

sandra feinstein-



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**THE GAMM JUMP STARTS 2004 WITH WALLACE SHAWN'S
DARKLY HUMOROUS AND CONTROVERSIAL AUNT DAN AND LEMON**

PAWTUCKET, RI (January 9, 2004) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) reinforces its reputation for thought-provoking productions with a new staging of *Aunt Dan and Lemon*. The Obie award-winning play by Wallace Shawn, acclaimed American playwright (*Designated Mourner*, *The Fever*) and renowned character actor (*My Dinner with Andre*, *The Princess Bride*, *Vanya on 42nd Street*), promises to fascinate and challenge audiences with its darkly humorous look at the subtle allure of evil. Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella directs, with Artistic Associates Wendy Overly and Jeanine Kane in the respective title roles. The production runs from Jan. 29 through Feb. 22 at The Gamm, with free discussions following all Sunday matinee performances (Feb. 8, 15, and 22) at the Pawtucket Armory Annex, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

Play Synopsis

Isolated in her London flat and withering on a diet of bread and homemade juices, a young woman named Lenora (Lemon) tells us why she rather admires the Nazis. Then in a series of flashbacks to her childhood — most significantly a summer spent with Oxford scholar and family friend Aunt Dan, a pugnacious supporter of Henry Kissinger's Vietnam policies — she reveals the seeds of her shocking and uncompassionate views. FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

This nearly 20-year-old play is currently being revived off-Broadway, once again to critical acclaim:

"In the aftermath of the American invasion of Iraq ... Mr. Shawn's examination of blurred blood stains in Western culture takes on a newly electric topicality." — *NY Times*, Dec. 2003

"...regardless of your politics, the connection Shawn establishes between Lemon's lack of human contact and her distorted worldview rings piercingly true." — *USA Today*, Jan. 2004

Estrella says the themes, bridging global apathy and individual morality, are no less relevant and discomfiting to audiences today.

"In *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, Shawn poses seemingly un-askable but appallingly obvious questions. Yes, violence and unspeakable brutality may be politically effective. But are they morally acceptable? And is such a course of action truly unavoidable or rather a privilege enjoyed by the powerful over the powerless?" Estrella said. "Today, more than ever, answers to these complex moral questions may provide the only hope for a culture enthusiastically engaged in perpetual war."

Local alternative rock radio station WBRU is this production's sponsor. Brandon Gordon, WBRU's general manager, said the company's support is in keeping with its mission.

"WBRU has supported Rhode Island music, arts and lifestyle events throughout our history and we are proud to sponsor *Aunt Dan and Lemon* at The Gamm Theatre. We are certain that, through this partnership, we can expose more Rhode Islanders to the great cultural and artistic offerings in the area such as this play," Gordon said.

About The Gamm

Founded in 1984 as Alias Stage, the nonprofit Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre performs great works of the classic and modern theater in an intimate setting that fosters the vital relationship between author, actor and audience. As the cornerstone of the Arts Exchange at the Pawtucket Armory, The Gamm seeks to engage and enrich the community through affordable entertainment and educational programming.

WBRU is this production's sponsor; NBC 10 is The Gamm's season sponsor

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION OF *AUNT DAN AND LEMON*

Written by Wallace Shawn
Directed by Tony Estrella (Gamm Artistic Director)
Costume design by Marilyn Salvatore
Set design by David T. Howard

Stage Manager, Mark McClure; Asst. Stage Manager, Pamela Calci; Props Manager, Michele Eaton

Cast

Aunt Dan	Wendy Overly (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Lemon	Jeanine Kane (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Mother	Casey Seymour Kim
Father/Freddie	Jim O'Brien (Gamm artistic Associate)
Mindy	Melissa Penick
Raimondo/Andy	Steve Kidd
Jasper/Marty	Kerry Callery
June	Georgia Cohen
Flora	Ratkanhnha Siv

Calendar of Performances

January

Thursday, Jan. 29, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31, preview performance at 8 p.m.

February

Sunday, Feb. 1, preview performance at 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 2, press night performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 5, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 6, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*

Sunday, Feb. 8, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 15, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*

Thursday, Feb. 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 22, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*

*Followed by a free discussion with artists, academics and media

Tickets \$21-24, all previews (Jan. 29 — Feb. 1) ONLY \$12!

Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students

For single ticket sales, call 723-4266. Or purchase tickets at www.arttixri.com or at the Art Tix booth at Kennedy Plaza, Providence.