

Theatre of the Deaf

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THEATRE OF THE DEAF

REPORT: FEBRUARY - MARCH 1987

The Theatre of the Deaf now has an Assistant Artistic Director, Carol-lee Aquilane, who is also a resident actor with the company. Since beginning her new position, Carol has made many new contacts for the company both from the deaf and hearing communities.

During February we began weekly lunch-time sign language classes for AETT staff, and these have been enthusiastically attended. Also, the company now runs a 10-week evening course in Sign Language which is open to anyone. It is 7pm - 9pm on a Tuesday night at a cost of \$35.00 for the 10 weeks. This money is put into a special account which will one day enable us to have a full-time interpreter - a very necessary and urgent requirement for the Theatre of the Deaf.

Also during February, MOON BETWEEN TWO HOUSES which we performed in Tasmania last year, was re-rehearsed with a new cast member and had a few snappy vaudeville routines added by Perry Quinton who taught "Vaudeville" at our Summer School in January. Perry also organised some exciting workshop afternoons for the company, including tap dancing, juggling and magic. These tutors donated their time to help the company learn new skills.

Our workshops in schools and institutes have continued during February and March. These are all taught by Nola Colefax now as David London, our other long time foundation member, resigned last year. Nola's workshops are very popular particularly at the TAFEs around Sydney.

On March the 2nd we opened in the schools with MOON BETWEEN TWO HOUSES, our infants play which we perform twice daily. To encourage early bookings, we ran a special offer during March only, giving the schools a small discount and a free sign language demonstration in addition to the performance.

During this period we held auditions for our secondary school play, BEHIND THE WINDOW (working title) and also for DON QUIXOTE which we perform at Belvoir Street Theatre later in the year.

We ended March on an exciting note when Perry Quinton made a submission on our behalf for a follow-up season of DON QUIXOTE at Rooty Hill Club. After a meeting with the Entertainment Manager, a one week season playing to a potential 800 seats was decided. We will aim this at the huge Western Suburbs area, organising school theatre parties and inviting the general public.

m.j.