

sandra feinstein-



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### WASHINGTON AND ART CONVERGE IN PAWTUCKET AT THE GAMM

PAWTUCKET, RI (March 31, 2006) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) is pleased to present a staged reading of *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom* by Victoria Brittain and Gillian Slovo on **Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m.** The documentary style play, **based on the spoken and written testimony of Guantanamo detainees, family members, lawyers and public officials**, looks at the damage done to Western democratic values during the "war on terror". This event is **open to the public at no charge**.

**The Gamm's presentation falls on the heels of a planned April 6 reading by the Center for Constitutional Rights before members of Congress on Capitol Hill.** The play is meant to bring attention to the plight of detainees in Guantanamo, especially the nine British residents being held indefinitely and without trial. **The British Parliament was the site of an earlier reading in February**, when audience members included parliamentarians, lawyers and human rights organizations. **Ben Brantley of *The New York Times*** described a 2004 presentation of the play by New York City's Culture Project as **"deeply moving."**

**Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella** said he is thrilled to provide a venue for citizens to engage in current events and critical thinking through the arts.

"A public reading of this intense and amazing piece of documentary theater is the least we can do as a progressive arts organization about a human rights issue which, to our everlasting shame, remains largely ignored by our 'freedom-loving' society. What is being done in the name of every U.S. citizen is an absolute disgrace," he said, adding, "Thanks to Gillian Slovo, Victoria Brittain and the few released detainees who have had the courage to fight back and help awaken our apathy."

The Gamm's presentation of *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom* is the second in a series called **Straight Talk**—a program of the newly created **Pawtucket Humanities Forum**, supported by a grant from the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH)**. These staged readings of theatrical documentaries dealing with up-to-the-minute, hot-button political issues, support the theater's mission to present **topical theater with a social conscience, encouraging public discourse in the community**. The plays, created from documentary records, approach their themes and subject matter from a factual point of view.

*Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom* will take place at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket. An interactive discussion will follow, moderated by **Dr. Maureen Moakley, URI Political Science Chair**. **Special guest: Ugandan playwright, director and actor Charles Mulekwa.**

**To reserve a maximum of two tickets, call The Gamm at 401-723-4266 or email [tom@gammtheatre.org](mailto:tom@gammtheatre.org).**

#### **About Dr. Maureen Moakley**

Professor Moakley chairs the political science department at the University of Rhode Island, where she has taught since 1992, specializing in state politics, political parties, and women and politics. She received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in 1984. Moakley taught at Rutgers University, where she was a faculty associate at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, and at Connecticut College. Her publications include *Party Realignment in the American States*, *Political Life of the American States* and *Rhode Island Politics and Government*. Moakley is director of the John Hazen White Sr. Center for Ethics and Public Service at URI.

#### **About Charles Mulekwa**

Mulekwa was born in Mbale, Uganda in 1966 and has been writing, directing and acting in the Ugandan theater since 1983. In 1994, he attended the Royal Court International Residency. Mulekwa has spoken about Ugandan theater on

BBC radio, at the Universities of Bayreuth and Hamburg, Germany; and at Cambridge University, England. In addition to stage and radio plays, he has written poetry and short stories. In 1999, on scholarship from the British Council and the Peggy Ramsay Foundation, Mulekwa graduated with a master's degree in playwriting from the University of Birmingham, England. He was also a writer in residency at the Royal National Theatre Studio. That same year, he served as chief judge for the BBC African performance season for radio drama; and was commissioned by the Royal Court Theatre, London, to write his play *The Black Diamond*. Mulekwa has been an advisory member of the Iowa International Writing program since 2004. He is currently a graduate student at Brown University.

#### **About Rhode Island Council for the Humanities**

The **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** is an independent state affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. Its mission is to inspire and support intellectual curiosity and imagination in all Rhode Islanders through lifelong learning in the humanities.

#### **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.

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