

sandra feinstein-



172 EXCHANGE ST., PAWTUCKET, RI 02860

401.723.4266

fax 401.723.0440

www.gammtheatre.org

Tony Estrella *Artistic Director*

Yvonne Seggerman *Executive Director*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

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

### THE GAMM THEATRE STAGES NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE OF *GRACE* Science and Faith Clash in Contemporary Family Drama

PAWTUCKET, RI (February 20, 2009) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to stage the **New England premiere** of *Grace*, a **stimulating, frank and moving** examination of the conflict between science and faith through the lens of a contemporary family. Written by Irish playwright and director **Mick Gordon** and University of London philosophy professor **A.C. Grayling**, and directed by **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella**, *Grace* features **Gamm Resident Actors Wendy Overly, Jim O'Brien and Karen Carpenter**, as well as newcomer **Kyle Blanchette**.

*Grace* runs from **March 12 through April 5\*** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. **Tickets \$24-\$39, previews and press performance (March 12-16) only \$24.** Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For tickets call **401-723-4266** or go to **artixri.com**. Information at **gammtheatre.org**.

#### Play Synopsis

Grace Friedman is a mother, a wife and a brilliant professor of natural science. What's more, her bold assertions on the "absurdity" of religion have placed her center stage in the public debate over the existence of God. But her private calm is shaken when her son, Tom, announces a career change from civil rights attorney to Anglican priest. When Grace falls back on her well-earned cynicism, she is suddenly at odds with the moral pragmatism of her husband, as well as her son's fiancée. Together, the family tries to reconcile their ideological differences about faith and religion as they tumble toward personal catastrophe in this **devastatingly powerful family drama**.

**Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella** said he hopes audiences will be **emotionally and intellectually provoked** by the play's characters and the questions they pose about science, superstition and tolerance.

"I've been looking for a while now for a play that takes the subject of faith head on with **uncompromising intelligence and compassion**. The topic seems like the last taboo. We can freely debate passionately about politics, love, war, torture, etc., but belief is granted special dispensation from vigorous examination," Estrella said. "With so much harm perpetrated around the planet in the name of faith, it's high time we revoked that privilege."

Support for *Grace* 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.

**\*Please note: this schedule has been modified from the original published dates.**

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## About this Production of *Grace*

By **Mick Gordon** and **A.C. Grayling**

Directed by **Tony Estrella**

Set and Costume Design **David T. Howard**

Lighting Design by **Matthew Terry**

Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**

Stage Management by **Stef Work\***

Dialect Coach, **Wendy Overly**; Props Master/Scenic Artist, **Katryne Hecht**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Nicholas Thibeault**

### CAST

Grace

**Wendy Overly\***

Tom

**Kyle Blanchette**

Tony/Voice of Dr. Michael Persinger

**Jim O'Brien\***

Ruth

**Karen Carpenter**

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

## CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

### March

Thursday, March 12, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 13, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 14, preview performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 15, preview performance at 7 p.m.\*

**Monday, March 16, press performance at 7 p.m.**

Thursday, March 19, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 22, matinee performance at 2 p.m.\*

Sunday, March 22, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 26, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 27, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 28, regular performance at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 29, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 29, regular performance at 7 p.m.

### April

Wednesday, April 1, regular performance at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Sunday, April 5, 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.