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ASL oral



SVM Productions presents in
American Sign Language and spoken English



Deaf Snow White

Written & Directed by Jack Volpe

Players' Theatre, McGill University
3480 McTavish Street, 3rd Floor
March 13, 14 & 15, 2014

\$6 students / \$8 non-students
Box office opens @ 7PM
Shows start @ 8PM

PLAYERS' 514-398-6813
THEATRE FOH.PLAYERS@GMAIL.COM



Director's Note

"How do we feel?" This is a question a random stranger asked of me back when I was in college. I'd never come across a question like that before. It's the "we" part of it. It's not just you or me. We're talking about you AND me. Are we both feeling the same way? How do we feel sad about what's happening in third world countries? How do we feel bitter about our political system? Do we feel grateful for our family and friends? Do we feel disappointed that we were once young and free, but now have to worry about growing up and dealing with everything that is different?

Deaf people, as do many minorities, feel that we are subject to the judgments of others. Sometimes, we feel it would be easier to hide in the proverbial corner. Minority groups find themselves in the same boat. However, I would say that all people, minority or not, are in the same boat. We all deserve to be treated fairly.

Back when I was a wee boy, I was fascinated with fairy tales and of course, Snow White. Made famous by Walt Disney, tonight's performance will have a similar concept but a different approach a la Deaf Culture adaptation. The play is written by a Deaf person, experiencing life in front of you as you sit, watch and learn about a whole new culture. This performance presents itself in a three-dimensional sensory space. As a first time director, my challenge with Deaf Snow White is to immerse and absorb you into a different world. Deaf people and hearing people share various backgrounds and it takes two, one from each community, to figure out that we live in different worlds.

When Seeing Voices Montreal was first established, the founder informed me that she wanted to put on a production of Snow White. I immediately rose to the occasion, because I felt it would be an innovative and unique experience for the general public. How can I convey my world, my reality, onto paper? And then, onto the

Concordia, in hopes of becoming a Speech Therapist.

~Jonathan Rozon (ASL Actor)~
Featured in ASL on the projector screen.

~Fernando Roussi (ASL Actor)~
Featured in ASL on the projector screen.

~Mounir Boudjema (ASL Actor)~
Featured in ASL on the projector screen.

Special Thanks:

Lynne Cooper
Marc-André Couture & Isabelle Hénault
Rémy Attig
Dunn's Famous
Players' Theatre Executives
SSMU
Gordon Hart
Fabien Chevaucher
Marc Rowland & Montreal Improv
Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre
SVM Executives' Moms: Dzovinar Der Boghossian, Amy Chang, Monique Gendre, Audrey Goldman, Antonietta Melino, Jo-Anne Shimoda

**DESIGN
MCGILL**

Café 92°



PLUME

**RÉADAPTATION
UNIVERSELLE**
Physiotherapy | Occupational Therapy

undergraduate diploma in Agro-Environmental Sciences from McGill (Go, Mac Campus!). In the future, I hope to continue working with SVM and get to see the organization grow! Over the last three years, I took courses in LSQ and LSF. Since I joined SVM, I have switched to ASL. You can guess that my signing is a little messed up! It has been a long, strenuous and slow process for me to learn to sign but, most importantly, a fascinating one. What a journey! Joining SVM was certainly the highlight of the past year of my life. I have worked with many organizations and in many teams in the past, but this team is very special to me. I'm so fortunate and thankful to work with such talented and passionate people. You are a true inspiration.

~Pamela Vrabel (ASL Actor)~

I am 22 years old and hearing, but ASL is my first language since I am a child of two Deaf adults. I'm a full time undergraduate student at Concordia, in my last year of studying Women's Studies and Chemistry and I work part-time as a caregiver/ home-care attendant. I'm a little uncertain about what I will be doing post graduation, but I'm interested in going to school for Midwifery or possibly to obtain my masters in Disability Studies. I joined SVM because I wanted to become more involved in the Deaf community here in Montreal. Although I have a small role as an ASL actor, I really enjoyed being a part of the cast of Deaf Snow White. I appreciate that I had the opportunity to be in the production and to meet such awesome people! It was really great to be able to improve on my ASL skills, as well to learn new words and proper ASL syntax that my parents never taught me.

~Victoria Dwight (ASL Actor)~

I am 29 years old and hearing. I grew up in Ontario and moved to Quebec a few years ago to complete my MA in Applied Linguistics. Now, I teach English as a Second Language at universities in Montreal. I wanted to be a part of a group that helps promote ASL and encourages more people to learn the language here in Montreal. It is also great to have a place where both Deaf and Hearing can meet and socialize using ASL in a fun and expressive environment. I have had a great time being involved with SVM. All of the members are enthusiastic and support each other in many different ways. We all hope that people will come watch the play and want to learn more about Deaf culture and ASL. Hopefully, people will see the beauty in ASL and how much fun it can be to use!

~Josephine Torossian (ASL Actor)~

I am 21 years old and hearing. I started taking ASL classes and meeting Deaf people back in 2011. My perspective on overlooked communities, especially the Deaf community, changed and my desire to raise awareness on disability, discrimination and Deafness pushed me to help create SVM. I am now finishing my Bachelors in Linguistics at

stage? I have always admired visual performances, especially through films and my comedic routines for friends and family. I was thrilled to write this piece even though I was swamped with multiple things to do. Good grief! How can I keep this up? Given that, Seeing Voices Montreal changed my life, it has been a place of refuge for me in a way. I feel like I'm contributing to something meaningful, not only that: I really enjoy what I do with the SVM team. Their goal is to understand the Deaf community's values and to spread our awareness to people that are not "well-versed" about our minority. How do we feel? Deaf folks are aware that we are different. Even so, we remain proud of our community, values and culture, and deserve nothing less than our individual rights and freedoms.

This is a new found experience for all of us: the cast, crew and the executives who made this happen and for Seeing Voices Montreal, a great group full of awesome and warmhearted people who share our diversity to the world through our body language and facial expressions of this specific medium. So without further ado, PAH! Enjoy the beauty of ASL theatre. Thank you.

-Jack Volpe



Carleton University Student Sign Society
will welcome

Deaf Snow White

in Ottawa on March 23, 2014

Kailash Mital Theatre, Carleton University

Show starts at 6PM

Cast and Crew

Director.....	Jack Volpe
Assistant Director.....	Lynne Cooper
Stage Manager.....	Tamara Bousquet
Costume Designer.....	Remy Attig
Wardrobe Assistant.....	Isabelle Hénault
Lighting Designer.....	Marc-André Couture
Make-Up Designer.....	Linx Selby
Make-Up Assistant.....	Cynthia Or
Make-Up Assistant.....	Laurence Bourrassa
Set Designer.....	Riki Shimoda
Props	Tomonori Nakayama
Props	Jordy Pepina-St. Jacques
Vibrations/Sound Technician.....	Daniel Lavigne
Digital Designer.....	Gordon Hart
Front of House Manager.....	Genevieve Deguire
Snow White.....	Lisa Mazza
Snow White Voice Actor.....	Sabrina Langelier
Prince Philip-Xander.....	Pierre-Olivier Beaulac-Bouchard
Prince P-X Voice Actor.....	Tristan Roy
Hunter.....	Riki Shimoda
Hunter Voice Actor.....	Ryan Chyzenski
Queen Magnalia.....	Lauren Murphy
Old Hag.....	Andreia Malisia
Mirror.....	Walter Wittich
Doc.....	Simon Makil
Grumpy.....	Jonathan Himsforth
Happy.....	Jennifer Roberts
Sleepy.....	Stephanie Zidel
Sneezy.....	Anthony Napoli
Shy.....	Morgan Burke
Silly.....	Sera Kassab
ASL Actors: Jordan Goldman / Aselin Weng / Chloe Gendre / Pamela Vrabel / Victoria Dwight / Josephine Torossian / Jonathan Rozon/ Fernando Roussi / Mounir Boudjema	

both sent me tpamelahé audition notice for this play and learning vicariously through her. She and Stephanie Zidel (Sleepy) both sent me the audition notice for this play and jumped at the opportunity to combine two things I love: acting and ASL. Rehearsing for Deaf Snow White has been a completely different experience to any theatre I have done in the past. Many different considerations have gone into staging and expression to make everything as clear as it can be for all audience members. I have been caught off guard multiple times when the loudest of four conversations is whispered. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with SVM and I hope to be able to continue working with them in the future.

Sera Kessab (Silly)~

Featured in ASL on the projector screen.

I'm 25 years old. I'm a Deaf student in Fine Arts at Concordia University, and this will be completing my 4th year! I joined the play because some members of SVM are my dear friends from school. They talked to me about the play and I love acting! The experience has been very interesting. Rehearsals were tough at first, it was hard to communicate with hearing people, but eventually we become like a family and have a strong bond!

~Jordan Goldman (ASL Actor)~

I am not a King of Narnia. I am not a student of the Slytherin House. Neither am I a pupil of Charles Xavier's, nor a Betazed living on a planet where no one has gone before. Not a Disney prince, a Grey warden, a Rune-holding Star of Destiny, nor the Hero of Time. I don't even know how to get to Neverland. I am hearing, white and Jewish. I'm 26 years of age, gay and anglophone. I call Montreal my home and Quebec the greatest place on earth. I have been fortunate enough to be welcomed into the Deaf world since 2006 and have been learning ASL ever since. The unyielding united effort of the Deaf Snow White team has been awesome to witness and participate in. I am among friends and cohorts who inspire me to be better. So, although I may not be many things, over the course of this production—being me has been pretty amazing. Enjoy the show!

~Aselin Weng (ASL Actor)~

I am 21 years old and hearing. I'm a Physical Therapy student at McGill. I founded SVM with Josie and Jack because of my passion for ASL and the desire to work with Deaf people. Communication has always been so important in my life. I am fluent in 5 languages, but trust me, you don't know anything about communication until you experience Deaf culture and ASL. My experience with SVM has been nothing short of life changing. Deaf Snow White will always be the apple of my eye.

~Chloe Gendre (ASL Actor)~

I am 23 years old and hearing. I will soon be graduating with an

has this innate ability to make us want to come and be part of this generosity.

~Jennifer Roberts (Happy)~

I am 26 years old and hearing. I graduated from the Theatre & Development program at Concordia in 2010. I am an actor, teacher, facilitator, coordinator and consultant. Basically, I work with people and I love it. I was raised in a Deaf household and am a part of a large Deaf community in Ontario. I am also actively involved in theatre, so imagine my surprise when I found out there was an organization in Montreal, my adopted home, which combines two huge parts of my life. I'm thrilled that I was able to be a part of this show and SVM. Everyone has been so kind and it's a very exciting project.

~Stephanie Zidel (Sleepy)~

I am 22 years old and a recent graduate of McGill's Theatre program. I am hearing and am currently participating as an actor in the Black Theatre Workshop's artist mentorship program. Recent acting credits include: Georgie in *The Full Monty* (Centaur) and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Moyses). I recently directed a production of *Les Belles Soeurs* for Players' Theatre. I chose to participate in SVM's production to expand on my penchant for physical theatre (including clown, mask, dance and puppeteering). This experience has been a rewarding exercise in on-stage discipline and focus. Thanks to Dave, Alex, mom and dad for the unwavering support.

~Anthony Charles Joseph Napoli (Sneezy)~

I am 23 years old and hearing. I am full-time student at Rosemount Technology Centre currently studying graphic design and desktop publishing. I hope to go into layout design for a magazine for the arts and entertainment, and to continue acting. I have only been featured in one other play back in Cegep which was an onstage rendition of the film "The Breakfast Club." I have also been part of a few student films and I am currently working on two. My friend Riki mentioned to me about the production of Deaf Snow White and suggested that it would be fun, so I jumped on the idea. My experience with this group of people has been nothing but amazing, they are very great people to be around and I've been learning so much from them, such as sign language which has been helping me to communicate with them and become more comfortable with the rest of the cast.

~Morgan Burke (Shy)~

I am a 23-year-old hearing actor. I graduated from McGill with a Bachelor's of Arts in May 2013, and am now taking classes at Concordia to prepare for a Master's in Speech-Language Pathology. My mom got me interested in ASL from early childhood, and I've been learning vicariously through her. She and Stephanie Zidel (Sleepy)

Cast Biographies

~Lisa Mazza (Snow White)~

Featured in ASL on the projector screen.

I am 25 years old and am a student of Vanier College studying Special Care Counselling. When I first heard of SVM, I was excited to be a part of it and it sounded really interesting and awesome because they were doing the Deaf culture awareness and this project inspires me not to give up. I can do anything, no matter what. So, I joined to help them to make that happen and also I was really impressed by their perseverance and determination. I always enjoyed rehearsals and I had so much fun. All the members that I work with are SO kind and always support each other in so many ways. Whenever I see them, they make me smile and I'm happier because of them. I never want to let them go because no matter what, we are always in this together. They always have positive attitudes and are always able to make me laugh. That's what I love about being in this project and I have to say that I am really happy to have met them!

~Sabrina Langelier (Snow White Voice Actor)~

I am 23 years old, hearing, and am a third year Secondary Science and Technology Education student at McGill. I aspire to study Inclusive Education in graduate school in the hope of becoming a special education teacher. I decided to join the Deaf Snow White production because it has always been important to me to participate in projects that raise awareness about disabilities and inclusion. I thought that this project was a novel way to show our community that it is possible for Deaf and hearing people to work together; I wanted to participate in a project that would promote this type of partnership. My experience has been absolutely terrific! I had the chance to learn a lot of ASL. I also had the opportunity to learn a lot about theater and Deaf culture. Finally, through Deaf Snow White, I've had the chance to meet and befriend incredibly talented and caring individuals!

~Pierre-Olivier Bouchard (Prince Philip-Xander)~

Featured in ASL on the projector screen.

~Tristan Roy (Prince P-X Voice Actor)~

I am a 27 years old hearing actor. Professionally, I aspire to become a new hope for the bilingual actors of Canada. After graduating from the theatre program at John Abbott College in 2010, I went on with my career and performed for the Fringe Festival in Scotland in 2011 and the Fringe Festival in Montreal in 2012. I was also seen in critically acclaimed shows like "Oroonoko" by Persephone Productions and "South Park" by CETM Production. I joined the cast of SVM's Snow White in search of new horizons and challenges to conquer.

~Riki Shimoda (Hunter)~

I am 23 years old and hearing. I am currently a student at Concordia studying in the Fine Arts program. I joined Deaf Snow White because I wanted to explore the language of ASL (little did I know, I would find more than just that). I've met more and more of the Deaf community and have learned the value of experiencing their culture. I feel as if I've found the people of Atlantis and am discovering their beautiful and poetic way of life. A culture and community right underneath our noses, I now feel is overlooked by most of us in society.

~Ryan Chyzenski (Hunter Voice Actor)~

I am 23 years old and hearing. I'm currently doing an undergraduate degree at Concordia in applied human sciences, in hopes to become a child & youth social worker. I decided to join the Deaf Snow White production because I wanted to learn more about the Deaf culture and to improve my ASL communication skills, and maybe make some new friends! My experience in participating in the Deaf Snow White production has been very fun and interesting. I am learning and accomplishing many of the things that I had set out to do when deciding to participate in this production.

~Lauren Murphy (Queen Magnalia)~

I teach English and math to Grade 5 students at Selwyn House School. I joined SVM because I was looking for another opportunity to use my ASL skills and to meet new people in Montreal. I was interested in the performance aspect specifically because it is something I have little experience with and I believe it's good for us to try new activities outside of our comfort zones once in a while. Since joining the production, I have had a wonderful time. I have met new people, both Deaf and hearing, as I had hoped, and am enjoying getting to know new friends. I have also really experienced a new side of myself through acting. I surprised myself with how I was able to slip into character. Don't get me wrong, it's not easy, but it's fun and I enjoy the feeling of playing such an intense character.

~Andréia R. Malisia (Old Hag)~

I am 28 years old and hearing. I am an occupational therapist and have been working for 7 years. I did my undergraduate and masters at McGill and I work for Groupe Ergo Ressources in pediatrics. I started learning ASL through the Mackay Center, where I met Aselin and Jack. I started hearing about the student association Aselin had started and that they were going to do a play involving both Deaf and hearing individuals. I immediately joined the group! Turns out I did a lot more than just practice my ASL. I got to meet great people, hearing and Deaf, and actually got a big role! Interacting with deaf individuals made me realize how many little details are often taken for granted. Most importantly though, I found that this experience opened my eyes to a

deeper and more important story. Jack did a remarkable job in adapting the play and was magically able to integrate within a very old and simple story, the very delicate, complex and unknown realities of Deaf individuals. I consider myself honored to have been given the role of the Old Hag. She is not the traditional witch you already know.

~Walter Wittich (Mirror)~

I'm turning 45 this year, am hearing, and a former professional ballet dancer who returned to school at the age of 30 to start a Bachelors degree in Psychology, and have since completed a Masters in Experimental Psychology, a PhD in Neuroscience and a post-doctoral fellowship in audiology. I am the resident researcher at the MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre, and study the functional effects of acquired deafblindness. After completing some ASL courses offered at the MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre, and because of my professional interest in sensory loss, I was looking for an opportunity to try out my new skills, and joining the cast of Deaf Snow White was the logical conclusion. I have met a wonderful group of people here, have made many new friends and am starting to understand and admire a completely different culture.

~Simon Makil (Doc)~

I am 21 years old and hearing. I am a student at McGill in my 3rd year of Chemical Engineering. After performing in another school play, I got a message from Jack, who was in the audience, about auditioning and I jumped at the chance. Working with Deaf actors was something out of my comfort zone and I knew it would help me become a better actor. I thought it was really awesome how Jack and the rest of the Seeing Voices crew were able to put this whole creation together, so when I found out I got the role I couldn't wait to join the team. This experience has been amazing. To be honest, I had never communicated with a Deaf person before this play. But now, I am proud to say I have many cool friends who are Deaf—friends who do the exact same thing as anyone else does, but have much better peripheral vision than I do. I had so much fun rehearsing because everyone was so enthusiastic to just act and have a good time. Overall, I am really grateful and proud to have been a part of such a cool production.

~Jonathan Himsworth (Grumpy)~

I am hearing, was born in 1968, and studied mass communication. I am a writer and illustrator who has worked in theatre in Montreal, chiefly with Lynne Cooper in the founding of the Trunk Collectif. I cannot think of a more uplifting way to spend an evening than in the company of Deaf actors, their translators and other hearing people as we piece together a production using a form of communication that intensifies the 'human-ness' of each interaction. I've harboured a longstanding secret wish to speak like a New Yorker. Acting means a lot of time spent waiting. In this case, every second spent in rehearsal has been a life lesson. Our director is possibly one of the more inspiring humans I have come across and, like many leaders, he