



For Immediate Release
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**National Theatre of the Deaf to Perform at
Nippon Foundation Cultural Event in Japan**

The National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) has the honor of being brought to Japan by the Nippon Foundation to perform at a cultural event for the public and deaf high school students to encourage theater for the deaf in Japan. NTD will be representing the United States at this event, and is scheduled to depart for Japan on November 19.

NTD has been notified that Her Imperial Highness Princess Akishino and her daughter are planning to visit the event. Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK), Japan's only public television broadcaster, wishes to hold interviews and tape NTD's work at the rehearsals and performance for television news. NTD is also being asked to be filmed by other television stations and reported on by newspapers in Japan.

The company will perform one of their two touring versions of "See Our Signs!," a lively exploration of the performance art of American Sign Language. The show includes the company's classic introduction "Un-Brella" which involves the creative use of umbrellas to teach sign language. The piece progresses into visual puzzles, fables, and improvisation which are sure to delight all ages.

The National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) is a 45-plus year non-profit theater company based in Connecticut, with many credits in its long history. The theater troupe was the first company to perform in all 50 states and on all 7 continents, and is the longest existing touring theater company in the United States. NTD was the first theater company from the west to perform in the People's Republic of China and in South Africa after UN sanctions were eased, and has participated in many international art festivals worldwide representing the United States.

NTD had first visited Japan in 1979 along with a special guest appearance by famed actress Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, and "it was due to this performance that deaf performing arts began to grow in popularity in Japan and many professional and amateur deaf theater groups were formed.

"The activities of the National Theatre of the Deaf contribute greatly to improving the situation for deaf people in the United States and in every country through promoting understanding for and popularization of sign language, and raising awareness for the wellbeing of the deaf. The theatre also emphasizes the importance for deaf people all over the world to take pride in themselves," wrote Mr. Osugi who had viewed that performance in 1979.

Additional funding for NTD is provided by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 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 with the support of State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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.
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