

sandra feinstein-



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

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

THE GAMM THEATRE REAPS ABUNDANT SUPPORT FROM "SHAKESPEARE'S GARDEN"

PAWTUCKET, RI (May 31, 2005) —The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) transformed its parking lot, lobby and theater into a garden oasis on Wednesday, May 25, for its most successful fundraising party yet. "**Shakespeare's Garden**," the non-profit organization's third annual event of its kind, netted an impressive **\$47,000** toward the theater's artistic programs.

Nearly 200 guests braved the cold, wet, stormy skies to participate in a celebration of springtime and the birth of Western theater at the group's two-year-old home in a renovated annex of the Pawtucket Armory. Guests, including **Honorary Chair Joseph J. MarcAurele, president and CEO of Citizens Bank of Rhode Island**, sampled an array of wines from around the globe and delicious food prepared by Restaurant Cav. The set for the theater's current production, the New England premiere of *The Beard of Avon*, served as the jumping off point for a series of colorful, whimsical Shakespearean themed gardens (including Juliet's balcony and Ophelia's "drowning pool," among others) created by Gamm Artistic Associate David T. Howard and executed by a group of supportive volunteers. **Donna Jeffrey, project director for the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts**, now under construction at the main armory building, performed on renaissance lute and provided an enchanting backdrop to the evening.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella said he was overwhelmed by the show of support from the theater's loyal subscribers and patrons, as well as the general public.

"Our third annual fundraiser was our best yet, a fitting cap to the best season in our 20 year history," Estrella said. "My heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered their talents and energy, and to our supporters who together made the evening an unforgettable celebration of our tremendous two years in Pawtucket."

"Shakespeare's Garden," underwritten by **Citizens Bank Foundation** with significant support from **Collette Vacations, Rhode Island Monthly** and **Yankee Spirits, Inc.**, included exciting silent and live auctions. Winning bidders left with tickets to see the New England Patriots (\$400); a long weekend in London, including theater tickets (\$1,550); a day on the set of Pawtucket native Michael Corrente's upcoming film "The Prince of Providence" (\$325); a week at Oceancliff mansion hotel in Newport (\$1,050); and an acoustic guitar (\$350), among many other items.

Additional support for the event was provided by **Barrington Printing; East Coast Lighting and Production Services; The Times; Troy, Pires & Allen Insurance; Two Russos Design** and **WBRU**.

Coline Covington, event chair and president of the Gamm board of directors, thanked the corporate sponsors for their support in a time of need.

"The Gamm Theatre is incredibly grateful for the generosity of those sponsors who helped bring 'Shakespeare's Garden' to life," Covington said. "With public funding for the arts at a low point and declining, it is comforting to know that we and similar non-profit organizations can depend on the generosity of local businesses to help us continue to enrich our communities through the arts."

-end-