



National Theatre of the Deaf First Annual Theatre Immersion Program to Tour Connecticut in Summer Storytelling Series Event

New London, CT: The National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD), in collaboration with the American School for the Deaf, is pleased to announce the program schedule for the first annual Theatre Immersion Program (TIP).

The Theatre Immersion Program is an all-encompassing, ten-day summer program for high school-aged theatre enthusiasts. It offers deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals equivalent theatre training opportunities when most theatre training programs are available only to the hearing. The program engages them all in classes, workshops, script development, rehearsals, and performances with the actors from NTD, ultimately resulting in a sample tour to venues in the state of Connecticut. The students learn theatricalized American Sign Language, translation, and acting in this hands-on, first-time opportunity to eat, sleep, and breathe theatre.

Students and NTD Actors will tour an original NTD work called “The W5: The Stories Behind Who, What, Where, When, & Why” which involve elements of storytelling, fables, and improvisation. A special additional performance of “The Experience of the McWilliamses,” an adapted short story by Mark Twain, will be given at the Mark Twain House and Museum August 16, 2015 at 6:00pm. Other performances will take place at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, and the Hygienic Art Park in downtown New London, as part of the National Theatre of the Deaf’s fourth annual Summer Storytelling event.

Development and implementation of this program was made possible by the Ensworth Charitable Foundation and the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, along with collaborations with the American School for the Deaf, the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, Hygienic Art Gallery and Park, the Mark Twain House and Museum, and Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

The National Theatre of the Deaf, which has been touring the nation and the world for nearly 50 years, is an acting company that is comprised of deaf and hearing actors. It is the oldest continuously-running National Touring Performing Arts Company in the United States. Each performance unfolds simultaneously in two languages; one for the eye, American Sign Language (ASL), and one for the ear, the Spoken Word.

The National Theatre of the Deaf will be touring at the following locations and dates, along with special performances in conjunction with the students of the first Theatre Immersion Program (note: dates marked with an asterisk* denote NTD/TIP joint performances):

Sunday, August 16 – 2 Performances

***1:30 PM:** *Hygienic Art Park*. 79 Bank St., New London

Free Admission

***6:00 PM:** *Mark Twain House & Museum*. 351 Farmington Ave., Hartford

Ticket Donation \$10, supports NTD and Mark Twain House

Tuesday, August 18 – 1 Performance

***1:30 PM:** *Northwestern CT Community College*. Park Place East, Winsted

On the Green by Founder’s Hall Auditorium, East End Park

(In case of inclement weather, performance held in Founder’s Hall Auditorium)

Free Admission

Wednesday, August 19 – 1 Performance

***1:30 PM:** *Hygienic Art Park*. 79 Bank St., New London
Free Admission

Thursday, August 20 – 1 Performance

***6:00 PM:** *Hygienic Art Park*. 79 Bank St., New London
Free Admission

Friday, August 21 – 1 Performance

1:30 PM: *Hygienic Art Park*. 79 Bank St., New London
Free Admission

Saturday, August 22 – 1 Performance

1:30 PM: *Hygienic Art Park*. 79 Bank St., New London
Free Admission

Sunday, August 23 – 1 Performance

1:30 PM: *Hygienic Art Park*. 79 Bank St., New London
Free Admission

These performances are open to the public and are suitable for all ages. Members of the press are welcome and encouraged at every performance. For more information, please contact National Theatre of the Deaf at (860) 574-9063 (Tel.) or (860) 607-1334 (VP).

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