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HIGHSCHOOL FLASHBACK

When: Tonight@7:30

What: General Meeting

Theme: High School

Campus

Where: College Station Conference Center: on Bush

Parents Center, Across from

Flashback & Easter egg hunt

next to the Barbara Bush

AGGIELIFE

National Theater of the Deal breaks sound barrier challenge

CHESTER, Conn. (AP) — The greatest challenge for most live theater companies is getting people to come and see productions.

For the National Theater of the Deaf (NTD), patrons must also get past the troupe's name.

'We are actors who happen to be deaf. That's all," said Bernard Bragg, a founding member of the company. "Many of us feel the same way: that deafness is a way of life, that we are a people having our own language and our own culture.'

Unlike most theaters, where the words are spoken by the actors and heard by the audience, the experience of language during NTD productions is both aural and visual.

Watching the actors with this theater is like getting a "double experience," said Maggie Wagner, a movie actress from New York teaching classes at NTD this semester. "The communication is just as full, if not fuller, than watching regular hearing theater," she said, "because you're receiving information in two parts.

It is the first time Wagner has worked with deaf actors.

Their lines, delivered in American Sign Language, are interpreted by hearing actors for members of mostly hearing audiences.

The sign language used in NTD productions is an emotional form of communication, Wagner said.

"It's very balletic. It's different when they're on stage than it is when they're speaking off stage," she said. "It's very lyrical, very flowing, dance-like and not as conversational."

Wagner, a professional actress, assumed it would be difficult to communicate certain acting concepts to the deaf actors. Not so, she found.

"A lot of acting training is being able to hear the way someone said something to you," she said. "But the nuances of language are just as profound in deaf actors as they are in hearing actors."

The National Theater of the Deaf - and its subsidiary, the Little Theater of the Deaf - are based in

"It's very balletic. It's different when they're on stage than it is when they're speaking off stage. It's very lyrical. ... "

- Maggie Wagner Teacher for the National Theater of the Deaf

Chester, Conn. They take their productions, staffed with professionally trained actors, both hearing and deaf, to theaters across the country.

"It's the best when kids connect with this as a visual art form and see the language being expressed visually," said Annie Tomasetti, a deaf actor who debuted with the company in 1997.

The company is finishing two years of children's shows, workshops and residencies at colleges. At the same time, it is working with Children of a Lesser God author Mark Medoff on a new show it will take on tour next year.

"Children especially love the interaction," Tomasetti said. "They learn the signs from us, and see a story with a moral."

Tomasetti has bachelor's degrees from University in theater and sign communication studied for four years at the National Theat Deaf, which is also a theater school, before with NTD full-time.

Nikki Kilpatrick, a volunteer for the an since its beginnings in 1967, interpreted Tem signing for a reporter.

"It's a different way of presenting theater Ridberg said.

"It gives an added visual dimension that theater doesn't have," she said.

Ridberg, in her second year with the compa degrees in women's studies and deaf culture. and Reggie Meneses interpret for the audience the actors are signing on stage.

"When an adult sees a show with signlar done in a beautiful way," Ridberg said, "then that American Sign Language is an ability the have that they don't.'

The theater also offers a Summertime Story program on the green in Chester. The company sors high school drama students and a teacher four-week summer program.

Other theaters performing in American Sin guage include the New York Deaf Theater, the Youth Drama Program in Seattle, Cleveland Stage and Deaf West, a Los Angeles company, ed by some of the original members of NTD.

The spring performance schedule takes N tors from Connecticut to Massachusetts, Ver New York, North Carolina and Maryland. The Theater of the Deaf will perform its Shakes show, "Villains and Clowns," at the Kennedy in Washington, D.C., on June 2.

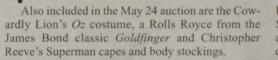
Christie's East auction to sell memorabilia from classic Hollywood, television production

NEW YORK (AP) - If you want to own a pair of ruby red slippers from the The Wizard of Oz, don't bother clicking your heels together — just plunk down a lot of cash.

A pristine pair of size 6B ruby



of Hollywood and television memorabilia, auction house officials said. Collectors estimate the pair could sell for \$750,000.



The Lion getup, worn by Bert Lahr in the 1939 family classic, could fetch \$600,000, collectors said. The Roll Royce, a 12-cylinder, dual-ignition 1937 Phantom 111, probably could be driven home for about \$200,000.

Costumes worn by Reeve in 1978's Superman and the 1980 follow-up, Superman II, are expected to sell for about \$40,000 each.

Television memorabilia up for sale include the

black wool yachting cap worn by Alan Hal Skipper, in "Gilligan's Island" (estimate \$10,0 a cigarette lighter inscribed with a love noteth cille Ball gave to Desi Arnaz (\$1,000).

Christie's declined to place official sale e on the Oz treasures.

"Props from that period are very tare,"/h pop art specialist Sarah Hodgson told watthe Christie's sold a pair of the Oz slippen Min

\$150,000, then a record. They were among seven or eight parswo

Garland while filming the 1939 MGM dask. Wizard of Oz.



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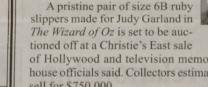
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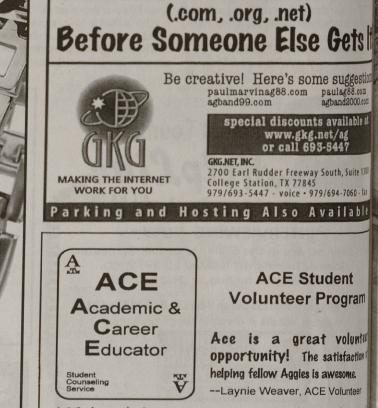




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