

Deaf Way II International Arts Festival
Coordinated by
Quest: arts for everyone

The summer of 2002 marked a major international academic, sociological, and cultural arts event. Almost 10,000 registered participants and nearly 400 deaf and hard of hearing performing, visual, and literary artists from around the world gathered on the campus of Gallaudet University in Washington, DC for the Deaf Way II Conference and International Arts Festival. Thousands more attended the festival's performances, exhibits, and workshops which featured exemplary deaf and hard of hearing artists throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Academic Conference

Held at the Washington, DC Convention Center, the week-long conference explored the interconnectedness of deaf life in the new century through presentations and discussions on such issues as: art, education, language, culture, technology, and human rights.

International Arts Festival

Quest coordinated the International Arts Festival component of Deaf Way II. The festival brought together 400 of the world's top deaf, hard of hearing and hearing performing, visual and literary artists and presented them to enthusiastic audiences in the Washington, DC area. The festival presented over 125 performances and 10 visual arts venues throughout the metropolitan area in partnership with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, National Arboretum, Millennium Arts Center, Mexican Cultural Center, and Swedish Embassy. Approximately 400,000 people attended Deaf Way II festival related events.

Beyond Deaf Way II

Quest is committed to making a lasting impact on the general public's exposure to professional deaf and hard of hearing artists. Quest continues to create, produce, present, and support theatre that emanates from a visual base and features casts and production staffs of deaf and hard of hearing people. The company's recent production of Affiliate Artist Willy Conley's powerful psychological drama, *The water falls*, enjoyed a highly successful two-week run at Olney Theatre in Maryland. Quest's *Wings* ensemble moved audiences to tears in Vienna, Austria. Recently, Quest, in cooperation with Gallaudet University, sponsored a two-week Visual Playwrights Retreat to encourage deaf and hard of hearing playwrights to create new work. In cooperation with Round House Theatre, Quest is creating a new show based on *Alice in Wonderland*. In partnership with the African Continuum Theatre Company, Quest will workshop and develop into a full-length piece *Black and Deaf in America*, which premiered at the Deaf Way II Festival.

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