



DATT

DEAF ARTISTS & THEATRES TOOLKIT

Until now there have been few Canadian theatre productions written by a Deaf playwright, performed by Canadian Deaf actors or supported by Canadian Deaf interpreters (DIs).

At the start of their 30th Anniversary Season, Cahoots Theatre will launch the Deaf Artists & Theatres Toolkit (DATT) – an online guide to assist theatre companies with insights from the Deaf community, resources and a process to engage and collaborate with Deaf artists and audiences.

We have hosted forums with Deaf leaders, theatre managers and artistic directors and have conducted research for the DATT alongside learnings from Cahoots' work on Adam Pottle's play, *ULTRASOUND*.



Photo of Chris Dodd & Elizabeth Morris. Photography by Dahlia Katz

*"Without humility, there can be no humanity."
– John Buchan*

The DATT addresses practical and artistic aspects related to producing theatre within a Deaf cultural context. Content will span from cross cultural communication, to budgeting for and incorporating interpreters, to marketing & communication strategies, to providing a Deaf friendly front of house and theatre environment for audiences, and more.

This free online guide will contain written components and ASL videos with subtitles.

By the end of August 2016, we will launch and disseminate the DATT to Theatre Organizations and Deaf community leaders across the country. Our hope is that this work will increase collaboration and engagement with the Deaf community and generate a sector-wide shift in theatre producing models and practices.

WWW.CAHOOTS.CA

ULTRASOUND

APRIL 28 - MAY 15, 2016

"This is not an agenda. This is our family."



Welcome[1] to the premiere production of ULTRASOUND by Adam Pottle. ULTRASOUND will be performed in English and American Sign Language (ASL) with integrated surtitles and projections.

In this play[2], you will be introduced to two characters, Miranda[3] and Alphonse[4]. Their name signs are illustrated below. We have also included some other ASL signs for your interest and engagement.

Thank you![5] Enjoy the show! (Applause)[6]



[1] WELCOME



[2] PLAY (THEATRE)



[3] MIRANDA



[4] ALPHONSE



[5] THANK YOU



[6] APPLAUSE

Arbitrary Name Signs (ANS), typically given by members of the North American Deaf Community, use the fingerspelled initial of one's written name with no additional meaning, but placed in a particular location. Deaf schools have become traditional places where students receive their names signs.

Descriptive Name Signs (DNS), follow ASL rules for hand-shapes, movement, and location and are based on personal characteristics. Name signs combining fingerspelled initials and descriptors have emerged with the increase of hearing individuals learning ASL but are not traditional name signs.

Photos of Chris Dodd & Elizabeth Morris. Photography by Dahlia Katz
Supalla, S. 1992. The Book of Name Signs: Naming in American Sign Language. San Diego: DawnSignPress.

#ULTRASOUNDTO