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RIT/NTID Dance Company Going to QuestFest

December 14, 2007

Performers from Rochester Institute of Technology and its National Technical Institute for the Deaf are hitting the road, this time to perform at QuestFest, a two-week international visual theater festival at Towson University, just north of Baltimore, Md.

"Handamation" is performed by 11 RIT/NTID Dance Company cast members who use dance, music, sign language and animation on stage to communicate visually.

"I really look forward to going," said Aaron Kelstone, who co-directed "Handamation" on the NTID stage last year with Thomas Warfield, Duane Palyka and Luane Haggerty. All four are faculty members at RIT/NTID. "It gives us the opportunity to work in a performance medium where you can't rely on words. It's really a challenging art form. The communication has to be clear. Every meaning has to be understood. There is no safety net."

Kelstone said audience members need not know American Sign Language to understand the performance.

Shows are planned 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 and 2 p.m. Jan. 27, 2008 at Towson University. A cast discussion is planned following Sunday's performance. Tickets for the performance are \$15, or \$10 for students and those over 60. Tickets for the entire festival are \$60, or \$40 for students. Call (410) 704-2787 for reservations. For more information, visit the [QuestFest website](#).

NTID Performing Arts was established in the Fall of 1974, with the opening of the Institute's new performing arts facility. Originally named the Experimental Educational Theatre, NTID Performing Arts offers a comprehensive curriculum of theatre courses and produces six productions and one outreach tour each season. Even with no academic major in theatre, historically the majority of Deaf theatre professionals nationwide have been NTID students or faculty and have appeared in commercials, network and cable television programs, major motion pictures and independent films, national and international theatre tours, Broadway, regional theatres, and international theatre festivals. Call (585) 475-6217 V/TTY for more information.

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

52 Lomb Memorial Drive | Rochester, NY 14623 | Office of Admissions: 585-475-6700 (voice/TTY)

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