

## Alice

Work has begun this week on the next phase in the development of *Alice*, a new show based on *Alice in Wonderland*. Quest continues to work in partnership with Round House Theatre in the creation of *Alice*. Co-written and co-directed by Nick Olcott and Tim McCarty, *Alice* features a talented cast of deaf and hearing performers. Choreography is by Fred Beam and music is by Joe McIntyre, both Quest Affiliate Artists. Photos and videos of *Alice* rehearsals can be seen on the Quest website. (<http://www.quest4arts.org/productions/alice/index.htm>)

We welcome the general public to join us on Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00 PM at Round House's Silver Spring Stage for a sharing of *Alice*. Admission is free. Directions to the Round House Theatre Silver Spring are available at this address

<http://www.round-house.org/resources/directions.htm#silver>.

## Playwright Retreat

Thanks to everyone who made our first Visual Playwrights Retreat a huge success. Directed by Quest Affiliate Artist and Director of New Works Willy Conley, the two-week retreat introduced three deaf playwrights to various elements of visual theatre. Playwrights Ray Kennedy, Vikee Waltrip, and Annie Wiegand paired with theatre experts to explore ways to develop their scripts from a visual base. A wonderful ensemble of actors aided the process which was augmented by panel discussions and seminars. The retreat culminated with a showcase of some of the discoveries made during the two-weeks. The retreat staff will provide the playwrights with video documentation of their lab sessions in order to further assist their scripting of their shows.

Videos, photos, and seminar notes will soon be available on the Quest website

(<http://www.quest4arts.org/company/retreat.htm>).

## QuestFest

The pace is increasing for plans for the first QuestFest a, three-week celebration of visual theatre at this summer's Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Quest will feature three shows (*White Frost Falls*, *Wings*, *A fool Named "O"*) along with performances by Ramesh Mayapan from Singapore and Robert Farmer from Australia.

QuestFest reflects Quest's ongoing commitment to visual theatre and work developed or performed by deaf and hard of hearing artists. The Fringe is the largest festival in the world and last year sold nearly 1 million tickets over the three-week period. Producers and presenters from around the world attend the festival seeking work to develop and present.

Additional information about QuestFest appears on the Quest website.

(<http://www.quest4arts.org/productions/tours/fringe/index.htm>)

## Mike Lamitola Memorial Service

Approximately 300 friends of Quest Affiliate Artist, Mike Lamitola gathered in New York City's John Houseman Theatre to celebrate the life of this special man. It was a touching and powerful experience. It was also a meaningful reunion of friends. Tim McCarty's remarks at the service appear on the Quest site (<http://www.quest4arts.org/company/lamitola/remarks.htm>) which includes a tribute to Mike (<http://www.quest4arts.org/company/lamitola/>). We will be posting photos and videos of Mike in the ensuing weeks.

Quest has dedicated all of its work over the next year in honor of Mike and has established the Mike Lamitola Fund to support theatrical and cultural experiences for young and emerging deaf artists. If you would like to contribute to the Fund, information is available on the Quest site (<http://www.quest4arts.org/company/lamitola/resolution.htm>).

### Supporting the Quest

Quest is seeking corporate sponsorships and individual gifts to support its programming. Quest's growing impact encourages people to think in new ways about how theatre is done. Quest continues to provide exciting and challenging artistic and cultural experiences for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people.

It should come as no surprise that this work costs money. QuestFest in Edinburgh alone costs over \$60,000. Your help is welcomed and needed. One way you could help is by making an individual contribution to Quest. You could also sponsor a *Wings* ensemble member to QuestFest, and you could encourage others to join this Quest. If you own a business or work for a company that is engaged in the community, your company could serve as a corporate sponsor for Quest.

Please take a look at the Quest website for additional information about sponsorships and giving.

Visit us at [www.quest4arts.org](http://www.quest4arts.org)