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The Gamm Theatre Presents Provocative, Sexually Charged Retelling of Timeless *Scarlet Letter*

PAWTUCKET, RI (April 20, 2009) — **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm) is pleased to conclude its 24th Season with **Phyllis Nagy's** adaptation of the classic American novel ***The Scarlet Letter*** by **Nathaniel Hawthorne**. **Gamm Resident Director Judith Swift** helms an elegant and unconventional retelling of this tragic tale, rife with symbolism. ***The Scarlet Letter*** features **Gamm Resident Actors Jeanine Kane** as the scorned Puritan woman Hester Prynne and **Casey Seymour Kim** as her love-child turned narrator, Pearl.

The Scarlet Letter runs from **May 7 through June 7** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI. **Tickets \$24-\$39, previews and press performance (May 7-11) 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

Hawthorne's classic exploration of sin, hypocrisy and society is vividly re-imagined in this **sexually charged and psychologically complex tale of obsession and revenge**. In 17th-century Puritan Boston, Hester Prynne has been branded an adulteress and sentenced to wear the scarlet letter A on her dress. But she turns the mark of her shame into a badge of beauty and refuses to name her lover, the father of her daughter, Pearl. When Hester's long-lost husband unexpectedly reappears, however, he will stop at nothing to uncover the truth. Narrated by the spirited Pearl, this **stripped-bare stage version** of the "greatest American novel" makes for a **raw and exhilarating theatrical experience**.

Gamm Resident Director Judith Swift says Nagy's play distills the essence of Hawthorne's novel.

"Nathaniel Hawthorne bore the painful heritage of an ancestor who never admitted wrongdoing in the Salem witch trials. This legacy burned in his writer's imagination as fiercely as Hester's "A" for adultery. But in truth, we all bear metaphorical letters that capture our secret shames or failures. **It is this truism that makes *The Scarlet Letter* timeless as an investigation of the human conscience as well as the power of individuals to convert brands of sin to badges of honor,**" Swift says.

The Scarlet Letter is sponsored by **Navigant Credit Union**. 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 *The Scarlet Letter*

By **Phyllis Nagy**, adapted from the novel by **Nathaniel Hawthorne**
Directed by **Judith Swift**

Set Design by **Katryne Hecht**
Costume Design by **Marilyn Salvatore**
Lighting Design by **Matthew Terry**
Sound Design by **Charles Cofone**
Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**
Stage Management by **Stef Work***

Props Master/Scenic Artist **Katryne Hecht**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Nicholas Thibeault**; Production Assistants, **Danielle Dube**, **Hallee Brown**

CAST

Hester Prynne	Jeanine Kane*
Arthur Dimmesdale	Steve Kidd*
Roger Chillingworth	Alan Hawkrige
Pearl	Casey Seymour Kim*
Governor Bellingham	Tom Gleadow
Master Brackett	Cliff Odle
Mistress Hibbins	Tray Gearing

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

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

May

Thursday, May 7, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 8, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, preview performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 10, preview performance at 7 p.m.
Monday, May 11, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 16, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 17, matinee performance at 2 p.m.*
Sunday, May 17, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 20, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 22, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 23, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 24, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Thursday, May 28, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 29, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 30, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 31, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, May 31, regular performance at 7 p.m.

June

Wednesday, June 3, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 4, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, June 5, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 6, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, June 7, matinee performance at 2 p.m.

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