



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTN: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS AND REPORTERS

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

CARYL CHURCHILL'S

A NUMBER

March 9 - May 6, 2018 (Opens: March 15)

BERKELEY, Calif. (Feb. 15, 2018) — Aurora Theatre Company presents the modern classic **A NUMBER** by influential British playwright **Caryl Churchill** with **Barbara Damashek** directing. Set in the near future, the play explores human cloning, personal identity and the age-old debate of nature versus nurture. It features Paul Vincent O'Connor (*American Buffalo*, *Death Defying Acts*) and Joseph O'Malley (Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse).

A NUMBER plays March 9 through May 6, opening March 15, in Aurora's second stage performance space, Harry's UpStage, located in the Nell and Jules Dashow Wing.

Always inventive, Churchill (*Escaped Alone*, *Love and Information*, *Cloud Nine*, *Top Girls*, *Far Away*, *Bliss*, *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?*) wrote **A NUMBER** during a period of intense

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public debate about the ethics of human cloning.

The play delves into the issue through the relationships between an aging father and his three adult sons; the second and third a clone of the first. When son Bernard discovers that he's not the only Bernard, a series of questions ensue that will take him and his father on a compelling psychological journey.

Raising big ethical issues while exploring personal identity and second chances, **A NUMBER** had its world premiere in 2002 at London's Royal Court Theatre. *The Evening Standard* called the work an "An astonishing event." Said *The Daily Telegraph*: "...tremendous, moving, thought-provoking and dramatically thrilling."

Tony-nominated director **Barbara Damashek** returns to the Aurora (*Splendour, American Buffalo, Fat Pig*) to helm the unsettling study of family, identity and guilt.

Paul Vincent O'Connor also returns to the Aurora (*American Buffalo, Death Defying Acts*) as Salter. His stage credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cal Shakes, Berkeley Rep and international tours with Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre and Galway's Druid Theatre Company. His film credits include "Seabiscuit," "Inherit the Wind," "Octopus II: River of Fear," and he has appeared in numerous television shows including "Bosch," "Major Crimes," and "The X-Files."

Making his Aurora debut as Bernard, **Joseph O'Malley's** credits include Kennedy Center, Guthrie Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Cal Shakes, Shotgun Players, and the films "Blood Ties," "The Labyrinth" and "The Sweeter the Pain." His short film "brief" was an official selection at the 2017 Napa Valley Film Festival.

The creative team includes: **Michael Locher**--set design; **Christine Crook**--costume design; **Jim Cave**--lighting design; **Matt Stines**--sound design.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

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identity and the age-old debate of nature versus nurture.

Barbara Damashek (*Splendour, American Buffalo, Fat Pig*) directs the unsettling study of family, identity and guilt that features **Paul Vincent O'Connor** (*American Buffalo, Death Defying Acts*) and **Joseph O'Malley** (Guthrie Theatre, Kennedy Center, Shotgun Players).

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DATES

Previews: March 9 - March 14. March 9, March 10 at 8 pm. March 11 at 2 pm.
March 13 and 14 at 7 pm.

Opens: March 15, 2018

Closes: May 6, 2018

SHOWS

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

WHERE

Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA

PRESS

Please do not RSVP to this press release. Press review invites will be emailed to selected media.

TICKETS:

For single tickets (\$33-\$65) or subscriptions (\$99-\$360), the public can call [\(510\) 843-4822](tel:5108434822) or visit auroratheatre.org. Half-off tickets for Under 35; student, and group discounts available.

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Pay-what-you-can previews: PWYC tickets available 30 minutes before curtain. Cash only.
Subject to availability.

PHOTOS:

High-resolution images can be found at

<http://www.auroratheatre.org/index.php/press-room/2017-2018-season-press/a-number>

Aurora Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges Season Restaurant Sponsor Gecko Gecko and Season Floral Sponsor Darling Flowers for their support.

Aurora Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges Associate Season Sponsors Ed & Liliane Schneider, Production Sponsors Ellen & Barry Levine, and Associate Production Sponsors Rosalind & Sung-Hou Kim, Lisa & James Taylor, and Alison Teeman & Michael Yovino-Young for their support.

Aurora Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the following foundations and government agencies for their support: Actors' Equity Foundation, Alameda County Arts Commission, Berkeley Civic Arts Program & Civic Arts Commission, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, MUFG Union Bank Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Tournesol Project, Union Pacific Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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