

sandra feinstein-



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**THE GAMM STAGES ARTHUR MILLER'S TIMELESS *CRUCIBLE*
AS FIRST PRODUCTION OF 2003-2004 SEASON**

PAWTUCKET, RI (August 11, 2003) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre opens its 2003-2004 season with a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the premiere of Arthur Miller's American masterpiece *The Crucible*. Directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr. and featuring performances by Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella, and Artistic Associates Sam Babbitt and Jeanine Kane, the production runs from Sept. 4 through Sept. 21 at La Salle Academy in Providence.*

Play Synopsis

A young girl accuses her fellow townspeople of practicing witchcraft. Fear and finger pointing fuel an outbreak of paranoia in late 17th century Salem, Massachusetts, as a reactionary court sends innocents to the gallows. At the center of the crisis, farmer John Proctor — guilty of an adulterous affair with his wife's accuser — must make an impossible choice: a false confession to save his life or the truth to save his name. Penned in response to the anti-Communist hysteria of the early 1950s, Miller's play is an unflinching look at how a community will devour itself to preserve delusions of God and country, law and order, and good and evil.

An allegory of political and religious intolerance, *The Crucible* promises to cut audiences to the heart with its disturbing revelations about human nature. Artistic Director Tony Estrella said the universal implications of this fact-based play compelled him to choose it as the season opener.

"*The Crucible* for all its historical trappings has, to the good fortune of the theatre but decidedly bad fortune of the nation, never become dated. The Danforths of the world are always among us, as is the irrational fear and infinite gullibility they exploit in order to control us under the guise of protection," Estrella said.

"Ben Franklin once said, 'They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.' Miller manifests this political argument in the complex personal story of a man who discovers real heroism in telling the absolute truth at the very moment when its consequences are most dire. It is fleeting and exists in one blinding brilliant moment that costs him his life," Estrella added.

"Fifty years after its inception, this play still has the cathartic power to shake us. For, though we may hope to identify with its hero, Miller forces us to confront our complicity in the great injustices of history: that, in the end, rather than accept responsibility, we opt for momentary safety and everlasting shame."

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.

**The Gamm had hoped to launch the season from its new home under renovation at the historic Pawtucket Armory. However, construction delays unanticipated by the theater's landlord, the Pawtucket Armory Association (PAA), necessitated a change of venue for this show. La Salle's two-thirds-in-the-round stage has ample comfortable seating and is exceptionally accommodating for actors and audiences. The remainder of the season will be performed in Pawtucket, as planned.*

encl: directions to La Salle Academy

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION OF THE CRUCIBLE

Written by Arthur Miller

Directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr.
Costume/set design by David T. Howard (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Lighting design by Richard Van Voris

Technical Director	Cameron Whitehorne
Master Electrician	John Robichau
Stage Manager	Deborah Covington
Asst. Stage Manager/Props	Michele Eaton
Production Asst./Dramaturgy	Heather Brennan

Cast (in order of appearance)

Rev. Samuel Parris	Chris Byrnes (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Betty Parris	Caroline Sheridan and Margaret Howe
Tituba	Tammy Brown
Abigail Williams	Georgia Cohen
Susanna Walcott	Heidi McNeil
Ann Putnam	Wendy Overly (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Thomas Putnam	Chris Perrotti
Mercy Lewis	Pam Calci
Mary Warren	Ratkankha Siv
John Proctor	Anthony Estrella (Gamm Artistic Director)
Rebecca Nurse	Enedina Garcia
Giles Corey	Tom Oakes
Rev. John Hale	Jim O'Brien (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Elizabeth Proctor	Jeanine Kane (Gamm Artistic Associate)
Francis Nurse	Bill Oakes
Ezekiel Cheever	Mark McClure
Marshal Herrick	Steve Kidd
Judge Hathorne	Mike Zola
Dep. Gov. Danforth	Sam Babbitt
Sarah Good	Paula Faber
Rachel Hopkins	Maura Van Voris

Embolden Design is this production's sponsor; NBC 10 is The Gamm's season sponsor.

Calendar of Performances

Thursday, September 4, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, September 5, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 6, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, September 7, press night performance at 7 p.m.
Friday, September 12, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, September 14, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Thursday, September 18, high school performance at 10 a.m. (closed to the public)
Thursday, September 18, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, September 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, September 21, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$12-24, all previews (Sept. 4—7) only \$12!
Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, as well as seniors and students
For single ticket sales call (401) 723-4266 or order online at www.artixri.com
For group ticket sales call Julie Sacks at (401) 723-4266