

*Quest: arts for everyone*

## The CallBoard

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**March 9, 2005**

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Most people hear the phrase “March Madness” and think NCAA basketball. Well, Quest has its own March Madness.

This week, actors Kevin Dyels and Cara Miller fly to Austria for a three-city tour of A Celebration of the Senses. This marks Celebration’s third European tour. Kevin and Cara will culminate their trip at the European and International Deaf Theatre Festival in Vienna. Also appearing at the festival are two plays adapted for the stage by Quest’s president, Tim McCarty. I Carried the Flag based on a poem by poet Rainer Maria Rilke premiered last year at the festival. This year will mark the premier of In the Penal Colony by Franz Kafka. The tandem pieces are slated to be remounted in Poland this coming fall.

The Wings Company heads to Maine for a one-week residency at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf in Falmouth. The ensemble will perform Road Signs and Mosaic in the community and will also conduct a series of visual theatre workshops at several area schools. Students participating in the workshops will create their own short visual pieces and share them at the end of the week.

ArtsBridge Pittsburgh is underway again this year. This two-month plus program brings together City

I theatre, the western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, and Quest to train students at the school in visual theatre and assist them in creating and performing their own new play. Diane Nutting from City Theatre and Amy Newland from WPSD are in the early stages of their work with the students. The Wings Company will travel to Pittsburgh the first week of April to perform Road Signs and Mosaic and interact with the students and their work. Quest ArtsBridge Coordinator, Monique Holt will head to Pittsburgh the last several weeks to team with Diane and Amy on finalizing and mounting the students' new piece.

The highly successful musical, Big River begins its run at Ford's Theatre in Washington this month. Wings Company members Darren Frazier, Andre Otolara, and Dave McLellan are in the show. MSSD graduate, Michelle Banks flew in from Los Angeles to join the cast. Quest Webmaster and lighting designer, Myra Coffield will serve as the show's assistant stage manager. Monique Holt is the assistant ASL coach, and Willy Conley is an understudy. Quest provided assistance with auditions for this production and we have been helping the Fords' staff in marketing the show to the deaf community in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

If you would like to see Big River, come join us Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 PM at Ford's Theatre, 511 10th Street, NW Street in Washington. Thanks to the generosity of the Ford's staff, Quest has reduced priced tickets that we will sell at their face value of \$48. Proceeds will support Quest. Make your checks payable to:

Quest  
7414 Newburg Drive  
Lanham, MD 20706

Please email us your reservation at [tim@quest4arts.org](mailto:tim@quest4arts.org). That way we can keep you updated about plans for the evening.

These are challenging times in the nonprofit sector. Private foundation portfolios are down while requests for funding are up. Government funding is evaporating and giving to the arts has shrunk 34% in the last three years. This is the largest decrease of all the giving categories. In short, we need your help. Quest is blessed to have so many friends who care about the groundbreaking work we are doing all over the world. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in gifts by the end of our fiscal year in December. One hundred thousand dollars is a lot for a small organization like Quest, but it's really comes down to just 100 people giving \$1,000 each or 1,000 people giving \$100. Thus far, Quest family members have committed to over \$25,000 in gifts. We hope that we can count on you. You can make your donation online at [www.quest4arts.org](http://www.quest4arts.org) or you can write your check to:

Quest  
7414 Newburg Drive  
Lanham, MD 20706

Thank you on behalf of the Quest staff, Board of Directors, Affiliate Artists, and volunteers.