### The 2-5-8 Series

2018-2019

RADSCC & the Dept of Cultural and Creative Studies present...

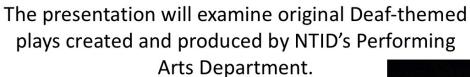


The Wall (1975)



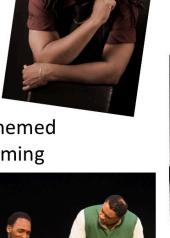


March 22, 2019
Friday 3 – 4 pm
Interpreters have been requested
Light refreshments will be served





Stories from the Deaf Side (2016)





Agency (2018)



Fly over to



Meta (1993)



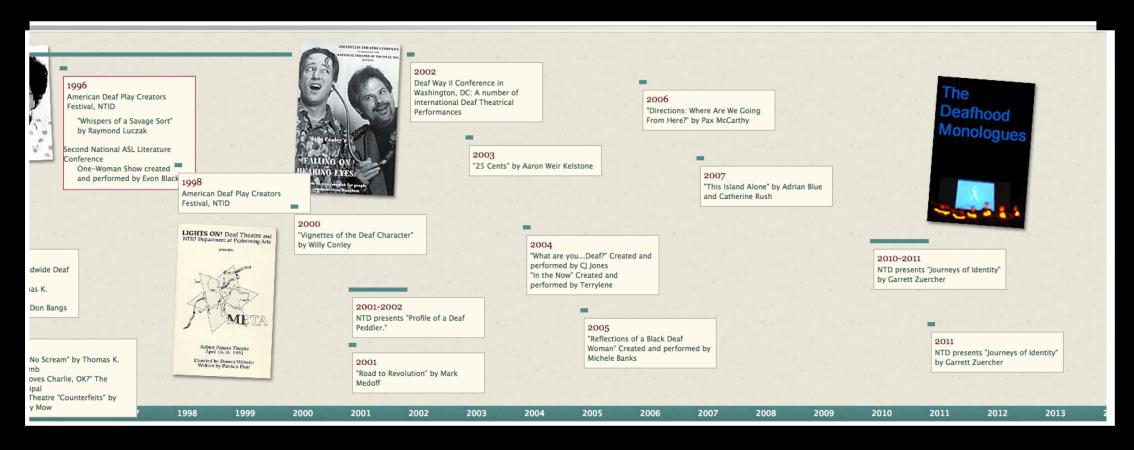
### Acknowledgement:

Most of the images in this presentation come from the <u>RIT/NTID Deaf</u> <u>Studies Archive</u>, NTID Focus Magazine, RIT Reporter Magzine or from online postings

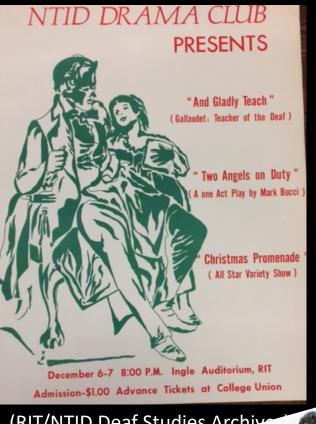
### Special thanks to:

- Joan Naturale, RIT/NTID librarian
- Jody Sidlauskas, RIT Deaf Studies Archives
- Robert and John Panara
- Joseph Fox
- Aaron Kelstone
- Catherine "Kat" Daviton-Burland
- Paul Johnston

# Why so many original Deaf-themed plays in the '70s?



From Heart of Deaf Culture: Literary and Artistic Expressions of Deafhood



### Persian Fantasies Focus on Drama Awards

It was an evening out of the Arabian

A gold sultan's tent, dancing girls, rich oriental rugs and even a charming quide named Omar.

It was the night of Persian Fantasies, the Third Annual Awards Night for the NTID Drama Club.

While the crowd of about 250 persons waited for the silver statuettes to be presented, they were treated to two short plays, Persian dances by Fariba, NTID student Farid Bozorgi's sister, and a musical number by Nancy Jagiel-

Special Master of Ceremonies was Gilbert Eastman, director of Drama at Gallaudet College.

Charles Baird of Shawnee Mission, Kan., walked away with the Best Actor and Best Set Designer awards. Marcia Radzikowski of Buffalo, N.Y., was chosen Best Actress.

Supporting awards in acting went to Farid Bozorgi of St. Clair Shores, Mich., and Nancy Jagielski of Detroit, Mich., who also performed the Best Musical Number.

For her efforts on behalf of the NTID Drama Club and the community, Betty Bonni of Mt. Prospect, III., was awarded the Outstanding Service Award along with being chosen Best Director of a One-Act Play. Chosen Best Director of a Skit was Tom Orscher of New York, N.Y.

Patty Wilson of Cuba, N.Y., and

Paul Johnston of Lake Oswego, Ore., were cited Best Newcomers.

Barbara Ray of Huntington, W. Va. received special recognition by the NTID Student Congress (NSC) for her work with community theater and became the first recipient of the NSC Community Service Award. She also received awards as Best Stage Manager and Best Female Performer: Sign-Mime. Ron Trumble picked up the award for Best Male Performer: Sign-

Drama Club advisor Robert Panara presented that "real showman" Charles Jones of St. Louis, Mo., with the special Performances Award. Ray Kenney of F. Greenbush, N.Y., received the Outstanding Stage Service Award and Beth Loehwing of Franklin Lakes, N.J., was chosen Best Poster Designer.

"Rashomon" won as Best Play of the Year: "And Gladly Teach" was selected Best One-Act Play; and "The Unforgettable Play" from Awards Night '72 was voted Best Skit of the Year.

Ron Borne of Hanover, Mass., and Ron Berger of Blairstown, N.J., were chosen Best Stage Hand and Best Supporting Stagehand.

The first special Appreciation bers: David Hagans, Dan Sullivan, Diane Sands, Dr. Donald Johnson and Rich Nowell. Student recipients were: Tony Schiffiano, Rocky Gomez, Beth Loehwing, Sally Furth and Ron

ADD TO CHARM - A sultan and a dancing girl added to the charm of the Persian Fantasies of the Third Annual Awards Night of the NTID









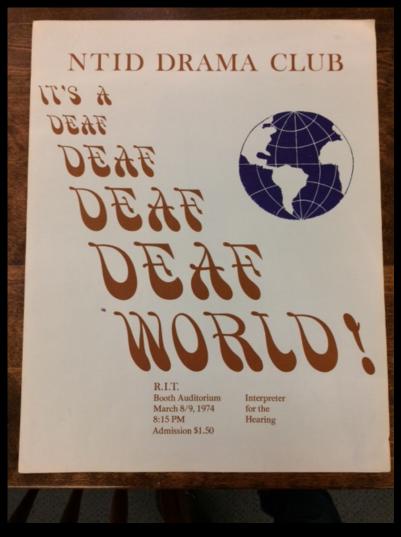


# List of all NTID plays (1974-2015) since 1974 ~ 20 Deaf plays out of ~ 200

 http://www.ntid.rit.edu/theatre/sites/default/files/seasons74present.pdf

# It's a Deaf, Deaf, Deaf, Deaf World (1974)

Created by Robert Panara and Cast



(RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archives)

# "Script"

from the desk of ROBERT PANARA Skit1-3 views of classroom teaching: 2) Oral method - Lesson on Charlemagne the Great (-) Norhster melfish - " " c) Total Communication method in 5 minutes, tercher Can cover 5 times more facts & details obar Charlemagne (our)

Shit - (2) I views of Classroom teaching - lesson on facting ( I Haike Roems -H saddening world " and On the last long road a) O ral method b) Kartesta " c) Total communication Skit -(3) Ussembly frogram in chool for deap. Two students recite " Star Sporyere Banner # 1 does it orally & same time Questin (manator) - which one

from the desk of ROBERT PANARA Skit - @ anota - Distoy is filled with to ofinions of learned men who doubted that the deap wed learn to read and write, Ito, 1) Aristotle ( scene of 2 n 3 Greeks in attens ) - " ... therefore, I say again - " The ear is the organ of education. Lucretins (Roman fact writing "On the Nature of Things") -To instruct the deaf no art and No care improve them, and no wisdon teach "

3) Curitan timis - ( Vurilan frescher sermonizer in church) in therefore, Joccuse Ma. of witcharaft because he dans to say that he taught a deap by ( nom ) to efect ! " 4) Modern times - convention of M.D.'s (via interpreter) -Voctor argues that it is infossible for deaf to imagine the sound of words and the pound of music because They are deaf, period! follow with frotest from deaf participant who then stoods up and signs "On (tis ) express

### ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

CAST OF "DEAF ... WORLD"

Date 2/21/74 \*

### Bublect PEHEARSALS AND SCHEDULE

Time

Tollowing is a schedule for It's a Deaf, Deaf, Deaf, Deaf Morld. PLEASE be on time. If you have a time conflict, Let Mr. Panara, Mr. Hagans or Al Rothstein KNOW AHEAD OF TIME SO WE DON'T SIT AND WAIT FOR YOU.

NOTE: Many of the things for this show need to be rehearsed on your own; please have every individual part ready by next Wednesday when we put the whole thing together.

Thurs.	215£	7:00	Planet of the Deaf	Tom, Ron, Paul, 8. Wood, Beth R., C. Baird, Tony, Judy
		8:00	Individual	B. Wood, J. Cole, Luana, Cindy G., Mitch T.
(WEEKE	Opening Narrati M. Marc C. Chap H. Marx Laurel Miss Am Dance: Neighbo Poem: E Star Sp	song: B. Ro on: Mitch ar eau: Ricky lin: Ricky : Paul W. and Hardy: F erica song: Glenn and Lu ras Mime: Pau L. Wood	Paul W. and Tom B. Ray Lana Ll J. and CB Lr: (first four lines) Sha	
MANAXA			- Charge S.	
Mon. 2	5.£k	7:00 8:00 9:00	Planet of the Deaf Individual	Mitch T., Joe S. Same as above Richy, Tom, Paul M. Dennis, Shaggy, Joe V., Cindy S.
Tue. 2	6.th	7:00 8:00	Hearing/Leaf [Paul directing] Charlemagne & Star Spangled 8.	Cindy S., Glenn, J. Cole, Dennis Beth B., Ricky, Tom, Gina, Kat, Shaggy, Maril, B. Ray
		8:30 9:00	Opening Song Planet of Deaf	B. Ray, B. Bonni, J. Colo Same as above
Wed. 2	7.th	7:00	WHOLE SHOW	WHOLE CAST
Thursd	lay 28th	7:00	Scedule o 21th when we	see Wed. rehearsali

### PROGRAM ORDER FOR IT'S A DEAF ... WORLD

- CAST: Mitch Travers, Joe Sardina, Dennis Anderson, Charles Baird,
  Ron Berger, Betty Bonni, LaJuan Brown, Kat Burland, Beth Bystrycki,
  Janice Cole, Gina ViNicola, Marilyn Fedele, Cindy Garwood,
  Rocky Gomez, Jaime Jackerson, Paul Johnston, Janice Kowalski,
  Barbara Ray, Tom Riggs, Tony Schiffiano, Ricky Smith,
  Shaggy Spencer, Glenn Stewart, Judy Temple, Joe Viscardi,
  Paul Waller, Barbara Wood, Mitch Hahar, Cindy Spears
- 1. Song: It's a Deaf....World--Bonni, Cole, Ray
- Opening--Travers, Sardina (plus Spencer, Anderson) (plus Johnston)
- 3. Famous Actors--Smith, Waller, Riggs
- . Sign Language-- Mahar, Gomez, Viscardi, Riggs, DiNicola, Spencer
- Miss America -- Ray
- 6. Charlemagne Lesson--Bystrycki, Smith, Burland, Riggs, Dillicola
- 7. Star Spangled Banner--Spencer, Ray, Fedele
- 8. Panel Discussion--Spencer, Smith, Anderson, Ciscardi, Spear, Maller
- 9. Hearing World/Deaf World--Stemart, Cole, Anderson, Spear
- Song--Wood

  10. The Protest--Ray, Smith DiNicola [TV]
  Crowd
  Song--Brown, Cole, Garwood
- 11. Deaf Arts:
  Dance--Brown, Stewart
  Mime--Johnston, Baird
  Poetry--Johnston, Baird, Anderson
  ABC's--Schiffiano
- 12. Planet of the Deaf-Baird, Bystrychi, Schiffiano, Riggs, Berger, Wood, Waller
- 13. Improvisations -- all
- 14. Finale and Parade--ALL

(RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archives)

### 'It's A Deaf, Deaf, Deaf, Deaf World!'

By JAMES H. HIGGS III





"il's a Deaf, Deaf, Deaf, Deaf World"—Left: The theme song was signed by (left to right, foreground) Betti Bonni, Janice Cole and Barbera Ray. Right: The narrators (Joe Sardina, left, and Ron Berger, right) operate a la "Laugh-In."

Probably the oldest member of the LPF. if we may be permitted to say so, could be the Holy Bible-for here and there we read of the deaf. For example, one of the Apostles, describing the activities of Christ, in His trips around Palestine, refers to His communication with the deaf in this manner: "He, as he opened the ears of the deaf man and loosened his tongue, talked to him in his own language, the language of signs."

Dr. George M. McClure who ranks as No. 1 among the great LPF editors, (Kentucky Deaf Mute) was the butt of much good-natured ribbing by his fellow contemporaries. The November 4, 1886, issue of the Kansas Star chronicles his marriage in a unique manner, viz:

"As we intimated last week, the editor of the Kentucky Deaf-Mute has committed -matrimony, Miss Carrie Jasper, a former pupil of that Institution, being the object upon whom he has centered his affections. No cause has as yet been assigned to the rash act. The following preamble and resolutions have been adopted by the "Brotherhood of Editors of Deaf-Mute Papers," of which the lately departed was an active member:

Whereas, Miss Carrie Jasper, in her unquestionable wisdom, has removed from our midst our dearly beloved brother, Mr. Geo. M. McClure, be is hereby

Resolved, That it shall be his duty to get up and build the kitchen fire without murmur, no matter what the temperaure of the weather may be, and

Resolved, That he has knowingly brought this great calamity upon himself, and Resolved. That he must bear the consequences, and be it further

Resolved. That our several "sanctum sanctorums" be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days, and that each nember wear an emblem of mourning around his "Faber" for the same period.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the deaf-mute papers, and sent to the friends and relatives of the happy pair, with the assurance that

they have the best wishes of a noble fraternity, and that their pathway through life be strewn with roses, with ne'er a thorn to prick or mar the happiness of

"Two souls with but a single thought, Two hearts that beat as one."

The NTID Drama Club presented a smash hit, "It's a Deaf, Deaf, Deaf, Deaf World," on March 8-9, 1974, at Rochester Institute of Technology campus on which NTID is located. Satirizing and spoofing the theory that "This is a hearing world," the show also lampooned some of the canons of deaf education and communica-

The production was conceived and directed by Robert F. Panara, Professor of English and Drama at NTID, who also adapted the theme song and the featured one-act farce: "The Planet of the Deaf." Opening with the theme song "It's a Deaf,



"The Exercist and the Devil"-Recky Gemez (standing) and Everett Spencer.

Deaf, Deaf, Deaf World" sung by Betti Bonni, Janice Cole and Barbara Ray, the play illustrated the universal use of pantomime, body language, silent language and other methods of communication while trying to make the point that it is a deaf world also. Why is it so? The answers, and the ensuing introductions, were provided by the narrators (Ron Berger and Joe Sardina) a la "Laugh-in" style.

In another scene about the "Silent Language," we got to see the likes of Marcel Marceau and Charlie Chaplin (Rick Smith), Harpo Marx (Paul Waller), Laurel (Tom Riggs) and Hardy (Paul Waller). No wonder it took so much art and skill for these masters of stage and screen to apply the "Silent Language" to establish themselves! Also included in the "Silent Language" skits were such everyday examples as the airplane jockey, policeman directing traffic (Mitch Maher), karate artists, Italian gestures (Gina DiNicola), construction engineer and a spoof on "The Exorcist" (the devil jumping the priest (Rocky Gomez) and then receiving the last rites). Another delight was "Washoe" (Paul Johnson) the chimpanzee, who can sign and fingerspell as well as communicate better than many people who "teach" the deaf.

In a swift sequence featuring the same teacher (Beth Bystricki) and class of students, a lesson on "Charlemagne the Great" proved convincingly that only by method of total communication could all the facts of history as well as Charlemagne's personality be adequately covered in one hour of classroom time.

Another point that was driven home involved a skit called "It Happened in Louisiana," which vividly dramatized the courageous march to the State Capitol in 1973 by the deaf of Louisiana who protested against discrimination and demanded the right to decide on methods of instruction and communication in school. A moving





Left: Halku poems in sign-mime. Janice Cole (left), Dennis Anderson (standing in chair), Charles Baird and Paul Johnston (kneeling). Right: Deat dissenter sign "We Shall Overcome" during a parady on the march of protesters on the Louisiana state capital.





PLANET OF THE DEAF-Left: Inhabitants capture a "hearie" stranger. Right: The "hearie" (Charles Baird) opts for his deaf sweetheart, Beth Bystrycki.

scene followed in which six of the pro- deaf convenes to applaud his brilliant Administrative Changes In Schools testers sang-mimed "We Shall Overcome."

The highlight of the show was the "Planet of the Deaf," a satire on life. This farce on the "Planet of the Apes" puts the hearing captive in the shoes of the deaf. In other words, the "hearie," being an alien in a totally deaf planet, feels the pressures of physical discomfort, psychological inferiority, discrimination, belittlement and other difficulties the deaf have had to face in this world. The "hearie" (Charles Baird) is forced to make decisions just to please the majority (deafies). He falls in love with the daughter of the Chief (Tony Schiffiano) and wants to marry her. She will only do so if he becomes deaf and learns sign language. This is accomplished as painlessly as taking a drug, and the "hearie" wakes up suddenly gifted with the power to communicate in flawless sign language. A hilarious scene follows in which he soliloquizes a la Hamlet: "To hear or not to hear, that is the question!" Upon suddenly seeing the beautiful maid (Beth Bystricki), he decides that " . . . speech is cheap as silver, but sign language is beautiful as that deaf girl's golden hair." The curtain falls as he serenades her with "Let me call you sweetheart" a la Romeo

The production finale, "Deaf Show of Shows," punctured the fallacy of the deaf "sub-culture" by featuring vaudeville acts which revealed the ingenuity and originality of deaf talent. This included songs, dances and skits performed in mime. sign-mime, "signiloquism" and native deaf dance rhythms such as developed by Glenn Stewart and La Juan Brown.

The show came to a grand finale with the parade of NTID athletes who participate in RIT varsity sports, a total of 17 athletes in six different sports. The theme song, signed by the whole galaxy of 55 performers, gave glittering testimony that "It's A Deaf, Deaf, Deaf, Deaf World!"

James H. Higgs III, a graduate of Horton Watkins High School in St. Louis, Mo., is now a Social Work major at Rochester Institute of Technology. He has attended Saint Joseph Institute for the Deaf. Central Institute for the Deaf and Special School District of Saint Louis County.

Photos by Robert Mezzanotte, a graduate of the American School for the Deaf, who and Juliet, and the whole planet of the is majoring in Photography at NTID.

John Shipman has been appointed superintendent of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, succeeding Kenneth Huff, Mr. Shipman was formerly principal in the Virginia School for the Deaf, Staunton.

Dr. Robert Gates has been appointed superintendent of the Michigan School for the Deaf, Flint, succeeeding Bruce Siders, retired. Dr. Gates was previously the superintendent of the Pennsylvania State Oral School in Scranton

Dr. Alma Alexander has been appointed superintendent of the Mississippi School for the Deaf, Jackson, succeeding Dr. Robert Brown, retired. Dr. Alexander was formerly the principal in the Louisiana School for the Deaf, Baton Rouge.

The Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson is the new executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit,

William Ransdell, previously associated with the Southern Regional Media Center for the Deaf in Knoxville, is now the assistant superintendent in the Arkansas School for the Deaf, Little Rock,

Carl Kirchner has resigned his position in the California State University at Northridge to become the assistant director of the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School for the Deaf, on Gallaudet College

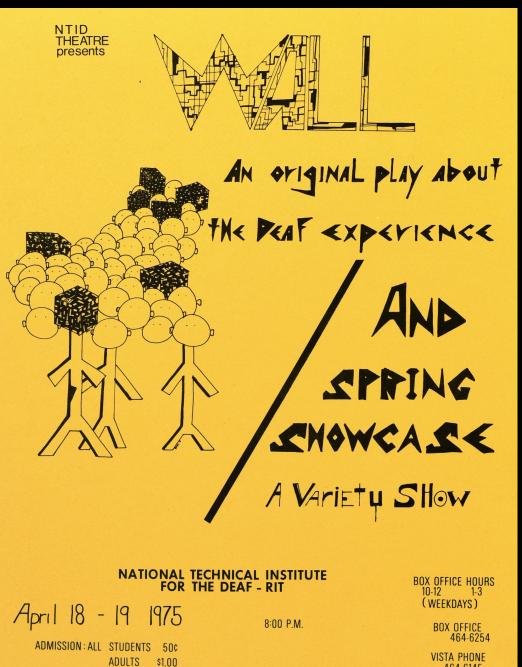
4 - THE DEAF AMERICAN

SEPTEMBER, 1974

# Wall (1975)

Directed by Jerome Cushman

(RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archives)



464-6145

# Wall (1975)



Paul Johnston

(RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archives)



Catherine "Kat" Daviton-Burland

### From Focus Mag.



Front row: Jose Gonzalez, Paul Johnson, moi

Back row: Mark Suffridge, Patricia Meek, Robert Audette, Ron Swartz



### 'WALL'

NTID students are beginning to put cracks in the wall that separates the hearing and the deaf. Breaking down communication barriers is something the NTID Theatre has been doing for a long time. They have performed for numerous local and regional civic organizations, giving hearing people a glimpse of the world of deafness.

Their latest production, an original play titled "Wall", has been performed before more people at more different places than any other production they have presented. "Wall" was performed at NTID and for several community groups in Rochester. Then the group took the play on the road (the first NTID play to travel) to Maryland, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Michigan.

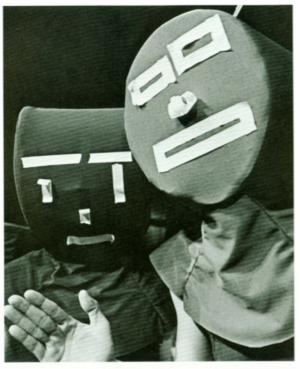
"'Wall' is a small biography of deaf life," says Paul Johnston, who played the central character who goes from childhood to the adult world trying to cope with his deafness.

Created by seven students, the play was directed by ET instructor Jerome J. Cushman. The seven actors related their own experiences and insights, talked to other deaf students and staff members, and gathered the total list of experiences together into a powerful statement about a deaf "Everyman" character.

"Thank you — all of you. You have opened my ears to hear the sounds of silence," a student from Michigan said after the performance there.

"I was struck by the beauty and congruity of the sounds that were created for sheer expression. Words became much more meaningless, and I had to concentrate on the entire person to understand. That kind of total communication is very vital to me.

(continued)





('Wall', continued)

Thank you," a New Jersey play-goer said.

The seven students in "Wali" included Paul Johnston (Lake Oswego, Ore.), Bob Audette (Warren, Mich.), Joe Gonzales (McAllen, Tex.), Cathy Meek (Pasadena, Calif.), Kat Burland (Bridgehampton, N.Y.), Mark Suffridge (Cincinnati, Ohio), and Ron Swartz (Utica, Mich.).

The highlight of their tour was a request from the University of Michigan to take part in their Invitational Festival of Experimental Theatre held in Ann Arbor in May. As one of only eight colleges and university troupes selected to participate, the event turned out to be a true sharing/learning experience for both the NTID students and the audience, which was made up of professional theatre people, students and school administrators.

"People fell asleep at and walked out on several school-produced plays, but "Wall" received a standing ovation," the Michigan Free Press reported.

"Performers were skillful and inventive, using mime and puppet figures to illustrate the alienating experience of the deaf in a world of sound," reported Arthur Sainer in New York City's The Village Voice.

The play is performed using a combination of mime, sign language, speech, and powerful visual metaphor utilizing ramps, masks and a fabric sculpture. It depicts the loneliness, humor, frustration and pain of people who cannot communicate with one another, of deaf people in a hearing world. It dramatically portrays the deep emotion and love that can occur when people let their emotions break through the wall of apathy and indifference to discover their own ability to communicate and relate to the world around them.

"Your work moved me deeply; tears and laughter combined. The physical imagery, the scenarios and the use of vocal sounds compelled me to sit at the edge of my seat. Your story was not only heard with my ears but with my soul," an actress from Michigan said.

"The most beneficial thing was to realize the love that is built up among those who share the same problem and the intense communication which the nondeaf avoid because they assume they are 'free'. The deaf correctly understand we are all 'un-free'," a theatre instructor from Michigan said.

NTID student Ron Swartz, who performed in the play, felt the travel and experiences in Michigan were the most thrilling in his life.

"The people were standing and clapping. They were crying and laughing, they came up and hugged us. I'll never forget it," the Engineering Technologies student recalled.

Ron was so moved that he wrote a poem, "The Crack in the Wall," expressing how he and the other deaf students felt and perceived the travel experience and the Michigan performance. He explains in the poem how the play brought a glimpse of the deaf world to people who had never had any contact with the handicap before. He explains that the emotion the play evokes is the single most powerful force that can break through the wail of man's separation from man.

### THE CRACK IN THE WALL

The world of noise Was between the world of silence, Invisible by the wall within it. As the wheels Turn and stop: The world of silence Was brought forth And expressed By the cloud from the sky To the invisible wall before their eyes: No spoken words entered their ears. But only met their eyes: Their eyes show emotion. Frustration, confusion, and happiness: The noise was brought Into the world of silence. Not by hands, nor by voice. But by the crack in the invisible wall. The world of silence Was carried upon the wheels once again . . . Leaving the experience Behind their eyes and minds:

The world of silence

Ron Swartz May 12, 1975

Was carried infinitely through the sky.



### Info from Paul Johnston

- Visual theatre –inspired by Mummenschanz
- Experimental Theatre / improvisation
- Jerome Cushman "facilitator"
- Wall traveled to Univ of Mich Experimental Theatre Festival
- & performed there
- Wall toured at other colleges and Deaf schools





### Info from Catherine "Kat" Daviton-Burland

### Short video by Kat, a cast member in Wall:

- Jerome Cushman, director of the play, offered his guidance and a skeleton for the show based on Deaf people's upbringin
- All cast was Deaf and from Hearing families, oral or mainstream schools
- Themes covered bullying, language deprivation, audism....
- 1 scene with huge mask Kat operated the mouth movement
- while on the shoulders of another actor, she then emerged out of the mask to show her true Deaf identity developing
- Thanks to Robert Panara, who got her to be involved in the play
- Won best supporting actress for her role in the play
- Play opened with actors walking through the audience dressed in individual masks that were expressionless. The audience could take masking tape from the actors and put it anywhere they wanted on their masks or bodies. They then went up on stage as if they were an assembly line of robots. This showed how the Deaf child is manipulated and manhandled in life.
  - The audience could relate to the play as many had similar upbringings of being raised to imitate Hearing people.

# Signs of the Times (1976)

Directed by Gerry Argetsinger





"Signs of the Times" was the one of NTID's bicentennial observances, highlights some of the significant events in the history of deaf people in the United States. Some vignettes depict actual historical happenings, such as Alexander Graham Bell's search for an amplification device for his deaf wife which led to his invention of the telephone. Other sketches center on conditions the deaf have faced historically, such as their struggle to win the right to get a driver's license or have the use of an interpreter in a court of law.

From

https://www.ntid.rit.edu/theatre/events/signs-times

### Signs of the Times

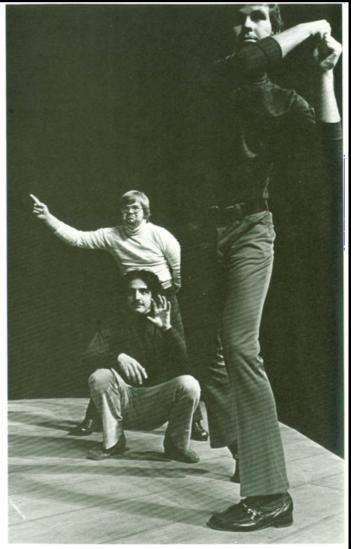
The history of the deaf in America is the subject of an original play. Signs of the Times, which was presented recently by the NTID Theatre.

Written by Dr. Gerald Argetsinger, director of NTID's Experimental Educational Theatre program, the play includes two poems by Robert Panara, an NTID professor who is deaf himself.

Signs of the Times. one of NTID's bicentennial observances. highlighted some of the significant events in the history of deaf people in the United States. Some vignettes depict actual historical happenings. such as Alexander Graham Bell's search for an amplification device for his deaf wife which led to his invention of the telephone. Other sketches center on conditions the deaf have faced historically, such as their struggle to win the right to get a driver's license or have the use of an interpreter in a court of law.

The cast. made up of deaf and hearing students from RIT. recreated the achievements and frustrations of the deaf in America through the skillful blending of speech. sign language and mime, giving meaning and movement to the play for both the deaf and hearing in the audience.

Entering RIT freshmen were invited to a special presentation of Signs which helped to introduce them to deafness and some of the problems and situations deaf people have faced throughout their history. The play was also an integral part of an event honoring new staff in September.



Highlights from Signs of the Times

(Above photo) William Hoy devises the first hand signals in professional baseball. portrayed by students Chuck Smith (umpire), Brookville. Pa.; Howard Hammel (catcher), Augusta. Mt.; and Ray Zeidler (at bat), Patchogue, N.Y.

(Opposite, top left) Thomas Gallaudet teaches deal girl, Alice Cogswell, with students Raymond Zeidler and Cathy Boboly, Lawrence Harbor, N.J. (Opposite, top right) Hearing and deaf students live and learn together at NTID with (left to right) hearing student C. Earl Tucker, Rome, N.Y.; Howard Hammel; and Pamela Giles, Rochester, N.Y.

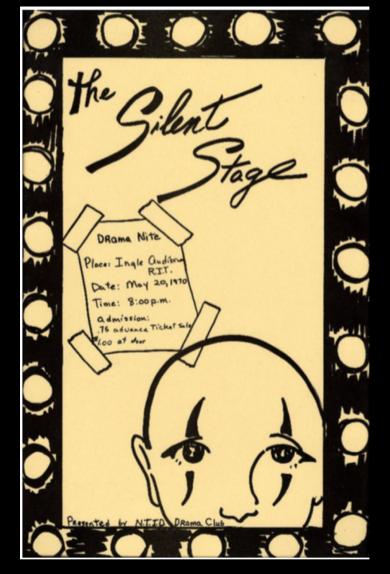
(Opposite, right) Alexander Graham Bell develops visible speech with Mabel Hubbard. Played by Craig Passi, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio: and Cathy Boboly.







# The Silent Stage (1979)







(RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archives)

# Interview with God (1980-1981)

Directed by Paul Johnston

### ntid theatre presents

### INTERVIEW WITH GOD

Directed by: PAUL JOHNSTON

Created by: THE CAST

Lighting Designed by: RAY KENNEY

"Interview with God" is an improvisational play created and developed by the cast and the Director, Paul Johnston. It is a witty satire about a deaf girl who is unhappy and complains about her life. She eventually has the opportunity to meet and talk with God, and a delightful and surprising discussion takes place between the two of them.

The purpose of this production is to create an original play in American Sign Language and then translate it for the hearing audience. This is the opposite from our usual course of action in the Experimental Educational Theatre Department: usually, we select an established play and translate it into sign language. "Interview with God" is a play developed by a group of actors entirely in their native language: American Sign Language.

But enough of my ideas --- as Shakespeare said: "The play's the thing." We hope you enjoy our play.

Paul Johnston and the Company.

### CHARACTERS:

ELIZABETH
SERMON, SECRETARY, HEARING STUDENT
HEARING STUDENT, ANGEL
HEARING, JANITOR, PROFESSOR
ROBBER, STUDENT, ADAM
HEARING, RAPUNZEL

DEBSIE RENNIE DUANE JACKSON DONNA DIMARCO ELLEN BOTTING MIKE LAHITOLA SHARON RADEMACHER

VOICE TRANSLATION CHARACTERS:

DUANE JACKSON ELLEN BOTTING DONNA DIMARO SHARON RADEMACHER MIKE LAMITOLA

DEBBIE RENNIE

JOANNE DEROLLER DANNY VELTRI KAREN SNITH CAROL AKANATSU NANCY HOLLENBECK STEVE BERRY

This year the students and staff of the Experimental Educational Theatre Department are presenting several plays which we call "lab Productions." These "lab Productions" are directed by students or staff members and the cast and crew include people from MTID and RIT. Our goal for the "lab Productions" is to give more people the opportunity to participate in the theatre. We do not charge admission so we are free to experiment and to try new ideas. We concentrate our efforts on the people, not on building sets, designing lights, or creating costumes. If we have elaborate sets, lights, or costumes for each lab Production we could present only one or two productions each year. We hope by limiting the physical demands of the plays, we might give the audience what is really important - the joy of watching actors on stage.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: the students in Tech. Theatre class. Beth Metlay, Sally Kenney, Mike Brinker, Linda Crane, Susan Fischer, and Father Erdle Charles Roper.

# I Didn't Hear That Color (1990) – guest play

Written, directed and produced by Bob Daniels



First Black Deaf Play

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uucNrLWbVXI play at 7:47-13:37

# Meta (1993)

Written by Patti Durr Directed by Dennis Websiter

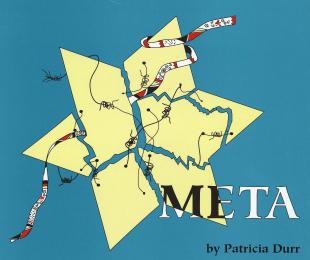




National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

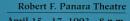
LIGHTS ON! Deaf Theatre and NTID

Department of Performing Arts present:



An original play about a deaf Holocaust survivor and a deaf African American college student that explores relationships, humanity, and acceptance of Deaf culture.

### Directed by Dennis Webster.



April 15 - 17, 1993 - 8 p.m. April 18, 1993 - 2:30 p.m.

\$ 3 for students \$ 5 for all others

The April 16 performance will be presented in sign language only. All the other performances are accessible to deaf and hearing audience members.

NTID Box Office open weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. beginning April 5, 1993.

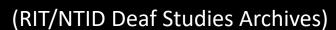
For reservations or more information, call the NTID Box Office at 475-6254

(VTDD)

The production is made possible, in part, by the Esther Usdane Memorial Fund Award fo community theatre of the Rochester Area Foundation

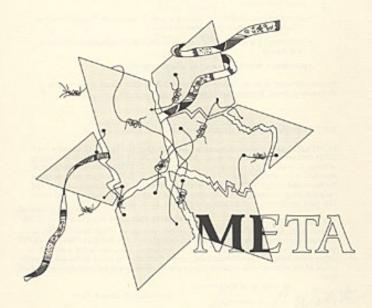
This material was produced through an agreement between

Designed by Olga Robinson, mechanical by Ken Klooster, ( Applied Art and Computer Graphics students'



### LIGHTS ON! Deaf Theatre and NTID Department of Performing Arts

presents:



Robert Panara Theatre April 15-18, 1993

Directed by Dennis Webster Written by Patricia Durr

WHY the poster design?

The artwork for this play was de represents Meta, the primary Jepieces showing Meta's recollincomplete. The thread symbol similarly to the way the Jews wi The thread also represents barb pieces of the star are put back t American Deaf woman. The Afr does not have any words to syml

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Old Meta Della Gorelick Michele Bontrager Young Meta Kemba Tracey Washington Roger Vass Jr. Janna Tara Petrites Neighbor, Deportee Colleen Geler Mother, Kapo Erika Koza Andrew Rubin Brother, Prisoner Michelle Johnston Sister, Prisoner Annie M. Yeager Friend Peter W. Wollenhaupt S.S. Doctor

Soldier Paul May

Soldier, Young S.S. Matthew W. Daigle Female S.S. Cynthia C. Barrett Female Kapo Lisa Holbrook Baby Jessica L. Miller Female Prisoners: Sophie Bleiweiss

Patricia Mace Cindy Millard Gina I. Switalski Teresa N. Thiry Anne Wania Kathleen Wania

Christine Wania Mel Westlake

Male Prisoners: Robert Cagle

Frank Kimmes Donald R. MacDonald

Voicing actors for the April 15, 17, and 18 performances

Meta P. Gibson Ralph Kemba Keayva Edwards Janna Susan R. Quinlan Marc Matthew Knapp

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Robert D. Pratt Stage Manager Darin Turner Shop Foreman James R. Price Shop Assistants George Hambuch, Andrew Rubin Translation Coach Kathy Holzwarth Voices Coach James Graves Assistant Stage Manager Anthony Bonura Scotty Zwicker Properties Sound Engineer Peter Reeb Dennis C. Webster Lighting Electrician George Hambuch Lightboard Operator Scenic Artist Drew Francis Painting Crew Paula A. Grcevic, Jenny Geller, Daniel Lunt, Lyn Parson, Olga Robinson, Eddle Swayze House Manager Suzanne Bono Head Usher James Carpenter

Costume Supervisor Alice J. Parker Halle Reed, Jennifer DiDonato, Costume Assistants

Flymen Construction Crew

Box Office

Brie Giannovario, Michelle Maurer, Patricia Schneider

Andrew Rubin, Darin Turner Members of the Technical

Theatre classes

Lighting Crew Members of the Stage Lighting class Publicity Jim Orr, Dennis Smith Graphic Design Olga Robinson Mechanicals Artist Kenneth Klooster

Lobby Photos Michael Spencer, Suzanne Bono,

Ellen Yeates

Joanne DeRoller, Kathy Holzwarth, Tina Mason, Pam McClain

THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS OR ANY REPRODUCTION OF THE PERFORMANCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

### Special Thanks to:

Deaf artist and survivor David Bloch, for the use of his art work Houseworks, for the use of the futon and frame Monroe Surgical, for the use of the hospital bed Eric Pylko, for his assistance with lighting Kent Winchester, for the use of the masks Jenny Geller, for the use of her painting









A Celebration of Spirit

WITTIN IN CALOR BRAND

LIGHTS ON! Deaf Theatre and NTID

Department of Preferencing Are are prepared.

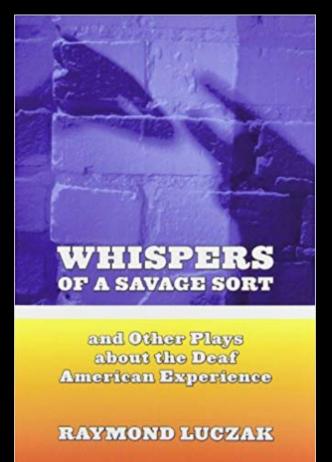
A word of the control of the





https://youtu.be/g4S-TWIkmcg

# American Deaf Play Creators Festival (1996)



Written by Raymond Luczak
Directed by Howie Seago
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd\_3d4VG-vY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd\_3d4VG-vY</a>

### Cat Spanking Machine

Written by Shanny Mow Directed by Phyllis Frelich





### American Deaf Play Creators Festival (1998)



### Squanto Spoke English

Playwright Shanny Mow

Director Susan Jackson

### Cast of Characters:

Squanto Connel	Chuck Baird
Joan Smith	Mel Westlake
Linda	Megg Masterjohn*
Joe	Ed Wing
Brenda	

### The Golden Arrow

(a play for children)

Suggested by Chuck Baird Developed by the cast

> Director Shanny Mow

### Cast of Characters:

Megg Masterjohn*
. Matt T. Hochkeppel
Susan Jackson
Ed Wing
Luane Davis*
Mel Westlake
Julie Stewart

<sup>\*</sup>Appears through the courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

### Tales from a Clubroom (2006)

Written by Eugen Bergman and Bernard Bragg Directed by Aaron Kelstone

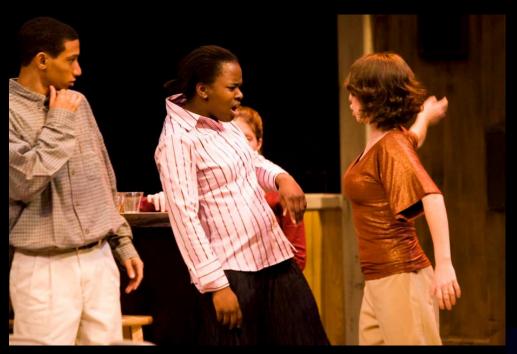




• "Tales From a Clubroom" is truly an important work of contemporary drama co-written by influential Deaf artists, Bernard Bragg and Eugene Bergmann, The play illustrates a traditional deaf club circa 1980 and the community of personalities within. As recent events at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC demonstrate, community, language, and culture are strongly valued by Deaf people in a unique and fundamental way that many in the hearing world have never experienced.

From

https://www.ntid.rit.edu/theatre/events/talesclubroom

















### Black box original plays

### Windows of the Soul (2006)

Written and Directed by Luane Davis-Haggerty

### Obstacles (2007)

Written by Stephen Baldwin with Cast from LSD Directed by Ruthie Jordan

https://youtu.be/Knlpr-93Epo

### Deaf Woman Project (2008)

Written and Directed by Ruthie Jordan

Bell In Hell (2008)

Written By Shanny Mow Directed by Aaron Kelstone



 An original one-act play that LSD students developed for the 1990 Henry Fonda Young Playwrights Project -

### Written by:

Eric Funk
Tricia Richard
Shannon Scofield
Suzanne Trosclair
Stacie Whitfield
Michelle Williams
Monica Winters



# Broken Spokes (2008)

Written by Willy Conley Directed by J. Matt Searls

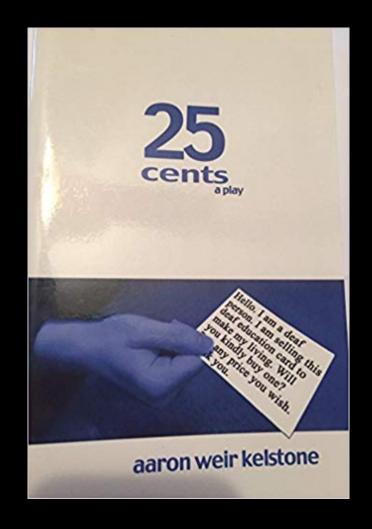


• https://www.rit.edu/ntid/deaftheatre/abwnpa/dt3sandbox2/main/Videos/VideoClipsofNTIDProductions/BrokenSpokes.htm

# 25 Cents (2009)

Written by Aaron Kelstone Directed by Dan Brucker

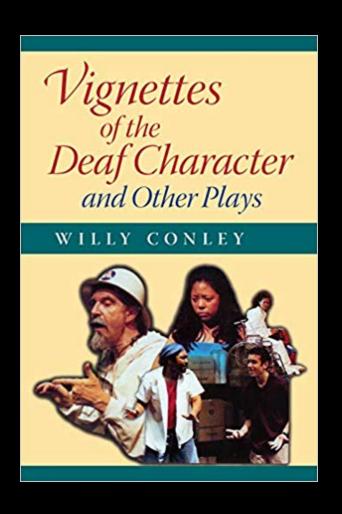




# Vignettes of the Deaf Characters (2009)

Written by Willy Conley Directed by Aaron Kelstone





https://youtu.be/2rRiSLiMuKs

# Tribes (2016)

Written by Nina Raine Directed by Gerald Argetsinger

The College of Liberal Arts Performing Arts Program and NTID Performing Arts Program present



"TRIBES made me excited about New York theatre again; I haven't been this KNOCKED OUT by a play in a long time." - NYTheatre.com

Written by Nina Raine

**Directed by Jerry Argetsinger** 

February 4-6, 2016 at 7:30pm

February 7, 2016 at 2:00pm

Robert F. Panara Theatre
\$5 student/senior 55+/children \$7 public/faculty/staff

Tickets go on sale January 25th at the NTID Box Office First floor LBJ Hall

11am to 4pm and one hour before curtain on the day of a show All performances will be interpreted for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Tribes is presented by special arrangement of Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

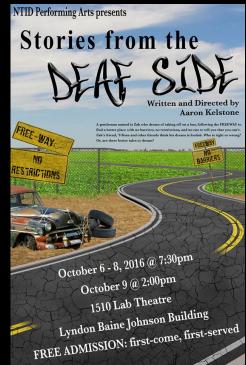
Some Material May be Inappropriate for Children Under 17



# Stories from the Deaf Side (2016)

Written and directed by Aaron Kelstone





# The Glass Wall (2014)

Created and Performed by Gallaudet's Latinx Student Union Performed at NTID/RIT in the Fall of 2017



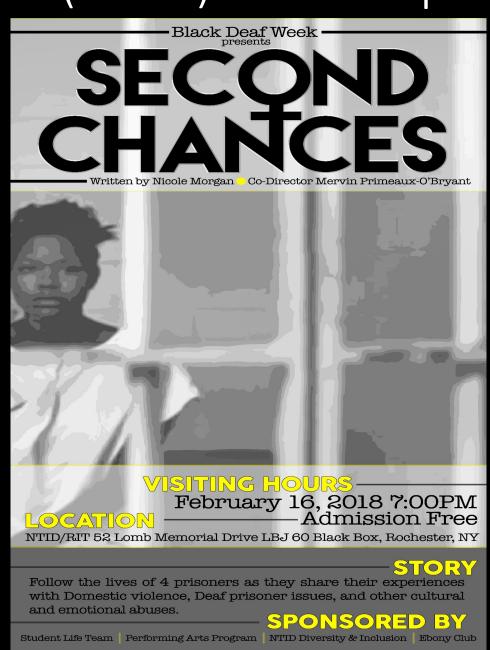




# Second Chances (2018) – Guest play

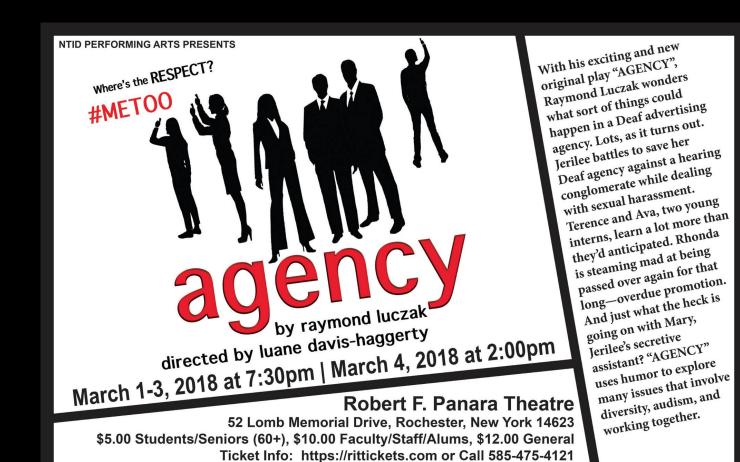
Written by Nicole Morgan Co-directed by Mervin Primeaux-O'Bryant

Second Chances follows the lives of 8 characters who are imprisoned in the Koonce County Correctional Facility. While there, they tell their stories and explore the many facets of Domestic Violence, including but not limited to: suicide, emotional and cultural abuse. Though fictional, the stories told were derived from the real lives of men, women and children all over the world. The play also seeks to shine a spotlight on issues surrounding Deaf prisoners. Whether straight or gay, black, white or other, this powerful musical drama seeks to bring awareness to the fact that Domestic violence knows no bounds and hurts everyone the same way.

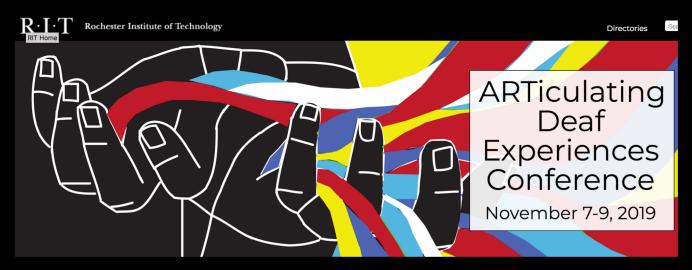


# Agency (2018)

Written by Raymond Luczak Directed by Aaron Kelstone







More Deaf Plays at https://www.rit.edu/ ntid/deaftheatre/



### November 15 - 17, 2019 - Panara Theatre

A unique work showcasing slices of Deaf lives-both contemporary and historical. This work, collaboratively created by the cast members, will treat audiences to various genres of ASL performance: poetry, narrative personal experiences, creative storytelling, re-enactment of historical events, as well as dramatic monologues and dialogues.

(Upcoming original Deaf-themed production)