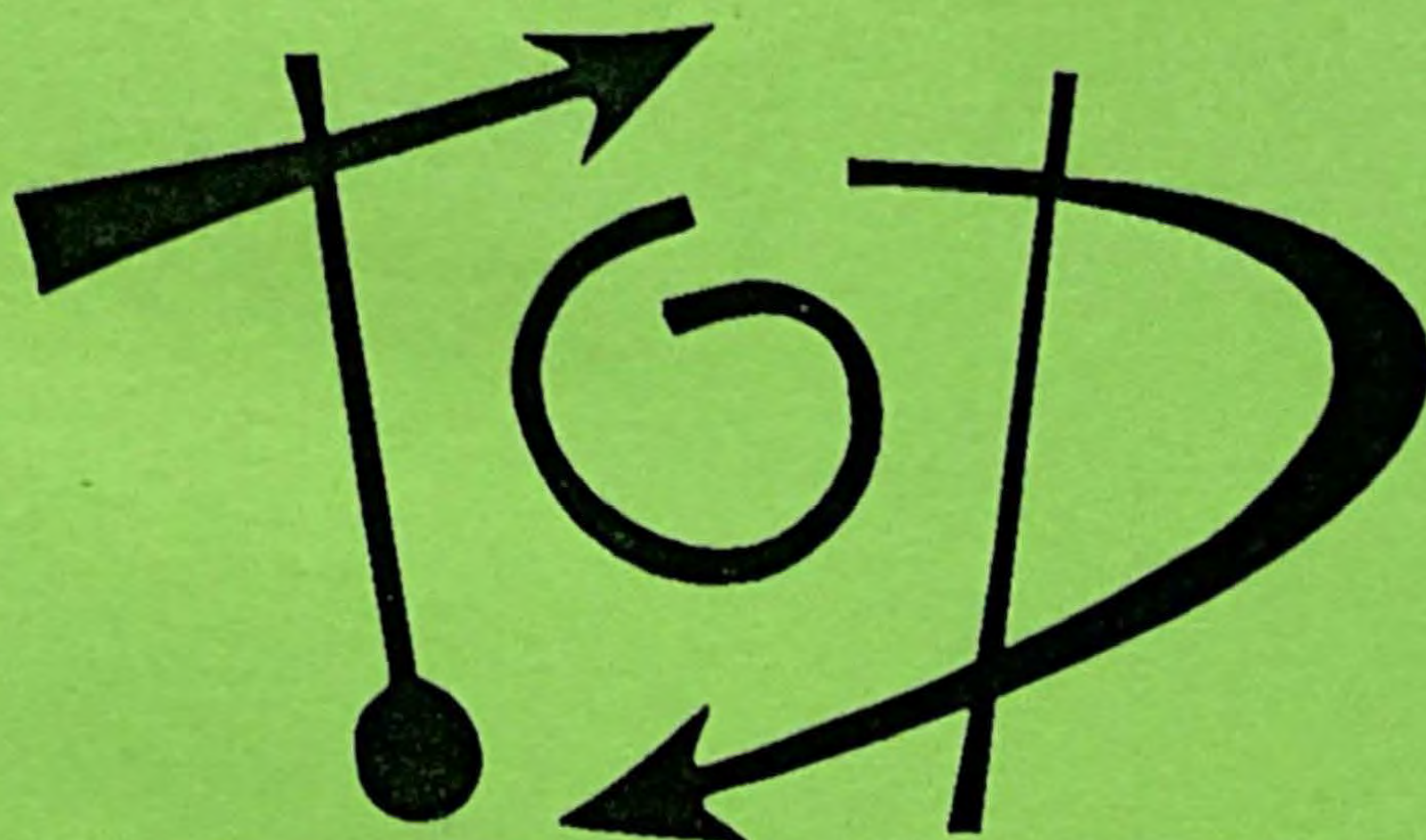




Queensland Association of the Deaf

proudly present



Theatre of the Deaf



Castles in the Air

Welcome

It is a pleasure to have Australia's Theatre of the Deaf performing in Brisbane. Theatre of the Deaf is the only professional theatre within Australia. They have featured on television programs such as *G.P.*, *The Money or the*

Gun, *A Country Practice* and also gave a performance before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

***At Rialto Theatre
Saturday 13 November
1993***

Acts

- ✎ "There's No Bizness like Show Bizness"
- ✎ Tension
- ✎ Mirror, Mirror on the Wall
- ✎ "I Will Always Love You"
- ✎ Don't Judge the Photo by its Gloss
- ✎ "The Best Things in Life are Free"
- ✎ 101 Scopes
- ✎ The Royal Family
- ✎ A Day in the Life of Angels

Theatre of the Deaf are:

Julia Cotton	Artistic Director
Mike Canfield	Associate Director/Performer
Caroline Conlon	Performer
Phillips Debs	Performer
Samantha Wilson	Performer
Robert Farmer	Performer-in-training
Mitzi Zaphir	Administrator
Dylan Souter	Interpreter/Administrative Assistant

Performers profile...

Mike Canfield: is the Associate Director of Theatre of the Deaf. His career began in America with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Theatre Department and the Deaf Touring Company, "Sunshine Too", both well respected performance companies through the States. He came to Australia in 1986 and has been working with Theatre of the Deaf since 1989.

Caroline Conlon (replaced by Mike Canfield due to back injury) was born on a sunny summer morning and is two days younger than the Decimal Currency System! Before joining Theatre of the Deaf in 1991, she worked as the Community Liaison Officer with the Australian Caption Centre and as Vocational Guidance Officer for the Deaf with the Department of Industrial Relations

Phillip Debs: has been performing for many years in a variety of work from school productions to circus work to television commercials. He joined Theatre of the Deaf in 1991 and has earned the reputation as the elf of the company. He has previously worked as a Process Worker and an Administrative Officer with the Australian Caption Centre.

Robert Farmer: is the newest member of the company, having commenced work earlier this year. Originally hailing from Western Australia, Robert is fast getting used to the gruelling life of a T.O.D. performer - the rehearsals, the screaming kids, the long tours - and he loves it all!! The highlight of his work to date has been the company's recent trip to study with the National Theatre of the Deaf in the U.S.A.

Samantha Wilson: has been with the Theatre of the Deaf for four years. Born in Whyalla, she was involved extensively in Drama at School and with the amateur Deaf Theatre Company "GESTURES", with whom she featured in a video of the same name screened on SBS TV. She has done some commercial work.

Theatre of the Deaf History

The appearance of talented Deaf performers on stage and in film 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 THE MIMICRY GESTURE, which has been in operation for sixty years. The USA hosts perhaps a half dozen 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 has 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 - though none has shared Theatre of the Deaf's good fortune in securing government arts funding and they remain amateur theatre groups.

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 and later, performances of KING LEAR, OF ROGUES AND CLOWNS, and FIVE FLIGHTS TO FREEDOM were staged 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 and the ACT plus regional centres and towns throughout NSW. Over the next few years, the company

expanded its touring to include Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. In 1991, the company performed at the World Federation of the Deaf Congress in Tokyo, Japan and was chosen as one of the most successful Deaf theatre companies there.

There have been appearances on local and national television (notably ABC programmes G.P., THE MONEY OR THE GUN, and A COUNTRY PRACTICE), a performance before His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, an Order of Australia Medal for founding members Nola Colefax and mainstage production such as THE WINTER'S TALE, THE THREEPENNY OPERA, MAN EQUALS MAN, WAITING FOR GODOT, SGANARELLE and THE LADY OF LARKSPUR LOTION.

1989 saw the appointment of Carol-lee Aquiline, herself Deaf, as Artistic Director with the highly successful WOLFMOON launching the company's new visual style in November that year. Since that time Theatre of the Deaf has produced many shows for primary and high schools such as CULTURE SHOCK, TUNNEL VISION and SHAPE UP! which utilise the unique style which has become the company's trademark. Theatre of the Deaf is the only professional Deaf Theatre company in Australia and one of the country's premier theatre-for-young-people (TYP) teams.

*Theatre of the Deaf is assisted by the Performing Arts Board
of the Australia Council and the N.S.W. Government
through the Ministry for the Arts.*



Special thanks to...

*Len Bytheway
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Elisa Lydiard
Craig Maynard
Stephen Pay
Rialto Theatre
Phillip Richards
Theatre of the Deaf*

*...and all our many dedicated
volunteers and supporters*



The Queensland Theatre of the Deaf

If you would like information about, or would like to join the Queensland Theatre of the Deaf please contact:

Charles E. Farrugia
64 Carranya Street
Camp Hill Qld 4152
(07) 398 4316 (Voice)

The Queensland Theatre of the Deaf will recommence in February 1994. By sending your name and address to the above address, you will be put on the mailing list for notification for planned theatre events.



Queensland Association of the Deaf

QAD is an advocacy organisation which is affiliated with Australian Association of the Deaf, and shares information with other state associations of the Deaf.

QAD is the "voice" of the Queensland Deaf community on a range of issues affecting Deaf people such as access, education, equal rights, government policies and so on.

QAD welcome enquiries about membership and its activities. Membership fees are currently \$10.00, rising to \$20.00 on 1 April 1994. State organisations are eligible to join. For more information, contact the Secretary by writing to PO Box 54 Brisbane Roma St Qld 4003, or fax to (07) 846 1909.

Autographs