

sandra feinstein-



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WIT AND WISDOM COLLIDE IN WEIGHTY *TOP GIRLS* AT THE GAMM

PAWTUCKET, RI (March 3, 2006) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to present *Top Girls*, a **boldly entertaining, award-winning play** by British author **Caryl Churchill**. Gamm Artistic Associate **Wendy Overly** (Maria in *Twelfth Night*, Mari Hoff in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*) directs an ensemble of seven actors in a cautionary tale of gender, economics and society that **charms, challenges and chills at every turn**. *Top Girls* runs from **March 23 through April 23** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

#### Play Synopsis

*Act 1: A surreal dinner party for five mythical and literary women of the past — hosted by Marlene, the newly promoted head of London's Top Girls employment agency — sets in motion a fascinating examination of the perennial question, "Can women have it all?" Act 2: Back to reality, Churchill takes on both work place and home front with unflinching honesty and compassion. Complex themes of success and sacrifice, career and contentment, and capitalism and feminism collide with razor-sharp wit in this provocative, poignant piece. Winner of the 1982-1983 Obie Award for playwriting, "Top Girls" has earned its place among the new classics of the contemporary theater.*

"Quite simply, Caryl Churchill is a giant of the modern theater. She is among the two or three greatest living playwrights, and it is a distinct privilege to produce her work at The Gamm for the first time," said Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella.

"*Top Girls*, now just over 20 years old, is still the most ferocious and complex play I know of dealing with the unique sacrifices of women in the contemporary workplace. That it does so without a hint of romanticism or sentimentality is a testament to Churchill's lasting contribution to our form," he added. "A generation later, *Top Girls* continues to assault, unnerve and ennoble."

*Top Girls* is underwritten by the **Citizens Bank Foundation**. Additional support comes from **Rhode Island PBS** and **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 *TOP GIRLS*

By Caryl Churchill  
Directed by Wendy Overly

Set Design by Jessica Hill  
Costume Design by David T. Howard  
Lighting Design by Matt Terry  
Stage Management by Stef Work<sup>1</sup>

Assistant Director, Jimmy Calitri; Assistant Stage Managers, Elizabeth Gotauco and Adrienne Johnson;  
Dramaturge, Jennifer Madden; Props Master, Jonna Klaiber

Pope Joan/Win	Karen Carpenter
Dull Gret/Louise/Mrs. Kidd	Tray Gearing
Marlene	Jeanine Kane <sup>1</sup>
Lady Nijo/Angie	Casey Seymour Kim
Waitress/Kit/Shona	Jillian Blevins
Isabella Bird/Joyce	Rae Mancini
Patient Griselda/Nell/Jeanine	Nehassaiu deGannes <sup>1</sup>

<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

### March

Thursday, March 23, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 24, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 25, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, preview performance at 7 p.m.

**Monday, March 27, press performance at 7 p.m.**

Thursday, March 30, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 31, regular performance at 8 p.m.

### April

Saturday, April 1, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 2, matinee performance at 2 p.m.\*

Sunday, April 2, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 6, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, April 7, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 9, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, April 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 16, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, April 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 22, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 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 (Mar. 23-27) 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](http://www.arttixri.com). More information at [www.gammtheatre.org](http://www.gammtheatre.org).

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