

sandra feinstein-



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GAMM TAKES AUDIENCES ON MESMERIZING TWO-HOUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE MODERN THEATER
Enhanced Interrogation Techniques: Four One-acts by Pinter, Beckett and Barnes

PAWTUCKET, RI (January 8, 2007) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) is pleased to present a **one-of-a-kind theatrical experience** featuring the **hilarious, disturbing and inspirational** works of three greats of the modern theater. The **four one-act plays**, produced as a **single show** under the umbrella title ***Enhanced Interrogation Techniques***, deal with **human rights and torture** from different angles. They include: ***A Hand Witch of the Second Stage*** by **award-winning playwright Peter Barnes**; ***One for the Road*** and ***Press Conference*** by **2005 Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter**; and ***Catastrophe*** by **theater of the absurd pioneer Samuel Beckett**. ***Enhanced Interrogation Techniques*** runs from **January 25 through February 25** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

Gamm Resident Director Peter Sampieri (*Crime and Punishment, Red Noses*) directs ***A Hand Witch of the Second Stage***—Barnes' darkly humorous take on the absurdities of the medieval Inquisition. **Gamm Resident Director Fred Sullivan, Jr.** (*Barrymore, The Crucible, La Bête*) pairs Pinter's ***One for the Road*** and ***Press Conference*** in which a western political operative and a government official collude to justify false imprisonment and torture as a safeguard of democracy. Sullivan also directs Beckett's allegorical ***Catastrophe*** dedicated to Vaclav Havel, the dissident Czech playwright and first president of the new republic.

The collection of one-acts comprising ***Enhanced Interrogation Techniques*** is in keeping with **The Gamm's mission to produce work with social and political relevance, as well as great dramatic value**, said **Artistic Director Tony Estrella**.

"We are privileged to be producing the work of three theatrical geniuses including two Nobel winners, Pinter and Beckett; and Peter Barnes, the author of one of our very best past productions, *Red Noses*," Estrella said. "These plays form a production that is at once absurd, hilarious, shocking, brutal, socially resonant and beautifully hopeful. What more could we want from the theater?"

The Gamm is especially grateful to play sponsors **Amnesty International** and **The Times** for their support, Estrella added.

Cynthia Gabriel, membership program coordinator for Amnesty International's Northeast Regional Office, said she believes the arts can be an important tool in illuminating fundamental human rights issues.

"Torture is a violation of international human rights law. Those who torture and those who allow torture defile all possibilities for a world in which justice can prevail," Gabriel said. "As the world's leading grassroots advocacy organization, our mission is to mobilize people to become informed and take action. The Gamm Theatre's production of ***Enhanced Interrogation Techniques*** provides exposure to some of the issues surrounding torture and why we can not tolerate such acts."

Richard Blockson, general manager for The Times of Pawtucket, said he is pleased to sponsor a Gamm production for a fourth year in a row.

"The Gamm Theatre has proven an indisputable asset to the Pawtucket community in particular and the region at large," Blockson said. "Its productions are not only tremendously entertaining but timely, tackling issues that are the stuff of newspaper headlines. The Times is pleased to support this gem in our midst."

NBC 10 is The Gamm's season sponsor. Additional support comes from **WBRU**.

Play Synopses

***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.**

About The Gamm Theatre

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 ENHANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES **4 One-acts by 3 Greats of the Modern Theater in a Single Show**

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

directed by **Peter Sampieri**¹

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

directed by **Fred Sullivan, Jr.**

***Catastrophe* by Samuel Beckett**

directed by **Fred Sullivan, Jr.**

Set Design & Technical Direction by **Bill Wieters**

Lighting Design by **Richard Van Voris**

Sound Design by **Kerry Callery**

Stage Management by **Stef Work**¹

Assistant Technical Direction, **Andrew Morissette**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Marc Mancini**; Props Master, **Jay Berger**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Production Assistant, **Valerie Westgate**; Wardrobe Assistant, **Jen Bennett**

CAST

Sam Babbitt Minister of Culture (*Press Conference*)/Protagonist (*Catastrophe*)

Karen Carpenter Gila (*One for the Road*)/Reporter (*Press Conference*)

Tony Estrella ²	Nicolas (<i>One for the Road</i>)/Reporter (<i>Press Conference</i>)/Director (<i>Catastrophe</i>)
Ben Johnson	Henri Mondor (<i>A Hand Witch of the Second Stage</i>)/Soldier (<i>One for the Road & Press Conference</i>)
Jim O'Brien ²	Father Nerval (<i>A Hand Witch of the Second Stage</i>)/Reporter (<i>Press Conference</i>)/ Victor (<i>One for the Road</i>)/Luke (<i>Catastrophe</i>)
David Rabinow	Claude Delmas (<i>A Hand Witch of the Second Stage</i>)/ Soldier (<i>One for the Road & Press Conference</i>)
Casey Seymour Kim ²	Marie Blin (<i>A Hand Witch of the Second Stage</i>)/Reporter (<i>Press Conference</i>)/ Assistant (<i>Catastrophe</i>)
Damien Beecroft	Nicky (<i>One for the Road</i>)
John McGowan	Nicky (<i>One for the Road</i>)

¹The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

²The 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

January

Thursday, Jan. 25, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 26, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 27, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 28, preview performance at 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 29, press performance at 7 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 31, regular performance at 7 p.m.

February

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

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

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

Sunday, Feb. 4, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*

Wed., Feb. 7, regular performance at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Feb. 11, regular performance at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Feb. 18, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 21, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 25, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 25, regular performance at 7 p.m.

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

Tickets \$19-\$31, all previews (Jan. 25-29) ONLY \$19. 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.