

February 19, 2003

Looking Ahead

Thanks to Affiliate Artists Mark Jaster and Mike Lamitola for joining the Quest Productions staff to brainstorm ideas regarding how this division of Quest might function in the future. All of us remain excited about the work that is being done now. From its beginnings, Quest committed to supporting groundbreaking work while being open to ongoing re-evaluation and assessment. We are looking at several models. One idea that generated real enthusiasm was producing an annual festival that features Quest's work and the work of other performing arts companies producing visual theatre. This actually goes back to an old idea developed during the early planning stages of the company called QuestFest.

One of the strong suggestions coming out of last week's meeting is that Quest should focus the next year on promoting the productions it currently has in its repertoire. That would mean that *Wings*, *White Frost Falls*, *A Celebration of the Senses*, *The water falls.*, and perhaps *Alice* would form the core of a two-week festival that would take place in the winter or spring of 2004. Workshops on visual theatre would be available to the general public during the festival. We have also been networking with other artists and companies committed to visual theatre for consideration for the 2004 or 2005 QuestFest.

We welcome your input about the idea of QuestFest. Write to us with your suggestions.

Black and Deaf in America

The African Continuum Theatre Company (ACTCO) and Quest have agreed to work together on the development of *Black and Deaf in America* into a full-length theatre piece. Originally, commissioned for the Deaf Way II International Arts Festival, *Black and Deaf in America* will feature the work of Fred Beam, Michelle Banks, and Christopher Smith. ACTCO and Quest will workshop and showcase the piece in the spring of 2004. If all goes well, the *Black and Deaf in America* will be a series of premiers slated to appear at the Atlas Theatre when it reopens in the fall of 2004.

Quest Board Meeting

The Quest Board of Directors will meet Saturday, March 8. The Board will be welcoming new members, electing officers, and developing a work plan. A special thanks goes to Willy and Stella Conley for hosting the Board for dinner at their house. We thought it would be fun for them to have dinner with the playwright and then see *The water falls.* that evening.

The water falls.

In spite of the snow, work continues on Quest's production of *The water falls*. I think you are going to be impressed with this show. We've got a great team working on it. I am continuously impressed with how people respond to the challenges we give them. The things we are doing with sound and computer generated animation on this show are pretty darn exciting.

Thanks to Laura Kim for her volunteer work in creating the graphic design for the show. The postcards should be ready for distribution next week. Also thanks to Robert Dabney for the developing the press release for the show. A copy of the release is attached to this e-mail and is also available on our website. Please feel free to share it with friends and co-workers.

Liz Hill is looking for volunteers to help with the performances. If you are interested in helping out, contact her at volunteer@quest4arts.org. We also need volunteer interpreters for the Quest Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 8. The meeting begins at noon. There's a free lunch and dinner in it as well as complimentary tickets to that evening's performance. If you would like to interpret for the meeting, contact Renee Decker at rdecker@quest4arts.org.

Tyst in Philadelphia

The following announcement comes from our friends in Sweden's Tyst Theatre. Perhaps we should consider a road trip to Philly to see them perform.

Dear Friends,

We met last summer at the Deaf Way II. We are now happy to inform you that Swedish Theatre company Tyst Teater will return to the USA. We have been invited to participate in the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, April 30 - May 4, 2003.

We will bring a new performance called "Donkey Skin". For more information about "Donkey Skin" / "Åsneskinnet" please have a look at our homepage: [www.riksteatern.se/Tyst Teater](http://www.riksteatern.se/Tyst%20Teater).

For more information about the Philadelphia International Children's Festival please have a look at their homepage: www.PENNPresents.org

We hope to meet you in Philadelphia!
Barbro Gramén

Flying Home

Today, I'm headed back to the old country where they spell my name Macardi (The Scottish rendering of McCarty). In fact, I'm listening to "The Bagpipes of Scotland" CD to get myself in the mood. I'll be attending the Fringe Factor conference in Edinburgh and meeting with partners to further Quest's plans for participating in this summer's Fringe Festival. I'll give you a report when I get back.