



**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY
ADDS ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES TO EXTENSION OF
TOM STOPPARD'S "THE REAL THING"
January 27-March 5, 2017
*Must close by March 5!***

BERKELEY, Calif. (February 9, 2017) – Critics and audiences agree: **THE REAL THING** is the real thing. **Aurora Theatre Company** announces that it will **add an additional 2 matinee performances** of **THE REAL THING**, Tom Stoppard's (*The Coast of Utopia, Arcadia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*) timeless comedy about an all-too-witty playwright who succumbs to the emotional ravages he puts his characters through, to the previously announced 7 performance extension. **Timothy Near** (*"Master Harold" ...and the boys*) helms this Tony Award-winner for Best Play (1984) and Best Revival of a Play (2000), featuring **Elijah Alexander, Liz Sklar, Carrie Paff** (*This Is How It Goes, A Delicate Balance, Collapse*), **Tommy Gorrebeeck** (*The Monster-Builder, The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*), **Seann Gallagher**, and **Emily Radosevich**. **THE REAL THING** plays through **March 5th** (**added performances: Saturday, February 25, 2pm; Saturday, March 4, 2pm**) at the Aurora Theatre in Berkeley. For tickets and information the public can call **(510) 843-4822** or visit **auroratheatre.org**.

Playwright Henry is not so happily married to Charlotte, the lead actress in his play about a marriage on the verge of collapse. When his affair with their friend, Annie, threatens to destroy his own marriage, he realizes that life has started imitating art. After Annie leaves her husband for Henry, he can't help but wonder whether their relationship is fiction or the real thing. Delectable and deeply affecting, **THE REAL THING**, which *The New York Times* called "Stoppard's most moving play, but also the most bracing play that anyone has written about love and marriage in years," and *The Independent (UK)* declared "Stoppard at his most relatable," takes a look at the absolute chaos of love and trust, or lack thereof, and the passions that often blur our perceptions.

Timothy Near helms **THE REAL THING**. She previously directed Aurora's hit production of Athol Fugard's "**MASTER HAROLD**"... and the boys, and has directed plays at California Shakespeare Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Center REpertory Company, Mark Taper Forum, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Arizona Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, Guthrie Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Ford's Theatre in Washington

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY EXTENDS “THE REAL THING”

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D.C., Intiman Theatre, New York Shakespeare Festival, and Opera San Jose. For 22 years, Near was the Artistic Director of San Jose Repertory Theatre where she produced over 120 plays, including 21 World Premieres. She is the recipient of the Woman of Achievement Award in the Arts given by the *San Jose Mercury News*/Women’s Fund and The Janet Gray Hays Award for Women in Leadership.

About **THE REAL THING**, Lily Janiak of the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, “gorgeous, devastating...It’s the kind of writing we don’t see too often in contemporary plays...[The Real Thing is] at once wry and deeply felt, lofty and off-color, musical and slapstick.” Karen D’Souza of the *Bay Area News Group* concurred, stating, “Only in the finest of [Tom Stoppard’s] plays, such as ‘Arcadia’ and ‘The Real Thing,’ do both parts of the human experience throb with equal vitality.” Adam Brinklow at *Edge SF* declared, “[The Real Thing] wheedles its way into your graces, and in the end, you surrender because, despite everything, it’s sincere after all, and that turns out to still count for a lot,” while Miyako Singer at *The Daily Californian* called the production, “a pleasure to watch.”

Following **THE REAL THING**, Jon Tracy helms the Bay Area Premiere of Sarah Greenman’s **LENI** on Aurora’s second stage in March. Steve Waters’ **TEMPLE** makes its’ U.S. Premiere at Aurora in April, directed by Artistic Director Tom Ross. Abi Morgan’s **SPLENDOR**, directed by Barbara Damashek, closes the season in June.

Voted Best Theater Company in 2012 by *SF Weekly*, Aurora Theatre Company continues to offer challenging, literate, intelligent stage works to the Bay Area, each year increasing its reputation for top-notch theater. Located in the heart of the Downtown Berkeley Arts District, Aurora Theatre Company, declared “one of the best regional theaters around” by *7x7* magazine, has been called “one of the most important regional theaters in the area” and “a must-see midsize company” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, while *The Wall Street Journal* has “nothing but praise for the Aurora.” The *Contra Costa Times* stated “perfection is probably an unattainable ideal in a medium as fluid as live performance, but the Aurora Theatre comes luminously close,” while the *San Jose Mercury News* affirmed Aurora Theatre Company is “arguably the finest small theater in the Bay Area,” and the *Oakland Tribune* stated “it’s all about choices, and if you value good theater, choose the Aurora.”

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

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DATES: **playing now through March 5, 2017**
 added performances: Saturday, February 25, 2pm; Saturday, March 4, 2pm

SHOWS: Tuesday at 7pm; Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 2pm and 7pm
Added performances in bold

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2pm 7pm		7pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2pm 7pm		7pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm 8pm
26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
2pm 7pm		7pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm 8pm
5						
2pm 7pm						

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

TICKETS: For tickets (\$32-56) 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 photos for “**THE REAL THING**” can be found at **https://auroratheatre.org/index.php?option=com_theatre&view=press_show&id=131** or can be received as jpegs upon request by emailing **elewis@auroratheatre.org**

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY EXTENDS “THE REAL THING”

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

Aurora Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges Sponsors Liliane & Ed Schneider and Associate Sponsors Gertrude Allen, Paul Templeton & Darrell Louie, Deborah Dashow Ruth, and Muffy & Harry Thorne for their support.

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