

sandra feinstein-



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Gail Hulbert, Communications Manager
(401) 723-4266 or gail@gammtheatre.org

BARRYMORE

Rake, Rebel, and Heir to America's Most Famous Acting Family Treads the Boards at The Gamm

PAWTUCKET, RI (March 8, 2004) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to present *Barrymore*, featuring audience favorite Sam Babbitt (Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Sir in *The Dresser*, Lear in *King Lear*) in another not-to-be-missed performance. Fred Sullivan, Jr. (*The Crucible*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*) directs William Luce's boisterously entertaining look at "one helluva life" both onstage and off.

Bursting with sophisticated humor and stirring biographical anecdotes, *Barrymore* is "a portrait of riveting complexity," says The New York Times. This production runs from March 18 through April 11 at The Gamm, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

Play Synopsis

Fading Hollywood and Broadway legend John Barrymore stumbles tipsy and dejected onto a rented stage. What starts as a rehearsal for his comeback performance as Richard III rapidly deteriorates into spirited ramblings on fame and family, marriage and booze. Reminiscences of professional success and personal failure – punctuated by Shakespeare and song – are at once hilarious and poignant. A comedy from start to finish, Barrymore will delight both young and old.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella says he is privileged to showcase the pairing of two such extraordinary talents in Babbitt and Sullivan.

"*Barrymore* is a heartfelt and delightful love letter to a bygone era of theatrical history and the robust and painful life of a true giant, John Barrymore," says Estrella. "I can think of no better artists or human beings to bring you this wonderful play. Sam and Fred, two proud men of the theater who've given large parts of their lives to this 'scavenger's profession,' have the humor, wisdom and compassion to speak honestly and with great affection in praise of theatrical folly."

This production is sponsored by Citizens Bank and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. NBC 10 is The Gamm's season sponsor.

Joseph J. MarcAurele, President & CEO of Citizens Bank, said the company is delighted to bring this production to local audiences.

"Citizens Bank is proud to support the Gamm Theatre's production of *Barrymore*," MarcAurele said. "What a treat for Pawtucket residents to have a strong, local theatre putting on quality productions right in their backyard. The arts are such an integral part of what makes a community strong and Citizens is pleased to have the opportunity to continue our commitment to the arts and to the community through this partnership."

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.

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION OF *BARRYMORE*

Written by William Luce
Directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr.
Costume design by Marilyn Salvatore
Set design by William Lane
Sound/music design by Kerry Callery

