



Deaf West Theatre
Ed Waterstreet, Artistic Director
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DEAF WEST THEATRE RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

North Hollywood (December 10, 2009) ---- Deaf West Theatre (DWT) receives \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman announced the first round of the FY2010 grants this week. In total, the NEA will distribute \$26,968,500 to support 1,207 projects nationwide.

This grant, under the Access to Artistic Excellence category, will support the production of DWT's spring 2010 show, Friedrich Dürrenmatt's "The Visit." DWT Artistic Director, Ed Waterstreet, is pleased with the announcement and happy to have the continued support of the NEA. "Despite the economic times, I am happy to keep on producing great theater for our deaf, hard of hearing and hearing audiences," he stated. "It is amazing that my vision started almost 20 years ago continues to this day and I look forward to sharing a new production to our loyal audiences next year."

"The Visit" is the second show in DWT's 2009-2010 season and opens April 2010. The season began with a special 30th anniversary production of "Children of a Lesser God" this past fall. An audience and critical favorite, "Children of a Lesser God" marked the return to seasonal programming at DWT's North Hollywood theater space.

About Deaf West Theatre

Deaf West Theatre, Inc., (DWT) was founded in 1991 by Artistic Director, Ed Waterstreet, to improve and enrich the cultural lives of the 1.2 million deaf and hard of hearing individuals who live in the Los Angeles area. DWT is recognized as the premiere sign language theatre in the United States and has consistently set the standard for innovation in deaf theatre. It is the only resident deaf theatre in the western United States and only one of few successful sign language production companies in the country. DWT provides exposure and access to professional theatre, filling a void for deaf artists and audiences. Serving the cultural, educational, social and employment needs of its constituents, DWT is an institution for the discovery and exploration of artists' identities and stature as professionals in the performing arts. Through the medium of Sign Language Theatre, a legacy of deaf culture is created, shared, and preserved which greatly influences mainstream perspectives about the culture and ability of the deaf. www.deafwest.org