

ENTERTAINMENT

Walterdale play studies problems faced by deaf

by Gilbert Bouchard

Director Judy Unwin first saw the *Children of a Lesser God* in New York in 1981, and fell in love with it.

"The play wasn't released yet, and we had to wait until it closed on Broadway," said Unwin.

This season Unwin's wish materialized in the Walterdale's production of Mark Medoff's extraordinary play of a deaf woman and her struggle in the hearing world.

While this may be Unwin's dream play it has had its share of logistical problems. For example, because of Unwin's decision to use deaf actors, she had to learn how to sign, and at first she described her progress as slow.

But for every setback Unwin has received she has also been granted an equal number of small graces. "Vincent Chauvet started out as my signing instructor and has been a real gem," said Unwin. Chauvet is now listed in the play's handbill as the assistant director. "Victor may even direct a show at the Walterdale next year."

Unwin's early frustration vanished as her proficiency in signing developed. When I interviewed Unwin late into the production's rehearsals, she was signing like a pro.

"There were other things we didn't think of when we were planning to direct a play using deaf actors," said Unwin. "I forgot silly

things like deaf actors have to see each other when they sign or talk. And since the play's set has no wings for visual clues, we ended up using cue lights."

Unwin and her cast have been hard at work since early November and are not looking forward to going in separate directions once the production is over. "I'll be so sad when it's going to be over," said Unwin.

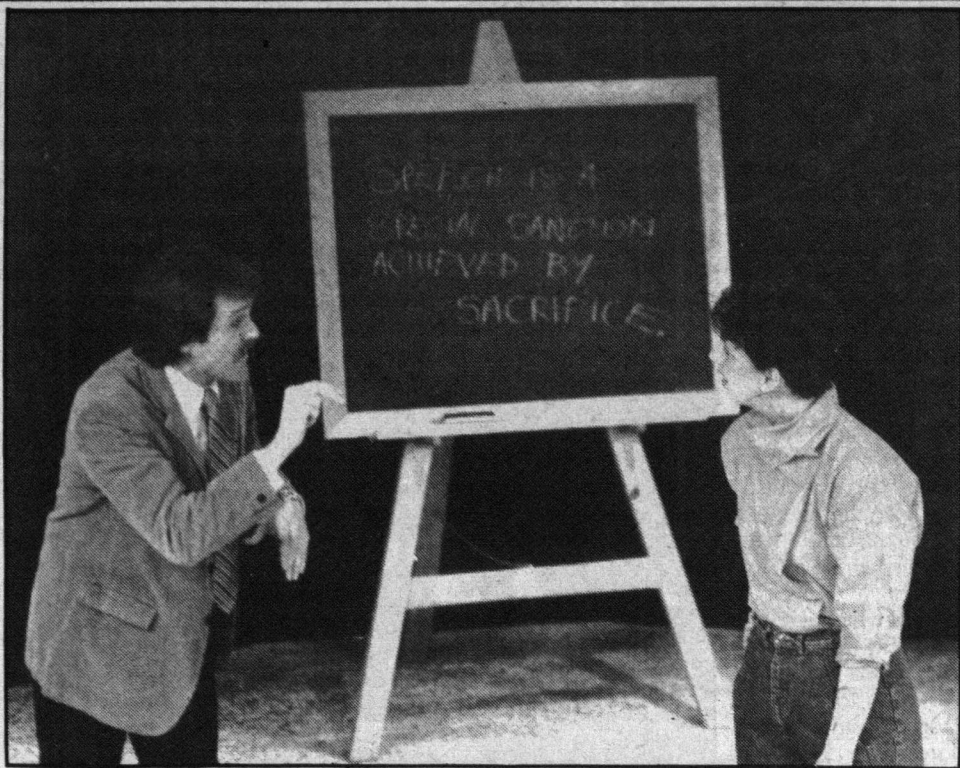
"I hope that this play makes people aware," said Unwin. "I didn't know any deaf people before this production, and I didn't realize that there were so many deaf people."

Unwin is also upset by the lack of theatrical outlets for the deaf. "There is no real deaf theatre, and it is such a shame to see all these people with all this untapped talent," she said.

"This play is not for the deaf; it is for hearing audiences," Unwin added. Because deaf people would not be able to understand any of the lines spoken while the actors have their backs turned to the audience, the Walterdale is putting on two special performances where two 'interpreters' will sign out all the dialogue.

"I want people to see this play and I want them to learn about deafness, not just feel sad for the deaf," Unwin said.

Children of a Lesser God is showing nightly at 8 p.m. at the Walterdale from Feb. 13 to 23.



James Leeds (Paul Atkinson) struggles with a particularly difficult student - Sarah Norman (Wanda Warick).

Photo Alex Miller

ENTERTAINMENT Trivia

by Don Teplyske

Music
Topic: That old K-Tel album

1. Who saw the lipstick on her boyfriend's collar?
2. What happened to Running Bear and Little White dove?
3. Where did The Beatles' Bonnie live?
4. He knew it was *Only Make Believe*.

Television: WKRP in Cincinnati

5. What was the name of Herb's wife?
6. Why did Johnny Fever get fired from a California station?
7. What band did WKRP sponsor a concert for?

Hockey: Goons

8. What is Steve Durbano doing now?
9. Who is the most penalized player in NHL history?
10. Who did Jimmy Mann sucker punch?

Last week's answers

.Tribbles caused trouble on the Enterprise. Star Trek ran for three years. McCoy's nurse was Christene Chapel. The Village People. The Knack. Starland Vocal Ban. "More, More, More". In a trade for Dave Williams and Jerry Butler. Dallas Smith. Philadelphia Flyers.

Richard Buyschaerk won last week's contest. Richard was supposed to win an Ann Mortifee interview album, but it disappeared. Instead Richard will receive a "Sure Thing" t-shirt and SUB postcard. Congratulations, Richard. This week we have the Major contest promised last week. The Gateway is sponsoring an exclusive premiere of Rob Reiner's new romantic comedy *The Sure Thing*, on Feb. 28. All entries to this week's Trivia contest will receive a double guest pass to this premiere. The first nine entries drawn that have all ten questions correct will win two double guest passes and a "The Sure Thing" t-shirt. Send, or drop, those entries to the Gateway, Rm. 282, SUB, by Monday, Feb. 25. We have hundreds of passes to give away, so enter even if you can not answer a single question.



James Leeds becomes exasperated with student Lyndia (Connie Gongos).



Gold Medal Award

Each year the Students' Union awards a student with a Gold Medal for excellence in curricular and non-curricular activities at the University of Alberta during the previous academic year.

Criteria:

- candidates must be in the graduating year of their most recent degree program
- candidates must have a Grade Point Average of at least 7.5 in courses taken two years previous to the graduating year and in the first term of the graduating year
- extra-curricular involvement in University and/or community activities.

Deadline for Applications: Monday, 25 February, 1985

Contact the Students' Union Executive Offices for application or nomination forms, and/or for more information (259 Students' Union Building, 432-4236).

Nothing trivial about
VALENTINE'S DAY
Congratulations to the winners of Hub's balloon bouquets — and a Happy February 14th!

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