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**THE GAMM THEATRE MARKS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH EXCITING, SIGNATURE SEASON  
2009-10 Line up Comprises Trademark Mix of Classic, Contemporary & Cutting-edge**

PAWTUCKET, RI (March 2, 2009) — Tony Estrella, artistic director of The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm), today announced the theater's **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season (2009-2010)**, featuring **5 plays representative of its quarter-century history of staging a broad spectrum of entertaining, evocative plays of distinction, as well as social and political relevance.**

**“This landmark season gives us the unique opportunity to both celebrate The Gamm’s rich history and strengthen our mission moving forward,” Estrella said.**

**Season 25’s kick-off event** pairs two of the best and most beloved plays by **William Shakespeare**, ***Much Ado About Nothing*** and ***Romeo and Juliet***. These full productions, **performed in repertory**, can be seen at an interval, on consecutive nights or both on one day in November.

“For more than a decade, The Gamm has staked its reputation on intimate, explosive productions of Shakespeare’s greatest plays including *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *Twelfth Night*, among others,” Estrella said. “We celebrate this legacy in our season opener by revisiting our 2000 production of ***Much Ado About Nothing***, reuniting Resident Director Fred Sullivan, Jr. with some of the original cast, as well as many newcomers, to create a brand-new version of this classic *comedy* of *adult* love. Then we take it one incredible leap farther by pairing it alongside our first production of the greatest *tragedy* of *young* love ever written, ***Romeo and Juliet***.”

2010 begins with a searing examination of one woman’s struggle for clarity and dignity, as she beats back the dark tide of depression in ***4:48 Psychosis*** by the brilliant **Sarah Kane**, author the controversial and critically acclaimed *Blasted* of the last Off-Broadway season. This contemporary work is followed by a modern American classic, **Tennessee Williams’** intensely autobiographical ***The Glass Menagerie***. This marks The Gamm’s first Williams since its curtain-call production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* almost 7 years ago—the theater’s final production in Providence before moving to Pawtucket in 2003.

The season concludes with one of the most powerful theatrical works of the last several years: the inimitable Tom Stoppard’s intelligent and soul-stirring paean to art, music and freedom, ***Rock ‘n’ Roll***. Set between Czechoslovakia and Cambridge, England, and moving forward in time from the Prague Spring of 1968 to the fall of communism over 20 years later, ***Rock ‘n’ Roll*** is a thrilling synthesis of cold war politics, love, family, music, and the many forms of dissent set to the music of the **Rolling Stones**, **Pink Floyd** and **The Beach Boys**, among others.

**“It’s quite an anniversary year with plays that embrace the need to look back and assess our past so that we may learn and move ahead,”** Estrella said, adding, **“We’ll be doing this throughout the year in our main-stage season as well as with staged readings, humanities programming and celebrations surrounding the incredible journey that started 25 years ago as Alias Stage.”**

**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. 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.

## More About The Gamm's 2009-10 Season

### SHAKESPEARE IN REP!

***Much Ado About Nothing & Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare** (Sept. 10-Nov. 29, 2009)

One company, two classic plays: A comedy about adult love and a tragedy about young love comprise the exciting kick-off event of **The Gamm's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**.

***Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr.** (Sept. 10-Nov. 29, 2009)

Not about nothing, the Bard's ***Much Ado About Nothing*** casts the serious themes of **love, fear of commitment, jealousy and retribution in a sexy, sizzling, side-splitting comedy** about two very different (and equally convoluted!) courtships. A military war has just ended, but the "merry war" between confirmed bachelor Benedick and his long-time sparring partner, Beatrice, is going strong. Can friends of the would-be lovers trick them into admitting their true feelings to each other? Meanwhile, can the love-at-first-sight romance between young lovers Claudio and Hero survive the vicious lies of the evil Don John? It's up to the blundering constable to save the day and clear the path to true love. The Gamm revisits and reinvents its 2000 production of ***Much Ado About Nothing***, reuniting Resident Director **Fred Sullivan, Jr.** with Artistic Director **Tony Estrella** and Resident Actors **Jeanine Kane** and **Sam Babbitt** as Benedick, Beatrice and Leonato.

***Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Tony Estrella** (Oct. 22-Nov. 29, 2009)

Timeless, universal and beautiful, this ***Romeo and Juliet*** takes on young love, unbridled passion and family dysfunction with the grit and gravitas of real life. Thrillingly fast-paced, intimately engaging and chillingly real, The Gamm's up-close and personal production of Shakespeare's tragic tale of teenage star-crossed lovers **soars with the poetry of heartbreak and a doomed but perfect love**.

***4:48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane, directed by Tony Estrella** (Jan. 14-Feb. 7, 2010)

From the **brilliant, controversial** and short-lived career of British playwright **Sarah Kane** (author of the acclaimed ***Blasted***), who exploded onto the London scene at age 23 and committed suicide in 1999 at 28, a harrowing journey into the depths of clinical depression. ***4:48 Psychosis***—named for the time in the early morning when Kane regularly awoke to a brief period of clarity amid her despair— is perhaps as intimate an exploration of mental illness as one can find. **Captivatingly raw and poetic in its intensity**, with flashes of dark humor, Kane's fifth and final play, says *Time Out* (London), is **"as compact and beautiful as a diamond."**

"It's the pleasure that comes from being compelled to follow an **authentic and original voice** into theatrical territory you have never visited before." - *The New York Times*, on *Blasted*

***The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr.** (Mar. 4-April 4, 2010)

In a rundown apartment in a St. Louis ghetto, erstwhile Southern belle Amanda Wingfield, her painfully shy daughter, Laura, and her aspiring writer son, Tom, form a triangle of quiet desperation. Amanda, an overbearing single mother, lives on memories of her glorious flower-scented youth, while her children bear the weight of her unrealistic dreams for their future. But when a gentleman caller offers false hope to the family, their precarious world shatters with haunting results. Winner of the **1945 New York Drama Critics Circle Award** and the **literary masterpiece** that launched Williams' career, ***The Glass Menagerie* continues to capture the imagination and hearts of American audiences.**

***Rock 'n' Roll* by Tom Stoppard, directed by Judith Swift** (April 29-May 30, 2010)

You won't want to miss the **Rhode Island premiere** of an extraordinary theatrical event from **four-time Tony Award winner Tom Stoppard** (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Travesties*, *The Real Thing*, *The Coast of Utopia*). It's August 1968, and Russian tanks are rolling into Prague. Jan, a recently repatriated Czech student, lives for rock music. Max, a Cambridge professor and dyed-in-the-wool Marxist, lives for Communism. By 1990, revolution has taken hold, the tanks are leaving and the ideal of freedom is a glorious, complex and market-driven reality. A sweeping drama spanning two countries and 22 turbulent years—punctuated by the soul-stirring sounds of legendary groups like the **Stones**, **Pink Floyd** and the **Grateful Dead**—***Rock 'n' Roll* is a complex, moving and electrifying** exploration of society in the throes of transformation.

**Winner of the London Evening Standard Theatre Award and London Critics' Circle Theatre Awards for Best New Play**

"Triumphant. *Rock 'n' Roll* is arguably **Stoppard's finest play.**"- *The New York Times*

"*Rock 'n' Roll* **touches the heart while stimulating the mind.** An intellectually challenging, intensely theatrical piece of work that is destined to be talked about wherever playgoers gather."- *The Wall Street Journal*

*\*Plays and dates are subject to change.*

Subscriptions to The Gamm's 2009-10 Season are **\$100-\$170. Early-bird subscribers save even more! Subscriptions from \$95-\$165 available through April 30.** For sales, call **401-723-4266**. For more information, go to **[gammtheatre.org](http://gammtheatre.org)**.