

QUOTA INTERNATIONAL INC
(TWENTY FOURTH DISTRICT)

PRESENTS
an evening performance by
**THE THEATRE
OF THE DEAF**

**ARMIDALE
GLEN INNES
TENTERFIELD
LISMORE
OCTOBER 1990**



Theatre of the Deaf receives funding from The Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council - The Federal Government's Arts Funding and Advisory Body - and the NSW Government through the Ministry for the Arts.



WELCOME to this performance by *THEATRE OF THE DEAF* which is brought to you by the Quota Clubs of the 24th District of Quota International Inc. as part of the International Shatter Silence Programme.

Our Clubs are committed to ongoing service to the speech and hearing impaired in our community. We hope that by presenting this remarkable theatrical experience, children and adults alike will be both entertained and educated by the skillful communication of the very talented actors in this performance, and that we may all gain insight into a life spent in a silent world.

We thank you for your attendance and ask you for your support in assisting all those in our community who experience speech and hearing impairment, to communicate and enjoy life to the best of their ability.

THE COMPANY

Artistic Director	Carol-lee Aquiline
Administrator	Rosalind Richards
Performers	Mike Canfield
	Sofya Gollan
	Samantha Wilson (trainee)
Interpreter for this tour	Maree Madden

THEATRE OF THE DEAF
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CAROL-LEE AQUILINE was appointed Artistic Director in January 1989 having worked on most of the company's productions during the previous six years first as a performer and then as associate director. Carol-lee is originally from America where she worked with the National Theatre of the Deaf for four years prior to coming to Australia in 1982.

MIKE CANFIELD joined Theatre of the Deaf in 1989 for 'Jumping Off the Shelf' and 'Wolfmoon'. Before coming to Australia from America in 1987 Mike worked with the Theatre Department of the National Technical Institute and with the Prism Company. Mike also toured extensively throughout the USA with Sunshine Too.

SOFYA GOLLAN joined Theatre of the Deaf in 1987 following her promising debut in the company's summer school of that year. She has since performed in 'Don Quixote' (1987), 'Sganarelle' (1988), 'Wolfmoon' (1989 and 1990 Next Wave Festival), and in 'Behind the Window', 'Five Steps Beyond', 'Jumping Off the Shelf' and 'The Eye' for schools.

SAMANTHA WILSON is Theatre of the Deaf's newest member and is making her first appearance with the company on this tour. Samantha has been a member of Gestures, an amateur deaf theatre company in Adelaide, appearing in a video by the same name which has been screened on national television.

AN EVENING WITH THEATRE OF THE DEAF

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|--|-----------------------|
| • Introduction | The company |
| • Princess Smartypants | |
| - extract from 'Jumping Off the Shelf' | Mike, Sofya, Samantha |
| • A Day in the Life of a Deaf Person | Sofya |
| • Songsign | Mike |

INTERVAL

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Macbeth | Carol-lee, Mike |
| - after William Shakespeare | Sofya, Samantha |
| • Parents Split | |
| - extract from 'Behind the Window' | Mike, Sofya, Samantha |
| • Three Questions... | |
| - extract from 'The Eye' | Mike, Sofya |
| • Songsign - Eye to Eye | |
| - extract from 'The Eye' | Mike |
| • Romeo and Juliet | Carol-lee, Mike |
| - after William Shakespeare | Sofya, Samantha |
| • Songsign - 'Goodbye to Hollywood' | The company |

'BEHIND THE WINDOW' was written by Tony Strachan in conjunction with original cast members Sofya Gollan, Steve Ripley and Jean St. Clair. First performed in June 1987, 'Behind the Window' is a play for High schools based on the lives of three young deaf people. Slightly dramatised, but true to the deaf experience, it is close to the hearts of the people who created it as they share their experiences in an effort to help hearing people understand more about the Deaf community. 'Behind the Window' has proved to be one of the company's most popular productions and has already toured NSW, QLD and VIC.

'JUMPING OFF THE SHELF' is a storytelling performance that gives young audiences (and the young at heart!) a special introduction to the visual language and communication skills of Theatre of the Deaf actors. 'Jumping Off the Shelf' is about books, about reading, about having fun with storytelling using some of today's most popular children's books. 'Jumping Off the Shelf' was compiled by co-directors Carol-lee Aquiline and Patrick Mitchell and was first performed in Victoria in May 1989.

'THE EYE' is the company's most recent production for young people and has just completed its first season in Sydney Primary schools. The script was devised by Carol-lee Aquiline, Sofya Gollan and Mike Canfield with Carol-lee also directing. A great deal of fun was had in the writing of the two songs - later set to music by composer Blair Greenberg. 'The Eye' is a colourful and entertaining show that teaches about the parts and functions of the eye and then leads the children on a journey of discovery about colour, perspective and body language.

'A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DEAF PERSON' and the Shakespearean 'extracts' have been prepared especially for this tour.

HISTORY OF THEATRE OF THE DEAF

The appearance of talented deaf performers in stage and film theatres around the world has increased public awareness of deafness and the international deaf community over the past twenty years. Major acting awards in England and the United States have been won by deaf actresses. There have been numerous appearances by deaf actors on television serials, while Linda Bove, a deaf American actress is a regular "resident" on Sesame Street.

There are now several professional theatres in the world which employ a company of deaf actors. Russia houses the oldest company, the MOSCOW THEATRE OF MIMICRY GESTURE, which has been in operation on and off for sixty years. The USA hosts perhaps a half-dozen professional theatres of the deaf. The most famous of these is the long-standing NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF (NTD). The NTD has performed on Broadway, national and international television, and hundreds of stages around the world. There are also professional theatres of the deaf in England, Scandinavia and Japan.

Australia's Theatre of the Deaf had its origins in the early 1970's under the guidance of the then Adult Deaf Society of NSW. The group provided an opportunity for local members of the deaf community to perform in and view theatrical productions; it was a theatre for the deaf. Similar groups were started up in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Brisbane .

Following a tour of Australia by the NTD in 1974, the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust began its long commitment to the development of a professional theatre of the deaf in Australia, hiring a hearing director to work with the NSW group. Early years were spent taking mime, acting, dance and mask classes with later performances of KING LEAR, OF ROGUES AND CLOWNS and FIVE NIGHTS TO FREEDOM in major Sydney venues.

In 1979, with backing from the Australia Council's Theatre Board and the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, the company was launched as a fully professional theatre company - of the deaf.

By 1986, the company had developed 16 original productions for school children with performances in Tasmania, Melbourne, South Australia, the ACT, plus regional centres and towns throughout NSW. In 1989 the company expanded this touring record to include Victoria and Queensland and aims to service all States in time. There have been appearances on local and national television, a performance before HRH The Prince of Wales, an Order of Australia Medal for founding member Nola Colefax and mainstage productions such as THE WINTER'S TALE, THE THREEPENNY OPERA, MAN EQUALS MAN, WAITING FOR GODOT, SGANERELLE and LADY LARKSPUR LOTION.

1989 also saw the appointment of Carol-lee Aquiline, herself deaf, as Artistic Director with the highly successful WOLFMoon launching the company's new style in November that year. WOLFMoon was remounted for the Next Wave Festival in Melbourne in May this year just prior to the company's formal transfer from the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. Theatre of the Deaf is now part of Performing Lines with the Australian Content Department (also formerly a division of the AETT). Theatre of the Deaf is the only professional deaf theatre in Australia and is now one of Sydney's premier Theatre-in-Education teams.

Theatre of the Deaf would like to thank Quota International for their invitation to perform and for their support during this tour.