

Sunshine Too: On the Road to Appalachia

February 3, 1997

Sunshine Too: On the road to Appalachia One of the most important missions of Sunshine Too, the acclaimed touring theatre company sponsored by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), is to reach out to children and adults in areas that wouldn't ordinarily have access to performances done in both spoken English and American Sign Language (ASL). In such places, where deaf role models may be scarce and misconceptions about deafness may be plentiful, a visit by Sunshine Too can positively affect everyone in the community. Such is the intent of a \$12,000 federal grant recently awarded to Sunshine Too from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The grant, awarded in December 1996, will support a special performing arts tour of the Appalachian region of the United States by the group. The tour is tentatively scheduled to take place during Sunshine Too's 1997-98 season, the 16th year that the troupe has been in existence.

Sunshine Too is a group of three deaf and three hearing actors who perform worldwide, entertaining and educating audiences of all ages through original plays and classroom workshops. All performances and workshops are presented simultaneously in ASL and spoken English.

The NEA grant will help defray the group's traveling expenses and enable them to perform for schoolchildren, families, and members of numerous communities within the Appalachian region. Workshops designed to enhance self esteem and effective communication will be presented at various locales to support the educational aspects of Sunshine Too's performances.