



Press Release

National Theatre of the Deaf Appoints NTD Veteran Beekman To Lead Troupe

HARTFORD, CT, April 18, 2011 -- Dr. Harvey J. Corson, Chairman of the National Theatre of the Deaf Board of Trustees, today announced that the NTD Board has appointed theatre veteran Betty Beekman as Interim Executive Director, effective July 1, 2011.

“Betty brings over 25 years of experience in theatre and management to the position of Interim Executive Director,” Dr. Corson said. “In the years she has served with the National Theatre of the Deaf, Betty has played a key role in many different creative and management areas of the NTD. We are thrilled to have her step up to this new role.”

In addition to being Tour Director, she has written and adapted the current Little Theatre of the Deaf (LTD) production of *Stories In My Pocket* and written the accompanying *Learn and Study Together Guide* for LTD’s past six seasons. Beekman has also directed the Little Theatre of the Deaf performances as well as developed new programming. She has taught Sign Language techniques at the NTD Professional Theatre School, directed the company’s *Storytelling Hours on the Green*, directed freelance work, worked as the Company Manager, Executive Assistant, and was NTD’s Education and Outreach Coordinator.

When NTD was based in Chester, CT, Beekman was in charge and taught the community sign language program. Also, Betty has created curriculum and taught and performed workshops at several colleges and universities. She has designed lighting for *A Christmas Carol* and the NTD’s national tour of *All the Way Home*, directed by Colleen Dewhurst. Betty has stage managed eighteen of the NTD national main stage tours, twelve foreign tours and three television programs for WGBH “Festival of Hands Series,” including voice over work.

Beekman replaces Aaron M. Kubey, NTD’s first Deaf Executive Director/ President, who is leaving June 30, 2011, to pursue new endeavors.

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Beekman received a Bachelor's degree in Education and Theater from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She is a child of deaf adults (CODA) and a fluent signer.

“I am thrilled to have this opportunity to guide this national treasure through the next act of its long and storied history,” Beekman said. “We have a magnificent history of art and innovation and I am very excited about continuing and expanding that tradition into a future of bringing the theatrical combination of American Sign Language and the spoken word to new audiences, young and old, deaf and hearing.”

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