

# 'Hope and Healing'

## Aurora Theatre hosting regional premiere of musical 'King of Pangea'

From staff reports

The Aurora Theatre's commitment to nurturing and showcasing original works continues in its 29th season with the regional premiere of Martin Storrow's musical "King of Pangea" — which opens on Thursday.

"King of Pangea" represents a major collaboration between Aurora and the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. "King of Pangea" — in which Storrow wrote the book, music and lyrics — is an imaginative exploration of grief, inspired by the author's experience with the death of his mother. Originally conceived as a story set on an imaginary island, the music helps blend realism with fantasy, creating a unique show.

"It's a piece that's really personal to me," said Storrow. "It tells the story of a boy who loses his mother when he's in college, and in response to that loss he goes on this journey back to this world that he and his mother created together when he was younger.

"He tries to put the pieces back together. It's a show that deals with loss and grief, but it's also about hope and healing and how we find our way from a loss to that place of hope again."

Ann-Carol Pence, Aurora's co-founder and artistic producing director, was instrumental in bringing "King of Pangea" to life. Pence spent months in Oklahoma working with the Lyric Theatre of

Oklahoma to refine the work. "Producing new musicals has long been a cornerstone of Aurora Theatre's value system," said Pence, who in her long and distinguished career has worked on productions ranging from "Cinderella" and "Mary Poppins" to "Les Misérables" and "In the Heights." "As we step into the new year, 'King of Pangea' is a show we know will connect with our audiences."

Pence also said that even with the weight new musicals carry to the "American canon of storytelling," they rarely reach the stage, with some 90% never getting produced.

"By producing this musical, we inspire a conversation about living and dying. 'King of Pangea' is about the incredible embrace of a mother to her child," she said. "It is the joy, it is the despair, all wrapped up in a messy, beautiful musical that Martin Storrow imagined. I guarantee that after you see this show, you will stare at the stars, longing to know which star is named for you."

"It's incredibly special — I consider it a gift," said Storrow of having his play's premiere at Aurora. "I first met Ann-Carol and the team from Aurora in New York a couple of years ago. They saw a showcase version of 'King of Pangea' at a festival in New York, and Ann-Carol and (director) Michael Baron, who is from Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, were the first two people to kind of team up and tell me they wanted to put it up on stage.

"This is the first time we'll

**IF YOU GO**  
**What:** Aurora Theatre's production of "King of Pangea"  
**When:** Jan. 23 through Feb. 16  
**Where:** Aurora Theatre at Lawrenceville Arts Center, 125 N. Clayton St., Lawrenceville  
**Tickets:** Go to [auroratheatre.com](http://auroratheatre.com)

get to see this show up on its feet and without (Pence and Barron) believing in a new musical and giving it a shot we wouldn't have had that experience. It's incredibly beautiful and I'm very grateful for their vision and willingness to do that."

The California native — who now lives in New York — said he's been working with Pence, Baron and the cast and crew late into the night to get the show ready for opening night. "It's slicing, dicing, tinkering, adding and subtracting," he said. "One of the reasons I'm so grateful to Ann-Carol and Aurora for taking this on is it's a lot more complicated to work on a brand-new show than it is to work on a show that's been done a million times. When a show has been staged a million times, you know what to expect and what it's supposed to look and feel like.

"When it's a brand-new show, it's common for things to be re-written up until the first performance. You want the show to be as excellent as it can be, so there's a real workshop mentality that goes along with producing a new work that's a musical, and the theatres that do that — it's a risk, but it's also very exciting."

Storrow's entry into the world of entertainment came



Photo: K.Talley Photography

Riley McCool plays young Christopher and Wendy Melkonian plays Celia Crow in the Aurora Theatre's production of "King of Pangea."

as a singer-songwriter, and he has several solo albums to his credit, but he quickly learned he was starting from scratch as a playwright.

"I was a singer-songwriter for a number of years and I kind of fell into theater by accident with this project," he said. "When I first started writing this, I didn't actually know it was going to

be a musical — I thought it may be a record or a collection of songs.

"And as we got deeper into it, it just became clear that this was a story we really wanted to tell and bring to life. It's been a seven-year journey of learning how musicals are made. It's a whole different craft and it's very humbling to learn from the ground up."

After "King of Pangea's" run at Aurora, Storrow said the musical will have its world premiere this summer in London.

"King of Pangea" runs through Feb. 16 at Aurora Theatre, which is located at the Lawrenceville Arts Center. Tickets start at \$32 and are on sale now at [www.auroratheatre.com](http://www.auroratheatre.com) or by calling the box office at 678-226-6222.

## Tonight's highlights

**Oceanfront Property Hunt**  
A&E 12 p.m.

Dawn and Carey met and started a family on the West Coast. But now that they have entered retirement, Dawn has convinced Carey to move back to the East Coast in this series premiere. However, his requirement is a place by the ocean.

**College Basketball**  
5 12 p.m.

Defending NCAA Champion UConn hosts Creighton at the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn., in men's basketball action. After a few early stumbles, the Huskies hope to right the ship in this Big East matchup. The Bluejays upset UConn last season.

**NFL Championship Chase: Divisional Weekend**  
46 12 p.m.

CBS Sports brings out its top analysts, reporters, insiders and contributors to get the inside scoop on the biggest matchups of the divisional round. Which teams will pave their way to the Conference Championships? And whose playoff run will end?

**Premier League Soccer**  
11 12:30 p.m.

Arsenal began the season on a tear and is still looking like a formidable challenge. But can they stop Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins who has been a scoring machine as the two teams meet in English Premier League Soccer action at Emirates Stadium in London?

**College Basketball**  
FS1 6 p.m.

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**My Argentine Heart**  
HALL 8 p.m.

Starring Julie Gonzalo and Juan Pablo Di Pace, this film follows Abril (Gonzalo) back to Argentina as she tries to save her family ranch from being purchased by her ex-boyfriend, Diego (Di Pace), and slowly falls back in love with the man she missed.

**My 600-Lb. Life**  
TLC 8 p.m.

This special supersized episode features the weight-loss journey of Karen, a woman whose eating has gotten so out of control that she's withdrawn from the world. Although Karen seeks Dr. Now's help, how will that happen if she won't leave the house?

**I Am JFK Jr.**  
17 8 p.m.

This documentary follows the tragically short life of John F. Kennedy Jr., the youngest child of President John F. Kennedy. As a boy, he transfixed a nation saluting the coffin of his father. Later, his good looks and charisma led to hopes for a revival.

**Raging Bull**  
TCM 10 p.m.

This Academy Award-winning biographical sports drama from famed director Martin Scorsese follows the life and career of professional boxer Jake LaMotta, portrayed by Robert De Niro. As LaMotta climbs the ranks, his personal life begins to spiral.

SATURDAY EVENING JANUARY 18, 2025															
	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM
<b>BROADCAST CHANNELS</b>															
2	(4:30) Football Houston Texans at Kansas City Chiefs					Postgame	Shifting	Shifting	High Potential		High Potential		WSBToni.	HotTopics	Chicago
5	Planet	Pets	FOX 5 News at 6 (N)	TBA		Pregame	NFL Football Washington Commanders at Detroit Lions (N) (Live)						Postgame	Special "Survival"	
8	Week	Hoover	Weekend	Father	(:15) Sister Boniface		Keep Up	Served?	The First Lady		Murder Myster.		Father	(:45) Sister Boniface	
11	Gold (N)		News (N)	NBC News	Wheel	Jeopardy!	The Wall				Saturday Night Live		News (N)	Saturday Night Live	
14	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law-SVU "Genes"	Law-SVU "Net Worth"	Law-SVU	Law-SVU	Law-SVU	Law-SVU
17	(4:30) TBA	Big Bang	Big Bang	Last Man	Last Man		I Am JFK Jr. ('16)				Atlanta N (N)	Suits	Suits	Suits	Suits
30	American Experience				Finding Your Roots	Midsomer	(:45) Midsomer	Samantha	LikeATL	My Music	Austin (N)	Roots	Roots	Roots	Roots
34	El Chavo	El Chavo	Contigo	Noticiero	Fútbol (N)	Fútbol Mexicano Toluca vs. Monterrey (N) (Live)		(:55) Fútbol Atlas vs. León (N) (Live)			Contigo	Contigo	Contigo	Contigo	Contigo
35	Ted	Huch	Jewish	Gospel	My Private Line to God ('24)	Leading	Kenneth..	Tim	In Touch With	Stone	Discover	Prop.Conn	Prop.Conn	Prop.Conn	Prop.Conn
38	Black	Black Quiz	Murdoch	Mysteries	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	GameTime	Simpsons	Dateline	Invest.	Beat	Chi. Fire
38	¿Qué dicen?	EnEspañol	Noticias T		My Rambo: Last Blood ('19)				Braven ('18) Jill Wagner, Jason Momoa.	Noticias T	PowerNat	ZonaMixta	ZonaMixta	ZonaMixta	ZonaMixta
46	To Be Announced	Atlanta	CBS-News		Invest.	Financial	Tracker	Tracker	48 Hours	48 Hours	Atlanta	Invest.	Atlanta	Invest.	Beat
57	Pastor JT	Power	Gaither		Fully Aliv	From-He..	Flemming	Baptist	New Wine	Faith and Praise	Lesson	Glad You	168 Films	Shepher..	Shepher..
63	Graham	Billy Gra	Memories (N)		Your Move	Drive	Huckabee (N)	The Story	Centuries	Rosenbe..	Youseff	Huckabee (N)	The Story	The Story	The Story
69	(3:30) Ba..	4th & FamFeud	FamFeud	FamFeud	FamFeud	FamFeud	NCIS: Hawai'i	The Equalizer	Two Men	Two Men	WOW - Women (N)	PawnStars	PawnStars	PawnStars	PawnStars
AIB	AIB Pres.	Art Comes	Lifestyles	Spirit Jm	Making a	It's All	Signing	AIB Pres.	Art Comes	Spiritual	Adults	Mindful Me	Spotlight	At Tab	Flavor
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>															
A&E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	(3:00) Independence...	*** National Treasure ('04) Diane Kruger, Nicolas Cage.							*** National Treasure: Book of Secrets ('07) Nicolas Cage.						Movie
ANPL	River Monsters	Lockdown	Lockdown	Lockdown	Lockdown	Lockdown	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North-Law
BET	(4:30) *** The Bodyguard ('92) Kevin Costner.						*** Lakeview Terrace ('08) Samuel L. Jackson.				*** The Bodyguard ('92) Kevin Costner.				
BRAVO	(4:00) *** Bad Guys	*** Beetlejuice ('88) Michael Keaton.					*** The Goonies ('85) Josh Brolin, Sean Astin.				*** Beetlejuice ('88) Michael Keaton.				
CNBC	American Greed	Greed 'Conn's Job"	American Greed	American Greed	American Greed	American Greed	American Greed	American Greed	American Greed	American Greed	Greed "COVID Cons"	Greed	Greed	Greed	Greed
CNN	CNN Newsroom (N)	CNN Newsroom (N)	CNN Newsroom (N)	CNN Newsroom (N)	Real, Bill Maher (N)	CNN Spec	CNN Spec	CNN Spec	CNN Spec	CNN Spec	Real, Bill Maher	President	President	President	President
COM	(4:00) *** Ted 2 ('15) (P)	*** Happy Gilmore ('96) Adam Sandler.					*** Ted ('12) Mila Kunis, Mark Wahlberg.				*** Ted 2 ('15)				
DISC	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition
DISN	Ladybug	Ladybug	Big City	Big City	Big City	Chibiverse	*** Wreck-It Ralph ('12)	StuGo	StuGo	StuGo	Chibiverse	BigCity	Big City	Big City	Big City
E	(4:00) *** Dumb and Dumber	*** The Mask ('94) Jim Carrey.					*** Dumb and Dumber ('94) Jim Carrey.								*** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective
ESPN	(3:30) Football Houston Texans at Kansas City Chiefs					Postgame	College Basketball Duke at Boston College				Playoff	Playoff	SportCtr (N) (Live)	SportCtr	SportCtr
ESPN2	(4:00) Basketball	Basketball Ole Miss at Mississippi State (N)					Australian Open Round of 16 From Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. (N) (Live)								
FDSE	P1 Racing	P1 Racing	Football	Pregame	Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Boston Celtics (N) (Live)		Postgame	NASCAR				NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball
FDSO	Volleyball Team Kingdon Rishel vs. Team ...	Life	Predators	NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Nashville Predators (N)	Postgame	NHL Hockey						NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FOXN	The Five	Fox Report (N) (Live)	Weekend (N) (Live)	Life (N) (Live)	One Nation (N) (Live)	FOX News (N) (Live)	Gutfeld!	Weekend							
FREE	(4:30) *** Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End ('07)	(:10) *** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides ('11) Johnny Depp.	(:25) *** Free Guy												
FS1	(3:00) Horse Racing	Basketball Creighton at Connecticut (N)					Basketball St. John's at Seton Hall (N)				Basketball Creighton at Connecticut	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball
FX	(3:00) *** Avengers	UFC 311: Makhachev vs. Sarukyan - Prelims (N) (Live)					*** Captain America: Civil War ('16) Chris Evans.								
GOLF	(4:00) PGA Tour Golf						PGA Tour Champions Golf				Central	PGA Tour Golf			
HALL	(4:00) *** Branching Out	*** Raise a Glass to Love ('21) Laura Osnes.					*** My Argentine Heart ('25) (P)				*** Love of the Irish ('25) Shenae Grimes.	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls
HGTV	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	(:05) UnXplained	(:05) UnXplained	(:05) UnXplained	UnXplain..	UnXplain..	UnXplain..	UnXplain..
LIFE	(4:00) *** Girl in the Vi...	*** Girl in the Closet ('23) Remy Ma.					*** Girl in the Garage: Laura Cowan Story				*** Little Girl in the Window ('24)	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie
MSNBC	Politics (N) (Live)	The Sat (N) (Live)	Ayman (N) (Live)	Ayman (N) (Live)	Velshi (N) (Live)	Ayman	11th-Stephanie	The Sat							
MTV	Big Bang	Big Bang	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** Wedding Crashers ('05) Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson.	*** Joe Dirt ('01) David Spade.							
NBA	NBA TV Marquee Matchup						NBA TV Marquee Matchup				NBA GameTime Live				
NICK	(4:00) SpongeBob	*** Henry Danger: The Movie ('24)					Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Big Bang
NWSN	NewsNation Now (N)	NewsNation Now (N)	NewsNation (N)	Hunting (N)	NewsNation (N)	NewsNation Prime	Hunting	NewsNati..							
OXYG	Accident, Suicide	Accident, Suicide	Cold Justice (N)	Accident (N)	Accident (N)	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Accident
PARMT	*** Top Gun: Maverick ('22) Miles Teller, Tom Cruise.						*** Top Gun: Maverick ('22) Miles Teller, Tom Cruise.				*** Top Gun ('86)				
SEC	(3:30) Ba..	SEC Now	Basketball Arkansas at Missouri (N) (Live)	SEC Now	Basketball LSU at Texas A&M (N) (Live)	SEC Now (N) (Live)	SEC Now (N)	SEC Now (N)							
SYFY	(2:30) *** Harry Potter ...	*** Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban ('04)					(:05) *** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire ('05) Daniel Radcliffe.								
TCM	Movie	(:45) *** Operation Crossbow ('65) Sophia Loren.					*** The Yakuza ('75) Robert Mitchum.				*** Raging Bull ('80) Robert De Niro.	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie
TLC	Last Resort	Last Resort	Baylen Out Loud	My 600-Lb. Life (N)	600-Lb. Life "Seana & J.T."	My 600-Lb									
TNT	Postgame	*** The Hitman's Bodyguard ('17) Ryan Reynolds.					All Elite Wrestling: Collision (N) (Live)				*** The Hitman's Bodyguard ('17)	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie
TOON	King/Hill	King/Hill	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	FamilyGuy	FamilyGuy	FamilyGuy	Rick	Rick	Mashle
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adv	Ghost Adv	Ghost Adv
TRUTV	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	American	American	American	American
TVL	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike	(:35) Mike	Raymond	Raymond	(:20) Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	Chicago "Unpacking"	Chicago "Retread"	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)	Chicago P.D. (N)
WE	NCIS "Hiatus"	NCIS "Hiatus"	NCIS "Shalom"	NCIS "Escaped"	NCIS "Singled Out"	NCIS "Faking It"	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS
<b>PREMIUM CHANNELS</b>															
HBO	(:20) Real, Bill Maher	(:20) *** Sully ('16) Tom Hanks.					*** A Different Man ('24) (P)				(:55) *** The Accountant ('16)	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie
MAX	(:10) The Knick	(:05) The Knick	The Knick		</										