

QUEST PRODUCTIONS

A DIVISION OF *Quest: arts for everyone*

Quest Productions shows amazing, maddening, thought-provoking, frightening, unbelievable, visually rich work to the world. Quest coordinates and presents arts festivals, creates and produces new works for the stage that support its mission and represent a strong visual and cultural base. The company also serves as a theatrical representative for affiliated artists from around the world who share Quest's vision.

Most recently Quest coordinated the *Deaf Way II International Arts Festival*. Deaf Way II 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. Quest produced over 125 Deaf Way II performances with program partners The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Smithsonian Institution, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland among others and on the campus of Gallaudet University. Deaf Way II held exhibitions of visual art at the Millennium Arts Center, The Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, the Mexican Cultural Center, the Swedish Embassy, and the National Arboretum.

Quest: arts for everyone

Founded in 1987, *Quest: arts for everyone* is a group of exceptional artists, educators, and dedicated volunteers representing a diverse ethnic, cultural, and artistic panorama. All are committed to using the arts to promote understanding among all people, promote excellence, and enable individuals who have been marginalized to realize their full potential. Quest believes that everyone is an artist. Through its international exchanges and collaborations, Quest carries its mission to communities around the world, including Japan, India, Romania, Mexico, and South Africa. These exchanges provide participants with a deeper understanding of our world.

Quest is ...

Quest Productions

- *Deaf Way II International Arts Festival* (2002)
- *QuestFest* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (2003)
- New Works
- Artist Representation

Education and Training

- Academy
- Arts in Education
- Workshops

ArtsBridge

- Advocacy for employment in the arts for people with disabilities

QUEST PRODUCTIONS

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Recent Accomplishments

- Produced Gallaudet University's *Deaf Way II International Arts Festival*.
- Coordinated the first ever *National Forum on Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Prompted the founding of the *Maryland Governor's Committee on Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities*
- Created a new theatre piece with a mixed cast of deaf and hearing performers titled *White Frost Falls* and featuring Quest affiliate artists Willy Conley, Mark Jaster, and Shizumi Shigeto Manale. The show appeared at the Deaf Way II International Arts Festival.
- In cooperation with award winning director, playwright, and actor Nick Olcott and featuring actress Shira Grabelsky, created and directed *A Celebration of the Senses*, a visual interpretation of poetry. The show premiered at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC and was recently featured at the Deaf Way II International Arts Festival and the European Deaf Theatre Festival in Vienna, Austria. Grabelski played Helen Keller in Arena Stage's production of *The Miracle Worker*,
- Provided support for the VSA arts Playwright Discovery award winning productions at the Kennedy Center
- Established *Wings*, a touring ensemble of emerging deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing performers. *Wings* performs nationally and internationally at schools, festivals, conferences and other venues.
- Formed the ArtsBridge Partners Network, 13 national organizations committed to sharing information on careers in the arts. Partners include: the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Association of the Deaf, and Smithsonian Institution.
- Produced Willy Conley's play *The water falls*. at Olney Theatre under the direction of Mike Lamitola, the National Theatre of the Deaf's Artistic Director
- In cooperation with VSA arts Maryland conducted professional development training in the arts for early childhood educators
- In cooperation with the Publick Playhouse, produced a three-production season featuring Quest Affiliate Artists.

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- Provided artistic direction, faculty, staff, and grant writing support for Gallaudet University's Young Scholars Program. Conducted performance and workshop tours of South Africa, Mexico, Romania, Japan, and India. The tours featured deaf and hard of hearing students and professional artists.
- Through a contract from the Maryland State Department of Education, compiled research on theatre education and wrote summaries of these findings as they relate to the Maryland Standards in Theatre Education.
- Provided casting and technical support to Arena Stage's production of *The Miracle Worker*. Six Quest Affiliate Artists, staff members, and volunteers were cast in the show.

Coming Attractions

- In cooperation with Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland, will workshop and showcase *Alice*, a new play based on *Alice in Wonderland* featuring a cast of deaf and hearing performers. (June, 2003)
- *QuestFest* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, a three week line-up of some of the best professional visual theatre featuring deaf and hearing performers at the largest theatre festival in the world. (August, 2003)
- *Wings* and *A Celebration of the Senses*, will perform in Prague and Brno, Czech Republic. (November, 2003) Tours of Poland, Iceland, Japan, and China are in the works.
- *QuestFest*, a two-week festival in the Washington, DC area featuring performances that emanate from a visual base. (February, 2004)
- Second annual Visual Playwrights Retreat, a two-week retreat to provide guidance to deaf and hard of hearing playwrights in creating visual theatre. (May, 2004)

Affiliate Artists

Quest's 30 affiliate artists represent a wide variety of ethnic, cultural, and artistic backgrounds. Seventy percent of the affiliates are people of color and nearly 40 percent are deaf or hard of hearing artists or individuals with disabilities. The affiliates agree to support Quest's mission and to seek opportunities to work together. Quest's affiliate artists are actors, writers, directors, dancers, choreographers, performance artists, and visual artists. Affiliate artists include Willy Conley, Walter Chakela (South Africa), Astad Deboo (India), Mark Jaster, Mihai Malaimare (Romania), Joe McIntyre, Mongezi N'taka, Shizumi Shigeto Manale, and Kelvin Yazzie (D'Nie Nation).

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Staff

Tim McCarty	President & Founder
Renee Decker	Assistant to the President
Audrey Wineglass	Development Coordinator
Kristin McCarty	Development Officer
Jenelle Smith	Development Assistant
Liz Hill	Community Outreach Committee Chair
Jennifer Perlis	Community Outreach Assistant
Myra Coffield	Web Designer
Robert Dabney	Communications Consultant
Paul Harrelson	Director, Quest Productions
Fred Noel	Production Manager, Quest Productions
Willy Conley	Director of New Works
Pat Laird	ArtsBridge Coordinator

Support

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