

sandra feinstein-



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THE GAMM ANNOUNCES STIRRING NEW STRAIGHT TALKS FOR 2007

PAWTUCKET, RI (January 29, 2007) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) is pleased to present two new ***Straight Talks***, a program of the **Pawtucket Humanities Forums** supported by a grant from the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH)**. These **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 at the University of Rhode Island**. ***Straight Talk*** supports The Gamm's mission to present timely 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**.

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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 at 7 PM

**A staged reading of *THE FEVER*
by Wallace Shawn, directed by Peter Sampieri**

*From a master of the contemporary 'morality play,' (including Aunt Dan & Lemon & The Designated Mourner) comes this **captivating monologue**. An anonymous narrator (**Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella**) wakes up in a nameless third-world country with a terrible fever. There for a political execution, he tries but is unable to reconcile his privileged upbringing with his current surroundings. As his self perception implodes, he grapples with his own complicity in the most brutal acts of our time.*

Straight Talk: "What is to be Done? The Moral Dilemma of Living in the First World" Does our every action cause a reaction? Does everything—from the coffee we drink to the clothing we wear—adversely affect someone else? Or are such questions simply a manifestation of counterproductive 'liberal guilt'? **Guest Respondent Professor David Estlund has been teaching moral and political philosophy at Brown University since 1991.** His research interests include social and political philosophy with a focus on liberalism and democracy. Estlund helps the audience wrestle with the moral implications and ethical dimensions of living in the wealthiest country in the world, and our limited ability to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

MONDAY, APRIL 16 at 7 PM

**A staged reading of *VIA DOLOROSA*
by David Hare**

*In 1997 British Playwright **David Hare** (*Plenty, Stuff Happens*) spent part of his 50th-birthday year traveling through Palestine and Israel (also celebrating its 50th year as an independent state). Living and talking with Arabs and Jews, Hare sought a **deeper understanding of the ongoing animosity and hostilities that relentlessly plague the region**. This searing work is **part travelogue, part tirade, part clarion call for understanding in the chaos of daily life in the Middle East**. "*Via Dolorosa*" is a **revelatory, relevant and indispensable work of dramatic reportage** from a true giant of the contemporary theater.*

Straight Talk: Walking the Via Dolorosa: Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

“Must our lives in the West necessarily be shallower than those of people for whom the stakes are so much higher?” asks David Hare in his intimate examination of the role of the West in the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. This discussion is a chance to hear **Israeli and Palestinian scholars discuss their personal knowledge and opinions**, while detailing the historical foundations of the conflict. **Guest Respondent Elliott Colla is Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown University. Guest Respondent Naomi Mandel is Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Rhode Island and author of *Against the Unspeakable: Complicity, the Holocaust, and Slavery in America*.** Mandel grew up in the context of Israel’s combative political climate, the war in Lebanon, and the Intifada, spurring her intellectual interests in international politics, community identity, mourning, trauma, violence and war.



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Shared Sundays is a program of the **Pawtucket Humanities Forums**, made possible through major funding support from the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities**, an independent state affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the

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. Moakley is director of the John Hazen White Sr. Center for Ethics and Public Service at URI.

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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