

sandra feinstein-



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

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

## THE GAMM AND RICH TEAM UP TO PROMOTE INTERACTIVE THEATER FOR THE PUBLIC

PAWTUCKET, RI (January 30, 2006) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) is pleased to expand its offerings of free-to-the-public programming with the creation of the **Pawtucket Humanities Forum**, supported by a grant from the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH)**. A **new series of staged readings of theatrical documentaries** called ***Straight Talk*** combined with The Gamm's ongoing **post-show discussions of regularly scheduled plays**, known as ***Shared Sundays***, support the theater's mission to present topical theater with a social conscience, encouraging public discourse in the community. All events take place at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI and are **open to the public at no charge**.

### STRAIGHT TALK: MAKING THE POLITICAL PERSONAL

Staged readings of plays dealing with up-to-the-minute, hot-button political issues will be followed by interactive panel discussions moderated by **Dr. Maureen Moakley, Political Science Chair, University of Rhode Island**. The plays, created from documentary records, approach their themes and subject matter from a factual point of view.

#### **Mon., Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. "The Monkey Trial Part Two: Education under Fire"**

***Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee**

Based on the famous Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925, a scorching examination of the battle between fact and fiction, science and superstition. Trinity Rep actors **William Damkoehler** and **Fred Sullivan, Jr.**, join Gamm actors **Sam Babbitt, Normand Beauregard, Chris Byrnes, Richard Donelly, Tony Estrella, David Howard, Jeanine Kane, Steve Kidd, Casey Seymour Kim, Mark McClure, Jim O'Brien** and **Wendy Overly** on stage. Special guest: to be announced.

#### **Mon., April 10 at 7 p.m. "Caught in the Middle: Fighting Terror through Art"**

***Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom* by Victoria Brittain and Gillian Slovo**

Based on the spoken and written testimony of Guantanamo detainees, family members, lawyers and public officials, a look at the damage done to Western democratic values during the "war on terror". Special guest: **Ugandan playwright, director and actor Charles Mulekwa**.

#### **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.

**Reservations for *Straight Talk* are required, as seating is limited. Please call 401-723-4266 to reserve a maximum of two seats. Or email Tom DiMaggio at [tom@gammtheatre.org](mailto:tom@gammtheatre.org).**

#### **SHARED SUNDAYS**

Post-show discussions with artists, scholars and special guests will follow these matinee performances of this season's regularly scheduled plays. **Gamm Dramaturge Jennifer Madden\*** will serve as moderator.

- **Sun., Feb. 5 at approx. 3:45 p.m. *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh**  
"A Family Affair: the Dramatic Formula for Violence"  
Special guest: **Judith Swift, professor of theater and communications studies, and interim vice provost for academic affairs, University of Rhode Island; and director, *The Lonesome West*.**
- **Sun., Apr. 2 at approx. 3:45 p.m. *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill**  
"Who's on Top? Feminism and Capitalism in a Man's World"  
Special guest: **Clare Eckert, vice president of advertising and promotions, NBC 10.**
- **Sun., May 28 at approx. 4 p.m. *La Bête* by David Hirson**  
"For Love and Money: Art, Commerce and the Business of Theater"  
Special guest: to be announced.

\***Jennifer Madden** is a Ph.D. candidate at Brown University in the department of theatre, speech and dance. She is an adjunct faculty member at Wheaton College, where she teaches various courses in theater arts.

**Reservations and show attendance for Shared Sundays are NOT required.**

#### **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.

-end-