sandra feinstein-
GAmm
theatre

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Gamm Stages North American Premiere of Howard Brenton's Powerful, Provocative *Paul*

PAWTUCKET, RI (March 28, 2011) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) is pleased to stage the **North American premiere** of ***Paul*** , British playwright **Howard Brenton's powerful** and **provocative** play exploring the extraordinary phenomenon of faith. Brenton's secular dramatization of the famous conversion of Saul of Tarsus to Saint Paul and the resurrection of Jesus Christ played to **critical acclaim** as well as **controversy** at London's National Theatre in 2005.

At The Gamm, **Artistic Director Tony Estrella** (*4:48 Psychosis, Grace*) directs **Alexander Platt** (Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa in *Don Carlos*) in the title role, featuring **Marc Dante Mancini** as Paul's aggressively devoted brother, James, Gamm resident actor **Jim O'Brien** as pragmatic fisherman-turned-apostle Peter, Gamm resident actor **Karen Carpenter** as brash prostitute Mary Magdalene and Gamm newcomer **Cedric Lilly** as an enigmatic Yeshua (Jesus).

"*Paul* is a powerfully relevant play for today," Estrella said. "It's the third production in an unofficial 'trilogy' of shows that began at The Gamm in 2007 with Michael Murphy's *Sin: A Cardinal Deposed* and continued with Mick Gordon and A.C. Grayling's *Grace* in 2009—plays that take a hard look at the role of ancient systems of belief in the modern world. While *Sin* and *Grace* examined the often destructive effects of faith in contemporary society, ***Paul* looks back at the roots of Christianity and asks where and how did it all begin and why do men need to create gods at all?**"

Paul runs from **March 17 through April 17** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. **Tickets are $30 and $40** (depending on day/time)**, preview and press performances (March 17-21) only $25.** Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For tickets call **401-723-4266** or go to **gammtheatre.org.**

The **Providence Phoenix** is media sponsor for *Paul*.

***Paul* by Howard Brenton**

Arab: Forgive me, brother, let's keep our relationship strictly commercial. I hear people get killed in Judea because of religious arguments. All I want is a tent, not a new god.

The road to Damascus, A.D. 34. Saul of Tarsus has built a fierce reputation snuffing out the followers of a growing religious cult. So when its recently crucified leader, Yeshua (Jesus), appears to him in a flash of light, Saul does an about-face, changing his name to Paul and devoting his life to spreading the good news. But what if Paul's vision were the result of an epileptic fit or a well-meaning hoax? **British Playwright Howard Brenton's intriguing secular take on the evolution of a belief** was produced to **acclaim** and **controversy** at London's National Theatre in 2005. The Gamm is proud to present the **North American premiere** of this **powerful**, **provocative** new play.

"A divine detective story … gritty, blasphemous intelligence." *Sunday Times (London)*

"A powerful and thrilling act of heresy." *Daily Telegraph(UK)*

The Gamm will host an exciting series of educational and cultural events for the community surrounding the North American premiere of ***Paul***, supported in part by **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities**. Each forum, moderated by **University of Rhode Island political scientist Maureen Moakley**, aims to engage local scholars and audiences in conversation about the role of religion in public life and is open to the public at no charge. (Details to come at gammtheatre.org.)

About this Production of *Paul*

By **Howard Brenton**
directed by **Tony Estrella**

Set Design by **Michael McGarty**
Costume Design by **David T. Howard**
Lighting Design by **David Roy**
Sound Design & Musical Direction by **Charles Cofone**
Fight Choreography by **Normand Beauregard**
Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**
Stage Management by **Jessica Hill ***

CAST (in order of appearance)

Alexander Platt*	Paul
Anthony Goes*	Barnabas
Cedric Lilly	Yeshua
Ben Gracia	Arab Trader/Chief Roman Gaoler/Temple Guard/Corinthian
Jim O'Brien*	Peter/Corinthian
Karen Carpenter	Mary Magdalene/Corinthian
Marc Dante Mancini	James/Temple Guard/Corinthian
Kelby T. Akin*	Nero
Kyle Blanchette	Arab Slave/Temple Guard/Roman Gaoler/Corinthian
Jo-án Peralta	Temple Guard/ Roman Gaoler/Arab Slave/Corinthian

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

Assistant Director, **Susie Schutt;** Production Manager, **Jessica Hill**; Props Master, **Katryne Hecht**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Master Electrician, **Matthew Terry**; Assistant Stage Managers, **Helen R. Brennan** & **Emma Haney**

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

March
Thursday, March 17, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 18, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 19, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 20, preview performance at 7 p.m.
Monday, March 21, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 24, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 25, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 26, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 27, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, March 27, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 30, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 31, regular performance at 8 p.m.

April
Friday, April 1, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 2, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 3, matinee performance at 2 p.m. *
Sunday, April 3, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 7, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, April 8, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 9, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 10, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, April 10, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 13, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, April 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 16, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 17, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 17, regular performance at 7 p.m.

*Followed by **Pawtucket Humanities Forums** discussion with artists & scholars, supported in part by Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. Details at gammtheatre.org.

About The Gamm Theatre
Founded in 1984 as Alias Stage, the non-profit **Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** creates the finest of live theater, **engaging the audience intensely in current and recurrent issues of consequence**. The Gamm further serves the public with educational outreach programming designed to support the theatrical experience, and help sustain and enhance the intellectual and cultural life of its community. The Gamm is a member of **New England Area Theatre** (NEAT), a bargaining unit of the **Actors Equity Association**.