MARY LOUISE LEE AND NATHANIEL WAITE-LUTZ AS CAROLINE THIBODEAUX AND NOAH GELLMAN (ALSO PLAYED BY SOPHIA DOTSON) IN THE AURORA FOX ARTS CENTER PRODUCTION OF THE MUSICAL, “CAROLINE OR CHANGE.”
The Aurora Fox Arts Center will play host to two mega-talents this spring! Colorado’s own internationally celebrated star, Mary Louise Lee, will take on the title role in “Caroline, or Change,” and Broadway darling Betsy Wolfe will share an evening of songs and stories at the April 27 Annual Aurora Fox Gala.

Lee makes her return to the Aurora Fox Mainstage in “Caroline, or Change.” This captivating story transports audiences to the racially charged south at the time of the Kennedy assassination. Lee was last seen at the Aurora Fox in the New Year’s Eve Cabaret, “Blues to Broadway.” Other local work includes “Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill” (Denver Center/Galleria Theatre), “1940’s Radio Hour” (Arvada Center), “Ain’t Misbehavin” (Littleton Town Hall Arts Center), “Uncle Jed’s Barbershop” (DreaMakers Productions), “Annie” and “The Wiz” (AfterThought Theatre), “Menopause the Musical” (Denver Civic Theatre), and “Smokey Joe’s Café” as BJ (Theatre Aspen).

Lee’s work has also taken her cross county in several national tours and as a featured performer at the Democratic National Conventions in 2004, 2008 and 2012. She has appeared internationally with the U.S. Department of Defense, and was also featured on “America’s Got Talent – Season 9.”

She is a dedicated ambassador for the region’s vibrant arts and cultural communities, and when not on stage, Lee spends her time growing her foundation, Bringing Back the Arts, which combines her passion for arts and education.

Wolfe joins the Aurora Fox as the featured performer at this year’s gala. She has established herself as one of her generation’s most versatile Broadway performers, recently starring as Jenna in the Tony-nominated musical “Waitress.” Prior to that, she played Cordelia in the Broadway revival of “Falsettos,” which aired on PBS. But she is perhaps best known for her critically acclaimed performance as Cathy in the Off-Broadway revival of “The Last Five Years.”

Wolfe’s other Broadway credits include “Bullets Over Broadway” and the revival of “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.” A few blocks east of Broadway, she appeared as Beth in the City Center’s Encores! production of “Merrily We Roll Along.”

It promises to be an exciting April at the Aurora Fox Arts Center with these two stars, so don’t miss your chance to see them in person. Tickets to both “Caroline, and Change” and the annual gala are available at AuroraFox.org, or by calling the Box Office at 303.739.1970. See you at the theatre!
One of the city of Aurora’s proudest accomplishments in the arts field is the Aurora Dance Arts (ADA) program. In 1973 the city offered its first dance classes, and by 1976 ADA had become a year-round program. In 1989 ADA offered its first production of “The Nutcracker Ballet.” This past December, more than 2,200 people experienced ADA’s three sold-out public performances of “The Nutcracker” with live music by the Aurora Symphony Orchestra. Today, ADA serves more than 1,200 students through more than 200 classes taught by 20 highly qualified instructors.

Aurora Dance Arts, however, is much more than a dance school. It is a home – both creatively and socially – for its students and teachers, as four of its current teachers can attest to having been ADA students themselves.

Samantha Amos, Michelle Ballard, Erin Buterbaugh and Minda McGurk all began their dance studies at an early age and immediately fell in love with dance. McGurk and Ballard both started at age 4. Amos and Buterbaugh started at age 8. Growing up in the ADA family was filled with memorable moments for these four talented teachers. Amos remembers misplacing her hairbrush in the dressing room before her last performance of “The Nutcracker.” In response to her plea, “Where is my hairbrush?” everyone started singing “Oh, Where Is My Hairbrush?” (a song from VeggieTales). “It was hilarious and a great expression of the friendship that we all had.”

As the four girls grew into young women, they began to understand how their experiences at ADA had taught them much more than how to pirouette en dedans, freestyle or shuffle off to Buffalo. For McGurk, dance taught her to trust her heart and to pursue the things in life that made her happy – and not necessarily the things other people thought she should do.

Ballard learned about kindness: “Studying dance taught me how to express myself without words. It taught me how to express my soul through such a beautiful art form. I made my very first friends in dance and still have them as friends to this day. Dance taught me empathy, compassion and love.”

Dance taught Buterbaugh about the importance of hard work: “Ballet taught me the importance of making a personal commitment to the things you’re passionate about. Just showing up and going through the motions was not enough; your parents driving you to class every week didn’t automatically mean you would advance. If you really wanted to improve, you had to push yourself and make yourself do the work in class – the teacher couldn’t do it for you. You had to care and put in the work.”

Amos learned self-acceptance: “I think one of the most important things I learned as a dancer was to accept and embrace who I am. There is a stereotypical body type for a dancer, but I love that ADA has no reference for the stereotype. I was never pressured to be skinnier, to lose weight or told that I couldn’t be a dancer because I was ‘larger’ than average. ADA taught me how to love my body and to appreciate it as my instrument of art.”

Now that they’re teachers, they each have their unique gifts to share. Buterbaugh, who’s been teaching with ADA for 15 years, loves being able to help her young dancers develop artistically and technically. Amos, who’s only in her second year of teaching, is developing a new appreciation for all that her teachers did for her as she was growing up dancing and learning and using that appreciation to understand how powerful her impact is on her students.

McGurk loves the “magic” of dance. “I have been teaching for ADA for 20 years. I don’t ever remember a moment when I wasn’t a part of ADA. I love the ‘ah-ha!’ moments: the times when a student is nearly in tears, and I encourage them to try just one more time, and they get it! It happens! And I was there to witness that moment! It’s incredible and special.”

For Ballard, it’s all about helping her students understand the benefits of hard work. “I have been teaching for ADA for almost 20 years. I started teaching to be able to share my love of dance. Over the years, however, I have witnessed how my fellow teachers and I teach our young dancers discipline, how to be outgoing and how to be confident. And when I see their faces light up on stage dancing, and they know what it means to be a dancer because they have worked so hard all year, I think that is the most rewarding thing for me.”

To learn more about the city of Aurora Dance Art Program, visit AuroraGov.org/Dance
03 Cabaret Series - Sharon Dwinnell/David Norris: “Love Through the Ages” $ 7:30 p.m. Vintage Theatre
04 First Thursday ACAD Mixer 8 p.m. ACAD
05 Opening Night: “Caroline or Change” $ 7:30 p.m. Runs through May 5 Aurora Fox Arts Center
06 Last Call: Drink Local at the Aurora History Museum $ 1 – 5 p.m. Aurora History Museum “Morph Masters: How Disability Made Famous Artists Awesome!” $ 2 p.m. Phamaly Theatre The People’s Building
13 Brazil’s Latin Fusion 1 – 5 p.m. Solo art exhibition by Brazilian artist Jiacuy Roche and Colorado’s Bella Diva Dance Company. Stanley Marketplace “Get Your Ears Swoll: Chapter 5” $ 7:30 p.m. Showcasing local independent musicians The People’s Building
14 Aurora Symphony Orchestra Chamber Works Concert 3 p.m. The People’s Building
19 Opening Night: “The Boys in the Band” $ 7:30 p.m. Vintage Theatre “Song Slam” $ 7 p.m. Denver Art Song Project The People’s Building
20 Ukulele and Hula Lessons 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Aurora History Museum “Stephanie Ann Ball Fashion and Opera” $ 7 p.m. The People’s Building “One Evening des Hommes - For Men, by Men” 4 – 6 p.m. Roshni ACAD
24 Primavera/Earth Day with Su Teatro Noon Metropolitan State University of Denver and Colorado Folks Arts Council Aurora Fox Arts Center Cabaret Series - Rekha Ohal/Leonard Barrett Jr., “Sinatra: Unplugged” $ 7:30 p.m. Vintage Theatre
27 Antique Appraisal Fair benefiting the Aurora History Museum 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Aurora Central Library The Aurora Fox Gala $ 6 p.m. Dinner at The People’s Building followed by performance by Broadway Leading Lady Betsy Wolfe at the Aurora Fox Art Center.
01
Cinco de Mayo Event
Noon
Cinco de Mayo with Fiesta Colorado, Aztec Dancers, Michael Paff, and German Ompah
Metropolitan State University of Denver and Colorado Folks Arts Council
Aurora Fox Arts Center

02
1st Thursday ACAD Mixer
8 p.m.
ACAD

03-04
Aurora Potter’s Guild Spring Pottery Sale
Saturday, Noon – 8 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Community College of Aurora Student Center Rotunda

04-05
Aurora Cinco de Mayo
Saturday, Noon – 8 p.m.
Sunday, Noon – 6 p.m.
Fletcher Plaza

“A Broadway Bound” $ Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.
Aurora Singers
East Middle School
1275 Fraser St.

05
Closing Performance:
“Caroline or Change” $ 2 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center

10
Opening Night: “The Language Archive” $ 7:30 p.m.
Vintage Theatre

10-11
Cabaret Series: Jalyn Courtenay Webb $ 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center Studio Theatre

11
Ukulele and Hula Lessons
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Aurora History Museum

New American Theatre Festival
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Roshni
ACAD

15
Lecture: Suborbital Flight $ Noon – 12:45 p.m.
Aurora History Museum

18-19
“Rodeo: A Celebration of the American West!” $ Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, 3 p.m.
Aurora Symphony Orchestra
Aurora Fox Arts Center

ONGOING EVENTS

“Drink Local: Aurora’s Craft Beer Scene”
Aurora History Museum
Through April 7

Drink Local Craft Brew Passport
Aurora History Museum and participating companies
Through April 7

“Every Brilliant Thing” $ Vintage Theatre
Through April 14

“One Small Step: Fifty Years Later”
Aurora History Museum
Through July 21

Exhibit: “Edible”
Artworks by DAVA youth exploring nutrition for the body and mind
DAVA
Through June 7

Lullabies
mothers/children singing group
Mondays, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
ACAD
April 1 - 29

Water Wise Art Exhibit featuring Westwind Artists
Aurora Municipal Center, 2nd floor Mezzanine Gallery
April 2 - May 30

New American Stories - dance/theatre for middle/high school students
Fridays, 1.30 – 3 p.m.
Roshni
ACAD
April 5 – 26

“Caroline or Change” $ Aurora Fox Arts Center
April 5 – May 5

Walking Tours:
Stanley Marketplace $ Saturdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
April 13 – May 18

“The Boys in the Band” $ Vintage Theatre
April 19 – May 26

Exhibit: “Hometown Pride: Student Athletic and Extracurricular History”
Aurora History Museum
April 23 – Sept. 29

“Edible”
Aurora History Museum
Through July 21

Exhibit: “The Language Archive” $ Vintage Theatre
May 10 – June 16
How many art forms can you find depicted in “Art in Motion,” the new mural on The People’s Building? David Garcia’s lively mural bursts with the uncontainable energy and joy of creation and discovery. Whether actively involved in creating art, experiencing a profoundly moving performance, hearing a new form of music for the first time, or watching a dance from another culture, Garcia has captured that exuberance and shares it in a mural that makes us want to get up and dance without emitting a single sound. This is the magic of “Art in Motion.”

Garcia’s vivid mural depicts the types of adventurous cultural activities that are actually occurring within The People’s Building. A sampling from recent months included Evolving Door Dance’s “A Rip in the Sky Mending the Moon,” Thursday night Colfax Comedy, The People’s Building Square Dance, Pillars of African-American Art Songs, and the Aurora Symphony Orchestra Chamber Works. The People’s Building also houses two resident organizations: Inside the Orchestra and Nueva Escuela de Música. Diverse and eclectic are words that might help define this hub of creativity. Curator and Facilities Coordinator Aaron Vega describes The People’s Building as specializing in “fringe style art and pop-up events.”

Garcia’s mural has depicted that essence perfectly.

Here is a short summary describing how public art projects, such as this mural, come about. Once a public art site has been approved by Aurora’s Art in Public Places Commission, a separate Art Selection Panel is developed for each project. Panel members generally include the project manager, the project architect or landscape architect, a member of the community, an artist, a member of the commission, a City Council member, and a representative of the group(s) that use the building.

Though intense, public art selection is an interesting and important process that ends with the panel recommending its top proposal from participating artists to the Art in Public Places Program. Larger budget projects have a multi-level approval process that ultimately ends with City Council.

If you are a community member or an artist interested in serving on an art selection panel, please contact the Art in Public Places staff at publicart@auroragov.org.

It is with great sadness and admiration that the Aurora Creates team bids a happy retirement to our wonderful graphic designer, Sandy Kaunisto. Doing the graphic design for an arts and culture publication is a daunting assignment because expectations are high and the personalities with whom the designer works are frequently opinionated. Design is a solution to a problem. No design works unless it embodies ideas that are held in common by the people for whom the object is intended. Somehow Sandy always managed to bring us all together.

Sandy gave us everything we could have ever asked for in a graphic designer. She was an effective problem-solver who could balance strategy, spontaneity, intelligence and creativity. She knew how to make our stories come to life and elicit emotions through design and images. Most importantly, Sandy was a great listener and observer who used her talents to understand, empathize, synthesize and glean insights that enabled her to read our minds (when our words weren’t clear) in order to make the invisible visible.
HOMETOWN PRIDE
Student Athletic and Extracurricular History

Whether an athlete or a mathlete, most students grow up involved in some sort of extracurricular activity. Beginning April 23, the Aurora History Museum will be featuring an exhibition that explores the activities and sports teams that shaped Aurora’s youth throughout the years. Come relive the glory days or learn about Aurora’s new generation of students as the museum celebrates Aurora’s hometown pride. Exhibition will run through Sep. 29.

Extracurricular activities, community and pride go hand and hand. From school music and theater arts programs to high school sports teams, thousands of Aurorans engage in extracurricular activities or are raising students who are involved.

Activities promote pride in our schools and hometown. Those who attend events root together as Aurorans. Hometown athletics and extracurricular programs are more than just games or performances—they have shaped our lives and celebrate who we are as citizens of Aurora. This exhibit displays how our hometown sports and extracurricular activities energize the community, instill pride in it, and create a bond that is passed from one generation to the next. Join us in celebrating Aurora’s hometown pride. Admission to the museum and the exhibition is free. Learn more at AuroraMuseum.org.
Classy, Sassy…

Join us for a modern, bilingual retelling of this classic story!

**Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairy Tale**

**The Aurora Fox**

**GALA**

Featuring Broadway Leading Lady Betsy Wolfe

Saturday, April 27

Concert-only tickets still available

Dinner provided by Annette

AuroraFox.org

Auditions: April 13-14

June 25- July 13

Cultural Services Programs

ARTS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Rodeo

Colorado State Music Teachers Association
2019 Competition Winners

May 18, 2019 - 7:30 PM
May 19, 2019 - 3:00 PM

Aurora Fox Arts Center