

## 1245 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886 | 401.723.4266 | GAMMTHEATRE.ORG

Tony Estrella, Artistic Director | Oliver Dow, Managing Director

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GAMM THEATRE OPENS NEW YEAR WITH U.S. PREMIERE OF THE NIGHT WATCH

WARWICK, RI (December 17, 2018) — The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) opens the new year with the U.S. premiere of *The Night Watch*, Hattie Naylor's adaptation of Sarah Waters' best-selling novel. Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella directs this poignant story about liberation and loss set against the disorienting backdrop of the Second World War.

Bursting with secrets and illicit affairs, *The Night Watch* moves backward in time through the 1940s into the frenzy of the Blitz. Like an emotional detective story, the play follows the intertwined histories of five young Londoners—played by Gamm newcomers Gillian Mariner Gordon (Kay), Erin Eva Butcher (Helen), Meg Kiley Smith (Julia) and Patrick Mark Saunders (Duncan), and Rachel Dulude (Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*)—as they unfold in surprising ways.

A Welsh writer best known for her Victorian-era novels featuring lesbian protagonists (*Tipping the Velvet, Fingersmith*), "Waters has created a stunning feat of reverse engineering," Estrella said. "Starting in 1947 London amid the rubble-strewn aftermath of the war, her story and Naylor's ambitious adaptation unfold backward through the German blitzes of 1944 and 1941. As a result, the play's heartbreaking end shines ironically like a beacon of hope. *The Night Watch* is a love story, a tale of resistance, and a powerful, welcome reminder of the need for decency and compassion in dark times."

*The Night Watch* runs from January 17-February 10 at The Gamm Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI. Tickets are \$44, \$52 and \$60; preview performances (January 17-20) are \$33. Call 401-723-4266 or order online at gammtheatre.org.

### **ABOUT THE NIGHT WATCH**

In the late 1940s, calm has returned to London and people are recovering from the chaos of war. In a quiet dating agency, a bombed-out church, and a prison cell, the stories of four women and a young man unfold backward to the heart of the Blitz, revealing the secret desires and regrets that bind them together. Olivier-nominated playwright Hattie Naylor has created a thrilling, inventive adaptation of the best-selling novel by Sarah Waters (*Tipping the Velvet, Fingersmith*). Don't miss this U.S. premiere!

"Expertly captures the surge of empowerment experienced by many women during the second world war." The Guardian

"The Night Watch burns with a slow but scorching intensity, like the blasts that constantly put its circle of four Londoners at risk.

It's Sarah Waters' triumph." The Independent (UK) book review

Season supporter: Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

This production is sponsored in part by a generous donation from **Daniel and Ivy Marwil**.

#### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

U.S. Premiere of *The Night Watch* by Sarah Waters, adapted by Hattie Naylor directed by Tony Estrella

#### **CAST**

Kay Langrish
Julia Standing/Mrs. Leonard
Horace Mundy/Mr. Wilson
Duncan Pearce
Helen Giniver

Gillian Mariner Gordon\*
Meg Kiley Smith\*
Jim O'Brien\*
Patrick Mark Saunders
Rachel Dulude\*

Helen Giniver
Viv Pearce
Robert Fraser/Cole
Mickey/Mrs. Alexander

Rachel Dulude\*
Erin Eva Butcher\*
Michael Liebhauser
Casey Seymour Kim\*

#### **CREW**

Set Design by Michael McGarty
Costume Design by Meg Donnelly
Lighting Design by Steve McLellan
Sound Design by Alex Eizenberg
Stage Management by Robin Grady\*

# CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES (Please note: All evening performances now start at 7:30)

Thursday, Jan. 17 preview at 7:30 Friday, Jan. 18 preview at 7:30 Saturday, Jan. 19 preview at 7:30 Sunday, Jan. 20 press preview at 2:00 Sunday, Jan. 20 press preview at 7:30

Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 Friday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 Saturday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 Sunday, Jan. 27 at 2:00\* Sunday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 Thursday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 Friday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 Sunday, Feb. 3 at 2:00 Sunday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 Friday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2:00 Sunday, Feb. 10 at 7:30

# **ABOUT THE GAMM THEATRE**

Founded in 1984, the non-profit Gamm Theatre creates the finest of live theater, engaging the audience intensely in the most salient issues of our time and all time. 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. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tony Estrella and Managing Director Oliver Dow, The Gamm is a regionally recognized, awardwinning theater and a proud member of New England Area Theatre (NEAT), a bargaining unit of the Actors' Equity Association.

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

<sup>\*</sup>Followed by humanities discussion with special guests. Discussion is open to the public and free of charge.