



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S  
TIMELESS CLASSIC  
WIDOWERS' HOUSES**

**January 26 - Feb. 25, 2018 (Opens: February 1)**

BERKELEY, Calif. (Jan. 9, 2018) – Aurora Theatre Company presents George Bernard Shaw's crackling comic satire **WIDOWERS' HOUSES**. With colorful villains and foils to offset a romantic duo, Shaw's take on gentrification, rent prices, and social responsibility is as timely today as at its 1892 London premiere.

Noted Bay Area director and actor **Joy Carlin** directs this rarely staged gem that features **Dan Hoyle** (Public Theatre, The Marsh, Berkeley Rep), a two-time finalist for Aurora's Global Age Project (GAP), in his Aurora acting debut; **Warren David Keith** (*The First Grade*); **Sarah Mitchell** (*After The Revolution*); **Michael Gene Sullivan** (*Satellites*); **Howard Swain** (*Body Awareness*); and **Megan Trout** (*A Bright New Boise*).

**WIDOWERS' HOUSES** plays January 26 through February 25 at the Aurora Theatre in Berkeley, opening February 1.

Irish playwright G.B. Shaw's (1856-1950) notable plays include *Pygmalion*, *Arms and the Man*, and *Major Barbara*. He was awarded the 1925 Nobel Prize for Literature.

The plot of **WIDOWERS' HOUSES** turns on the scandals of slum landlordism and greed in Victorian London, issues that flouted theatrical conventions of the time.

In the play an earnest young doctor falls in love but discovers that both his prospective father-in-law's fortune and that of his own derive from exploiting the poor. In a nod to

Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, a contemporary, Shaw focuses on social evils and not the romantic predicament, keeping the action within the bounds of ironic comedy rather than tragedy.

In 1997 Aurora founding artistic director **Barbara Oliver** staged a production of the work to critical acclaim: Said the *San Francisco Chronicle*: “*Widowers’ Houses* develops with a compelling directness in both its political argument and its emotional drama.” *East Bay Express* noted, “A ticket to *Widowers’ Houses* is the perfect gift for that hard-to-please capitalist on your list.” The *Contra Costa Times* hailed the production as “an elegantly spun morality tale” and the *Oakland Tribune* called it “A smashing satire.”

Bay Area favorite **Joy Carlin** returns to the Aurora (*The How and The Why, Talley’s Folly, Jack Goes Boating, Dear Master*) to direct **WIDOWERS’ HOUSES**. **Aurora Theatre Company** has assembled a brilliant cast for the production.

**Dan Hoyle** makes his Aurora acting debut as Dr. Harry Trench, following recent appearances Off-Broadway in *Fruiting Bodies* at The Sheen Center [The Claque] and in his multi-actor play *The Block* (Working Theater). His solo shows *The Real Americans and Things Dey Happen* (developed at Aurora GAP) and *Each and Every Thing* all originated at The Marsh, and have played across the country and overseas, including The Public (NYC) Culture Project (NYC) and Baltimore Center Stage.

**Warren David Keith** returns to Aurora (*Death Defying Acts, A Life in the Theatre, Hysteria, The First Grade, The Devil’s Disciple*) as Sartorius. Additional stage and film credits include California Shakespeare Theatre, A.C.T., San Francisco Playhouse, The Marsh, *Raising Arizona, The Big Lebowski* and *A Serious Man*.

**Sarah Mitchell** (Waitress/Annie) last appeared at Aurora in *After the Revolution*. Recent stage credits include Shotgun Players, TheatreFirst, Berkeley Playhouse and SF Playhouse.

**Michael Gene Sullivan** returns to Aurora (*Satellites*) as Cokane. His stage credits include A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse. He is also resident playwright of the Tony and OBIE award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe.

**Howard Swain** (Lickcheese) last appeared at Aurora in *Body Awareness*. He has toured nationally in *Picasso At The Lapin Agile* and *Love, Janis*. Additional stage credits include A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, TheatreWorks, Magic Theatre, Word For Word, SF Playhouse, and Marin Theatre Company as well as the Oregon, Santa Cruz, Marin, Colorado,

and California Shakespeare festivals. Television and film credits include *Nash Bridges*, *Midnight Caller*, *Partners In Crime*, *Kiss Shot*, *Hill St. Blues*, *Miracle Mile*.

**Megan Trout** returns to Aurora (*A Bright New Boise*, *Metamorphosis*) as Blanche. Other recent stage credits include Marin Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, and Shotgun Players.

The creative team of **WIDOWERS' HOUSES** includes **Kent Dorsey**--sets & lights; **Callie Floor**--costumes; and **Chris Houston**--sound.

## **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

**Aurora Theatre Company** presents George Bernard Shaw's crackling comic satire **WIDOWERS' HOUSES** directed by **Joy Carlin**. With colorful villains and foils to offset a romantic duo, Shaw's take on gentrification, rent prices, and social responsibility is as timely today as at its 1892 London premiere.

**Carlin** directs this rarely staged gem that features **Dan Hoyle**, a two-time finalist for Aurora's Global Age Project, in his Aurora acting debut (Public Theatre, Berkeley Rep); **Warren David Keith** (*The First Grade*); **Sarah Mitchell** (*After The Revolution*); **Michael Gene Sullivan** (*Satellites*); Howard Swain (*Body Awareness*); and **Megan Trout** (*A Bright New Boise*). The creative team of **WIDOWERS' HOUSES** includes **Kent Dorsey**--sets & lights; **Callie Floor**--costumes; and **Chris Houston**--sound.

Aurora's initial production of **WIDOWERS' HOUSES** in 1997 drew critical acclaim. Said the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "Widowers' Houses develops with a compelling directness in both its political argument and its emotional drama." The *East Bay Express* noted, "A ticket to Widowers' Houses is the perfect gift for that hard-to-please capitalist on your list." The *Contra Costa Times* hailed the production as "an elegantly spun morality tale" and the *Oakland Tribune* called it "A smashing satire."

### **DATES:**

Previews: January 26-31. Jan. 26, 27 at 8pm; Jan. 28 at 2pm. Jan. 30, 31 at 7pm.

**NO PERFORMANCE JANUARY 28 AT 7PM**

**Opens: February 1 @ 8pm**

Closes: February 25

**SHOWS:**

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

**WHERE:**

Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA

**PRESS:**

**Please do not reply to this press release for opening review tickets. Press invitations to selected media organizations will be emailed by mid-January.**

**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. 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 [auroratheatre.org/index.php/press-room](http://auroratheatre.org/index.php/press-room)

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