



For Immediate Release  
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### **National Theatre of the Deaf Receives Grant For Little Theatre of the Deaf Programming**

**New London, CT:** The National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) has been awarded a \$30,000 grant by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to continue operating and touring The Little Theatre of the Deaf (LTD), NTD's children and family theater wing for the 2014-2015 season.

"The National Theatre of the Deaf would like to thank the Hartford Foundation for Public giving for its generous support," said NTD Executive Director Betty Beekman. "We are truly grateful to the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund for continuing to support our Little Theatre of the Deaf programming. We are committed to theatrical excellence in all our programs, and we are so appreciative that this support allows us to carry out our mission of bringing entertainment, outreach, and social values to families and children, as well as provide employment for deaf artists."

This season's repertoire includes the returning favorite ***See Our Signs!***, and two newly developed pieces: ***A Show of Hands*** and ***The Diaries of Adam and Eve*** based on the writings of Mark Twain, the latter of which will also be performed this coming Valentine's Day 2015 at the Mark Twain House in Hartford, CT. Both original and adapted theatrical works will feature the NTD acting company for our children's and main stage performances, **Chrissy Cogswell, Caitlin Hemmer, Chris Joseph, and Chris Ogren.**

Betty Beekman describes LTD: "The National Theatre of the Deaf's Little Theatre of the Deaf program takes audiences on a journey where they'll See, Hear, and Imagine as poetry, stories, and improvisations unfold before their eyes. LTD combines the Spoken Word with the visually dramatic American Sign Language, adding a depth to storytelling that will long be remembered. Through our performances, we entertain, educate, and enlighten. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support for this program."

For more than 45 years, the LTD has entertained audiences in every state in America and many countries around the world. Performances in schools are prefaced with **The Learn and Study Together Guide**, sent to classrooms prior to their scheduled performance and containing background information and exercises for the classroom teacher to use pre- and post-performance. LTD productions are designed, written, and performed to enhance curriculum on a variety of subjects. Beekman describes that "an LTD presentation is a living, breathing lesson in teamwork, tolerance and self-reliance. LTD's messages of hope, inspiration, and the importance of each individual are particularly effective at reaching out to children and adults of all ages and backgrounds. As a result, even in times of economic downturn, The National Theatre of the Deaf has experienced consistent nationwide demand for performances through its Little Theatre of the Deaf programming."

Additional funding for NTD is provided by the Frederick Loewe Foundation, The Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee, City of New London Water Authority Community Fund, Target, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with the support of the Connecticut Office of the Arts Department of Economic and Community Development.

**Members of the press are welcome at any performance.** Please contact NTD Offices ahead of time to schedule interviews. For more information about NTD/LTD, log on to [www.ntd.org](http://www.ntd.org).  
To contact the NTD offices:

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