



**AURORA THEATRE COMPANY
OPENS 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH
“DEAR MASTER”
September 2 - October 2, 2016**

Aurora Theatre Company opens its 25th season with a revival of the play that started it all, **DEAR MASTER**. Originally produced at the Berkeley City Club in 1991, starring Aurora founding Artistic Director **Barbara Oliver** and penned by Berkeley writer **Dorothy Bryant**, **DEAR MASTER** is the flagship play upon which Aurora Theatre Company was built. An intimate dialogue in letters between powerhouse 19th century French novelists George Sand and Gustave Flaubert, **DEAR MASTER** provides flesh and blood portraits of these two famed intellectuals, revealing their fears, desires, abundant wit, and friendship. During a time as violent and politically polarized as our own, Sand and Flaubert, who agreed on virtually nothing and shared an age difference of 20 years, argued vehemently over matters artistic, political, religious, and personal, yet were able to sustain a deep, affectionate, supportive, and respectful relationship, brought to an end only by the death of Sand. **DEAR MASTER**'s deep sharing of the heart and mind makes even the most fiery love affair seem tame.

Joy Carlin (*The How and The Why, Talley's Folly, Jack Goes Boating*) helms this elegant portrait, hailed as “a splendid achievement” by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and about which the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* declared, “What might have been merely a bookish exercise shimmers with relevant and touching insights into politics, art and life,” featuring Bay Area favorite **Michael Ray Wisely** (*The Letters, The Arsonists*), and **Kimberly King** (Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*), Aurora's first leading lady in Shaw's *Candida*, and wife of Aurora co-founder Ken Grantham, who played Flaubert in the original production.

DATES: Previews: September 2, 3, 7 at 8pm; September 4 at 2pm; September 6 at 7pm
 Opens: September 8, 2016
 Closes: October 2

SHOWS: Tuesday at 7pm; Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 2pm and 7pm

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

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

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

Aurora Theatre Company gratefully Associate Sponsors Merrill Meltz and Gerry DeVito, and Sponsors Trudy and Gary H. Moore, and Carol Emory and The Wingate Foundation 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 Fleishhacker Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Sam Mazza Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Shubert Foundation, The Tournesol Project, and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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