

sandra feinstein-



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**GAMM OPENS SEASON 22 WITH BRECHT'S DAZZLING
MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN:
"An Epic Vaudevillian Anti-War Tragi-Musical Comedy"**

PAWTUCKET, RI (August 30, 2006) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to open **Season 22** with ***Mother Courage and Her Children***, German playwright **Bertolt Brecht's seminal and seldom-staged masterpiece of survival and sacrifice in a world perpetually at war**. Gamm Artistic Director **Tony Estrella** directs a cast of strong performers playing powerful characters, including **Wendy Overly** (Queen Elizabeth in *The Beard of Avon*, Mari Hoff in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*) in the title role. ***Mother Courage and Her Children*** runs from **September 14 through October 22** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

Play Synopsis

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 war that is killing her children. 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.

A medic during World War I, Brecht penned his anti-war epic while in exile from Germany, as the Nazis rolled through Poland. In **David Hare's translation**, the play's prescient lessons—conveyed through a mix of drama, music and gallows humor—are all-too-relevant today.

"The world of the play is, unfortunately, ours," Estrella said. "War doesn't break out in Brecht's play. Peace does. It seems odd until we pick up today's newspaper and read the headline, which seems like the same headline as yesterday's and the day before that.

"Paradoxically, Brecht's war epic is also a masterpiece of optimism. It posits that we can change; that human beings, for all our absurdities and baser motives, can match instinct to action and actually choose to change course," he added.

"Brecht's epic theater techniques forever changed the direction of Western theater. And generations of audiences continue to be entertained and transformed by this **'epic vaudevillian anti-war tragi-musical comedy,'**" Estrella said, noting that a current production of the play in Central Park (with Meryl Streep as Mother Courage) reinforces its enduring mass appeal.

The Providence Journal is media partner for ***Mother Courage and Her Children***. **NBC10** is The Gamm's season sponsor. Additional support comes from **WBRU**.

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 THIS PRODUCTION OF *MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN*

By **Bertolt Brecht**, translated by **David Hare**
Directed by **Tony Estrella**

Set Design by **Patrick Lynch**
Costume Design by **David T. Howard**
Lighting Design by **Matt Terry**
Original Musical Composition by **Charles Cofone**
Stage Management by **Stef Work**¹

Assistant Director, **Jillian Blevins**; Technical Direction, **Andrew Morissette**; Wardrobe Coordinator, **Elizabeth Gotauco**; Stage Manager, **Stef Work**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Katie Hughes**; Props Master, **Jay Berger**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**.

CAST

Wendy Overly ¹	Mother Courage
Casey Seymour Kim	Katrin
Steve Kidd	Eilif
Ben Johnson	Swiss Cheese
Jim O'Brien ¹	Cook
Chris Byrnes ¹	Chaplain
Rae Mancini	Yvette Pottier/Peasant Wife
Gary Lait Cummings	Recruiting Officer/Man with Patch/Yvette's Servant/Soldier
Tom Gleadow	Sergeant/Soldier in Fur Coat/Lieutenant
Sam Babbitt	Commander-in-Chief/Old Colonel/Farmer
David Rabinow	Armorer/Young Soldier
Paul Scharf	Old Soldier/Soldier
Karen Carpenter	Regimental Clerk/Young Man/Peasant girl
Elizabeth Gotauco	Farmer's Wife/Old Woman/Song
Paul Scharf/David Rabinow/Elizabeth Gotauco	Musicians

¹The 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

September

Thursday, Sep. 14, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Sep. 15, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sep. 16, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Sep. 17, preview performance at 7 p.m.
Monday, Sep. 18, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Sep. 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Sep. 22, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sep. 23, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Sep. 24, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, Sep. 24, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Sep. 27, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Sep. 28, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Sep. 29, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sep. 30, regular performance at 8 p.m.

October

Sunday, Oct. 1, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 1, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 7, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 8, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 8, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 15, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 22, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 22, regular performance at 7 p.m.

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

Tickets \$26 & \$31, all previews (Sep 14-18) 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.artixri.com**. More information at **www.gammtheatre.org**.