

A Very Savannah Revival

IF IT WEREN'T FOR ANNA HUNTER, Savannah would likely be a very different place. During the 1950s, Hunter, then a society editor of the *Savannah Morning News*, brought together a group of women to spearhead the Historic Savannah Foundation, galvanizing the city's landmark preservation movement. The first priority of "the seven ladies," as they came to be known, was the Davenport House, which they single-handedly saved from the wrecking ball.

Thirty-two years after her death, Hunter is being celebrated this fall with a comedic opera—performed, fittingly, at the Davenport House Museum. Presented by the Savannah Voice Festival and written by renowned composer Michael Ching, *Anna Hunter, the Spirit of Savannah* recounts its heroine's story through a witty, modern-day lens: When a tour guide in training gets her facts all wrong, Hunter's ghost pays a visit to set the record straight.

As Ching began working on the piece, he discovered that author A. Louise Staman was writing a biography about the same subject. The two artists collaborated, sharing notes and research as they sought to bring Hunter's life to light. Staman's book, *Restoring Lost Times: Savannah's Anna Colquit Hunter* will be released in October 2017.

Anna Hunter, the Spirit of Savannah, Nov. 2-4 at the Davenport House Museum. Tickets available at savannahvoicefestival.org, 855-76-OPERA. —KRISTEN L. SMITH



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