

sandra feinstein-



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THE GAMM'S 2004-2005 LINE-UP PROMISES WIDE-RANGING, ENGAGING THEATER FOR ALL

PAWTUCKET, RI (April 6, 2004) — Tony Estrella, artistic director of The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm), today announces a diverse and compelling 5-play line-up for the organization's 20th anniversary season. Ranging from an adaptation of late 19th century Ibsen to a 2003 Off-Broadway hit, The Gamm's 2004-2005 Season is a wonderful balance of comedies and dramas that promises to delight local theater-goers.

"These are five great plays in five wildly different styles, with one thing in common: They are all capital T Theater, alive, engaging, and thrilling entertainment. Featuring the provocative and intellectually stimulating as well as the hilarious and absurd, oftentimes in the same play, our 20th anniversary season will be, without a doubt, our best yet.

"I'm also very pleased to announce that NBC 10 has agreed to sponsor our season for the second year in a row. We are extremely grateful for their support," Estrella added.

The Gamm's 2004-2005 season

An Enemy of the People

By Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Arthur Miller
Directed by Tony Estrella

September 9 – October 3

From the brilliant blending of Ibsen and Miller, a captivating drama about big business scandal, political corruption and mass apathy. When Dr. Thomas Stockmann exposes pollution that's turning the town's popular mineral baths into a health hazard, the relentless idealist is branded a traitor and troublemaker, rather than a hero. Among the doctor's accusers are the townspeople getting rich from the tourist attraction, his brother the mayor, and even the local media. An unsparing look at the intersection of politics and media, and the 'manufacturing of consent', Ibsen's enduringly relevant 1882 masterpiece serves as a cautionary tale in the run-up to November's presidential election.

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

A play with music by Jim Cartwright
Directed by Judith Swift

November 11 – December 12

Reclusive and painfully shy, a young girl nicknamed LV spends her days and nights in her room listening to her late father's record collection. But when her domineering mother's boyfriend — a sleazy, small-time concert promoter with big dreams— discovers her uncanny talent for mimicking singers like Judy Garland, Billie Holiday and Edith Piaf, Little Voice is unwittingly brought out of her shell. What follows is the exhilarating journey of a girl on the edge of womanhood finding her own true voice. Winner of both Evening Standard and Olivier awards, and inspiration for the 1998 hit film "Little Voice", this combination of showbiz fairytale and celebrity commentary is at once hauntingly poignant and hilarious. Featuring Gamm audience favorites Casey Seymour Kim and Wendy Overly.

Red Noses

By Peter Barnes
Directed by Peter Sampieri

January 26 – February 27

1348. Auxerre, France. Plague ravages Europe and "one-third of Christendom lies under sod." The pope trembles in fear inside a glass-walled chamber in Avignon, while flagellants, lepers and scavengers ravage the countryside. Enter a desperate epileptic monk and his ragtag band of blind jugglers, three-legged dancers, disgraced nuns and others, all on a sacred mission to bring cheap laughs to the suffering masses. Director Peter Sampieri ("The Grapes of Wrath") returns to The Gamm for this exhilarating combination of wicked laughter and heartbreaking beauty. What The Guardian calls "a brilliant play...a tremendous life-affirming piece" is undoubtedly among the most original and daring plays of the modern theater.

Oleanna

By David Mamet

Directed by Judith Swift

March 24 – April 17

A harmless conference between a professor on the verge of tenure and his foundering young female student unexpectedly deteriorates into argument, accusation and even physical violence. Rapid-fire dialogue steeped in conflicting prejudices, motivations and desires sets in motion an unflinching exploration of sexual harassment, political correctness and the potentially perilous limitations of our language. A masterwork by one of America's greatest contemporary playwrights, "Oleanna" is sure to prompt debate, if not easy answers.

"Mamet has raised outrage to an art form." —The Boston Globe

"Mamet's clenched fist to the gut — and intellect." — New York magazine

The Beard of Avon

By Amy Freed

Directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr.

May 19 – June 19

Poor Will 'Shakspere' hates his life in Stratford-on-Avon, not to mention his bossy wife. But this farmer with a gift for rhyming couplets doesn't know what to do instead. Not until a troupe of traveling players comes through town and inspires him to move to London to become an actor, that is. What follows is the beautifully imagined and hilarious answer to a nagging question: Was this loutish, unlettered boy responsible for the greatest works of the English language; or was he merely a beard, or front man, for such luminaries as the Earl of Oxford, Sir Francis Bacon, or even Queen Elizabeth herself? In the spirit of "Shakespeare in Love" and "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", Amy Freed dares to tackle the perennial who-wrote-Shakespeare's-plays debate and succeeds magnificently. The uproarious hit of last year's Off-Broadway season, "The Beard of Avon" promises to delight Shakespeare lovers and phobics alike!

All plays and dates are subject to change.

Subscriptions to The Gamm's 2004-2005 season are \$65-\$105. (Four-play subscriptions are also available.)

Call 401-723-4266 to purchase.

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.

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