



## **NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF**

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# **NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF PROCLAIMS SUCCESSFUL 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ANGELS DINNER GALA**

West Hartford, CT: Executive Director, Aaron M. Kubey announced today that the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala was a resounding success, garnering gubernatorial attention and attracting guests from every corner of the nation. Among the many esteemed guests were members from the original company including: Founder Director David Hays and Founding Member Bernard Bragg. Also in attendance were NTD alumni and special guests including: Dr. Alan Hurwitz, President, and his wife, Vicki, from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology; Susan Docker, Kathleen DeMeo, and Bonnie Koba, Senior Program Managers, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism; Patti Wilson, President of the Connecticut Association of the Deaf; and Susan Pedersen, President, and her husband, Jim, from the Connecticut Coalition of Organizations that Serve the Deaf and friends and supporters of NTD from the American School for the Deaf.

Festivities started off with a toast by Kubey and Chairman of the Board, Dr. Harvey J. Corson. The program included the presentation of two new service awards: NTD Vice Chairman of the Board, John Hamby presented the NTD Community Supporter Award to NewAlliance Foundation. The Award was gratefully accepted by Executive Director Kim Healey, who commented that NewAlliance treasures its relationship with NTD and will continue to support all the worthwhile work provided by the company to both Deaf and hearing audiences throughout Connecticut.

Founding Director David Hays presented the NTD Bernard Bragg Lifetime Achievement Award to first recipient Bernard Bragg in celebration of his prominent career. In his presentation speech, Mr. Hays said, "I may be the founder of NTD, but without Bernard Bragg, there would be no NTD. NTD began and was successful due to the talents of one man, Bernard Bragg." He went on to mention many of Mr. Bragg's career achievements. After sustained applause, Mr. Bragg got on stage and talked about the early days with David Hays and how he owed so much to this great theatrical producer. Bragg thanked

Hays for “his belief in us and in our language, American Sign Language, (hence the reason for the birth of NTD). We need to stand up again and be counted as one of the finest theatre company in the country, if not the world.”

During the evening, members of the Little Theatre of the Deaf company performed excerpts from their current tour. Former NTD company member (Broadway and Hollywood actor and comedian), CJ Jones acted as Master of Ceremonies and steered the evening to a successful close. After a lively series of auctions, guests were treated to dancing and conversation. It was a night of *Auld Lang Syne* and enthusiasm for a renewed bright future of the National Theatre of the Deaf.

The Gala dinner was held on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. The evening was coordinated by Broadway Outposts of Essex, CT.

Images (300dpi) of the gala are available upon request. For more information about the gala and the 2009 performance schedule contact the National Theatre of the Deaf office at 860-236-4193 Voice and [www.ntd.org](http://www.ntd.org)

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