



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gail Hulbert, Communications & Marketing Director
(401) 723-4266 or gail@gammtheatre.org

The Gamm Theatre Stages Tennessee Williams' Powerful, Poignant *Glass Menagerie*

PAWTUCKET, RI (February 8, 2010) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) presents **Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie***, a semi-autobiographical retelling of the author's early years in Depression-era St. Louis. The play that established Williams as one of the preeminent playwrights of the 20th century is an **unforgettable** and **heartbreaking** portrait of a family desperate to break free from dysfunction and society's constraints.

Gamm Resident Director Fred Sullivan, Jr. (*Much Ado About Nothing, Awake and Sing!*) pairs **Gamm Resident Actor Sam Babbitt** as the elder narrator character, Tom Wingfield, and **Marc Dante Mancini** (Ralphie in *Awake and Sing!*) as his younger self. **Gamm Resident Actor Wendy Overly** plays the iconic role of Tom's aging mother, Amanda Wingfield, long-abandoned by her husband. Rounding out the cast are **Diana Buirski** (Hennie in *Awake and Sing!*) as Tom's unmarried and introverted sister, Laura, and **Kelby T. Akin** (Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*) as her Gentleman Caller.

The Glass Menagerie runs from **March 4 through April 4** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. **Tickets are \$24, \$28 and \$40** (depending on day/time), **preview and press performances (Mar. 4-8) only \$24**. Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For tickets call **401-723-4266** or go to **gammtheatre.org**.

The Glass Menagerie Synopsis

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 until hope arrives in the form of a gentleman caller for Laura. 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.**

Director Sullivan notes, "Tennessee Williams said about his writing that it was a plea for the understanding of the delicate people—the delicate, complex, broken people we all know, are, or have within our families of origin or choice. Tom, the author's birth name, says in the play: 'I give you *truth* in the pleasant disguise of illusion.' **Williams uses the memory play to exorcise his family's demons with great love and startling detail and, by doing so, hopefully gets closer to understanding and forgiveness.**

"This play is filled with unforgettable characters and the beautiful human complexities of denial, shame, unconditional love, abandonment, identity and survival," Sullivan added. "Written in Williams' uniquely gorgeous poetic Southern syntax, ***The Glass Menagerie*** surprisingly contains more laugh-out-loud humor and bold brash drama than easy sentiment."

The Gamm's production of ***The Glass Menagerie*** is underwritten by **Citizens Bank Foundation**.

"The Citizens Bank Foundation is pleased to support The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre and its production of ***The Glass Menagerie***," said **Ned Handy, President, Citizens Bank, Rhode Island**. "We believe community arts initiatives such as this production enrich the lives of those in our community, while providing a look back into our history."

The Glass Menagerie is made possible in part by a grant from the **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**, through a grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts "American Masterpieces"** program.

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.

About this Production of *The Glass Menagerie*

By **Tennessee Williams**
Directed by **Fred Sullivan, Jr.**

Set Design by **Patrick Lynch**
Costume Design **Marilyn Salvatore**
Lighting Design by **Matthew Terry**
Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**
Stage Management by **Kate Ferdinandi***

CAST

Tom	Sam Babbitt*
Young Tom	Marc Dante Mancini
Amanda	Wendy Overly*
Laura	Diana Buirski*
Gentleman Caller	Kelby T. Akin*
Violin	David Tessier

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

Props Master, **Katryne Hecht**; Sound & Music Design, **Kerry Callery**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Production Assistant/Wardrobe Assistant, **Helen Brennan**; Production Assistant, **Arik Beatty**

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

March

Thursday, March 4, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 5, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 6, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 7, preview performance at 7 p.m.
Monday, March 8, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 11, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 12, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 14, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, March 14, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 18, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 21, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 21, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 25, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, March 26, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 27, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 28, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 28, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 31, regular performance at 7 p.m.

April

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

*Followed by **Shared Sundays** discussion with artists & scholars. Show attendance not required. Open to the public at no charge.

THE SANDRA FEINSTEIN-GAMM THEATRE

172 EXCHANGE ST., PAWTUCKET, RI 02860 | 401.723.4266 | fax 401.723.0440 | www.gammtheatre.org

Tony Estrella Artistic Director | Yvonne Seggerman Executive Director