



New Executive Director Takes the Reins

Join us in extending a big, warm Texas welcome to the new Executive Director of Illuminations Arts, **Elisabeth Madden**. Elisabeth was born in Cleveland, Ohio and until now has lived in Northeast Ohio her entire life. She, most recently was the Managing Director of Kent State University's School of Theatre and Dance and its professional summer affiliate Porthouse Theatre. Prior to that, she worked as the audience Development Coordinator for Cleveland Signstage (founded by Houston's own Brian Kilpatrick) and increased attendance there by 100%. Elisabeth is looking forward to the new challenge at Illuminations Arts and envisions the organization developing a stronger presence in the Houston Arts Community and presenting more independent productions in the future. Welcome, Elisabeth!

Let's also welcome **Page Warner** as the new Hand Held Tales Director. Page has served as a stage manager for Illuminations Arts and has many years of experience in theatre. She will be an excellent addition to the Illuminations team and we are thrilled to have her on board!

TUTS Humphrey's School of Musical Theatre Workshop a Success



Two teachers taught signing a song

On April 2, deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing youth aged 7-18 gathered at the Theatre Under the Stars' Rehearsal Hall for a first-of-its-kind workshop. Humphrey's School instructors collaborated with Illuminations staff to translate numbers from the classic musical *The King and I* to a 30-minute show presented to the parents of the participants. HSMT instructors, Illuminations' Susan Jackson, interpreters Debbie Teague and David Haynes and other Illuminations volunteers worked with the 40 hearing and deaf students to teach songs and signs, choreograph numbers and translate and memorize dialogue in only 5^{1/2} short hours. Most of the hearing students had no prior experience with sign language and loved the experience. The signing students had a great time and gained theatrical experience previously only accessible to hearing youth.

The April workshop led to a summer workshop in June where deaf teens Royal Thomas and Brittany Rangel-Mendes did a fabulous job performing with Humphrey's School of Musical Theatre students in a one-hour musical montage show at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Three of the musical numbers in the show were signed and Royal and Brittany were spotlighted and given special recognition during the show. We're so proud of Royal and Brittany and thankful to HSMT for being open to training young deaf and hard-of-hearing actors in Houston!

Our Mission

Illuminations strives to bridge the gap between the deaf/hard of hearing and hearing communities through artistic activities. By offering independent programs as well as collaborative projects with other organizations, Illuminations provides an artistic and cultural experience beyond language. Performers and audiences have the opportunity to encounter the performing arts in a dramatic new form, regardless of their ability to hear or sign.

A Record 750 Deaf/HH Students Attend Shadowed Performance!

On the hot and humid morning of April 12, 2005, over 750 deaf/hard of hearing students from the Greater Houston Area and more than 600 others gathered at Miller Outdoor Theatre for the shadowed performance of A.D. Players' *The Wind in the Willows*. Students from the Houston, Cy-Fair, Goose Creek, Pasadena, Alvin, and Liberty Independent School Districts and the Galveston Brazoria Coop for the Hearing Impaired watched as Toad, Rat, Mole and Badger ventured into the unknown and learned that an adventure is what you make of it. Special thanks to signing performers Debbie Teague, Chris Grooms, Alisa Wells, Elisa Skinner and Melanie Wilson and shadow director Susan Jackson for making the adventure a fun one for the audience. Special thanks also goes to the outstanding theatrical company, A.D. Players for inviting Illuminations to be a part of this exciting event and to the cast and crew of *The Wind in the Willows* for their generous spirits.



The Results are in.....

Although great fun was had at both, the Men's Barbecue and the Ladies' Tea fundraisers this past spring, the men won the 2005 Battle of the Sexes. The Men's Barbecue, chaired by Billy Koch, Sr. and Jim Lawrence raised \$1,905 for Illuminations. The Ladies' Tea, which included entertainment in the form of storytelling and a fun jewelry and fashion show raised \$1,710 and was co-chaired by Avril Thompson and Jackie Kilpatrick. It was a close race and we thank everyone who was involved in, attended and/or donated to these events!

Performer Spotlight: Jackie Kilpatrick



Jackie Kilpatrick has been involved with Illuminations since its inception in 1984 and has since performed in various productions including some with A.D. Players, UH Children's Theatre Festival and Texas Opera Theatre. Jackie is now a very active Illuminations Board member and one of the favorite Hand Held Tales storytellers. Jackie was born in Moorehead, Minnesota but moved with her family to Seattle at the age of two. Jackie started her education at the Seattle Hearing and Speech School at that time, then struggled in mainstreamed elementary and middle school classes. In the 9th grade, Jackie entered school at Washington State School for the Deaf where she quickly learned sign language. She then went on to graduate from Gallaudet University in 1974 with a B.S. in Home Economics and in 1980 earned her Masters Degree in Deaf Education from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel's College). Jackie worked as an actress with Fairmont Theatre of the Deaf (now Cleveland Signstage Theatre) in Cleveland, OH from 1975 to 1981 and during that time she and her husband, Brian Kilpatrick, had a daughter. Wanting more secure professions, Jackie and Brian brought their daughter Jessica to Houston where Jackie has been a teacher at T.H. Rogers in the Houston Independent School District for 23 years. The shadowed play, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and the signed play, *The Quilters* were Jackie's favorite performance experiences with Illuminations. Jackie also loves her involvement with Hand Held Tales and the challenge of translating stories from English to ASL. She encourages, both hearing and deaf individuals to get involved with Illuminations because of the variety of experiences available through Illuminations that can help people improve their acting and/or interpreting skills.

UH Children's Theatre Festival

For the 18th consecutive year, Illuminations has joined forces with University of Houston Children's Theatre Festival to provide accessible theatre to deaf /hard of hearing audiences through shadowed performances. On July 29 and 31, *Peter and the Wolf* was shadowed at the Wortham Theatre on the campus of the University of Houston. This year, more than 300 people enjoyed performances of *Peter and the Wolf* performed by the CTF cast and Illuminations' shadow actors, Anne Trevino, Tami Luce' and Karen Stevenson. Thank you to all of those involved with this delightful show.

Get On Stage!



Several groups work on script during the workshop

Deaf and hearing participants from the Greater Houston area and Austin enjoyed a dynamic theatrical interpreting workshop organized by Illuminations Arts. Presenters Susan Jackson and Brian Kilpatrick brought their theatrical expertise and humor to the workshop and discussed shadowing techniques, creative signing stage etiquette and stage vocabulary. Everyone in the workshop actively participated and (once the stage fright wore off) had great fun getting a taste of theatrical interpreting. And certified interpreters who attended the workshop had smiles on their faces, too, as they left with .8 CEUs! Get On Stage! was generously sponsored by Accessible Signs, Communication Access Ability Group, Sorenson VRS and Sign Shares.

Get On Stage! will have an encore performance of this workshop in February 2006 for those of who missed it and would like to experience the art of theatrical interpreting. Keep an eye out for more info!!

Stories Open up Worlds. Experience a Story

Is your school interested in a Hand Held Tales performance? Beginning in the 2005-2006 season, Hand Held Tales will offer performances to all schools with or without Deaf Education Programs. For a fee to cover the cost of performers, students can experience stories from various cultures. Hand Held Tales stories are always performed simultaneously in spoken English and the beautiful picturesque American Sign Language and always entertain and educate. Performances will be available on limited days and times, so call Illuminations now to reserve a performance for your school! 713-529-6909 (TTY/ VP) or 713-529-6910 (V) or illuminpw@sbcglobal.net

Hand Held Tales will continue to present monthly free performances to the public at Borders Book stores throughout the season. This year, the Borders Bookstore location in The Woodlands has been added to our schedule. Look out Montgomery County!!! Please see Illuminations' 2005-2006 season schedule included in this newsletter for more detailed information on this year's performances.

Open up Someone's World. Sponsor a Story

Monthly free Hand Held Tales Performances can only be made possible through the generous sponsorship of organizations and individuals. Sponsorship of a Hand Held Tales performance at a level of \$500 will get your company's name and logo on flyers distributed at colleges and ASL socials, more than 1,100 e-mail messages to subscribed users and postcards sent to 2700 households over a period of one month. Your logo will also be printed on programs at monthly performances and your company will be thanked in the curtain speech before the performance and in one of our bi-annual newsletters. Sponsoring a Hand Held Tales Performance is a great, inexpensive way for your company to receive extra publicity and create goodwill in the Deaf Community. Become a sponsor today!! Contact Elisabeth Madden at the Illuminations office at 713-529-6909 (TTY/ VP) or 713-529-6910 (V) or illuminem@sbcglobal.net.

Look out for our Fall Fundraising Campaign!

Due to cuts in Arts funding, grants given to Illuminations are down. In order to continue to provide quality accessible entertainment for the deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing communities, we need your individual contributions more than ever. This Fall we will be sending out more information on how you can donate to Illuminations Arts. If you've never done so before, please consider donating to Illuminations Arts. We appreciate every dollar that is contributed and every dollar helps!

Theatrical Interpreting

This past Spring, two wonderful interpreted performances were presented by The Alley Theatre and Illuminations Arts. April 24, David Haynes and Leyel Hudson interpreted Steve Martin's hilarious play, *The Underpants* and there was not a dry eye in the house when Debbie Teague, Anne Trevino and Rita Lee interpreted *Steel Magnolias* on June 5.

Illuminations Arts is looking forward to an active theatrical interpreting season. Confirmed so far are 4 interpreted performances with The Alley including *Be My Baby* by Ken Ludwig, *Born Yesterday* by Garson Kanin, *The Miser* by Moliere and *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce a holiday shadowed performance with A.D. Players written by Jeanette Clift George entitled *Align*. More theatrical interpreting performances should be announced later in the season. We'll keep you updated by e-mail! If you haven't joined our e-mail group yet, please contact us at illuminarts@sbcglobal.net to get updates reminders on all performances.

Upcoming Events 2005-2006

<i>Signs & Stories</i> , 2:30pm	9/11/2005	HHT at Borders Books	3025 Kirby, Houston
<i>Scary Stories</i> , 2:30pm	10/9/2005	HHT at Border Books	9595 Six Pines Dr., The Woodlands
<i>Be My Baby</i> , 2:30pm	10/23/2005	Theatre Interpreting at Alley	615 Texas St., Houston
<i>5th Annual Family Fun</i> , 2:30pm	11/13/2005	HHT at Border Books	12788 Fountain Lake Cir. Stafford
<i>Festivals of Light</i> , 2:30 pm	12/11/2005	HHT at Border Books	570 Meyerland Plaza, Houston
<i>Align</i> , 7:30 pm	12/14/2005	Theatre Interpreting at A.D. Players	2710 W. Alamaba, Houston
<i>Tales of Orient</i> , 2:30 pm	1/8/2006	HHT at Border Books	3025 Kirby, Houston
<i>African American Tales</i> , 2:30 pm	2/12/2006	HHT at Border Books	570 Meyerland Plaza, Houston
<i>Get on Stage!</i> , 8 am to 5 pm	3/4/2006	Theatre Workshop at MMSC	1475 West Gray, Houston
<i>Native American Tales</i> , 2:30 pm	3/12/2006	HHT at Border Books	9595 Six Pines Dr., The Woodlands
<i>Born Yesterday</i> , 2:30 pm	3/19/2006	Theatre Interpreting at Alley	615 Texas St., Houston
<i>Traditional American Tales</i> , 2:30 pm	4/9/2006	HHT at Border Books	12788 Fountain Lake Cir., Stafford
<i>TBA</i> , 8 am to 5 pm	4/22/2006	Theatre Workshop at MMSC	1475 West Gray, Houston
<i>The Miser</i> , 2:30 pm	4/30/2006	Theatre Interpreting at Alley	615 Texas St., Houston
<i>Tales of Mexico</i> , 2:30 pm	5/14/2006	HHT at Border Books	9633 Westheimer, Houston
<i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> , 2:30	6/4/2006	Theatre Interpreting at Alley	615 Texas St., Houston
<i>Get on Stage 2!</i> , 8 am to 5 pm	6/17/2006	Theatre Workshop at MMSC	1475 West Gray, Houston



1475 West Gray
Houston, TX 77019
713/529-6909 TTY/ VP
713/529-6910 Voice/FAX
www.illuminationstheatre.org
illuminarts@sbcglobal.net



Illuminations' current season is funded in part by The Brown Foundation, The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts, George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, William E. & Natoma Pyle Harvey Charitable Trust, Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation, Houston Endowment, Inc., The Simmons Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts and the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County.