

sandra feinstein-



theatre

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**RUSSELL LEES' *NIXON'S NIXON* AT THE GAMM THEATRE
Lots of Laughter Amid Serious Speculation**

PAWTUCKET, RI (October 8, 2007) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to present ***Nixon's Nixon*, Russell Lees' tragically funny fact-based fiction surrounding the fall of President Richard Nixon. Gamm Resident Director Judith Swift** (*Sin: A Cardinal Deposed, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*) directs **Gamm Resident Actors Jim O'Brien** as Nixon and **Christopher Francis Byrnes** as Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in an animated, imagined exchange between the power-hungry pair on the eve of Nixon's resignation. ***Nixon's Nixon*** runs from **October 25 through November 18** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. **Tickets \$20-\$34, all previews (Oct. 25-29) ONLY \$20.** Tickets at **401-723-4266** or **artixri.com**.

Play Synopsis

It's a historical fact that, on the night before he announced his resignation, President Richard Nixon summoned Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to the White House. What *might* have transpired between these two larger-than-life characters is the subject of Lees' **tragically funny political satire** about that secret meeting on August 7, 1974. Paranoid and on the verge of hysteria, Nixon knows he must resign but wants to be talked out of it. Steely and rational, Kissinger does not want to lose his position as Secretary of State. Both men's egos are out of control. As the liquor flows, they wrestle with history, re-enact scenes of their political triumphs and eventually devise a dizzying and doomed plot to keep Nixon in office. With **dramatic skill** and **rich subtext**, Lees creates a **captivating, quick-witted play** "about the very human and personal struggles involved in relinquishing great power and coming to terms with one's legacy."

"...blissfully funny ... both a serious work of the imagination and a fully realized political satire of the sort that the American theater seldom sees." —*New York Times* (1996)

"This vision of the country's leaders...may strike...an eerily contemporary note." —*New York Times* (2006)

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella said he chose Lees' play, which has enjoyed recent revivals across the country, because of its clear relevancy for today's audience remarking, "**A lame-duck president, desperately assessing a broken administration, disastrous foreign policy and withering domestic scandal. Hmmm. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?**"

Nixon's Nixon is co-sponsored by **BankRI** and **The Times**. **NBC10** is The Gamm's season sponsor. Additional support comes from **WBRU**.

"We believe so firmly in supporting the arts and cultural community that we have made it part of our business agenda to seek out opportunities to help creative venues such as The Gamm Theatre thrive," said **Jim DeRentis, chief business officer of Bank Rhode Island** (BankRI). "As BankRI enters the Pawtucket community with a new branch and becomes part of the city's tapestry, we see great intrinsic value in supporting this established and respected theater. It is BankRI's pleasure to co-sponsor The Gamm Theatre's upcoming production of *Nixon's Nixon* as the sponsorship is a natural extension of our commitment to stimulating the creative economy and being good neighbors."

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 *NIXON'S NIXON*

By **Russell Lees**
Directed by **Judith Swift**

Set Design by **Katryne Hecht**
Costume Design by **Marilyn Salvatore**
Lighting Design by **Matt Terry**
Sound/Music Direction by **Charles Cofone**
Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**
Stage Management by **Stef Work***

Dialect Coach, **Wendy Overly**; Props Master, **Marc Dante Mancini**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Mark McClure**; Production Assistant, **Rachel Pontbriand**

CAST

Jim O'Brien*.....President Richard Nixon
Christopher Francis Byrnes*.....Secretary of State Henry Kissinger

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

October

Thursday, Oct. 25, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 26, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 27, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28, preview performance at 7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 31, regular performance at 7 p.m.

November

Thursday, Nov. 1, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 2, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 4, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 8, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 9, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 10, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 11, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 11, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 14, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 16, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 17, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 18, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 18, regular performance at 7 p.m.

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

Tickets \$20-\$34, all previews (Oct. 25-29) ONLY \$20. 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**