

sandra feinstein-



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ART & COMMERCE COLLIDE WITH HILARIOUS RESULTS IN RAUCOUS, RHYMING *LA BÊTE* AT THE GAMM

PAWTUCKET, RI (August 29, 2006) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to open Season 22 with ***Mother Courage and Her Children***, German playwright **Bertolt Brecht's laugh-a-minute, award-winning French farce**. **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella** (*Twelfth Night, An Enemy of the People*) directs a cast of comedic talents including many Gamm audience favorites. The production **runs from May 18 through June 18** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

#### Play Synopsis

*Survival and sacrifice in a world perpetually at war are the timeless themes of Brecht's landmark theatrical epic. In a dazzling display of irony and pathos, with powerful monologues and original musical interludes, this compelling work chronicles the life of an itinerant peddler who depends on war for her personal survival. Selling food and clothing from her covered wagon with the help of her two sons and a mute daughter, Mother Courage profits from the spoils of war. But at what cost? Set in the 17<sup>th</sup> century during Europe's Thirty Years' War, and written on the cusp of WWII, Brecht's masterpiece is surprisingly funny and entertaining and may echo even louder today.*

Hirson's **mock-Moliere, Tony-award nominated** comedy of manners has a thoroughly modern sensibility, including its message about **the push-and-pull between true art and popular entertainment**. Or as Prince Conti puts it, "...mediocrity is bound to thrive. While excellence must struggle to survive!"

**Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella**, who plays the buffoon or "beast" of the title, praised Hirson for taking brave chances rarely seen on the American stage, starting with an entire script composed in rhymed verse.

"Hirson's ***La Bête*** has a profound intelligence that matches its comedic ambitions. It would be enough that the play generates as much comedic energy as it does. But beyond that, Hirson gives us a huge brain and a mighty heart," Estrella said. "This is the funniest play I have had the privilege of working on in my ten years as a professional actor. It also happens to be one of the smartest."

The Providence Journal is media sponsor for ***Mother Courage and Her Children***. Additional support comes from **WBRU**. **NBC10** is The Gamm's season sponsor.

#### 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.

### ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION OF *MOTHER COURAGE*

By **Bertolt Brecht**  
Directed by **Tony Estrella**

Set Design by **Patrick Lynch**  
Costume Design by **David T. Howard**

Lighting Design by **Matt Terry**  
Original Musical Composition by **Charles Cofone**  
Stage Management by **Stef Work**<sup>1</sup>

Assistant Director, **Jillian Blevins**; Technical Direction, **Andrew Morissette**; Wardrobe Coordinator, **Elizabeth Gotauco**;  
Stage Manager, **Stef Work**; Props Master, **Jay Berger**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**.

<b>Wendy Overly</b> <sup>1</sup>	Mother Courage
<b>Casey Seymour Kim</b>	Kattrin
<b>Steve Kidd</b>	Eilif
<b>Ben Johnson</b>	Swiss Cheese
<b>Jim O'Brien</b> <sup>1</sup>	Cook
<b>Chris Byrnes</b> <sup>1</sup>	Chaplain
<b>Rae Mancini</b>	Yvette Pottier/Peasant Wife
<b>Gary Lait Cummings</b>	Recruiting Officer/Man with Patch/Yvette's Servant/Soldier
<b>Tom Gleadow</b>	Sergeant/Soldier in Fur Coat/Lieutenant
<b>Sam Babbitt</b>	Commander-in-Chief/Old Colonel/Farmer
<b>David Rabinow</b>	Armorer/Young Soldier
<b>Paul Scharf</b>	Old Soldier/Soldier
<b>Karen Carpenter</b>	Regimental Clerk/Young Man/Peasant girl
<b>Elizabeth Gotauco</b>	Farmer's Wife/Old Woman/Song
<b>Paul Scharf, David Rabinow &amp; Elizabeth Gotauco</b>	Musicians

<sup>1</sup>The actor or stage manager appears through courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

### May

Thursday, May 18, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, May 19, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 21, preview performance at 7 p.m.

**Monday, May 22, press performance at 7 p.m.**

Thursday, May 25, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, May 26, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 27, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 28, regular performance at 2 p.m.\*

### June

Thursday, June 1, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, June 2, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 3, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 4, regular performance at 2 p.m.

Sunday, June 4, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 8, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, June 9, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 10, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 11, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 14, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, June 16, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 17, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 18, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

\*Performance followed by **Shared Sundays** discussion with artists and scholars. Show attendance not required. Free for all.

**Tickets \$23 & \$26, all previews (May 18-22) ONLY \$16!** Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For single ticket sales, call **401-723-4266**. Or purchase tickets at **www.arttixri.com**. More information at **www.gammtheatre.org**.

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