



Tony Estrella, Artistic Director • Amy Gravel, Managing Director

1245 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 • 401.723.4266 • gammtheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

THE GAMM JUMP-STARTS THE NEW YEAR WITH *AN OCTOROON* Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' Boundary Breaking Play

WARWICK, RI (January 3, 2022) – The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) stages Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *An Octoroon*, promising audiences an explosive theatrical experience to jump-start the new year. Both old and new, *An Octoroon* reinterprets a famous Victorian melodrama as an audaciously theatrical and sometimes shocking examination of race and representation in America. Longtime Trinity Repertory Company member Joe Wilson, Jr. makes his Gamm debut directing a cast of returning Gamm actors and newcomers in this daring, award-winning play.

A thrilling collision of the antebellum South and 21st century cultural politics, *An Octoroon* is a subversively humorous deconstruction of *The Octoroon*, Irish playwright Dion Boucicault's 1859 American stage sensation. The Gamm's production features Marc Pierre (*Gloria* 2018) as BJJ in a metatheatrical portrayal of Jacobs-Jenkins and Jeff Church (*It's a Wonderful Life* 2020/21, *Gloria* 2018) as Boucicault, among other roles.

Praised by the *New York Times* as "one of the country's most original and illuminating writers," American playwright Jacobs-Jenkins won the 2014 Obie Award for Best New American Play for both *An Octoroon* and *Appropriate*. His plays *Gloria* (Gamm 2018) and *Everybody* were finalists for the 2016 and 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Drama respectively. The Gamm also produced Jacobs-Jenkins' *Admissions* (2020) to critical acclaim.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella said he is greatly anticipating producing *An Octoroon*.

"We are thrilled to welcome Joe and an incredibly talented cast to bring Jacobs-Jenkins' extraordinary, unabashed and defiant dismantling of American history to life. He is a stridently original, singular voice in the American theater, and *An Octoroon* is already a 21st century classic," Estrella said.

An Octoroon runs from January 27-February 20 at The Gamm Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, R.I. Tickets are \$49-\$69; preview performances (January 27-30) are \$35. Tickets at 401-723-4266 or gammtheatre.org. Information about discounts for seniors, students, groups and more at gammtheatre.org/discounts.

Please note: For the safety and comfort of Gamm audiences, patrons must present either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test in order to enter the theater. All patrons, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask. Details at gammtheatre.org.

ABOUT AN OCTOROON

Judge Peyton is dead and his plantation, Terrebonne, is in financial ruins. Peyton's handsome nephew George arrives as heir apparent and quickly falls in love with Zoe, a beautiful, one-eighth black "octoroon." But the evil overseer, M'Closky, has other plans for both Terrebonne and Zoe. From the author of *Gloria* (Gamm 2018) and *Admissions* (Gamm 2020), this raucous, irreverent retelling of a hit 19th-century melodrama is "this decade's most eloquent statement on race in America today." (*New York Times*)

"Super oxygenating . . . as though the theater has given us a violent shake and a pep talk." *Time Out New York*

"Bizarrely brilliant. Extraordinary." *The Guardian*

Season supporter: Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

An Octoroon

by **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**, directed by **Joe Wilson, Jr.** †

CAST

BJJ/George/M'Closky.....**Marc Pierre***
Playwright/Wahnotee/Lafouche.....**Jeff Church***
Dido.....**Jackie Davis***
Zoe.....**Shelley Fort***
Grace.....**Angelique M. C'Dina**
Dora.....**Alison Russo***
Assistant/Pete/Paul.....**Jason Quinn**
Minnie.....**Michelle L. Walker**

CREW

Set Design by **Michael McGarty**
Costume Design by **Liza Alexis**
Lighting Design by **Dawn Chiang**
Sound & Video Design by **Peter Hurowitz**
Fight Choreography by **Normand Beauregard**
Production Dramaturgy by **Rachel Walshe**
Production Management by **Jessica Hill Kidd**
Production Stage Management by **Kristin Gibbs***

†Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

AN OCTOROON

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
23	24	25	26	27 PREVIEW 7:30	28 PREVIEW 10 & 7:30	29 PREVIEW 7:30
30 PREVIEW 2 & 7:30	31	1 OPENING 7:30	2 7:30	3 7:30	4 7:30	5 7:30
6 2 & 7:30	7	8 7:30	9 7:30	10 7:30	11 7:30	12 7:30
13 2 & 7:30	14	15 7:30	16 7:30	17 7:30	18 7:30	19 2 & 7:30
20 2:00	21	22	23	24	25	26

Note: January 6 matinee performance will be followed by a discussion with director and cast, open to the public and free of charge.

ABOUT THE GAMM THEATRE

Founded in 1984, the non-profit Gamm Theatre is proud to tell stories that entertain, provoke, and engage seriously with the most important issues of our time. The Gamm further serves the public with educational programming that enriches the cultural and civic life of our community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tony Estrella and Managing Director Amy Gravel, The Gamm is a regionally recognized, award-winning theater and a proud member of New England Area Theatre (NEAT), a bargaining unit of the Actors' Equity Association.