



For Immediate Release
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NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF TO HOST SCREENING OF *UNIVERSAL SIGNS* AT CINESTUDIO

*Greater Hartford to Experience
First-Ever Full-Length Feature Film in Sign Language*

West Hartford, CT: Aaron M. Kubey, Executive Director is proud to announce that NTD will host a screening of *Universal Signs*, the first-ever full-length feature film in sign language at Cinestudio on the Trinity College campus in Hartford on Sunday, October 18 at 2pm followed by a Q&A and reception with the filmmakers. The film features NTD alumni, Anthony Natale, who a long time friend of the company.

With American Sign Language that is completely visible in the frame of every shot, this revolutionary film is captioned for the hearing. The film allows those who can hear to experience the Deaf world. “We are thrilled to host a screening of such a powerful movie,” said Mr. Kubey, “This unforgettable story of forgiveness, redemption and love is one that our community will truly appreciate.”

After the death of his fiancée’s daughter while in his care, Andrew (Anthony Natale, NTD and *Mr. Holland’s Opus*), a Deaf artist, becomes a prisoner of his own mind. Tormented day and night by memories and self-blame, Andrew falls in a downward spiral of depression and anger that alienates everyone around him. It is only through a serendipitous friendship and new love with Mary (Sabrina Lloyd, *Sports Night*) that Andrew is able to sense the life around him — forgive himself, rediscover his muse and experience the transformative power of love.

An original score by Academy Award® winner Joseph Renzetti propels the story along with stellar supporting performances from Margot Kidder (*Superman*), Robert Picardo (*Star Trek: Voyager*), Deanne Bray (Sue Thomas: *FBEye*) and Ashlyn Sanchez (*Crash*).

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NTD Hosts Screening of Universal Signs/ page 2 of 2

Doors open at 1:30 with the screening beginning at 2:00 pm. Producer Catherine Miller and Director Ann Calamia will attend the screening and lead an audience Q&A immediately following the film. Everyone is invited to an informal reception in the lobby at the end of the Q&A. Proceeds benefit the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children and students with ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Cinestudio is located at Trinity College, 300 Summit St, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact www.cinestudio.org and the Cinestudio MovieLine 860-297-2463.

About Universal Signs

Universal Signs (www.universalsignsmovie.com) is a modern day silent film told primarily in American Sign Language with captions for the hearing and non-signing audience. This 100 minute full-length feature film takes the audience on a first person journey through the deaf world and culture. It is a theatrical experience with an original interpretive score by Academy Award® Winning composer, Joseph Renzetti. While the main character is deaf, the story of **Universal Signs** is one with which all people can connect – one of forgiveness, redemption, and love. In addition, all of the deaf characters are played by deaf actors.

***WINNER!** Audience Award for Best Feature Film at the Philadelphia Film Festival
WINNER! Best Actor & Best Actress, The Feel Good Film Festival, Hollywood, CA*

About NTD

The National Theatre of the Deaf operates under the following comprehensive mission to produce theatrically challenging work of the highest quality, drawing from as wide a range of the world's literature as possible; to perform these original works in a style that links American Sign Language with the spoken word; to seek, train and employ Deaf artists; to offer our work to as culturally diverse and inclusive an audience as possible; to provide community outreach activities that will educate and enlighten the general public, opening their eyes and ears to Deaf culture and building linkages that facilitate involvement in our methods of work.

For more information about the **National Theatre of the Deaf** go to the web site at www.ntd.org or contact the National Theatre of the Deaf office at 860-236-4193 (Voice) or 860-607-1334 (Video Phone).

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