

sandra feinstein-



t h e a t r e

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Steve Kidd, Education Outreach Coordinator
(401) 723-4266 or gail@gammtheatre.org

Gamm Theatre's PLAY Program Harnesses High School Talent in Staging of *Romeo and Juliet*

PAWTUCKET, RI (December 5, 2007) — For the second year in a row, The Gamm Theatre's **Pawtucket Literacy and Arts for Youth (PLAY)** program highlights the best of the Bard with a joint production of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*, featuring students from neighboring **Tolman High School** and **Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts**. *Romeo and Juliet* will be presented on **Friday December 14 and Saturday December 15 at 7 p.m.** in the Tolman High School auditorium. Tickets are \$8. Student and senior tickets are \$6. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

PLAY launched its after-school **Playmakers** program last year with a full production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Tolman. This year's production of *Romeo and Juliet* is the result of last year's highly successful collaboration between The Gamm and the Pawtucket School District, said **Steve Kidd, Education Outreach Coordinator for The Gamm**.

"Our pair of star-crossed lovers, like the Capulets and the Montagues, are from opposite sides of the parking lot," Kidd quipped. "Hector Oliveras, a Tolman High School sophomore will play Romeo and Kate Hanson, a J.M. Walsh sophomore, will ascend to the balcony as Juliet."

Students from the two schools have been working together since September under the direction of **Karen Carpenter, a J.M. Walsh Drama teacher and Gamm resident actor**, with **Elizabeth Bochichio** assistant directing.

"In creating and fine-tuning this unique and compelling production of *Romeo and Juliet*, students are gaining a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of character motivations and themes of the classical text, while building confidence in their selves and in their fellow Playmakers," Carpenter said.

Cast of Characters

Romeo - Hector Oliveras
Juliet - Kate Hanson
Benvolio - Alex Maynard
Abram - Jen Camara
Lord Montague - Adam Genest
Lady Montague - Amanda DeJesus
Tybalt - Myshad Sims
Sampson - Rebekah Hennig
Gregory - Danielle Derisse
Lord Capulet - Marc Tiberis
Lady Capulet - Ali Dufrense
Nurse - Alex Caldas
Mercutio - Justina Viveiros
Paris - Anthony Gonsalves
Prince Escalus - Tom Sojka
Friar Lawrence - Danielle Derisse
Apothecary - Sara Donovan
Clothos/Friar John - Alex Jarl
Lachesis - Amanda Geary

About PLAY

The Gamm launched Pawtucket Literacy and Arts for Youth (PLAY) during Season 22 with support from the City of Pawtucket Planning and Redevelopment Department through a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). PLAY promotes literacy-learning and arts education in middle schools and high schools throughout the City of Pawtucket through in- and after-school artist residencies. The key to PLAY's literacy learning model is providing students with the opportunity to bring words and books from "the page to the stage" and promoting a full kinesthetic engagement with the text.

-end-