



Monique Holt Joins Staff

Quest is fortunate to welcome Monique Holt to its staff. Monique will serve as the company's ArtsBridge Coordinator. Monique joined Quest in April 2004 as a Teaching Artist Team with Diane Nutting of City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh at Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for three-week residency. Then her story was chosen to be part of Quest's Visual Playwrights Retreat this past summer.

Her experience in the arts include: At National Dance Institute of NYC, she taught basic ballet for the summer school and assisted the choreographer for the show; taught acting technique using non-verbal strategies for Playwrights Horizon Theater School – TSOA; was the teaching artist for Manhattan Theatre Club, Theatre Development Fund/ Theatre Access Project of NYC; taught for Juilliard Theater Interpreting Program and helped the Hyattsville Elementary with playwriting for the Young Playwrights' Theater of DC.

Monique obtained her BFA in Acting, from Tisch School of the Arts [TSOA] – New York University. She is also a member of acting unions: EQUITY and SAG/AFTRA. She recently appeared in the Open Circle Theatre Company's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, where she also served as the sign master.

Wings Company

Quest Wings Company has been busy this fall. In September, the company conducted auditions for new members. For the last six weeks, the members have been participating in physical theatre classes under the tutelage of Karin Abromaitis, Joel Ganz, and Quest Affiliate Artist, Mark Jaster. Using the skills they have learned in class, the company members have looked at material from its repertoire with new eyes and also developed new pieces.

The Wings Company's production of *Mosaic* has been invited to perform at the Deaflympics Summer Games Cultural Festival this January in Melbourne, Australia. The festival's producer is a long time member of the Quest family, Alex Jones. Participating in the festival will provide Wings with another opportunity to share its work with the international community. The festival will also enable the members to see the work of other outstanding deaf theatre artists, several of whom performed at Deaf Way II. Quest Affiliate Artist, Astad Deboo will participate in the festival as well. The two-weeks in Melbourne will provide Astad and Quest president, Tim McCarty to discuss plans for their upcoming collaboration on a new work currently entitled *Common Ground*. Quest Affiliate, Joe McIntyre will compose the music for this new piece which will be workshopped in May and hopefully tour India and South Africa in 2007.

The Wings Company is also in preparation for residencies at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and Governor Baxter School for the Deaf both of which will take

place in March. The Smithsonian Institution's Discovery Theatre has booked *Road Signs* to performances in April and July.

Members of the I Cannot Hear Theatre Company from Brno, Czech Republic are planning to join the Wings Company for a three-month collaboration from May to August. The Czech's collaboration is another reflection of Quest's growing importance as an international leader in training and producing visual theatre that welcomes all people.

Board of Directors

Quest welcomed several new members, Kris DaCosta, Maxine Jenkins, Robert Leonard, and Ana Marshall to its Board of Directors last month. Thanks to Quest Affiliate Artist, Shizumi Shigeto Manale for hosting the Board for a Japanese Ceremony and pot luck dinner at her house. It was an exquisite evening. During its all day meeting, the Quest staff provided the Board with in depth reports on its work. Catherine Dehoney, Development Director for Chorus America guided the Board through an introduction to giving. Catherine will return to the Board's next meeting Saturday, December 11.

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Quest President, Tim McCarty has joined the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's (NTID) National Advisory Group. Leaders in deaf education, vocational rehabilitation, the Deaf community, business, and technology appointed by the United States Secretary of Education serve four-year terms on the advisory group and meet twice a year in Rochester, New York on the Rochester Institute of Technology campus where NTID is located. The group provides input and guidance to the school's vision and programs.

Under the guidance of newly appointed Vice President and Dean Dr. Alan Hurwitz, the NTID staff has developed an exciting and challenging plan to bring about significant changes to the direction of the school. This makes it a pretty interesting time to join the advisory group. The visit to NTID also enabled McCarty to visit old friends including Vince Daniele, Chairman of the Math Department, Patrick Graybill, a founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf and a recent retiree of NTID's Theatre Department, and Sander Blondeel, a deaf Belgium stained glass artist who was in residence at NTID. The next National Advisory Group meeting will take place in April.