

April 7, 2003

## Wings Journeys to Austria

This afternoon, Quest's *Wings* cast and production staff flies to Vienna, Austria to participate in the European and International Deaf Theatre Festival sponsored by the Arbos Theatre Company. The company has been working hard over the last couple of weeks developing new material for the show and weaving in new members of the cast. In addition to performing their own show, the cast will collaborate with performers from Russia, Switzerland, Iceland, and Germany to create a new visual theatre piece. The Quest staff and cast will also give workshops. Of course, we can't forget one of our prime objectives whenever we travel – shopping.

You can check in on *Wings* progress in Vienna on our website, [www.quest4arts.org](http://www.quest4arts.org). Myra Coffield will be providing photos and regular updates.

## Retreat

Plans are shaping up for the Quest Playwright's Retreat which will be held at Gallaudet University the last two weeks of May. Quest Affiliate Artist, Willy Conley is the director for the retreat which is coordinated by Elana Nightingale. If you are interested in applying as a playwright, the guidelines and application are on our website. If you would like to volunteer, contact Elana at [enight321@aol.com](mailto:enight321@aol.com)

## Alice

Plans for the next phase of *Alice*, a new show based on *Alice on Wonderland*, are shaping up. Nick Olcott and Tim McCarty are co-writing and co-directing this piece which is produced in cooperation with Round House Theatre. We will be workshopping new material the last week in June and the first week in July. We will showcase our progress to the public and when we have something more on that, we'll let you know.

## VOLUNTEER ASL INTERPRETERS NEEDED

The following request comes from Nick Olcott.

Theatre J, a professional theatre in downtown Washington, needs people who would be willing to interpret during rehearsals of The Mad Dancers for Deaf actor and Quest Affiliate Artist, Fred Beam. This would be a perfect opportunity for students or new interpreters looking to gain experience. There are two hearing members of the show's cast who are professional ASL interpreters, but additional interpreters would help take the burden off them and make the process easier and more enjoyable for Fred. Anyone who could donate any time at all (even an hour or two would be helpful) should contact [Jeanette@dcjcc.org](mailto:Jeanette@dcjcc.org) immediately.

Upcoming rehearsal times are:

Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, 10 am – 6:30 pm

Monday, April 7 – Wednesday, April 9, 5-10 pm

Thursday, April 10, 11 am – 4 pm

Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13, 10 am – 6:30 pm

Monday and Tuesday, April 14 and 15, 5 – 10 pm

Wednesday, April 16, 10 am – 3 pm

Thursday, April 17, 11 am – 4 pm

Saturday and Sunday, April 19 – 20, 10 am – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 22, 6 – 11 pm

Wednesday, April 23, 11 am – 11 pm

Thursday through Sunday, April 24-27, 6 – 11 pm

### **FRED BEAM, renowned Deaf actor/dancer to appear at Theatre J**

Well-known Deaf artist and Quest Affiliate Artist, Fred Beam will open April 29 in THE MAD DANCERS at Theatre J, 1529 16th St, NW, in downtown Washington, DC. He will play Shimon, a Deaf follower of a Jewish spiritual leader Rabbi Nachan of Breslov.

While the entire play will not be signed, Fred will be using sign and gesture in his performance, and much of the dance in the piece is gesture-based.

Dates for signed performances have not yet been set, but here is the theatre's information on the play. (For more information, consult the website at [www.dcjcc.org](http://www.dcjcc.org).)

#### **The Mad Dancers**

#### **A Mystical Comedy with Ecstatic Dance**

April 29 - June 1, 2003

By Yehuda Hyman

#### **Featuring Fred Beam, Alek Friedman, Bill Hamlin, Naomi Jacobson, Nehal Joshi, Sarah Ridberg, and Jesse Terrill**

The great Rabbi Nachman of Breslov has one more story he must tell before he dies. But who will take the place of the Rebbe when he is gone? The successor must meet many requirements, but above all, "He should be a terrific dancer!" So why not frustrated IBM word-processor, Elliot Green? Old World wisdom meets New World style in this buoyant Hasidic tale pulsing with dance and an unrestrained love of life.

#### **Co-Directors: Nick Olcott & Liz Lerman**

MacArthur Fellowship winner Liz Lerman (Founder and Artistic Director, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange) and Helen Hayes Award-winning director Nick Olcott will draw on Jewish traditions from Eastern Europe, Yemen, India, Spain and Ethiopia to bring this culture-rich comedy to life.

#### **Performing Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 3:00 and 7:30 pm**

For tickets call 1-800-494-TIXS or go to [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com)

PRICES: \$21-\$34

For information about Group, Senior, 25 and Under Tickets, and \$15 Student Tickets, contact the theatre at [theatrej@dcjcc.org](mailto:theatrej@dcjcc.org)

Theatre J, at the  
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