



March 22, 2004

### **Great News**

Last week, we received word from the United States Department of Education that Quest has been awarded a three-year nearly \$300,000 grant to support the ArtsBridge Recreation Project. This project will serve as a national model for how communities, organizations, and agencies can work together to promote recreational and employment opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities.

Partnering with Quest on the ArtsBridge Recreation Project are VSA arts Maryland, Round House Theatre, the African Continuum Theatre Company, Gallaudet University, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Paradigm Players, Maryland Department of Rehabilitation Services.

We are deeply grateful for DOE's support and are looking forward to working with our partners.

### **Open Rehearsal**

You are welcome to join the *Wings* Company for an open rehearsal of their new show, *Mosaic*. The rehearsal will take place at the Gallaudet University Elstad Auditorium which is located at 800 Florida Avenue, NE in Washington. *Mosaic* will have its world premier March 30 in Vienna, Austria.

This marks the first play that the *Wings* Ensemble has created on its own. Company Assistant Director, Miriam Ganz has taken the lead in shaping the show. Sign Master, Laurie Anderson has been adapting the poems and songs in the show. Joining them in the cast are Beverly Miderlind, Ryan Hayes, and Darren Frazier.

### **On the Road**

It's been a busy couple of weeks. The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf ArtsBridge Project is in full swing. Last week, Tim McCarty conducted professional development for teachers and staff members from the school's lower and upper schools. The lower school participants attended a workshop on *Using Theatre as a Pre-Reading Activity* while the upper school participants attended a workshop on *Using Theatre to Enhance Reading*.

This week the *Wings* Ensemble gave a visual theatre workshop to the 10 students participating in the project and performed *Wings* in the afternoon for the upper school students and invited guests. Quest was particularly pleased with the large turn out of staff members from City Theatre. City Theatre is the lead partner in the project.

We extend a special thanks to Fred Noel and Rick Fredin for their gracious hospitality. Fred and Rick invited the company to their home for dinner. We also want to thank City Theatre Education Director, Diane Nutting and WPSD Drama Instructor, Amy Newland for their enthusiasm and leadership for the ArtsBridge project.

Quest was also at George Mason Middle and High School in Fairfax, Virginia this week. Tim McCarty gave a workshop entitled *Poetry in Motion* to advance Sign Language and English students. Sign Language and English students then attended a performance of *A Celebration of the Senses* performed by Shira Grabelsky and Mike Harper. The English students had been studying the poems from the show prior to the performance. Thanks to George Mason Sign Language Instructor, Kris DaCosta for putting this wonderful day together.

The next couple of weeks promise to be equally as busy with performances and workshops in Austria and in New Jersey.

### **Board Meeting**

The Quest Board of Directors met last Saturday. The Board focused on progress on the Quest Community Events Program. The Olympic Games Committee has met four times and plans are moving along nicely for this summer's event. The Board will soon have guidelines for Quest Soirees. We are hoping that we will be able to implement Soirees some time this spring. Soirees are intended to be small events that individuals or small groups can sponsor in homes or other small venues to promote Quest and solicit contributions for the company. Since we have Quest family members all over the world, a soiree could take place anywhere.

Board President, Betsy Meynardie will attend training this week on the Boards and Fundraising. The Board is also looking at the possibility of a retreat and training some time during the fall.

We are still recruiting new Board members. Our immediate needs include a lawyer, accountant, artist, and develop person. The next meeting is schedule for June.