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**WORLD PREMIERE:  
 NEW ADAPTATION OF SCHILLER'S DON CARLOS OPENS SEASON 24 AT THE GAMM**

PAWTUCKET, RI (August 12, 2008) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is setting the stage for a thrilling new season with **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella's explosive new adaptation of *Don Carlos*, Friedrich Schiller's 1787 masterwork** loosely based on real events in Inquisition-era Spain. Directed by Estrella, ***Don Carlos* features Gamm Resident Actor Steve Kidd in the title role and Gamm regular Richard Donnelly as his father, King Philip II. *Don Carlos* runs from September 4 through October 5 at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.**

**Play Synopsis**

*Espionage, intrigue and a royal family devouring itself against the brutal backdrop of the Spanish Inquisition. Set in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and inspired by Shakespeare, German playwright Friedrich Schiller's seldom-staged political thriller is an undisputed masterpiece. Young Don Carlos is passionately in love with his former fiancée, Elizabeth, whom his tyrannical father, King Philip II, has forcibly married. Fueled by jealousy and provoked by his childhood friend Rodrigo—the fearless and idealistic Marquis of Posa—the distraught crown prince is unwittingly drawn into a full-scale rebellion against his father's oppressive and bloody regime. At once a heartbreaking tale of personal passion and a timely cry for democracy, this new version of "Don Carlos" is elegant, powerful and not to be missed!*

Estrella said he chose the more than 200-year-old play as the season opener for its “**uncanny parallels to the state of our country today.**”

“We are coming upon a federal election of unprecedented importance, at least in my lifetime, with the real prospect of a regime change. Through the lens of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Spain, ***Don Carlos* sheds light on where we are right now,**” he explained, adding “It’s also a fascinating family drama and love story whose great theme is the conflict between private needs and public responsibility. **I’m very excited to bring this criminally under-produced masterpiece to a Rhode Island stage for the first time.**”

Estrella said he adapted the work “very freely” using an 1847 English translation of the German play by R.D. Boylan and **rewriting every line in Schiller's blank-verse style.** (Schiller's play was also the inspiration for Giuseppe Verdi's famous 1867 opera, *Don Carlo*.)

“Hopefully it stays true to Schiller's spirit and themes but with a 21<sup>st</sup>-century American audience in mind,” Estrella said of his adaptation.

***Don Carlos* is underwritten by Citizens Bank Foundation.** Additional support comes from **WBRU.**

**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.

## ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION OF *DON CARLOS*

### Friedrich Schiller's *Don Carlos*

A new adaptation written and directed by **Tony Estrella**

Set Design by **Sara Ossana**

Costume Design by **David T. Howard**

Lighting Design by **Matthew Terry**

Sound Design by **Charles Cofone**

Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**

Fight Choreography by **Normand Beauregard**

Stage Management by **Stef Work\***

Assistant Director, **Jimmy Calitri**; Assistant Technical Direction, **Andrew Morissette**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Props Master/Scenic Artist, **Kristina Brown**, Assistant Stage Manager, **T.J. Morris**

### CAST

**Steve Kidd\***, Don Carlos

**Richard Donnelly\***, King Philip II

**Alexander Platt\***, Rodrigo

**Georgia Cohen**, Elizabeth of Valois

**Joan Batting**, Duchess of Olivarez

**Amanda Ruggiero**, Princess Eboli

**Normand Beauregard**, Duke of Alba

**Tom Gleadow**, Count Lerma

**Kyle Blanchette**, Prince of Parma

**Christopher Francis Byrnes\***, Domingo

**Cliff Odle**, Duke Feria

**Marc Mancini**, Page

**Sam Babbitt**, Grand Inquisitor

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

### CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

#### September

Thursday, Sept. 4, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 5, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 7, preview performance at 7 p.m.\*

**Monday, Sept. 8, press performance at 7 p.m.**

Thursday, Sept. 11, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 12, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 14, matinee performance at 2 p.m.\*\*

Sunday, Sept. 14, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 17, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 24, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 25, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 26, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 28, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

#### October

Thursday, Oct. 2, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 3, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 4, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5, regular performance at 7 p.m.

\*Ticket price includes pre-show discussion with Writer/Director Tony Estrella from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

\*\*Performance followed by **Shared Sundays** discussion with artists and scholars. Show attendance not required. Free for all.

**Tickets \$24-\$39, all previews (Sept. 4-8) ONLY \$24.** Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For single ticket sales, call **401-723-4266**. Or purchase tickets at **www.artixri.com**. More information at **www.gammtheatre.org**.