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**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER'S
EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED
ADAPTED BY SIMON BLOCK
NOVEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 9 (OPENS: NOVEMBER 15)**

BERKELEY, CA (OCT. 18, 2018) Aurora Theatre Company continues its dynamic 27th season with **EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED**, based on the best-selling, critically acclaimed novel by **Jonathan Safran Foer**. **Tom Ross** directs the West Coast premiere that features **Adam Burch**, **Lura Dolas** (*Abigail's Party*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Persians*) **Jeremy Kahn** (*Dry Powder*, *Wittenberg*), **Marissa Keltie** and **Julian Lopez-Morillas** (*The Heir Apparent*, *The Homecoming*). **EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED** runs November 9 - December 9 (Opens: November 15).

The stunning stage adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer's novel by **Simon Block** tells the story of a young Jewish-American writer (also named Jonathan Safran Foer) who sets out for Ukraine to find the woman whom he believes saved his grandfather from the Nazis, and to find the town they wiped off the map. Jonathan's tour guides are a pair of flamboyant Ukrainians, a grandfather and grandson with limited English skills and secrets of their own. As they travel into the unknown, along with the dog Sammy Davis Jr. Jr., they meet increasingly surreal characters, both fictional and real, as the past and present merge into an unforgettable journey.

Broadway World called **EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED** "Riveting...Masterful...The Journey and the Payoff are huge."

Jonathan Safran Foer is an American writer best known for his novels *Everything Is Illuminated*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, and for his non-fiction book *Eating Animals*. His most recent

novel, *Here I Am*, was published in 2016.

British playwright and screenwriter **Simon Block's** work for theatre includes *Not a Game for Boys*, *Everything is Illuminated*, and *A Place at the Table*. His television work includes *Home Fires* (ITV).

Tom Ross, Aurora's long-time artistic director, has staged 30 productions at Aurora, including Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*; *Betrayal*, and the U.S. premiere of *Temple*. He wrote and directed the long-running *A Karen Carpenter Christmas*, and for eight years he was a producer of San Francisco's legendary Solo Mio Festival. Before coming to the Bay Area, Ross spent eight years at New York's Public Theater as executive assistant to Joseph Papp, and as co-director of play and musical development.

Ross has assembled a talented cast for **EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED**.

San Francisco Bay Area native **Adam Burch** makes his debut with Aurora. He has appeared in numerous theatre productions throughout Los Angeles as well as at the La Jolla Playhouse. A martial artist and science fiction writer, he's produced numerous web series including "Tickets R Us" and "Lady Lightning," and he played a recurring role on the ABC TV show "Scandal."

Lura Dolas returns to Aurora (*Abigail's Party*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Persians*). Her stage credits include Cal Shakes, the Oregon, San Francisco and Santa Fe Shakespeare Festivals; The Empty Space Theater of Seattle, Sacramento Theater Company, Theater Emory of Atlanta, the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and the Ensemble Theater Company of Santa Barbara. Her directing credits include *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *The Cherry Orchard* for UC Berkeley's Department of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, where she is a senior continuing lecturer emerita.

Jeremy Kahn also returns to Aurora (*Dry Powder*, *Wittenberg*). Other stage credits include Berkeley Rep, Marin Theatre Company, Capital Stage, Theatreworks, San Francisco Playhouse, San Diego Rep, Center REP, Magic Theatre and Shotgun Players. His TV and film work includes "Looking," "Unleashed," "The Etruscan Smile," and "Dirt."

Marissa Keltie makes her debut with Aurora this season. Her stage credits include Marin Theatre Company, SF Playhouse: Sandbox, Custom Made Theatre, Crowded Fire Theatre, Shotgun Players, Impact Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse and Cal Shakes.

Veteran Bay Area actor and director **Julian Lopez-Morillas** returns to Aurora (*The Heir Apparent*, *The Homecoming*). His stage credits include ACT, Berkeley Rep, Cal Shakes, San Jose Rep, Magic

Theatre, San Jose Stage, Denver Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Long Wharf, McCarter and Chicago's Court Theatre. His directing credits include Berkeley Shakespeare Festival (now California Shakespeare Theatre), Marin Theatre Company, Berkeley Jewish Theatre, San Jose Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the American Players' Theatre in Wisconsin.

The creative team for **EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED** includes: **Kate Boyd**--Set; **Callie Floor**--Costumes; **Kurt Landisman**--Lighting; and **Matt Stines**--Sound.

CALENDAR EDITORS

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PREVIEWS

Friday 11/9 and Saturday 11/10 at 8 pm; Sunday, 11/11 at 2 pm only.

Tuesday, 11/13, and Wednesday, 11/14, at 7 pm.

OPENS Thursday, November 15

Performances: Tuesday and Wednesday at 7pm; Thursday through Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 2pm & 7pm

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

TICKETS For single tickets (\$35-\$70) or subscriptions (\$111-\$396), the public can call (510) 843-4822 or visit auroratheatre.org.

Season Sponsors: Ed & Liliane Schneider. Sponsors: Kathleen Garrison & David Wood, and Blue Angel Vodka Ultra Premium. Associate Sponsors: Gertrude E. Allen, Deborah & Howard Goodman, and Linda & Steve Wolan.

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support: Actors' Equity Foundation, Alameda County Arts Commission ARTSFUND, Berkeley Civic Arts Program & Civic Arts Commission, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, MUFGE Union Bank Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Theatre Bay Area, The Tournesol Project, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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