

sandra feinstein-



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Tony Estrella *Artistic Director*

Yvonne Seggerman *Executive Director*

MEDIA ALERT: If you are familiar with the play/film *Festen/The Celebration*, kindly refrain from revealing key plot points and revelations in any previews or reviews of The Gamm's production. Thank you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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London and Broadway Stage Hit *Festen* Makes New England Premiere at The Gamm

PAWTUCKET, RI (December 12, 2011) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) opens 2012 with the **New England premiere** of *Festen*, the hugely successful London and Broadway play about a modern Danish family with a dark and disturbing secret. British playwright **David Eldridge's** script is based on the **award-winning 1998 Danish film** and screenplay of the same name (released in the U.S. as *The Celebration*) by **Thomas Vinterberg, Mogens Rukov and Bo Hr. Hansen**.

Festen runs from **January 12 through February 12** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. Tickets: **\$34 and \$42** (depending on day/time), preview and press performances (Jan. 12-16) only **\$25**. Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. Tickets at **401-723-4266** or **gammtheatre.org**.

Play Synopsis: Helge is turning sixty, and everyone is coming home for the party. His eldest son, Christian, whose twin sister, Linda, recently committed suicide, will raise the first toast... and **reveal a shocking family secret**. Trapped for 24 hours within the walls of the lavish country estate—**rocked by revelations that shatter the veneer of respectability**—even the disbelieving guests are choosing sides as the truth painfully unfolds. Adapted from the award-winning 1998 Danish film by the same title (released in the U.S. as "The Celebration"), *Festen* **redefines tragedy for a modern age**.

For mature audiences only.

In London, *Festen* received rave reviews from critics and audiences alike, echoing earlier reactions to the film, now considered a modern movie classic that put the Danish film movement Dogme 95 on the cultural map.

The London *Sunday Times* called Eldridge's stage dramatization "**electrifying, shocking and profoundly moving**," while *The Guardian* declared *Festen* "**a landmark play**."

Artistic Director **Tony Estrella** helms The Gamm Theatre's production, featuring Gamm Resident Actor **Steve Kidd** (Claudius in *Hamlet*) as Christian and Boston-based stage and screen actor **Will Lyman** (narrator of PBS' "Frontline" series) making his Gamm debut as the patriarch, Helge.

Estrella said, "**We deliberately chose to follow *Hamlet* – a hard act as there ever was – with this contemporary Danish tragedy**. The echoes 400 years on are unmistakable: fathers, sons, revenge, a family falling to pieces. It's both the perfect companion piece and as shocking and cathartic a piece of theater as I have experienced in my career. Something is rotten in Denmark indeed."

The Providence Phoenix is media sponsor for *Festen*.

"*The Providence Phoenix* is once again proud to support The Gamm Theater in its mission to bring a unique, compelling theater experience to the people of Southern New England," said **Marc Shepard, vice president, print and media sales for The Phoenix**. "We appreciate the role they play in the vital creative economy of Rhode Island, and making quality artistic performances accessible to all."

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About this Production of *Festen*

By **Thomas Vinterberg**, **Mogens Rukov** and **Bo Hr. Hansen**
Adapted for the stage by **David Eldridge**
Directed by **Tony Estrella**

Festen is presented by arrangement with Nordiska ApS., Copenhagen. Originally produced in London by Marla Rubin Productions Ltd.

Set Design by **Michael McGarty**
Costume Design by **David T. Howard**
Lighting Design by **Oona Curley**
Fight Choreography by **Normand Beaugard**
Production Management by **Jessica Hill***
Stage Management by **Stef Work***

CAST

Christian	Steve Kidd*
Michael	Alexander Platt*
Helene	Casey Seymour Kim*
Mette	Karen Carpenter
Helge	Will Lyman*
Else	Sandra Laub
Helmut	Richard Noble
Lars	Joe Short
Poul	Kerry Callery
Grandfather	Tom Oakes
Pia	Dakota Shepard
Kim	David Tessier
Gbatokai	Amos Hamrick
Little Girl	Emeline Herreid
Little Girl (Understudy)	Ava Wood

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

Assistant Director, **Susie Schutt**; Assistant Stage Manager/Props Master, **Jessica Hill***; Set Design Assistant, **Pamela Megan Estes**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Assistant Stage Manager/Production Assistant, **Helen R. Brennan**; Wardrobe Assistant **Emma Haney**

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

January

Thursday, Jan. 12 preview at 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 13 preview at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 14 preview at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 15 preview at 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 16 press at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. **New!**

February

Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 2 at 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

*Followed by discussion with artists

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.