

sandra feinstein-



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GAMM'S 2006-2007 SEASON TAKES AUDIENCES OUT IN THE WORLD AND BACK HOME AGAIN

PAWTUCKET, RI (March 2, 2006) — Tony Estrella, artistic director of The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm), today announced a 2006-2007 season, crossing borders, cultures, genres and themes. An **epic drama**; a pair of **comic monologues**; **four miniature masterpieces of the contemporary theater** in a single sitting; a riveting **docu-drama**; and a **world premiere commission** make for a unique and entertaining theatrical experience for all.

"We will be looking at stories that tackle **big themes, ideas and emotions both out in the world at large and at home in New England**," Estrella said. "Our audiences have come to expect **hard-hitting, engaging and entertaining** theater from The Gamm. And I'm happy to say that **Season 22 will be no exception**."

Estrella said he is "grateful for a public that has encouraged us to take artistic risks," adding, "Our growing base of loyal subscribers, in particular, has allowed us to do just that."

Estrella also thanked **NBC 10, The Gamm's season sponsor**, for its "ongoing and immeasurable support, now four years running."

The season **opens in mid-September** with **Bertolt Brecht's** landmark theatrical epic of war and peace, ***Mother Courage and Her Children***—a truly monumental play of the last century that reverberates today.

The SantaLand Diaries and ***Season's Greetings***—two side-splitting monologues by humorist **David Sedaris** of **National Public Radio fame**—make for a hilarious treat during the holiday months.

Enhanced Interrogation Techniques!, composed of four one-acts by three greats of the modern theater, examines the hot-button subject of interrogation under an umbrella title. The plays run the gamut from hilarious to surreal, including ***A Hand Witch of the Second Stage*** by **Red Noses** author **Peter Barnes**, to ***One for the Road*** and ***Press Conference*** by **2005 Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter** and **Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe***.

Sin: A Cardinal Deposed, an unflinching and unforgettable docu-drama about the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal, brings Gamm audiences back home. Set in Boston, **Michael Murphy's** work employs the candid language of court documents to shed light on a complex and controversial subject. Tying up the season is ***Radio Free Emerson***, in which a young man returns to Rhode Island to take over the family radio station. **Written for The Gamm** by Brown University grad **Paul Grellong**, now a writer for the hit TV series ***Law and Order: Special Victims Unit***, this is a truly homegrown piece of theater.

Subscriptions to The Gamm's 2006-2007 Season are **\$85-\$130**. **Early-bird subscribers save 12% through April 30**. For information and sales, call **401-723-4266**.

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.

The Gamm Theatre's 2006-2007 Season*

***Mother Courage and Her Children* a play with music by Bertolt Brecht**

Sep. 14 – Oct. 22, 2006

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 17th 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.**

The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings

Nov. 24 – Dec. 24, 2006

by David Sedaris, adapted by Joe Mantello

From award-winning humorist, playwright and **National Public Radio commentator David Sedaris** (*Me Talk Pretty One Day, Naked*), a pair of comic monologues bursting with unconventional holiday humor, adapted from the author's best-selling ***Holidays on Ice***. A young man arrives in New York with dreams of being a writer for *One Life to Live* and instead lands a part-time job as a Macy's Christmas elf named Crumpet. From humiliating interview to elf indoctrination to scrapes with miscast Santas and obnoxious customers, the author's real-life experiences, detailed in ***The SantaLand Diaries***, are merrily subversive and fall-on-your-knees funny! In ***Season's Greetings***, a determinedly sunny Mrs. Jocelyn Dunbar takes pen to paper recounting the joys, the jobs, and the unexpected surprises of the past year — including the arrival of her husband's illegitimate, gold-digging, Vietnamese daughter on the doorstep. Twisted, tragic and hilarious in its lurid revelations, ***Season's Greetings*** is an antidote to the chipper holiday newsletter of yore.

ENHANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES!

Jan 25– Feb 25, 2007

4 ONE-ACTS BY 3 GREATS OF THE MODERN THEATER

***A Hand Witch of the Second Stage* by Peter Barnes**

An innocent woman accused of witchcraft and slated for execution in Medieval France turns the tables on her inquisitors in an unexpected and hilarious plot twist. This 30-minute feast of the absurd by the author of *The Ruling Class* and *Red Noses* is a **penetrating commentary on faith as a weapon and also a liberator.**

***One for the Road & Press Conference* by Harold Pinter**

Two plays by **2005 Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter** (*The Birthday Party, The Caretaker, Ashes to Ashes*) merge into an unforgettable hour of theater. In an unnamed police state a government official named Nicolas brutally interrogates a political dissident and his family, invoking God and country to justify his actions. Mesmerizing, devastating, and brilliantly controlled, ***One for the Road*** is a miniature masterpiece. In ***Press Conference*** the minister of culture fields the media's questions, revealing his disdain for public dissent and desire for approval in the process. A short shock of a play that will haunt you long after you've left the theater.

***Catastrophe* by Samuel Beckett**

An overbearing director and his agreeable assistant painstakingly arrange an elderly actor, who stands on a pedestal submitting to their direction. An allegory of totalitarianism and the struggle to oppose it, this 10-minute piece is **engrossing, troubling and, ultimately, triumphant.**

***Sin: A Cardinal Deposed* by Michael Murphy**

Mar 22 – Apr 22, 2007

An **unflinching docu-drama** stitching together the words and characters of the Catholic clergy sex abuse crisis in Boston and beyond. **Composed entirely of testimony taken from the depositions of Church leader Cardinal Bernard F. Law** and the archdiocese's files, this searing and emotional work sheds new light on an extraordinary case that still ricochets in today's headlines.

***Radio Free Emerson* by Paul Grellong**

World Premiere

May 17- Jun 17, 2007

A young man returns to **Rhode Island** to take the reins of his family's radio station following a solitary stint in Maine. Armed with his rising star power as a talk show host and a dubious understanding of American transcendentalist philosophy, he dispenses self-serving self-help over the airwaves to the lovelorn, depressed and needy of his home state. The Gamm Theatre's **first-ever commission**—written by Brown University graduate **Paul Grellong** (staff writer for the hit TV series *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*) and inspired by Henrik Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*—***Radio Free Emerson*** is a raw, funny and complex examination of the naked truth and its consequences.

**Plays and dates are subject to change.*