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***EUREKA DAY* PLAYWRIGHT RETURNS TO AURORA FOR THE  
WORLD PREMIERE OF *THIS MUCH I KNOW***

**BERKELEY, CA (August 8, 2022)** Aurora Theatre Company presents the world premiere of Jonathan Spector’s new play, [THIS MUCH I KNOW](#). This work represents a return to Aurora for Spector, whose previous collaboration on **EUREKA DAY** achieved critical acclaim and won every Bay Area new play award. **EUREKA DAY** was an original work commissioned by Aurora Theatre Company through its [ORIGINATE + GENERATE](#) program.

Aurora commissioned the play in 2016 from Spector, a local Berkeley writer. Aurora’s Artistic Director, Josh Costello directed the play when it premiered in 2018, when it had an extended and critically acclaimed run. The play became an Off-Broadway hit, and ***EUREKA DAY*** will make its European debut at the prestigious Old Vic Theatre in London this September. Oscar-winning actress [Helen Hunt](#) has been announced as the star.

Aurora’s Artistic Director, Josh Costello, is directing Spector’s new play. According to Costello, “The play wrestles with everything from cognitive illusions to the difference between

responsibility and culpability to the story of Stalin's daughter defecting to the United States in the 1960's. Jonathan Spector is a massively talented playwright, and in this play he marshals all of his talent and skill to create an emotional mystery inside an intellectual puzzle.”

Jonathan Spector returns to Aurora with an explosively theatrical interrogation of agency and culpability. Through his all-too-personal lectures on psychology, Lukesh attempts to unravel a mystery with his wife Natalya at the center. What happened to Natalya? The search for answers will launch us on a time-hopping fugue, weaving together the stories of Stalin's daughter defecting to America, the son of a white supremacist growing to doubt the beliefs he was raised with, and the secret despair of an accidental killer. How do we truly make decisions? How do we change our minds? And what does it mean to be complicit?

**Jonathan Spector’s writing is “lively, alarming, and entertaining... (Spector is) observant and empathetic.” - Ben Brantley, NEW YORK TIMES**

Tickets are available for sale online at [auroratheatre.org](http://auroratheatre.org). You can also purchase from the box office by phone: **510.843.4822** or by email: [boxoffice@auroratheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@auroratheatre.org)

**THIS MUCH I KNOW** - Cast and Creative Team bios

**Jonathan Spector’s** award-winning, critically acclaimed play **EUREKA DAY** will have its European premiere in September at London’s Old Vic, starring Oscar-winner Helen Hunt. His newest work, *Best Available* will be part of the Ashland New Play Festival in October.

Jonathan’s plays have been produced across the country and abroad at theaters including Asolo Rep, Aurora Theatre Company, Colt Coeur, Custom Made Theater, InterAct Theater, Mosaic Theater, Mugwumpin, Syracuse Stage, Spreckles Theater, The State Theater of South Australia, and Just Theater, where he was the long-time co-Artistic Director. He has developed work with Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Berkeley Rep’s Ground Floor, Crowded Fire, New Harmony

Project, The Lark, Manhattan Theater Club, PlayPenn, Roundabout, and South Coast Rep, among others.

Honors include the Edgerton Award, Glickman Award, Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Award, Theater Bay Area Award, Global Age Prize and Rella Lossy Award. He is a Core Writer at Playwrights Center, and has been a MacDowell Fellow and a Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation. Jonathan has received commissions from Roundabout Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse, Manhattan Theater Club, South Coast Rep and Aurora Theater. He is represented by CAA and Kaplan/Perrone.

**Josh Costello** (Artistic Director & Director) At Aurora and previously as the founding Artistic Director of Impact Theatre and the Artistic Director of Expanded Programs at Marin Theatre Company, 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. Josh has directed several productions at Aurora, including Exit Strategy, The Importance of Being Earnest, and 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 holds a BFA in theatre from Boston University, and an MFA in Directing from the University of Washington, Seattle.

**Rajesh Bose\*** (A/Lukesh) has performed extensively off-Broadway and throughout the country – favorites include three productions at Bedlam Theatre (Persuasion, The Crucible, and Pygmalion), Henry VI (National Asian American Theatre Company), Against The Hillside (Ensemble Studio Theatre), Indian Ink (Roundabout), King Lear (Northern Stage), Oslo (St. Louis Rep), Mary Stuart (Folger Theatre), Guards at the Taj (Capital Stage), Disgraced

(Playmakers Rep, Huntington Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre – Connecticut Critics Circle Award, IRNE Nomination), *Invisible Hand* (Westport Playhouse, Hartford Theaterworks), and *The Who & The What* (Gulfshore Playhouse, Hartford Theaterworks). Rajesh has guest starred on several network television shows, including *Bull*, *Elementary*, *Damages*, *Blue Bloods*, and *Quantico* among others — he appears in the series finale of *The Sopranos*, and the Academy Award nominated film *Frozen River*. Rajesh made his professional directing debut earlier this year at Luna Stage in West Orange, NJ, where he directed the East Coast premiere of *The Giant Void In My Soul*. Upcoming: *Life of Pi* at American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, MA.

**Anna Ishida\*** (B/Natalya) was last seen at the Aurora as Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Currently based in the Bay Area but also performs on the East Coast - recent credits include: *Olga* in *The Three Sisters* (Two River Theater, NJ), *The Antelope Party* (Dutch Kills, NYC), *Shipwreck* (Woolly Mammoth, DC), *Moby-Dick* (American Repertory Theater, MA), *Henry VI Parts 1 & 2* (NAATCO, NYC - Drama Desk Nomination: Best Revival), *Trigger* (Leviathan Lab, NYC), *It Can't Happen Here* (Staged & Radio Play @ Berkeley Rep, CA), *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play* (American Conservatory Theater & The Guthrie, CA/MN), *Water by the Spoonful* (Theatreworks Silicon Valley, CA), *Beowulf—A Thousand Years of Baggage*(Shotgun Players/Banana Bag & *Bodice: US/UK tours*). Film: *I Am a Ghost & Bitter Melon* (writer/director/composer: H.P. Mendoza) [www.annaishida.com](http://www.annaishida.com) – **Kenny Toll\*** is an LA native and a graduate of San Francisco State University. He was last seen at Aurora in *The Heir Apparent*. He originated the role of Mr. Wickham in Lauren Gunderson's *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*. Most recently he has been seen in *Frost/Nixon* at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, *Lobby Hero* at Capital Rep in Albany NY, *Shakespeare in Love* at Marin Theatre Company, and *Richard II* at Kingsmen Shakespeare in Los Angeles. He is a proud member of AEA.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS**

**THIS MUCH I KNOW** will be presented on the main stage and will run September 2 - October 2 (**Opens: September 8**). **THIS MUCH I KNOW** will be presented in-person on Aurora's mainstage from **September 2 - October 2. (Opens: September 8)**.

Aurora will also offer a week of streaming **THIS MUCH I KNOW** performances for audiences to enjoy in their homes. Streaming performances will run concurrently with in-person performances, from **September 27- October 2nd**.

## **DATES**

**Previews:** Friday 9/2 and Saturday 9/3 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, 9/4 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, 9/06 and Wednesday, 9/07 at 7 p.m.

**Open: Thursday, September 8**

**Close: Sunday, October 2**

**Shows: IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES (September 2 - Oct 2):**

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

**STREAMING PERFORMANCES (Sept 27- Oct. 2):**

Each performance is presented as a filmed production for audiences to enjoy in their homes.

Each performance is available for 36 hours, from 12 p.m. on the performance date to midnight the following day.

## **TICKETS**

For single tickets (\$20-\$78) or subscriptions (\$200-\$385), the public can call **(510) 843-4822** or visit [www.auroratheatre.org](http://www.auroratheatre.org).

## **PHOTOS**

[tinyurl.com/ThisMuchIKnowPress](http://tinyurl.com/ThisMuchIKnowPress)

## **PRESS**

**Please do not reply 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 profoundly relevant stories, we're building a new culture of theatregoing in the Bay Area and contributing to a revitalization of theatre nationwide, challenging all of us to think deeper, laugh louder, and engage more purposefully and profoundly with our neighbors and our world. It has an operation budget of \$2.3 million.

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