

THEATRE OF THE DEAF

MISSION STATEMENT

The perception of the world through deafness is both a physical and visual one. A performance style based on this perception, in addition to the acquisition of skills in all performing artforms, will significantly contribute a particular and unique form of theatre.

Artistic Aims

- * Create a theatre style and practice which is built upon and developed from the particular ability/skill and vision of the Deaf actor.
- * Expand theatre arts practice in Australia through the development and sharing of forms and styles which are particular to Deaf experience and expertise.
- * Present theatre of excellence, which enlightens empowers and entertains its audience.

Theatre of the Deaf makes a contribution to cultural practice - the way in which our society defines and constructs itself. It is not just about expression, but our ideas of "who we are" and the way we choose to express ourselves. Theatre of the Deaf works against certain dominant cultural norms of oral theatre presentation.

In reflecting a Deaf sensibility, Theatre of the Deaf represents a culture and exposes a language that is not "given voice" in any other theatre company in Australia. Deaf culture is emerging as a valid and important sub-division of the larger Australian culture. In Theatre of the Deaf, we are trying to "give voice" to that culture's artistic urges. This is not necessarily done in plays that are about Deafness but in developing the Deaf sensibility in terms of the writing, acting, devising and directing of the company's work.

Theatre of the Deaf must produce a form of theatre that is definably Deaf - in essence that its practice is inherently informed by Deaf experience and expertise. We may use dance, mime or other theatre styles, but these are essentially "hearing" at their roots. For a theatre of the Deaf to embrace any one of these wholly would argue against its particular place in theatre.

Business Objectives

- * To secure strong community support
- * To consolidate existing audience and target and develop new audiences
- * To establish a profile nationally
- * To train and support a pool of actors
- * To develop links and initiate exchanges with overseas Deaf companies
- * To develop a Deaf drama outreach program
- * To promote interchange between Theatre of the Deaf and other performing arts companies
- * To create opportunities for touring both nationally and internationally
- * To seek and secure strong corporate sponsorship
- * To establish an independent advisory board
- * To maintain a high media profile