

# AURORA COMMUNITY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MURDER, SUSPENSE, INTRIGUE *COMMUNICATING DOORS* Opens Jan. 28

AURORA, OH ----Aurora Community Theatre will perform *COMMUNICATING DOORS* by Alan Ayckbourn at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Jan. 28 through Feb. 19.

**Roseann Canfora** returns to ACT to direct this comic thriller which features a talented cast including **Denise Bernstein** (Poopay/Phoebe), **Amy Pelleg** (Jessica), **Brenda Redmond** (Ruella), **Adam Young** (Harold), **Don Bernardo** (Julian) and **Doug Lillibridge** (Reece).

Canfora directed last season's *THE FOREIGNER*, which drew record audiences to ACT's winter show. She will be assisted by **Marianne S. Paul**, producer, costume manager and set decorator; **Lauryn Hunter**, stage manager, **Deb Young**, props manager, and **Kellie Rossini**, lighting and sound. **Paul Chechak** will chair the set construction team.

Adding their talents to a successful show are **Dorothy Edwards**, house manager, **Vicki Rizzo Prato**, hospitality, **Jean Myers**, program, **Sonny Canfora**, photography, and **Brenda Redmond** board liaison. **CPH Communications** will manage publicity and marketing.

Set in a swank London hotel with adjoining or "communicating" doors between rooms, the play takes place at three different times: July 2014, October 1994 and May 1974, and combines three theatrical genres: the drawing room comedy, the thriller and the time-tripping fantasy.

*COMMUNICATING DOORS* opens in 2014, as Reece, a dying and remorseful businessman, summons the prostitute Poopay to witness his written confession to a life of ruthlessness and the murders he orchestrated to kill his two wives for their money. When Reece's business partner/hit-man, Julian, realizes Poopay is now privy to his crimes, the chase is on.

Horrified by the revelations and frightened by Julian's pursuit, Poopay grabs the confession and tries to escape through the "communicating doors." Quickly, she discovers the doors are actually time-travel portals that return her to the same room 20 years earlier on the night that Jessica, Reece's second wife, was murdered. Jessica, in turn, finds that the "communicating doors" transport her back to 1974, where Reece's first wife, Ruella, is about to face her demise. The three female characters use the doors to travel between decades in an effort to prevent the murders by changing the past.

"I wanted to write about how, in many cases, our futures, our destinies rest in our own hands," Ayckbourn said in an interview for Open Stage Theatre & Company. "It isn't

always about upbringing or genetics. It can be, but sometimes that's the easy get-out. In Poopay's case, the opportunity is given to her to rewrite her life, thanks largely to the help of Ruella who takes her in hand. Most of us don't get that chance to time flip. We have to do it all in real time.”

**COMMUNICATING DOORS** premiered February 1994 in Scarborough, England, opening later the same year in the U.S. at the Chicago International Theatre Festival. A celebrated and prolific British author of 74 plays, Ayckbourn is sometimes referred to as England's Neil Simon.

*Time Magazine* selected **COMMUNICATING DOORS** for its list of "The Ten Best Plays of 1994." It received the “Best Play” award in 1996 from Writer’s Guild of Britain and was nominated for “Best Comedy” at both the Olivier Awards in 1996 and the Molière Awards in 1997.

"This is a show to see." *New York Post*

"A time-travel play with bits of Stephen King, Steven Spielberg and Alfred Hitchcock in it." *Chicago Tribune*

"A cross between Back-to-the-Future and Psycho." *Inside Out*

"The great thing about Alan Ayckbourn is that he has never lost his ability to spring a surprise.” *Daily Telegraph*

“When a play this joyously silly also has a thought hiding behind its antics, it's bound to be a terrific evening at the theater.” *CurtainUp Review*

Tickets at \$16 for adults, \$11 for youth 18 and under, are available online, including seat selection, at [www.auroracommunitytheatre.com](http://www.auroracommunitytheatre.com), or call the box office at 330-562-1818. Group discounts are also available by calling the box office.

Aurora Community Theatre gratefully acknowledges **Bill Hawke of Cedar Brook Financial Partners LLC** for his generous sponsorship support of **COMMUNICATING DOORS**, which is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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*ACT, celebrating 51 successful seasons in 2010-11, annually presents three regular season shows, a summer stock production plus two children's summer workshops, reaching an annual audience of nearly 7,000. ACT showcases the region's top actors, musicians, costume and set designers, construction, lighting, sound and backstage crews -- all of whom generously donate their time and talent.*