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### Season 26 Ushers in New Era for Gamm Theatre

PAWTUCKET, RI (February 18, 2010) — Tony Estrella, artistic director of **The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** (The Gamm), today announced the theater's **26<sup>th</sup> Season (2010-2011)** — an **exhilarating** lineup of 5 plays including a **U.S. premiere** and **two Rhode Island premieres**.

Winding up a season-long celebration of the non-profit theater's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, "The Gamm has taken stock and is now heading down a path with **an emphasis on the new**," Estrella said. "Next season will bring a **diverse roster of productions that include three premieres and two classics that have been far too long away from Rhode Island stages.**"

The season opens with "a pair of back-to-back stories about grift, theft and manipulation, starting with that classic American masterpiece about men at work," Estrella said of season-opener ***Glengarry Glen Ross*, David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama** about the cut-throat world of real estate. The **Rhode Island premiere** of **Theresa Rebeck's** recent Broadway hit ***Mauritius*** follows, exploring a seedy underbelly to the well-mannered world of stamp collecting.

***A Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen's powerful and still-chilling 10<sup>th</sup>-century classic** about domestic catastrophe opens the new year, with the **U.S. premiere** of ***Paul*** by the **provocative British dramatist Howard Brenton** on its heels.

"This brilliant, secular re-imagining of the Christian myth surrounding the conversion of Saul of Tarsus to Saint Paul anatomizes the origins and evolution of belief," Estrella said of ***Paul***. "In my mind, it completes a kind of '**belief trilogy**' that includes our 2007 production of ***Sin: A Cardinal Deposed*** and last season's ***Grace***. The first two plays examined the ramifications of supernatural belief in the *modern* world. ***Paul*** goes *back* in time and across the world to Christianity's origins and dares to ask how this belief was born, and how and why it has survived."

**Season 26** closes with yet another premiere, the **Rhode Island debut** of American satirist **Christopher Durang's *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them***. This screwball depiction of our love affair with fear and revenge in the context of the country's very recent history will have audiences laughing till it hurts.

#### Season 26 / 2010-2011 Plays

##### ***Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet**

**September 2 – October 3**

*As you all know, first prize is a Cadillac El Dorado. ...Second prize is a set of steak knives. Third prize is you're fired.*

**Scathingly funny**, with a **thrilling who-dunit** at its core, **Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama** exposes a dog-eat-dog world in which small-time real-estate brokers vie for the hot leads at a Chicago firm selling shoddy properties. With money, egos and jobs on the line, the cut-throat salesmen will stop at *nothing* to get their fair share of the American Dream. This gritty story of shifting values in the male-dominated workplace, revived on Broadway in 2005, is as **potent** and **exhilarating** as ever! **Winner of the New York Drama Critics Award.**

*Recommended for mature audiences only.*

##### **\*Rhode Island Premiere\***

##### ***Mauritius* by Theresa Rebeck**

**October 21-November 21**

Mom has died, leaving half-sisters Mary and Jackie with a rare stamp collection. Mary wants to keep it for its sentimental value. Jackie wants to sell it for the fortune it *might* be worth. Enter three foul-talking shady stamp dealers determined to get the sale, and an elaborate con game over the dubious inheritance unfolds. At once a **gripping family drama** and a **delightfully sinister comedy**, veteran playwright **Rebeck's 2007 Broadway hit** twists and turns and **takes you for a ride until its final shocking scene.**

January 20 – February 20

**A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen**

It's Christmas Eve and sweet, cheery Nora Helmer, arms brimming with gifts, is reveling in her role as wife and mother ...until a knock at the door threatens to destroy her doll house of a world forever. Blackmailed for a forgery she committed years ago to save her husband's life, Nora schemes to squelch her secret and the consequences of its revelation to her husband's burgeoning career. As matters spin out of control, she must make a life-changing decision that has **shocked and divided audiences for more than a century**.

**\*U.S. Premiere\***

**Paul by Howard Brenton**

**March 17- April 17**

*Arab: Forgive me, brother, let's keep our relationship strictly commercial. I hear people get killed in Judea because of religious arguments. All I want is a tent, not a new god.*

The road to Damascus, A.D. 34. Saul of Tarsus has built a fierce reputation snuffing out the followers of a growing religious cult. So when its recently crucified leader, Yeshua (Jesus), appears to him in a flash of light, Saul does an about-face, changing his name to Paul and devoting his life to spreading the good news. But what if Paul's vision were the result of an epileptic fit or a well-meaning hoax? **British Playwright Howard Brenton's intriguing secular take on the evolution of a belief** was produced to **acclaim and controversy** at London's National Theatre in 2005. The Gamm is proud to present the **North American premiere** of this **powerful, provocative** new play.

**\*Rhode Island Premiere\***

**Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them by Christopher Durang**

**May 5 – June 5**

*FELICITY: I have a funny feeling about him. I'm afraid he might be a terrorist. Or maybe he's in the Mafia. Or maybe he's bipolar. Or maybe he's a serial killer. Or maybe he's just a drug addict and alcoholic and out of prison on parole.*

*MOTHER: Who are you talking about, dear?*

*FELICITY: My husband, my husband, my husband!*

From the screwball imagination of American playwright **Christopher Durang** (*The Marriage of Bette & Boo, Beyond Therapy*), an **uproarious new comedy** about America's ongoing "war on terror." A young woman, Felicity, wakes up to a strange man, a hangover, and a whole lot of questions: Is her new husband, Zamir (who claims to be Irish), a terrorist, a crazed alcoholic, or both? Is her father's hobby of butterfly collecting for real, or is it a cover for his involvement in a right-wing shadow government? Is her mother a theater-loving eccentric, or is she actually insane? The **Rhode Island premiere** of **Durang's 2009 Off-Broadway hit** answers all these questions and more with the author's trademark rollicking wit!

*\*Plays and dates are subject to change.*

Subscriptions to The Gamm's 2010-11 Season are **\$115-\$190. Early-bird subscribers save even more! Subscriptions from \$110-\$175 available through March 31.** For sales, call **401-723-4266**. For more information, go to **[gammtheatre.org](http://gammtheatre.org)**.

**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.

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**THE SANDRA FEINSTEIN-GAMM THEATRE**

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