ABOUT THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF

The National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) is a professional acting company made up of deaf and hearing actors. Established in 1967, The National Theatre of the Deaf brought Sign Language out of the shadows and placed it in the world spotlight, raising it to the level of an art form. The theatre’s signature style, a combination of Sign Language and spoken words, has expanded the boundaries of theatrical expression. This double-sensory style enables hearing audiences to see words as they are spoken.

ABOUT THE LITTLE THEATRE OF THE DEAF – Family/Children’s Theatre Wing of The National Theatre of the Deaf

The National Theatre of the Deaf does a variety of programming. Included is their family/children’s performances first established in 1968 after receiving many requests to do programming for youth and families. The Little Theatre of the Deaf, comprised of actors from the National Theatre of the Deaf, is welcomed back yearly to schools, libraries, parks, museums, and theatres throughout the world. The magic of The Little Theatre of the Deaf’s performances for young audiences is its remarkable ability to educate, engage, entertain and enlighten at the same time.

ABOUT WORKSHOPS

The National Theatre of the Deaf takes pride and pleasure in offering qualified “hands-on” workshops to students and the general public. NTD actors offer workshops in Creative Drama, Creativity In Sign Language, Write, Sign and Act Out a Story and Lecture-Demonstrations. Participant groups work better if they are homogeneous in grade/age/background.

EXTENDED RESIDENCIES/ARTS-IN-EDUCATION:

In addition to workshops, extended residencies and arts-in-education programs are available. These specialized programs are developed in conjunction with educators to enhance performance training, and encourage language/communication skills among students. These extended residencies are frequently performance-based and culminate in student performances.
Workshop Descriptions

Lecture-Demonstration – Up to 1 Hour
For audiences of all ages, an NTD Lecture-Demonstration is an animated and informative look at the concept and history of the NTD with demonstrations by the actors of this unique style of visual theatre. This workshop is the best offering for a large group.

Along with the history of the National Theatre of the Deaf, its cultural influences, NTD actors demonstrate the techniques used in developing our performances. This workshop shows what we do, and how we do it. If you are choosing one or more of our shows, we can include excerpts from the performance as a “teaser.” Also, a small “hands-on” demonstration using audience volunteers can be added to this workshop if requested. The workshop ends with Questions and Answers.

Workshops - Participatory

A. Creative Drama – Up to 1 ½ Hours
Participants: Up to 25 Maximum
This workshop consists of theatrical games designed to stimulate creativity, imagination, and theatrical inventiveness using our Visual Theatre Techniques. Exercises in cooperation, trust, and problem solving are utilized.

Students are led in exercises to role-play characters, and events using our theatrical style. If it is requested, the workshop team can coordinate their activities utilizing material being studied in the classroom. Upon advance notice through the NTD office, and the submission of materials, the workshop can be coordinated to work stories currently being studied in the classroom.

B. Creativity with Sign Language I – Up to 1 ½ Hours
Participants: Up to 25 Maximum
Theatrical interpreters, the interpreting student, the sign language student, and the hearing actor frequently choose this workshop. Participants hone and enhance their sign language skills and “try their hand” at “theatricalized” ASL.

C. Creativity with Sign Language I – Up to 1 ½ Hours
Participants: Maximum - Up to 25 Maximum
This workshop is for the Deaf signer. The participant plays with the challenges of “Theatricalized” ASL, and works with Deaf Theatre techniques.

D. Actors and Authors - Create, Sign and Act Out a Story – Up to 1 ½ Hours
Participants: Up to 25 Maximum
Participants write and perform a story in American Sign Language. The group will be divided into “Authors” and “Actors.” Through coaching of character attributes, setting descriptions and cause and effect of events, the Little Theatre of the Deaf will guide the “Authors” as they write the story and the “Actors” act it out.
National Theatre of the Deaf
Workshops - General Information

Accessibility
All NTD workshops, lectures, and visits are conducted in American Sign Language accompanied by voice.

Space
A clean space of at least 30’X30’, cleared of furniture, is needed. A stage, studio, gymnasium or, multi-purpose room is ideal. Please provide a whiteboard, markers, and eraser. Someone in charge of the group and venue needs to be available to the company throughout their residency. Generally, chairs will not be used for a participatory workshop. This will be reviewed during the pre-workshop contact to discuss details.

Observers
Observers are discouraged from attending participatory workshops unless they are directly involved with the participants (teacher, for example). Workshop participants behave differently when there are observers changing the workshop focus. The observers, although not intending to, create a distraction to participants and workshop leaders.

Participants
Except for the Lecture Demonstration and the Write, Sign and Act Out a Story workshops, the maximum number of participants is 25. Please select participants that are homogeneous in age/grade/background. For example, participants will have a more successful experience in a Creativity in Sign Language Workshop if they are all beginners, or all fluent. Participants should be prepared for some physical activity. Comfortable clothing is recommended. A workshop experience can be provided for those who cannot perform physical activities.

Interpreters
Usually one of the hearing actors in the NTD will provide interpreting for the workshop. We will only ask you to provide an interpreter for the workshop if our actor is not fluent in interpreting or if two workshops are scheduled concurrently and we have only one hearing actor in the workshop team. Upon those occasions, we will ask that a qualified interpreter is provided.

Photographs/Videos
Requests for photographs to be taken during the workshop must be approved by the National Theatre of the Deaf home office. Under no circumstances is flash photography allowed. A minimum of 24 hours notice is required. No videotaping or reproduction of any kind is permitted.

Preparation and Arrival:
Before our arrival, you will be contacted to review the workshop details and discuss any additional questions you may have.
National Theatre of the Deaf
Workshops
Information Request Sheet

RETURN FORM TO:  Workshop Date:_______
  National Theatre of the Deaf  Workshop Time:_______
  Attn:  Tour Department
  139 North Main Street
  West Hartford, CT 06107

Questions:  Call (860) 236-4193; Email Tour@NTD.org

Sponsoring Organization:  ________________________________

Street Address:  ________________________________

City, State, Zip:  ________________________________

Telephone:  __________________ Email:  __________________

Choice of Workshop:  ________________________________

Workshop Site & Address:  ________________________________

Describe Space:  ________________________________

Number of Participants:  ________
  Grade:  ________  Adults:  ________  College Students:  ________
  Sign Language Skill:
     None:  _____  Beginning:  _____  Advanced:  _____  Fluent:  _____
  Deaf:  ________  Signers:  ________  Non-signers:  ________
IMPORTANT: Please provide additional background information about the participants. This additional information will aid the workshop team in creating/developing the workshop for your group.

Describe what the participants expect to learn from this workshop experience: (Use reverse of this sheet, if necessary.)

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Please describe the space and its size:

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