



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY EXTENDS BAY AREA PREMIERE OF
MARCO RAMIREZ'S THE ROYALE TO DEC. 10, 2017**

BERKELEY, Calif. (Nov. 16, 2017) — Critics and audiences agree: **THE ROYALE** delivers a knockout punch. **Aurora Theatre Company** announces it **will add an additional 7 performances** to the Bay Area premiere of the riveting ringside drama about boxing and race by award-winning TV writer and producer Marco Ramirez (*Orange Is The New Black, Sons of Anarchy*).

THE ROYALE now plays through **December 10 (added performances Tuesday Dec. 5 at 7 pm; Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7pm; Thursday, Dec. 7 at 8pm; Friday, Dec. 8 at 8pm; Saturday, Dec. 9 at 8pm; Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 pm and 7 pm)** at the Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley. For tickets and information the public can call **510-843-4822** or visit **auroratheatre.org**.

Critics acclaim Aurora's production. "[In *The Royale*,] physical and verbal jabs cut with equal flair and precision," said Lily Janiak of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "What's really at stake in this finely chiseled drama...is full American citizenship."

Theatre veteran **Darryl V. Jones** makes his directorial debut at Aurora with **THE ROYALE**, which he choreographed with boxing coach **Joe Orrach**. The play features **Calvin M. Thompson** (The Barrow Group), **Satchel André** (American Stage), **Tim Kniffin** (Aurora's *Trouble in Mind, The Arsonists*), **Donald E. Lacy, Jr.** (Berkeley Repertory Theatre) and **Atim Udoffia** (San Francisco Playhouse).

Ramirez tightly constructs this visceral theatrical work that reimagines the life of the first African-American heavyweight world champion Jack Johnson, one of the first celebrity-athletes. It's 1905, and Jay "The Sport" Jackson is ready to take on both the current heavyweight champion and the entrenched discrimination of the Jim Crow era — but is America ready for him? With rhythmic and ingenious staging, Ramirez's contenders never physically engage in the ring; instead it's "The Sport's" internal struggle that delivers a sharp and surprising punch.

About **THE ROYALE**: "[It] isn't just a play about boxing," said Sam Hurwitt in *East Bay Times* (Bay Area News Group)... "Marco Ramirez's drama is ultimately much more about the fighter's drive to single-handedly make a change in a society that very much does not want to let him, and the terrible responsibility he feels for the people hurt by the backlash that follows." Said *Berkeleyside's* Emily

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY EXTENDS THE ROYALE---2

Mendel: “Darryl V. Jones ... skillfully conducts the clever and subtle staging...[of this] electrifying drama...[with an] excellent cast. “**THE ROYALE** feels like a resonant, percussive tone poem that beats to the rhythm of an America still finding its feet when it comes to equality and decency,” said Chad Jones of *Theatre Dogs*. “It’s an existential prizefight that, more than a century later, has yet to yield any winners.”

Earlier productions in New York, London, Chicago, and Los Angeles also drew critical acclaim. *The New York Times* called **THE ROYALE** “swift stark lyricism.” *The Los Angeles Times* said **THE ROYALE’S** “lively manner of telling reanimates this breakthrough saga for a new generation.” Said *Variety*: “A gripping, vivid coup de theatre.”

The Royale’s creative team includes **Richard Olmsted**---Set Designer; **Courtney Flores**--Costume Designer; **Kurt Landisman**+ --Lighting Designer; **James Ard**--Sound Designer; **Joe Orrach**--Boxing Coach & Co-Choreographer.

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY EXTENDS THE ROYALE---3

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

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Darryl V. Jones directs and co-choreographs. Featuring **Calvin M. Thompson** (*Law & Order*, The Barrow Group), **Satchel André** (American Stage), **Tim Kniffin** (Aurora's *Trouble in Mind, The Arsonists*), **Donald E. Lacy, Jr.** (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), and **Atim Udoffia** (San Francisco Playhouse). **The Royale's** creative team includes **Richard Olmsted**--Set Designer; **Courtney Flores**--Costume Designer; **Kurt Landisman**--Lighting Designer; **James Ard**--Sound Designer; **Joe Orrach**--Boxing Coach & Co-Choreographer.

DATES: **Playing now through December 10, 2017**

SHOWS: Tuesday and Wednesday at 7pm; Thursday through Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 2 & 7pm. **added performances Tuesday Dec. 5 at 7 pm; Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7pm; Thursday, Dec. 7 at 8pm; Friday, Dec. 8 at 8pm; Saturday, Dec. 9 at 8pm; Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 pm and 7pm.**

WHERE: Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA

TICKETS: For single tickets (\$33-\$65) or subscriptions (\$99-\$360), the public can call **(510) 843-4822** or visit **auroratheatre.org**. Half-off tickets for Under 35; student, and group discounts available.

PHOTOS: High-resolution images can be found at auroratheatre.org/index.php.press-room

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