

Discovery Theater

presents

The

Wild Zappers!

Director: Fred Michael Beam

Associate Director: Warren "Wawa" Snipe

Who are the Wild Zappers?

With a powerful combination of American Sign Language, music and dance, **The Wild Zappers** focus on the beauty of dance, theater and sign language, giving audiences an opportunity to experience professional performing arts of the deaf. Founded in 1989 by Irvine Stewart with the support of Fred Michael Beam and Warren "Wawa" Snipe, they promote cultural and educational awareness through entertainment within deaf and hearing communities.

Based in Prince George's County, Maryland, members of The Wild Zappers, mostly Jazz/Funk/Hip Hop dancers, have a wide variety of performance experience and theater affiliations. The Wild Zappers have appeared at Gallaudet University, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Miss Deaf DC, Black Family Reunion, DC Black Expo, Miss Deaf Maryland, and numerous government agencies. Around the country, they have performed at the Apollo Theater in Harlem; Imagination Celebration in Fort Worth, Texas; Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida; and Deaf festivals in many states. The troupe has also toured Japan, Jamaica, and the Virgin Islands, and visited Brisbane, Australia for the World Federation of the Deaf.

Discovery Theater Artistic Director: Roberta Gasbarre
Learning Guide by Anne O'Donnell

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The Smithsonian Associates

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(202) 633-8700 • Info@DiscoveryTheater.org • DiscoveryTheater.org

See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

For Discussion... Body Language



Americans use hand signs and other body signals every day. How many can you think of?

If you couldn't see your friend's face, could you tell what he or she was feeling? How?

Pick an emotion—like anger, happiness, sadness, excitement, fear, nervousness. Act it out—using only your hands, gestures, and posture! Can your friends guess what emotion you're "feeling"?



Vocabulary

"What" – place your hands in front of your chest, palm up, and move your hands back and forth.

"What's Up?" – with open hands, place the tips of your middle fingers on your chest. Then, in a single quick movement, flip your palms up, moving your hands away from your chest.

"Guess!" – make a C-shape with your hand and put it in front of and slightly to the side of your face, around the level of your eyes. Move your hand toward your nose without touching it and close your hand into a fist at the same time—as if you're catching a thought!

Related Resources

- www.deaflibrary.org/magazines.html– online magazine for deaf and hard of hearing kids and friends
- www.invisiblehands.com – includes some deaf performing groups
- www.talkinghandsASL.com – for products to help learn and teach American Sign Language
- www.NTD.org – home page of the National Theatre of the Deaf
- deafness.about.com/cs/history – an overview on the history of deaf people and sign language
- www.handspeak.com – includes a sign language dictionary
- www.nad.org – homesite of the Junior National Association of the Deaf
- www.deafchildren.org – the American Society for Deaf Children home page
- www.gallaudet.edu – the Gallaudet University web site
- *Sign Language Fun* by Linda Bove
- *Yes, You Can, Heather! A Story of Heather Whitestone, Miss America 1995* by Daphne Gray
- *Deaf Heritage, Narrative History of Deaf America* by Jack R. Gannon
- *The Joy of Signing* by Lottie L. Riekehof
- *Deaf Girls Rule: A Photographic Essay of the 1999 Champion Gallaudet University Women's Basketball Team* by Wendy Tiefenbacher
- *Come Sign with Us: Sign Language Activities for Children* by Jan C. Hafer & Robert M. Wilson
- *Signs Across America*, by Shroyer & Shroyer