



sandra feinstein-



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GAMM THEATRE SUPPORTERS TOAST 20-YEAR HISTORY AND NEW PAWTUCKET HOME

PAWTUCKET, RI (June 1, 2004) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre celebrated its upcoming 20th anniversary season on Wednesday, May 26, with a spirited wine tasting and silent auction at its new home at the historic Pawtucket Armory. Guests of The Gamm's "Toast to Twenty" enjoyed fabulous food and sampled fine wines from around the world to the lush sounds of Dan Moretti's Brazilia Quartet and live flamenco guitar.

Filmmaker and Pawtucket native Michael Corrente, painter Gretchen Dow Simpson and Collette Vacations CEO Dan Sullivan, Jr. served as honorary chairpersons, bolstering the city's growing reputation as an arts- and business-friendly community. Also honoring the milestone season were Kate Stone and Steve Sookookian, two founders of Alias Stage, The Gamm's name until 1998.

The event, which took place under a tent in the parking lot, in the theater lobby and even on the set of The Gamm's current production, "Julius Caesar", raised \$12,900 for the non-profit organization. Proceeds will help insure The Gamm's continued growth, including new educational and outreach programming.

"Toast to Twenty" was sponsored by Rhode Island Monthly and Yankee Spirits, Inc.

About Honorary Chairpersons

Michael Corrente: Born and raised in Pawtucket, writer/director Michael Corrente came to prominence in 1993 with his debut feature film *Federal Hill*. Hot off that success, he helmed the screen adaptation of David Mamet's *American Buffalo*, starring Dustin Hoffman and Dennis Franz, and filmed in Pawtucket. Corrente later teamed with Cumberland natives Peter and Bobby Farrelly to co-write, produce and direct a film version of Peter's novel *Outside Providence*, starring Alec Baldwin. Recently Corrente produced the film *The Door in the Floor*, starring Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger. Currently he is developing several new projects including *Nailed Right In*, written by Terence Winter; *The Berkeley Connection*, written by Marshall Brickman; and a Buddy Cianci biopic based on *The Prince of Providence*, written by Providence Journal reporter Mike Stanton.

Gretchen Dow Simpson: Artist and painter Gretchen Dow Simpson is a member of both the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative and The Art League of Rhode Island. Simpson's paintings have appeared on 58 *New Yorker* magazine covers. Best known for her crisp, sun-drenched views of New England architecture, Simpson has so distinctive a style that Absolut chose to honor her in one of its signature vodka ads. Simpson concentrates on oil paintings with shows in New York City, Rhode Island and Maine.

Dan Sullivan, Jr.: Dan Sullivan, Jr., president and CEO of Collette Vacations, has over 30 years experience in the travel industry. Since 1918, the family-owned company has been providing escorted vacations to millions of travelers worldwide from its global headquarters in Pawtucket. Sullivan is co-chair of the Pawtucket Foundation, which seeks to guide the future development of the city. Sullivan is also an active supporter of travel and non-profit causes including the USTOA, the Cystic Fibrosis Society, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In 1999, he established the Kosovo Relief Fund to benefit the victims of the war.

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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.