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THE GAMM THEATRE PRESENTS RHODE ISLAND PREMIERE OF *THE PILLOWMAN*

PAWTUCKET, RI (January 2, 2008) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) presents the **Rhode Island premiere of Martin McDonagh's enthralling and edgy hit play *The Pillowman***. Gamm Resident Director **Peter Sampieri** (*Radio Free Emerson, Crime and Punishment*) directs this **award-winning rollercoaster of a play**, featuring **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella, Gamm Resident Actors Steve Kidd and Christopher Francis Byrnes** and, for the first time on the Gamm stage, **David Catanzaro** (US Attorney Ellis Franklin in Showtime's "Brotherhood"). ***The Pillowman*** runs from **January 24 through February 24** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

Play Synopsis

From award-winning Anglo-Irish playwright **Martin McDonagh**, a **viciously funny** and **seriously disturbing** tale in which humor and pathos take center stage. In an unidentified totalitarian state, Katurian—a butcher by day, a writer of haunting fairy tales by night—faces a pair of interrogators from the local police force. It is his stories that have landed Katurian in prison, since the grisly child-murders they describe have inspired a string of copycat crimes. As the police resort to increasingly absurd and unconventional methods to crack the case, Katurian's stories come to life, blurring the line between fact and fiction, truth and storytelling. **With dark humor and captivating narrative, McDonagh explores the dark corners of the human imagination and the delicate balance between individual freedom and security of the state.**

"A spellbinding stunner...the laughs trail into gulps and gasps...for all its darkness of plot and imagery, *The Pillowman* dazzles."—*New York Times*

"Dense, disturbing and wickedly funny...this makes Wes Craven look like Mother Goose." —*Daily News*

The Pillowman played to critical acclaim in London (**2004-05 Olivier Award for Best New Play**) and New York (**2004-05 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play**). McDonagh's other plays include the renowned Leenane trilogy composed of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Skull in Connemara*, and *The Lonesome West* (The Gamm 2005-06 Season). His short film "Six Shooter" won a **2006 Academy Award**. McDonagh's first feature film, *In Bruges*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Colin Farrell, is about to be released.

Estrella, who will play the role of Katurian, said he is thrilled to be able to bring this powerful and one-of-a-kind work to the Rhode Island stage.

"This production of *The Pillowman* is really an artistic dream come true. I was privileged to have seen the very first production in the intimate Cottesloe space at The National Theatre in London back in early 2004. Since then, I have aggressively pursued the rights to stage this play. Now, after more than three years and a hit Broadway run, *The Pillowman* makes its way to The Gamm stage for its **Rhode Island premiere**," Estrella said. **"It's an absurd, horrific, tragically funny and emotionally devastating masterpiece.** For me it's the best play written for the English speaking theater since Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. ***The Pillowman* defies categorization and expectation and I hope it will leave our audience as awestruck as it did me on that wonderful night in London."**

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 *THE PILLOWMAN*

By **Martin McDonagh**
Directed by **Peter Sampieri**

Set Design by **Sara Ossana**
Costume Design by **Marilyn Salvatore**
Lighting Design by **Richard Van Voris**
Sound Design by **Charles Cofone**
Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**
Fight Choreography by **Normand Beauregard**
Stage Management by **Stef Work***

Assistant Technical Direction, **Andrew Morissette**; Props Master/ Associate Set Designer, **Eric Reynolds**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Production Assistants/Assistant Stage Managers, **Ari Itkin/Alex Maynard**; Costume/Wardrobe Assistant, **Kate Dennis-Skilling**; Lighting Assistants, **Renee Surprenant, Maura Van Voris**

CAST

David Catanzaro*	Tupolski
Tony Estrella*	Katurian
Steve Kidd*	Ariel
Christopher Francis Byrnes*	Michal
Karen Carpenter	Mother
Andrew Morissette	Father
Ben Haffner	Boy
Elizabeth Dufresne	Girl

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

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

January

Thursday, Jan. 24, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 27, preview performance at 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 28, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 31, regular performance at 8 p.m.

February

Friday, Feb. 1, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 2, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 3, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, Feb. 3, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 6, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 7, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 8, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 9, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 10, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 10, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 13, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 16, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 17, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 17, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 20, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 22, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 23, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 24, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 24, regular performance at 7 p.m.

*Performance followed by **Shared Sundays** discussion with artists and scholars, sponsored by RI Council for the Humanities. Show attendance not required. Free for all.

Tickets \$20-\$34, all previews (Jan. 24-28) 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.arttixri.com**. More information at **www.gammtheatre.org**.