

Theatre of the Deaf

153 Dowling St., Potts Point, N.S.W. 2011. 357 1200

THEATRE OF THE DEAF

REPORT: JUNE AND JULY 1987

The company has had a very full two months in the schools with MOON BETWEEN TWO HOUSES for Years K-3, and BEHIND THE WINDOW for Years 5-12. MOON BETWEEN TWO HOUSES is once again a success with its two new cast members and several new developments within the show itself. The two actors had a puppetry workshop with Peter Oldham, and also did some school holiday performances. One such performance was at the Wollongong City Library. That show was filmed, followed by an interview, for Wollongong's Channel 4 children's show, "Space Ace." BEHIND THE WINDOW has also turned out to be an outstanding success. The official preview was on July 1, and approximately 150 people attended - the best sized audience we've ever had for a preview of a Theatre-In-Education show. The play was directed by Carol-lee Aquiline, her first production as Assistant Director of the company.

Company classes continue. Friday afternoons have been spent on breathing and voice techniques classes with Claire Crowther, a well-respected Voice teacher. The company also had three evening Mask workshops with Jared Sakren, a visiting teacher from New York. Jared's workshops were made possible through NIDA, where he had been teaching, and the company is grateful to NIDA for "loaning" him to us. The actors were enthusiastic about the workshops and felt they were very beneficial.

Priscilla Shorne, company Administrator for the past five years, has resigned and moved to Perth to a new job as Executive Director of the Fremantle Arts Foundation. Her position will be filled by Liz Marshall, who will join us on August 10. She comes to us from Musica Viva, where she has been Project/Education Officer for three years.

Steve Ripley, a long-time company member and one of our most talented deaf performers, will be leaving the Theatre-In-Education side of the company. Hopefully Steve will continue to work with us in in-theatre plays, workshops, and other areas not related to TIE performances. He will be replaced in BEHIND THE WINDOW by Wayne Borg, a deaf man who is currently studying at the University of Wollongong. Wayne has already had a few rehearsals with Carol-lee, and looks to be another good find for the company.

Currently the company is in rehearsals for DON QUIXOTE, to be performed in September at the Belvoir St. Theatre. Along with the regular cast members, we have Colin Allen and Marg Liddy joining us for this production. The crew is very good and experienced, and so far everything is going along smoothly. They have had a few Sign Language classes, with Liz Marshall joining in, and are well on the way to good communication with the actors.

Carol-lee was originally to act in DON QUIXOTE, but with an opportunity to go to China coming up she was pulled out of the show. Carol-lee will be leaving in late August for ten days in China, and will be making good contacts with the two Deaf Theatres in China. Hopefully this trip will hold future opportunities for the company to exchange and share talents, and perhaps a tour of China could happen one day!