

sandra feinstein-



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

*We've, quote, "just talked the night away."
And surely that's a sign, at least to me,
That this—our partnership—was meant to be!
...That's all I really planned to say,
Except to thank you for a fine soiree.
-Valere, David Hirson's *La Bête**

**GAMM THEATRE'S LA GRANDE AFFAIRE LIVES UP TO ITS NAME
Annual Fundraising Party an Unequivocal Success**

PAWTUCKET, RI (May 9, 2006) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) held its most successful fundraising party to date on **Saturday, May 6**, in the drill hall of the historic Pawtucket Armory, refashioned as an elegant café society. "**La Grande Affaire**," the non-profit organization's fourth annual event of its kind, netted an impressive **\$71,000** toward the theater's artistic and educational programs.

Nearly 200 guests, including event co-chairs **Kathy and Brian Swann, and Ranne and Ray Warner**, enjoyed an **elegant and festive French-themed party** in celebration of the theater's record-breaking growth and artistic achievements over three seasons in its Pawtucket home. Party-goers, greeted by a "living statue" gargoyle on the steps of the castle-like armory, walked a red carpet into the vast drill hall which was transformed into an intimate and romantic atmosphere. Among twinkling lights and candlelit café tables, they sipped fine French wines and champagne donated by **Yankee Spirits** and feasted on **gastronomic delights by award-winning CAV** restaurant including vichyssoise, duck confit with pistou, pâtés and more. **Red velvet cake served by Marie Antoinette and cocktails served by her husband, King Louis XVI, capped the experience!**

Manège à Trois, a dazzling guitar, clarinet and accordion trio led by **French-born Providence-based musician Bertrand Laurence**, performed danceable Parisian Musette and Swing Waltzes. Exciting silent and live auctions provided additional entertainment. Winning bidders left with **five nights in a 4-star hotel on the French Riviera**, including airfare and conversational French lessons for two (\$2,300); a **French cooking lesson in your home** with the head chef from CAV (\$280); an overnight stay for two at **Quebec's unique Ice Hotel**, plus dinner at a **four-star Quebec City restaurant** (\$440); a **walk-on role in Disney's *Underdog*** now filming in Providence (\$800); a **year of gourmet desserts** baked by Gamm Artistic Associate Wendy Overly, delivered monthly to your home (\$210)...and so much more.

"**La Grande Affaire** was our most creative and successful fundraiser yet," said **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella**. "The evening not only served as the perfect entree for our last show of this season, **David Hirson's award-winning French farce, *La Bête***. It also provided the momentum and much-needed revenue to make our upcoming 22nd season even better. I can't thank our loyal supporters and sponsors enough for making it all possible."

UBS Financial Services, Inc. was **La Grande Affaire's** presenting sponsor. Additional support came from **East Coast Lighting and Production Services, NBC 10, Focus Business Solutions, Kendrick Design, Troy, Pires & Allen Insurance** and **WBRU**.

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. The Gamm is a member of **New England Area Theatre (NEAT)**, a bargaining unit of the Actors Equity Association.

-end-