

sandra feinstein-



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**THE GAMM STAGES FIRST PRODUCTION OF 2003-2004 SEASON IN PROVIDENCE  
Company to come home to Pawtucket for the holidays!**

PAWTUCKET, RI (August 11, 2003) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre is pleased to announce that renovations to its new home in an annex of the historic Pawtucket Armory are underway. The fully refurbished space will be finished in time for the theater's second performance of the season, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, starting in November. The staging of this holiday classic combined with The Gamm's much-anticipated homecoming will make for a true celebration for actors and audiences.

"Theater is essentially about communal celebration and I can think of no better way to celebrate this special time of the year and our grand opening than with Dylan Thomas' beautiful and humorous celebration of family," said Tony Estrella, The Gamm's artistic director.

The Gamm had planned to launch its 19th season from Pawtucket. However, construction delays unanticipated by its landlord, the Pawtucket Armory Association, made that impossible. Instead, the theater will open the season with *The Crucible* at La Salle Academy in Providence (Sept. 4 through Sept. 21). The Gamm successfully performed Shakespeare's *The Tempest* on LaSalle's two-thirds-in-the-round stage in 2000 and looks forward to occupying the exceptionally comfortable and accommodating space once again.

Seth Handy, president of the Pawtucket Armory Association, expressed regret about the postponement but optimism about the project's ultimate success.

"We had hoped to have The Gamm's home ready in time for its first performance of the season. But initial bids for construction work came in too high, necessitating a new round of bids. After massaging the construction specifications we have landed two excellent contractors to complete Phase I of our renovation at a substantially lower cost," Handy said. "The PAA is now confident that we can have the annex ready for the theater's second show and we look forward to celebrating with our first tenant."

Albin Moser, president of The Gamm's board of directors, also anticipated the theater's homecoming.

"Thanks to the PAA, we will have a permanent home in Pawtucket and a finer performance space than we've ever had. The delays are understandable, but we really can't wait to get started at the annex. Of course we are deeply grateful to La Salle for providing us with a temporary home. But there's nothing like having your own," Moser 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. NBC 10 is The Gamm's season sponsor.

**About the Pawtucket Armory Association**

A nonprofit corporation, the PAA bought the Pawtucket Armory from the City of Pawtucket for \$1 in December 2002. The 43,000-square-foot castle-like structure was built as a National Guard armory in 1894 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The PAA plans to revitalize the property as The Arts Exchange, making it a sustainable home for arts education and professional arts organizations.