

AMERICAN DEAF PLAY CREATORS' FESTIVAL



NOVEMBER 5 - 8, 1998 ROBERT F. PANARA THEATRE

Producer's Note

Welcome to the American Deaf Play Creators' Festival II. The ADPCF provides Deaf playwrights, directors, crew, and performers with a unique opportunity to develop and produce new plays while exploring innovative approaches to play development.

Who sponsors it? The ADPCF is hosted by the NTID Performing Arts Department and supported by a grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation of New York City, which also supported the first American Deaf Play Creators' Festival in Fall 1996.

Its purpose: The purpose of the ADPCF is to give Deaf playwrights an unparalleled opportunity to develop "rough" scripts that have potential for regular mainstage production. The ADPCF provides Deaf artists with an environment in which they can create and produce original works in American Sign Language. The emphasis is on experimentation and innovation. Participants—writers, directors, and cast members—all have a role in the development of the script to a staged production—and have fun, too. Workshop productions and staged readings provide professional-development opportunities for playwrights, actors, and audiences.

Two years ago, Mary C. Vreeland, Producer of the first American Deaf Play Creators' Festival, wrote:

When the concept for a festival celebrating the creative spirit of Deaf Theatre Artists was proposed, it was my dream to first and foremost provide a safe and healthy environment for these gifted individuals to explore their craft. My dream is coming true tonight.

Well, Mary, I'm pleased to say that your dream is continuing to come true!

—Matthew S. Moore
Producer, ADPCF II

American Deaf Play Creators' Festival II

Producer

Matthew S. Moore

Production Design & Support Team

Bonnie Meath-Lang, Artistic Director

Alan Will, Production Manager/Set Designer

Damita Peace, Costume Designer

Derek Madonia, Lighting Designer

Jim Orr, Publicity & Box Office

Script Selection Committee

Matthew S. Moore, Producer

Mary Vreeland, Coordinator of NTID's Acting Curriculum

Patrick Graybill, Actor and Translator,

Assoc. Professor of Performing Arts & Literature

Bonnie Meath-Lang, Artistic Director

Robert F. Panara, RIT's first deaf professor,

Deaf-theater pioneer, & author.

This festival is made possible
through the generosity of
The Nathan Cummings Foundation
New York

and

NTID Office of the Dean / The NTID Foundation

Special thanks to:

Valerie Crenshaw—R.T.S., Paul Drodziel—Physical Plant,
Patrick Graybill, and Mary Vreeland

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. Luane Davis*

The Golden Arrow (a play for children)

Suggested by **Chuck Baird**
Developed by **the cast**

Director
Shanny Mow

Cast of Characters:

Jaguar Woman Megg Masterjohn*
Tizak. Matt T. Hochkeppel
Earth, Fire, and Rain God. Susan Jackson
Prop Person Ed Wing
Prop Person Luane Davis*
Prop Person. Mel Westlake
Prop Person Julie Stewart

*Appears through the courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

Matthew S. Moore, Producer—an RIT graduate who participated in theater productions throughout his college years. He is publisher and co-editor-in-chief of **DEAF LIFE** magazine, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, and has co-authored and published several books.

Shanny Mow, Playwright and Director—internationally known Deaf playwright whose works have been produced by the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD), Cleveland Signstage, and other professional and college theaters. He is currently artist-in-residence at New Mexico School for the Deaf. One of his scripts was produced at the first American Deaf Play Creators' Festival (ADPCF, Fall 1996).

Chuck Baird, Playwright and Actor—an acclaimed visual artist and former member of NTD, he continues to act, paint, sculpt, and execute theater design professionally. Also a graduate of NTID/RIT, he lives in Kansas City.

Susan Jackson, Director and Actor—formerly with the NTD and its Professional Training School, she has been a professional actor and arts administrator for many years. She lives in Groton, Connecticut.

Megg Masterjohn, Actor—a young actress with a number of television and film credits, Masterjohn is a member of the Screen Actors' Guild, and is based in Los Angeles.

Mel Westlake, Actor—an MFA graduate student in Textiles at RIT, Mel has performed in a number of NTID productions and attended the NTD's Professional Training School. She performed in the first ADPCF.

Matt Hochkeppel, Actor—a former member of NTID's touring performance group, *Sunshine Too*, Hochkeppel is pursuing a Master's degree in Education.

Luane Davis, Actor—Artistic Director of the Interboro Repertory Company in New York City, she directs a traveling company of Deaf and hearing actors.

Ed Wing, Actor—a graduate student and graduate of NTID's Interpreter Training Program, Wing has acted in several NTID productions, *Sunshine Too*, and the first ADPCF.

PRODUCTION STAFF

for the 1998 American Deaf Play Creators' Festival

Technical Director Alan Will
Stage Manager Joshua Liller
Shop Foreman Joe Hamilton
Assistant to the Directors. Julie Stewart
Sound Peter Reeb
Assistant Set Designer Shawn Grozek
Master Electrician David DeYager
Lightboard Operator Byron Hampton
Production Crew Kevin Camway, Jenna Ezis,
. Shawn Grozek, Christina Sutton
Prop master Shawn Grozek
Costumer Damita Peace
Craftsperson. Crystal Ferrell
Assistant to the Costume Designer. Mary Staub
Costume Crew. D.J. Bono, Alim Chandani,
. Jennifer Harrison, Elizabeth LeBlanc,
. Eliza Skinner, Julie Stewart, Lauren Wolf
Scenic Artist. Amy Higgins
Program Book design. Matthew S. Moore
Production Photographer Charles F. Bancroft

*After the play, an open discussion/Q&A
session will take place in the theater.
You are welcome to stay and participate.
Ask questions, express your opinions,
join the fun!*

**NO FOOD, DRINK, OR TAKING PHOTOS
IN THE THEATER. THANK YOU!**

NTID Student Congress

welcomes all students and invites you to participate in working together to make 1998-99 the very best one ever.

NSC has been providing leadership opportunities to NTID students for many years.

If you're interested in getting involved, stop by the NSC office on the first floor of the Dining Commons. Or contact NSC President Debbye Byrne.



www.deaflife.com

Stop by and have a nice browse anytime! Our Website contains a complete catalogue of back issues of **DEAF LIFE**, index of contents for each issue, a Deaf Life Press catalogue, and ordering information for subscriptions, back issues, and books...and other goodies. Tell your friends, too!

Also check out
www.deafchat.com.

THE ODD COUPLE



The **hilarious** comedy by Neil Simon, directed by Patrick Graybill

Playing at NTID
January 14-17,
1999.

"...you think **you** have roommate problems?!..."