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Gamm Theatre Closes Season with Durang Laugh-fest: Rhode Island Premiere of *Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*

PAWTUCKET, RI (April 18, 2011) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to stage the Rhode Island premiere of *Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*. This latest absurdist farce by prolific American playwright Christopher Durang (*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You, Beyond Therapy, The Marriage of Bette and Boo*) dives headfirst into a world of ill-fated marriage, politics and porn, with a plot that provocatively and hilariously exposes hypocrisies at the core of contemporary American culture.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella directs a cast of seasoned actors playing increasingly paranoid and anxious characters including Gamm Resident Actor Casey Seymour Kim as Felicity, a nice girl from a conventional family; Alexander Platt (Paul in the North American premiere of *Paul*) as her husband, Zamir, a mysterious man of indeterminate ethnicity; and Gamm Resident Actors Wendy Overly as her ditzzy mom and Sam Babbitt as her trigger-happy father.

With equal parts humor and menace, "the hilarious, oddball title is apt," Estrella says of Durang's 2009 script. "Torture, to state the obvious, is serious business; but Durang's genius lies in subverting the crusading ideals and knee-jerk 'patriotism' of both the torturers and their enemies. **It's satire, it's parody, but it's also an ironically sober look at empathy and compassion as the only hurdle to society's headlong race toward barbarism.**"

Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them runs from May 5 through June 5 at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. Tickets are \$30 and \$40 (depending on day/time), preview and press performances (May 5-9) only \$25. Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For tickets call 401-723-4266 or go to gammtheatre.org.

Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them by Christopher Durang

FELICITY: I have a funny feeling about him. I'm afraid he might be a terrorist. Or maybe he's in the Mafia. Or maybe he's bipolar. Or maybe he's a serial killer. Or maybe he's just a drug addict and alcoholic and out of prison on parole.

MOTHER: Who are you talking about, dear?

FELICITY: My husband, my husband, my husband!

From the screwball imagination of American playwright Christopher Durang (*The Marriage of Bette & Boo, Beyond Therapy*), an uproarious new comedy about America's ongoing "war on terror." A young woman, Felicity, wakes up to a strange man, a hangover, and a whole lot of questions: Is her new husband, Zamir (who claims to be Irish), a terrorist, a crazed alcoholic, or both? Is her father's hobby of butterfly collecting for real, or is it a cover for his involvement in a right-wing shadow government? Is her mother a theater-loving eccentric, or is she actually insane? The Rhode Island premiere of Durang's 2009 Off-Broadway hit answers all these questions and more with the author's trademark outrageous wit!

About this Production of *Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*

By **Christopher Durang**
directed by **Tony Estrella**

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

CAST

Felicity	Casey Seymour Kim*
Zamir	Alexander Platt*
Luella	Wendy Overly*
Leonard	Sam Babbitt*
Reverend Mike	Gary Lait Cummings
Hildegarde	Jeanine Kane*
Voice	Christopher Rosenquest

*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, **Kathy Crowley**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Helen R. Brennan**; Wardrobe Assistant, **Emma Haney**; Production Assistant, **Allison McMaster**

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

May

Thursday, May 5, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 6, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 8, preview performance at 7 p.m.
Monday, May 9, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 12, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 15, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, May 15, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 18, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 22, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, May 22, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 25, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 26, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 27, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 28, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 29, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, May 29, regular performance at 7 p.m.

June

Wednesday, June 1, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 2, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, June 3, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 4, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, June 5, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, June 5, regular performance at 7 p.m.

*Followed by discussion with artists & scholars.

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.