



## **NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF**

For Immediate Release

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### **NTD NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

West Hartford: Dr. Harvey J. Corson, Chairperson of the NTD Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Mr. Aaron Kubey as the new Executive Director/President of The National Theatre of the Deaf effective Monday, November 5, 2007.

Aaron Kubey is currently the Artistic Director of the New York Deaf Theatre in NYC. He recently produced and performed in *Beyond Therapy*, which was given a wonderful review by *The New York Times*. He has had the opportunity of working on numerous television, film, and theatrical productions over the course of his professional career.

Mr. Kubey is a 1994 graduate of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. While at MSSD, he performed in the *Road Show* under the direction of Mr. Timothy McCarty and traveled to over 15 states, Puerto Rico, the Netherlands, and Belgium. In 2006, he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) degree in Theatre Studies from the Theatre School, DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. A proud native of Chicago, Mr. Kubey was the first Deaf admitted student and graduate from this prestigious institution.

He worked with NTD's Los Angeles Little Theatre of the Deaf from 1995-1997. Over the years, he also worked with the Deaf West in Los Angeles and with the Centerlight Theatre in Chicago before joining the New York Deaf Theatre. During Mr. Kubey's internship at the Seattle Children's Theatre/Deaf Youth Drama Program in Washington State in 2005, he was Assistant Director and Stage Manager. He participated in the Professional Theatre School in Chester, Connecticut, in 1995 under the auspices of The National Theatre of the Deaf.

Dr. Paul L. Winters has served as Executive Director for four years and has been associated with the NTD since 2001 when he became a Board member. He has kept the NTD alive and progressing while going through some difficult times, especially when the Federal funding source was abruptly discontinued. This similar situation was experienced by other Deaf theatre and arts organizations throughout the nation. He has led the retrenchment and reinvigoration of the NTD through a variety of challenges during this period.

The NTD really appreciates the interest and financial support from the State of Connecticut to continue its work during this critical time. The Board of Trustees wants to thank Paul for his untiring and dedicated efforts to strengthen the NTD as a theatrical organization and wishes Paul the best in the forthcoming retirement along with his wife and son.

This year, 2007, the NTD reaches its 40th anniversary year with many achievements to its credit. Above all, the NTD Deaf and Hearing actors/actresses, directors, and cast members have created a new dramatic art form. This art form presents with both signs and voices of beauty and power - one for the EYE and one for the EAR . This unique dual sensory style has expanded the boundaries of theatrical expression, enabling our performances to unfold in two languages - American Sign Language and spoken English - appealing to all audiences, Deaf and Hearing, everywhere around the world.

Through the magical art of theatre, The National Theatre of the Deaf has created a far-reaching and profound impact on society's perception of Deaf people, promoting increased awareness, respect, and empowerment.

## **Articles**

### ***MSSD performing arts alumnus becomes new head of National Theatre of the Deaf***

*By Susan M. Flanigan*

MSSD can now add another star to its alumni crown with the appointment of Aaron Kubey, Class of 1994, as the new executive director/president of the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD).

Kubey comes to the position from the New York Deaf Theatre in New York City, where he was artistic director. He recently produced and acted in the show *Beyond Therapy*, which received a great review by *The New York Times*. Throughout his career, Kubey has worked on numerous television, film, and theatrical productions. Following his graduation from MSSD, Kubey earned his BFA in theatre studies at DePaul University in Chicago, where he was the first deaf student to be admitted to and graduate from the University. In succeeding years, he worked with the NTD's Los Angeles Little Theatre of the Deaf, Deaf West in Los Angeles, and the Centerlight Theatre in Chicago before joining the New York Deaf Theatre.

While at MSSD, Kubey performed in the Road Show under the direction of former artistic director Timothy McCarty. As part of the Road Show, he traveled to more than 15 states, the Netherlands, and Puerto Rico.

Kubey gives much of the credit for the starting his theatrical career on a strong footing to his years at MSSD. “My experience with theater arts at MSSD is something I treasure very much. It was there that I learned the importance that the arts has in all of our lives, where I learned the importance of teamwork, self-confidence, communication, and leadership skills,” said Kubey. “I had the fortunate opportunities to travel [around] the world to perform and give workshops to people of all ages. Tim McCarty made a HUGE impact in the theater arts at MSSD. ... He’s one of a small group of people who have helped me accomplish getting my dream job—becoming the executive director/president of the National Theatre of the Deaf.”

McCarty, now the president of Quest: arts for everyone, remembers Kubey as an outstanding student. “Aaron was one of our hardest working students. He loved the Road Show. He knew not only his own part, but everyone else’s. That’s the kind of dedication and eye one needs to become a director. He was a wonderful representative of MSSD whenever we toured. I’m very proud of him.”

In taking on the position of executive director/president, Kubey has great ambition for the theater’s future. “I have a lot of big plans I’d like to see happen at the NTD in the next 10 years. It is my greatest hope that I can play a significant role in reviving and strengthening deaf theater, as well as become a role model for our future generations. I can only hope that they’ll be as touched and inspired by the theater arts as I am and have been.