



Deaf West Theatre
Ed Waterstreet, Artistic Director
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**DEAF WEST THEATRE RECIEVES GRANT
THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
STIMULUS PACKAGE**

North Hollywood (July 9, 2009) ---- Deaf West Theatre (DWT) receives \$25,000 as part of the \$50 million federal economic stimulus recovery package through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The NEA will distribute \$29.775 million to 631 nonprofit arts groups nationwide. This is in addition to the 63 state and regional sub-grants previously awarded in April, totaling \$19.8 million.

This grant will help maintain the educational opportunities that bridge the gap between deaf and hearing worlds for students in Los Angeles area schools. It will also help preserve vital positions integral to the implementation of DWT's Dramatic Gestures main programming including in-school workshops residencies.

Using story telling, theatre games, creative playwriting and teamwork exercises, these workshops offer activities that broaden understanding of theater fundamentals and Deaf culture while promoting personal growth. The workshops have a profound impact on the most impressionable and at risk members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

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