



CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD

BY MARK MEDOFF

DIRECTED BY RICK HORNOR

January 19-February 4, 2018

Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm

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CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD

BY MARK MEDOFF

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD was originally produced
by the Center Theatre Group, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles.

Originally produced on Broadway by Emanuel Azenberg,
The Shubert Organization, Dasha Epstein and Ron Dante.

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc. New York, NY

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Winner of the 1980 Tony Award, *Children of a Lesser God*, continues to be illuminating and timely. The New York Post wrote, "In any season this play would be a major event, a play of great importance, absorbing and interesting, full of love, understanding and passion."

This play presents a number of unique challenges. Medoff, the playwright, appropriately insists that the roles of Sarah, Orin and Lydia be performed by Deaf or hard of hearing actors to the best of the theatre's ability. Of the seven characters, six must be fluent in signing ASL. With extraordinary collaboration from folks we've met in the Deaf Community here in Tacoma, and from Deaf Spotlight (The Theatre of the Deaf) in Seattle, we were able to cast those roles as Medoff requested. As an indication of the power of this play and the support of the Deaf Community for its production, we received audition tapes from actors in New York, Texas and Portland, OR - actors passionate about this play because of its message of reconciliation between the hearing and Deaf Cultures, its potent artistry, and its determination to help its audiences more fully understand the differences that can, in the final essence, unite as well as divide. At the end of the play, the chasm between the worlds of sound and silence seems almost too great to cross . . . but love and compassion and a determination to try to understand "the other" hold the hope of reconciliation - certainly a message of great importance today.

It has been an indescribable honor to have worked with this stellar cast and crew and to have gotten to know and be advised by several members of the Deaf Community. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our Deaf and Hard of Hearing neighbors.

Rick Hornor

Want to show your appreciation to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing performers? Here are some ways!



Applause



Heartfelt/Touching



Wonderful/Terrific



Congratulations



Thank you

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director.....	Rick Hornor
Stage Manager	Nena Curley
Assistant Stage Manager	Nathaniel Walker
Sign Language Master	Darren Frazier
Deaf Community Liaison	Melanie Gladstone
Technical Director/Master Carpenter	Blake R. York
Set Design.....	Blake R. York
Resident Costume Designer.....	Michele Graves
Resident Lighting Designer	Niclas Olson
Resident Properties/Hair/Make-up.....	Jeffery Weaver
Resident Scenic Artist	Ana Bury
Sound Design.....	Blake R. York
Assistant Carpenter	Frank Roberts
Production Intern	Mary Grace Dela Rosa
Photography	Dennis K Photography
Graphic Design.....	Blake R. York
Build Crew.....	Gunnar Johnson
Paint Crew.....	Tristan Wenceslao, Chuck Schnebly, Joey Schnebly



**Please remember to silence your
cell phone and mobile devices.**

No texting during the performance. —Thank you

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Rick Hornor (Director)

Rick retired a few years ago after having taught for 45 years. His teaching included junior and senior high schools in CA and NY then 28 years in the Theatre Department at Whitworth University in Spokane. He spends the month of August teaching and directing in the Youth Education program at Taproot Theatre in Seattle. At TLT he directed *Picasso at the Lapine Agile*, an Off the Shelf reading of *Oleanna*, and *Exit Laughing*. He has directed workshops on the use of theatre across the curriculum to teach character values at schools in CA, TX, Washington DC, in London, England and Saipan, Mariana Islands. He has also enjoyed teaching and directing stints in Costa Rica, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England, Tanzania, China, Italy, and Russia. Career highlights include directing at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya and directing *12 Angry Jurors* at LCC University in Klaipeda, Lithuania with actors from former Soviet bloc countries. He and his wife enjoy globe-trotting and invading the homes of their seven married kids and 10 grandchildren.

Nena Curley (Stage Manager)

Nena is regularly seen as a stage manager here at Tacoma Little Theatre. Past shows include: *Blithe Spirit*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Gypsy*, and *Dracula* at Tacoma Little Theatre. She's also Stage Managed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Miracle Worker*, *The Rainmaker*, and *Spamalot* at Lakewood Playhouse. When she's not stage manager, she is the Education Manager here at Tacoma Little Theatre. This show has been an amazing experience to be a part of. Thank you cast for helping me learn some ASL. Thank you to my parents and Dylan for their love and support.

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Set Designer/Master Carpenter)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 14 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing...*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sanyer*, *Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and his friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

Niclas Olson (Resident Lighting Designer)

Niclas is is an actor, director, playwright, and designer based in Tacoma. His designs for Tacoma Little Theatre include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cabaret*, *Dracula*, and *Of Mice and Men*. His work can be seen regularly at Lakewood Playhouse (*The Woman in Black*, *Oliver!*, *Pride and Prejudice*), Dukesbay Productions (*Tea*, *Night of the Iguana*), and New Muses Theatre Com-

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

pany (*Into the Woods*, *Frankenstein*, *Doctor Faustus*). Niclas is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company and line producer for Open Space for Arts and Community. www.niclasolson.com

Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)

Michele has been the Resident Costume Designer for the past four seasons. The quality and variety of the shows, casts, and crews make it a pleasure to be a part of this community theatre. Whether doing a period production or a contemporary piece, she enjoys costuming the many actors and getting to know the characters they portray. Each season brings opportunities to create "just the right costume". There were so many things that had to be considered while costuming this show including the color of and the patterns on costumes. Some colors and patterns are not good choices for Deaf and Hard of Hearing actors because the audience may have a difficult time reading the sign language used. This experience provided insight of the challenges people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing face every day. Thank you actors for enlightening me.

Jeffery Weaver (Resident Properties Manager)

Jeffery is thrilled to start his fourth year as resident properties master/hair consultant extraordinaire. He enjoys working with the amazing and collaborative staff here at Tacoma Little Theatre. A well-dressed set and believable props not only bring the audience along for the ride, they also transport the actors into their environment. Love to all who continue to support his hard work and allow him to give to the community. Bruce, Jen, Claire and the rest of my family I send my love. *"In life we are all born Naked and the rest is Drag"* -RuPaul

Ana Bury (Resident Scenic Artist)

Ana is thrilled to be back at Tacoma Little Theatre to paint for this production! Previously, she has painted for *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *Gypsy*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Rabbit Hole* at TLT, as well as a multitude of shows at the Lakewood Playhouse over the last four years. She would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave so much of their time to help get this show ready. This show wouldn't be what it is without their hard work and selflessness. Please enjoy the product of our sleepless nights!

Darren Frazier (Sign Language Master)

Darren is delighted to return to acting this year after eight years living in Cambodia and Finland as an Expat. Born deaf and fluent in several sign languages, he is thrilled to provide support to this cast as well as Tacoma Little Theatre. Past acting credits as Lead, not limited to: *Big River* (DeafWest Theatre - Broadway); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare Theatre Co.); *Winter's Tale* (Folger Theatre); *Silencer* (Law & Order: CI).



D E A R

L I A R

by Jerome Kilty
from correspondence of
Bernard Shaw & Mrs. Patrick Campbell

An **OFF THE SHELF** staged reading
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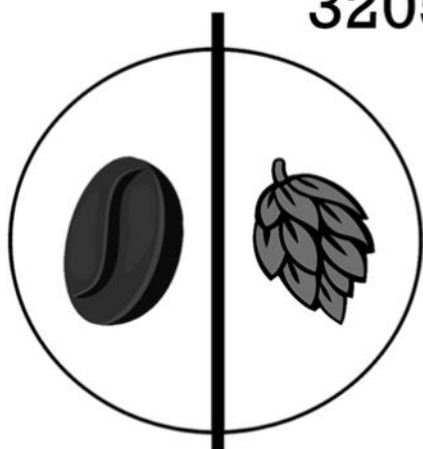
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CLASS	AGE RANGE	DATES/TIMES	SYNOPSIS	COST
 JACK AND THE BEANSTALK	Junior Actors Ages 4-6	February 6-March 17, 2018 Rehearsals: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00am Performance: Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:00am	Join Jack in his adventures as he journeys up the beanstalk to the land of the giants!	\$150
 2B OR NOT 2B	Home-school Grades 1-9	February 6-March 17, 2018 Rehearsals: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30am-1:00pm Performance: Saturday, March 17, 2018 12:00pm	When the normal class teacher is absent, the class can't agree on what they want to rehearse and hilarity ensues!	\$190
 CLASS FULL THE JUNGLE BOOK	After School @ TLT Grades 1-9	February 5-March 17, 2018 Rehearsals: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00-6:00pm Performance: Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:00pm	All your favorite characters from the classic story come to life as Mowgli learns what life is really like.	\$190
 CLASS FULL Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs Reality Royalty	After School @ TLT Grades 1-9	February 6-March 17, 2018 Rehearsals: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-6:00pm Performance: Saturday, March 17, 2018 4:00pm	The Queen holds a reality TV competition to get her beautiful step-daughter, Snow White, voted into the forest!	\$190
 BOOM Dance Studios MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE CLASSES	Ages 4-6 7-13 13-18	Classes begin February 9th Saturdays 10:00-11:00am Fridays 4:00-5:00pm Fridays 5:00-6:00pm Recitals on March 17, 2018	TLT is partnering with Boom Dance studios to bring you classes that will develop your dancing skills!	4-6 \$75.00 7-13 \$100 13-18 \$100
 IMPROV	Ages 11-13 14-18 Adults	February 3-March 10, 2018 Saturdays 12:00-1:00pm 1:00-2:00pm 2:00-3:00pm	Become a master of the art of improv! Learn the skills necessary to think on your feet and always say, "Yes, and".	\$100

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FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors is delighted to have you in our audience, and we hope that you are enriched by this live theatre experience. Our Board has several goals for the upcoming year; please let us know if you want to be a part of achieving them!

- Provide greater access, on stage and off, to our community. While we have been known to cast broadly, we've taken it a step further, and our casting notices specify that auditions are open to all racial and ethnic backgrounds unless otherwise specified. We encourage auditions from people of all backgrounds.
- Provide clearer opportunities for volunteerism. We've always relied on our wonderful volunteers for ushering, and ticket taking, and event planning along with other work. We are now strengthening our Board committees and looking for people who are interested in volunteering with us on event planning, fundraising, facilities, and governance. If you have any interest in serving with any of those committees, please let Chris Surface (chris@tacomalittletheatre.com) know.
- Prepare for our upcoming 100th anniversary and begin planning for continued upgrades to our facility.

Tacoma Little Theatre is fortunate to have strong leadership in Chris Surface, and we look forward to continued success with his leadership and our connection to you and the rest of our community.

Enjoy the show!

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors

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Sunday, February 11, 2018, 2:00p.m.



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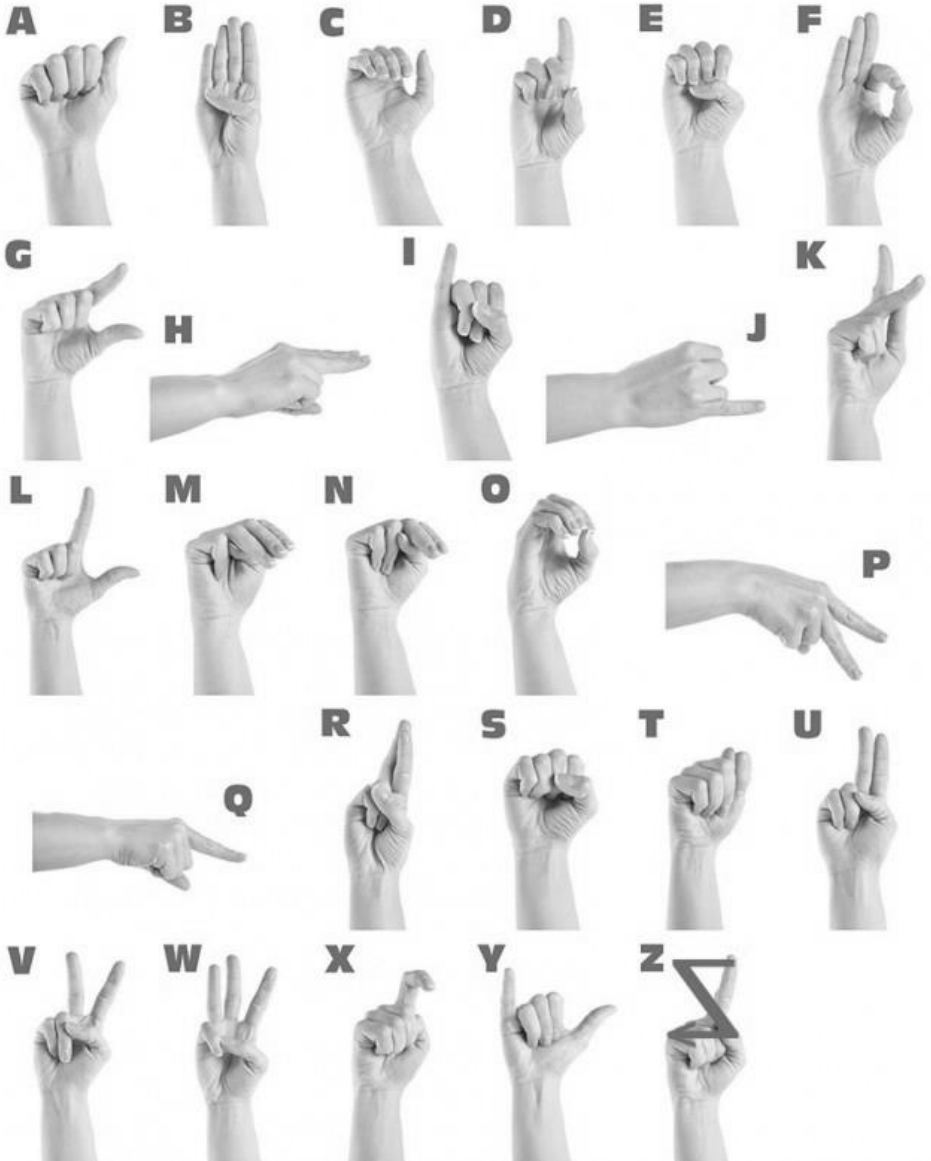
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What is American Sign Language?

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, complex language that employs signs made by moving the hands combined with facial expressions and postures of the body. It is the primary language of many North Americans who are deaf and is one of several communication options used by people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Is sign language the same in other countries?

No one form of sign language is universal. Different sign languages are used in different countries or regions. For example, British Sign Language (BSL) is a different language from ASL, and Americans who know ASL may not understand BSL.



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Sarah Norman Michelle Mary Schaefer

James Leeds.....Jeremy Lynch

Orin Dennis..... Kai Winchester

Mr. FranklinKerry Bringman

Mrs. Norman Kristen Moriarty

LydiaMelanie Gladstone

Edna Klein Madonna Hanna

SETTING

The play takes place in the mind of James Leeds. Throughout the events, characters step from his memory for anything from a full scene to several lines.

TIME

Between 1979 and 1980

Act I: 65 minutes Act II: 70 minutes

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts

All performances are presented with open captioning and some productions will feature an ASL interpreter

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Kerry Bringman (Mr. Franklin)

Kerry is thrilled to be back at TLT! In 2017 he performed as: Mr. Gower in *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Musical*, Mr. Van Dann in *The Diary of Ann Frank*, and as the Toymaker in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at Manestage Theatre. He was Sgt. Carlino in *Wait until Dark* at Lakewood Playhouse and Frisky Madison in the WSCTA award winning *Second Samuel* produced by TLT.



Melanie Gladstone (Lydia)

Melanie is honored to be consulting on this show, helping to bring together the Tacoma theatre community and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community around the Puget Sound. Melanie is a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Melanie has been seen on Tacoma stages as Anita (*West Side Story*), Shimmy Girl (*Smokey Joe's Cafe*), Mary Jo Kincaid (*A Piece of My Heart*), among others. Favorite roles in the past include Velma (*Chicago*), Rosemary (*H2S*), and Kathy Selden (*Signin' in the Rain*). Melanie is also the creator of Broadway Bags, some of which you can find in the theatre lobby as well as Etsy. Thank you Rick, Nena, Chris, Darren, Ryan, Patty, and the whole cast and production crew for this an incredible and unique experience for the Tacoma community! #deafalent



Jeremy Lynch (James Leeds)

Children of a Lesser God is Jeremy's debut show at TLT, and he's grateful for the unique opportunity to incorporate his love for theatre, as well as the Deaf community into this production. Real estate agent by day, actor by night, his acting credits include *Beauty and the Beast*, *Bye Bye Birdie* (ManeStage Theatre Company), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (TMP). He has been involved in the Deaf community for over twelve years, attended the interpreter training program at Seattle Central, and continues to improve his signing skills as often as possible. He thanks Brian Redpath (for the great impact he has made), Jay and Brenda, his parents (the most supportive parents alive), and Rick Hornor. He hopes that every patron leaving this show will be moved to make some Deaf friends and learn the amazing, deep, and rich language that is ASL!



Madonna Hanna (Edna Klein)

Madonna is making her TLT acting debut. She began her drama experience at Stoughton High School, Stoughton, Massachusetts. She has written and directed an anti-bullying children play, *Beautiful Differences*, based on her children's book [Mommy, Why Are My Eyes so Big?](#), which she authored. Madonna has also appeared in television commercials and an independent film. Madonna is also a motivational speaker. She is presently a member of Evergreen 333 Toastmasters, where she has received recognition in numerous regional and District speech contests. In 2015 she was a semi-finalist in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest in Las Vegas. She resides in Ruston with husband, Steven, a massage therapist and teacher.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Kristen Moriarty (Mrs. Norman)

Kristen just marked her return to theatre after a five year hiatus to start a family and raise her two daughters. She has worked in regional theatres in Chicago, Detroit, Montana, Tacoma, and Athens, Greece. She holds an MFA in acting (University of Montana), a BFA in acting/dance (Adelphi University, NY), and has trained with Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA. She is a contributing artist with Vitalist Theatre, Chicago. Many thanks to TLT, Team Moriarty, and you—our audience.



Michelle Mary Schaefer (Sarah Norman)

Michelle is thrilled to be on stage here in Tacoma with TLT. Ms. Schaefer is not new to the stage, and is proud to include her sixth production of *Children of a Lesser God* on her list of theatrical and film experiences. In 2016, she was the first Deaf Female Actor to take on the role of Billy, a male in *Tribes*. Most recently she was seen as Ash in *SKIN* with the Deaf Spotlight in Seattle. She wants to thank everyone for their love and support, Rick for casting her and giving her different perspectives which grew the character and herself. Thanks also to Natalie, Serrell and the Wild Monkeys for providing great hospitality! When not acting, Schaefer writes scripts, looks for producers for films/web-series, hangs out with her number one fan – her dog Annabelle whom travels with her, kickboxing, and chilling with her best friend discussing about Deaf Austin Theatre, coming soon! See more at michellemaryschaefer.com



Kai Winchester (Orin Dennis)

Mr. Winchester is a Washington native. He developed a love for theatre early on and participated for many years in the Seattle Deaf Children's Theatre project, led by Howie and Billy Seago. After spending a few years pursuing other interests, he gladly returns to the stage with Tacoma Little Theatre. *Children of a Lesser God* is his first show with the theatre.



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Death by ♥ VALENTINE

Hart Breaker is trying to throw the perfect Valentine's Day party for her daughter, Candy. She just can't get any cooperation from her "other" daughter, Coco Puff, her "current" husband, Drew Blood, her "friend," Bill Willkill, or her "brother," Rock Bottoms. Candy isn't impressed with anyone on the guest list and wants to go hang out with her friends instead, but gifts keep arriving from a secret admirer and she can't figure out a way to make her escape. Something has to be done to save this Valentine's Day party... but who will save Candy Valentine?

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Sunday, February 18, 2018 from 3:00pm-5:30pm

Ticket prices: \$50.00 includes dinner and show

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Special Thanks

Melanie Gladstone - liaison between TLT and the Deaf Community and principle ASL interpreter at rehearsals

Darren Frazier - ASL coach

Ryan Schlecht & Patty Liang - from Deaf Spotlight in Seattle, provided priceless advice on casting of and working with actors from within the Deaf Community

Deaf Spotlight, Seattle - inspires, encourages, and showcases creative works of, by, and for Deaf people in the Pacific Northwest through events that celebrate Deaf Culture and American Sign Language

Kathy Topp - audiologist

Jesse Moore - speech therapist

Nathaniel Walker & Tencia Birkebaek - ASL interpreters

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4. The forum in the city of Tacoma.

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