

AL STILO (he/him-Director of Sales & Marketing) During his 17 years with Aurora Theatre Al has been a leader that has helped the organization achieve tremendous growth, highlighted by the opening of the \$35 million expansion of the Lawrenceville Arts Center in fall of 2021. In his time, Aurora Theatre has received numerous accolades and awards including the 2009 Pinnacle Award for Large Non-Profit and the 2016 Governor's Award for the Arts & Humanities. Al served three

*MEMBER OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE U.S.

years on the executive committee of Atlanta Performs, two on the board of directors for Georgia Arts Network, your advocate for the arts in Georgia, and two on the steering committee for the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation Audience Building Roundtable. Al has received multiple professional distinctions for marketing from the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau. Al has been a professional actor for 30 years. Onstage at Aurora he has appeared in *Newsies*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, and several others. All my love to my wife Holly and son Dominic.

DANIEL SUMMERS JR. (they/them-Facilities Sales & Booking Manager) is an altruistic leader with more than 15 years of experience successfully directing marketing and sales efforts for artists, nonprofits, and educational destinations, as well as running their own consultancy. Daniel loves building relationships between venues and audiences with a key focus on producing inclusive and diverse, community-oriented experiences. An inaugural board member of the Atlanta Airport District Convention and Visitors Bureau, Daniel understands the importance of regional tourism and the economic impact of entertainment. Previously, Daniel was the Marketing Director at the Center for Puppetry Arts and at Actor's Express, programmed and produced festivals including the College Park KidsFest, and ran a freelance nonprofit administration and marketing consultancy helping others do good, bettersm. Daniel earned a BA in Theatre Studies at Guilford College before achieving a Masters in Art Administration and Cultural Policy at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Daniel is known for old-world charm combined with new-world ideas, irreverently relevant humor, and cat memes.

JENNIFER OWENS (she/her-Director of Patron Relations) is thrilled to embark on her 8th season at Aurora Theatre! After receiving her BFA from Brenau University, she set her sights on Aurora where she was welcomed to the family in 2014. Her job experiences run the gamut from customer service at a marina, to donning a Bucky the Beaver costume at Lake Lanier Islands to traveling all the way

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to Crawford, Nebraska to embark on her first Summer Stock at Post Playhouse as a wildly inexperienced Box Office Manager, and then to her most important job of all, becoming a mother. THANK YOU to our patrons who supported us through the thick and thin of the last two years. We wouldn't be here without our community and will be forever grateful for your support and trust.

JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA (he/él-Graphic Designer & Marketing Associate) comes to Aurora after having spent a decade plus in Jacksonville, FL as Education Director at Theatre Jacksonville. While working in NE Florida, he created innovative programming for his young actors as well as partnered with local and national organizations to provide arts-integrated learning opportunities to students in Duval County. Additionally, he handled the design and layout of all marketing collateral and general marketing for the theatre's education programming. Aside from his work in Arts Administration Juan is also an actor and director. Notable credits include: *Into the Woods* (The Baker), *The Light in the Piazza* (Fabrizio), *In the Heights* (Piragua Guy), *Pippin* (Pippin), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *Chess* (Freddie), *Nine* (Guido), guest artist roles with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and First Coast Opera, and currently as a featured performer in Aurora's *Christmas Canteen*.

MAXWELL BREAUX (he/him-Marketing Associate) is honored to join the Aurora team as a Marketing Associate. Born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Maxwell is excited to help create theatre in Georgia. Maxwell received his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Acting from The University of Oklahoma in 2021.

TYLER BARRETT (he/him-Facilities Maintenance Supervisor) is happy to return to Aurora Theatre as the Facility Maintenance Supervisor. Previously working as the Assistant Technical Director in 2019, he is excited to bring his experience into this new role.

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DANIEL POPE (he/him-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 nine 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.

RAFAEL TORIBIO (he/him-Technical Director) is an Atlanta based Scenic Designer and Technical Director. After having worked at and graduating from Theatre Program at San José State University Rafael worked at other regional theatre's such as San Jose Stage Co., The Western Stage, and El Teatro Campesino. He went on to earn his M.F.A. in Scenic Design from the University of Missouri at Kansas City under the tutelage of John Ezell and Gene E. Friedman. His credits include Scenic Designer, Technical Director, Properties Master, Paint Charge, Master Carpenter, and Graduate Teaching Assistant. Recent designs include *American Night: The Ballad of Juan José* at The Western Stage, *In the Heights* at The Musical Theatre Heritage, and *Jack and the Bean Mágico* at The Coterie Theatre which he later redesigned for La Titería de Marionetas de la Esquina in Mexico City, México.

ASHLEY HOGAN (she/her-Assistant Technical Director) is excited to be part of 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.

DAISIE MARIE (she/her-Front of House Manager) is honored to be rejoining the Aurora Staff as the Front of House Manager. She has been with the company for 6 years starting as a Box Office Associate in 2015, then making her way to being the Front of House Coordinator in 2017, and now Front of House Manager. She is happy to welcome patrons as we embark on the adventure that is the Lawrenceville Arts Center.

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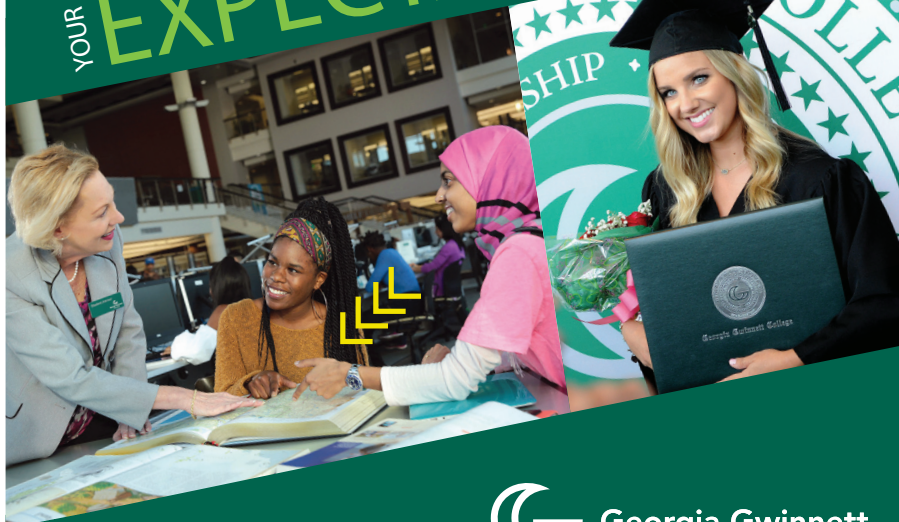
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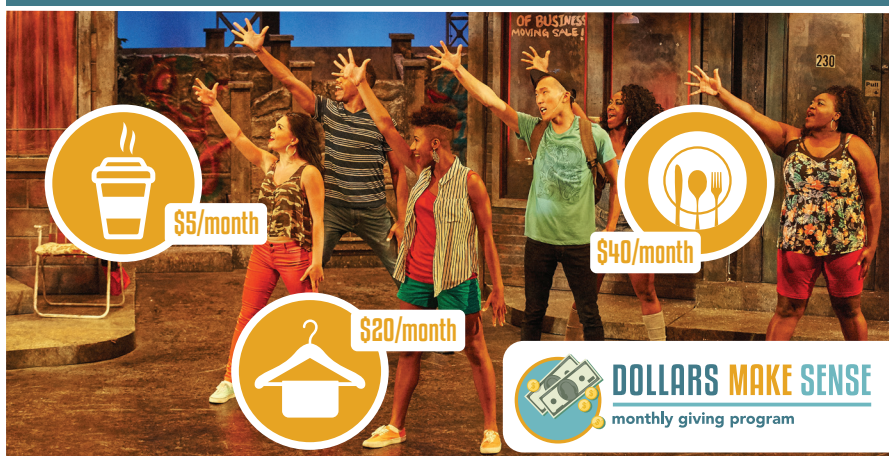
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