

sandra feinstein-



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THE GAMM THEATRE TRANSFORMS BRICK AND CEMENT INTO GARDEN OASIS Annual Fundraiser Celebrates Springtime and Shakespeare

PAWTUCKET, RI (May 4, 2005) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) hosts “Shakespeare’s Garden,” its third annual fundraising party, on Wednesday, May 25, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at its home at the Pawtucket Armory, 172 Exchange Street. Honorary Chairpersons Michael Corrente, Gretchen Dow Simpson and Dan Sullivan — artists and community leaders with strong ties to Pawtucket — invite the public to celebrate the company’s upcoming 21st season. Proceeds from the open-air/open-theater wine tasting, silent auction and live auction will help pay for the non-profit’s artistic programs.

In addition to a wide selection of international wines, The Gamm’s third annual fundraiser will feature fabulous food by Restaurant Cav and the enchanting sounds of renaissance lute performed by Donna Jeffrey, TK. An exciting and diverse auction items include Red Sox tickets, dinner at home prepared by the head chef of Gracie’s restaurant, Olympic-style rowing lessons and much more. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$120 per pair. Call 401-723-4266 to purchase.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella said he greatly anticipates opening the theater’s new home to its supporters on this special occasion.

“‘Toast to Twenty’ will undoubtedly be the best bash of the season. But, more than that, it will be an opportunity to thank those who have stuck with The Gamm through all or part of its financial challenges and venue changes over the last two decades,” Estrella said. “We are also extremely grateful to our co-chairpersons who are breaking from their busy lives and careers to lend their support to The Gamm as individuals, artists and community leaders who want to see organizations like ours succeed in Pawtucket.”

“Shakespeare’s Garden” is underwritten Citizens Bank Foundation with support from by 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 film 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 adaptation 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. Through his independent production company, Revere Pictures, Corrente is developing several new projects including *Nailed Right In*, written by Terence Winter; *The Berkeley Connection*, written by Marshall Brickman; and an upcoming 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 proud to have her studio in Pawtucket. She is a member of both the Pawtucket Arts Collaborative and The Art League of Rhode Island. For 25 years, until 1995, 58 of her paintings were used

as covers for *The New Yorker* magazine. 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. (For more information: www.gretchendowsimpson.com)

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. He is also an active supporter of travel and non-profits 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. The fund was developed with the American Red Cross and challenged all travel suppliers to make donations that Collette would match. (For more information: www.collettevacations.com)

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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