

SEE WHAT I'M SAYING

THE DEAF ENTERTAINERS DOCUMENTARY TEACHER WORKBOOK & STUDY GUIDE



Me Hear None
Additional Performances



See What I'm Saying
Feature Documentary



Educational DVD
Supplemental Material
from See What I'm Saying

SEE WHAT I'M SAYING

THE DEAF ENTERTAINERS DOCUMENTARY



Directed and Produced
by
Hilari Scarl

Featuring
CJ Jones, Robert DeMayo, TL Forsberg, Bob Hiltermann

www.seewhatimsayingmovie.com

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Intro Page	1
Table of Contents	2
Chapter Color Key	3
Photo of Cast and Director	4
 SEE WHAT I'M SAYING – DVD	
See What I'm Saying Film Specs	5
See What I'm Saying – Pre-Viewing Discussion Questions	6
See What I'm Saying – Pre and Post Viewing Discussion Questions	7
See What I'm Saying – Post Viewing Discussion Questions	8-12
See What I'm Saying – DVD Extras	13
DVD Extras – Additional Scenes – Discussion Questions	14
DVD Extras – Deleted Scenes – Discussion Questions	15
DVD Extras – Deleted Scenes – Writing Exercise	16
 ME HEAR NONE – DVD	
ME HEAR NONE – Additional Performances from See What I'm Saying	17
Assignment Suggestions	18
 EDUCATIONAL DVD	
See What I'm Saying – Supplemental Educational DVD	19
Discussion Questions	20-21
Additional Interviews and Performances	22
ASL Practice	23
Glossary and Acronyms	24
Credits	25

Note: This is a guide that teachers may utilize to come up with their own questions, activities and exercises. Each of the three DVDs may be utilized to fit individual classes' levels, needs and interests. Teachers may come up with their own questions and activities, or may use the ones we suggested. Each of the three DVDs may be used for group discussions, class activities, ASL receptive practice, voice interpreting practice, essay topics or any other way the instructor wishes. Please keep in mind that this guide was developed for students of various ages, signing abilities and backgrounds to be used in deaf schools, ASL and interpreting classes and deaf studies programs to expand students' knowledge and interests in a wide variety of topics and skills.



Performers Monique Holt, Max Fomitchev and Pinky Aiello rehearse for the “See What I’m Saying” music video.

CHAPTER KEY

ASL & INTERPRETING STUDENTS

A

DEAF CULTURE

C

DEAF PERSPECTIVES

P

ENTERTAINMENT/MISCELLANEOUS

E

FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

M



The cast and director Hilari Scarl pose at the film's premiere at the Egyptian Theatre in March 2010.

SEE WHAT I'M SAYING



SYNOPSIS

SEE WHAT I'M SAYING is an award-winning documentary that follows four well-known entertainers in the deaf community: a comic, a drummer, an actor, and a singer as they attempt to cross over to mainstream audiences.

FILM INFORMATION

Rated PG-13

The film is rated PG-13 due to one instance of language and one honest discussion about HIV/safe sex. There isn't any nudity, sex, drugs, smoking or violence in the film. The film has been approved by CAID (Counsel of American Instructors of the Deaf), several churches and synagogues. The official MPAA rating explanation: SOME THEMATIC MATERIAL AND LANGUAGE INCLUDING SEXUAL REFERENCES.

RUNNING TIME

90 minutes (93 minutes with music video for screener copies.)

CAPTIONS

Open captioned in English – accessible to deaf, hard of hearing and hearing viewers.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The film is to be shown in 4:3 (square) aspect ratio with sound.

DVD EXTRAS/BONUS FEATURES

There are 84 minutes of bonus features on the DVD extras, all are open captioned in English.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

- ★ DVD – See What I'm Saying: The Deaf Entertainers Documentary
- ★ DVD – Me Hear None: Additional Performances from See What I'm Saying
- ★ DVD – Educational Extras: Additional Bonus Material from See What I'm Saying
- ★ 24 x 36 Limited edition autographed movie poster (signed by CJ, TL, Bob, Robert and Hilari)
- ★ 24 x 36 Unsigned movie poster
- ★ 11 x 17 High Gloss poster
- ★ 6 x 4 postcards
- ★ See What I'm Saying limited supply t-shirts

Contact director Hilari Scarl at hilari@worldplayinc.com for discounts.

PRE-VIEWING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Bob Hiltermann

1. What does it mean to be Deaf? Have you ever met a Deaf person?

2. What is Deaf culture? Are there elements of culture (social beliefs, behaviors, language, history, values, etc.) that are different in the Deaf community? How does Deaf culture differ from hearing culture?

Deaf culture describes the social beliefs, behaviors, art, literary traditions, history, values and shared institutions of communities that are affected by deafness and which use sign languages as the main means of communication. When used as a cultural label, the word deaf is often written with a capital *D*, and referred to as "big D Deaf" in speech and sign. When used as a label for the audiological condition, it is written with a lower case *d*.

Members of the Deaf community tend to view deafness as a difference in human experience rather than a disability. The community may include family members of deaf people and sign-language interpreters who identify with Deaf culture and does not automatically include all people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

-Wikipedia

3. What is audism?

Audism is discrimination against or oppressive attitudes towards deaf or hard of hearing people; or the belief that hearing people are superior to deaf or hard of hearing people.

Advanced question: What is Deafhood?

4. Do you think there are limits on what deaf people can do? Are there any careers or hobbies that Deaf people cannot do?

"Deaf people can do anything hearing people do except hear."

– I. King Jordan, first deaf president of Gallaudet University

DID YOU KNOW...

Some jobs such as police work and airline pilots may have certain restrictions, although we were able to find a Deaf Pilots Association and a few Deaf police officers through our research. Presently, deaf people cannot serve in the military. Discuss your students' thoughts and encourage them to research more about these topics.

5. Can you name any famous deaf people? What are they famous for?

Marlee Matlin, I. King Jordan, Helen Keller, Alice Cogswell, Matt Hamill, Linda Bove and dozens of others. Teachers may guide their students here to name other Deaf role models and individuals who are important in Deaf history.

6. Have you ever seen any deaf actors in entertainment (on TV, in the movies or in the theater?) What did you think of the character they portrayed? What did you notice about deaf stereotypes?



Beethoven's Nightmare musicians Bob Hiltermann and Ed Chevy with Lisa Hermatz at the El Rey Theatre in 2007.

PRE & POST VIEWING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS

See how much of the signing in the film you can watch without relying on the captions. (Note: The Educational DVD has non-captioned scenes for receptive and voicing practice.) Take a look at how the signing changes depending on who is in the conversation.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS

Notice that obstacles are a way of life for everyone. Observe the various challenges that each performer must go through. How many of these obstacles are because they are an entertainer? How many are because they are simply human? How many are because they are deaf? What are your challenges? How do you deal with them? When do you give up and when do you decide to keep going?

DEAF STUDENTS

Whose story did you relate to the most? Have you experienced identity struggle in finding your place with the hearing and deaf worlds? Do you have any deaf role models who are like one of the people in the film? Do you call yourself deaf, hard of hearing, hearing impaired or something else? Is it because you feel that is who you are or what other people think you are? What progress do you think deaf people will make in the next decade because of access to technology?

EVERYONE

Sign language is not universal. It changes from country to country just like spoken language. See if you can spot any other sign languages in the film. There is some Russian Sign Language during CJ's International Deaf Theater Festival.

Has your perspective changed about anything after viewing See What I'm Saying?

See how many deaf entertainers you recognize in the end montage. What films/television shows/theater work have they done?



OPEN CAPTIONS VS. CLOSED CAPTIONS

What are open captions?
How are they different than closed captions? Why are both important?

The term "Open Captions" is used when text is burned-in on the picture, similar to subtitles for foreign films. Open captions also include audio descriptors and non-speech information that assist deaf audiences, such as [phone rings] or a musical note symbol to indicate song lyrics or background music. Open captions can't be turned off, unlike closed captions which can be turned on and off with a decoder. See What I'm Saying is shown with open captions as part of the film.

Over 30 million deaf and hard of hearing people in the U.S. rely on captions to make film, television and internet clips accessible.

POST-VIEWING

ESSAY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These can be group discussions, given as spoken/signed speeches or assigned as writing tasks.



1. Which performer did you like the best? Why? Are you similar to them in any way?

2. What is Deaf culture? Can you think of any examples in the film where you saw the Deaf community and/or Deaf culture?

3. What did you think of TL saying that she's "Not deaf enough?" If you speak, can you still be deaf?*

Yes! Just because you can speak does not mean you are able to hear. Labels and identity are personal and you can choose how to identify yourself.

Note for teachers: there is a scene/discussion topic with SPO that relates to this question on Page 21 in the Educational DVD section.

4. How did the scene with Robert talking about his mother affect you? Can you communicate with your parents? What would you do if you were a parent and your child had a different language?

5. What did CJ do after no one showed up at his performance in North Carolina? Do you think he was successful with his International Sign Language Theater Festival? Why? Have you ever been disappointed? What did you do?

6. What did you think of TL playing the role of Sarah in the stage production of Children of a Lesser God? Do you think a hard of hearing actor should be cast in a deaf role? What about a hearing actor? Why or why not?

CASTING CALL

Do you think that deaf actors can play a role that was written for a hearing actor? What are some ways that producers can make sign language accessible to non-signing audiences?

7. Who produced Bob's Beethoven's Nightmare show at the El Rey Theatre? How did he make the show a success? What would you do if you wanted to put on a show?

8. How did you feel watching these four artists face their challenges?

9. What needs to change in America to give hearing people exposure to ASL and Deaf culture?

10. Were there any new signs that you saw in the film? Any familiar signs that you remember from class?

11. Robert mentions that Deaf people don't use just one form of sign language and demonstrates various methods with the line, "I enjoy this program": Fingerspelling, SEE, PSE, ASL, oral and tactile. Why are there different ways to communicate? What is the difference between each? Are there any other ways to communicate?



POST-VIEWING

ESSAY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR ASL STUDENTS

Use the time code/scene marking to find sections discussed. Please watch the whole movie uninterrupted first with your students before you break down these particular exercises. The chapter headings are the titles used on the DVD, and the timecodes with scene descriptions are helpful markers referenced from the streaming version of the film on Netflix. These timecodes should lineup with most DVD players.

Rocking One Last Time

12:11 – *Robert at Supercuts.*

Robert: “I nodded my head and smiled, which was at my own risk.”

What is the sign Robert uses for “nodded my head and smiled?” Use that sign in another example.

Rocking One Last Time

19:13 – *James Foster with CJ in North Carolina.*

James: “C’m on. We’re going to kill in North Carolina.”

Take a look at James’ signing. Take a look at what James signs for “The audience will be destroyed.” See if you can copy James’ ASL for this phrase, and then use it in another situation.

Rocking One Last Time

19:39 – *CJ with James at the airport in North Carolina.*

Watch CJ at the end of James signing, “I saw a girl holding a sign, but she wasn’t here for us.” What is he signing to James? What does it mean?

Rocking One Last Time

19:56 – *CJ at the airport after James goes inside.*

CJ signs, “If it were not for him, I would be standing here not knowing what’s going on.” What is another way to translate this line? What is the sign CJ uses with his pinky fingers after “standing here?” Do you need the additional information? Why or why not?

A Huge Mistake

26:06 – *TL in the dressing room before Children of a Lesser God.*

TL is discussing the notes she received about her signing being too musical. Why do you think she received this note? When she rehearses her lines, what would you suggest to TL to make her signing clearer?

A Huge Mistake

26:40 – *Garrett Zuercher talks about TL on stage.*

What is the sign that Garrett uses after he signs, “You have to challenge yourself...” What does that sign mean? Can you use it in another example?

Trying to Make Ends Meet

29:22 – *Robert teaches ASL at Arizona Total Immersion.*

Robert gives examples of fingerspelling, SEE, PSE, ASL, oral and tactile methods for the phrase, “I enjoy this program.” Come up with another phrase to translate using these various methods.

Trying to Make Ends Meet

31:38 – *Robert makes a VP call to rent an apartment.*

What are other options that the relay interpreter could do to prevent future hang-ups? How can you help educate people about VP calls?

A Grave of Disappointments

37:19 – *CJ debriefs with Cassandra over lunch.*

How did the filmmakers come up with the translation, “I dig a grave, bury my disappointments, say a prayer and move on.” Come up with an ASL phrase for your classmates to translate into English (such as train gone sorry, pah!, finish-touch, think-disappear, I feel so small, oh I see, not paying attention, unthinkable, embarrassed.) Then translate English idioms into ASL (kick a habit, fits and starts, in the cold light of day, one way or another, null and void, go about business as usual, no hard feelings.)

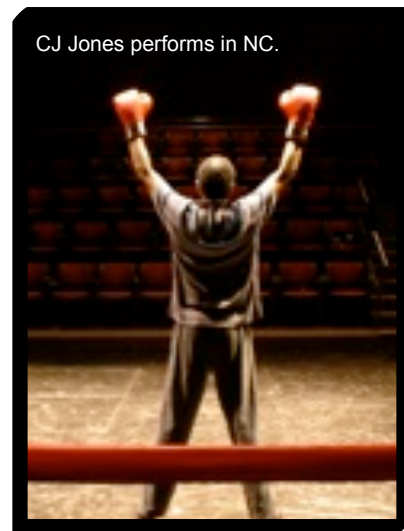
A Grave of Disappointments

38:07 – *CJ debriefs with Cassandra over lunch.*

CJ makes a pun when he signs, “I’m wiped out.” What is he signing here?

A: “Zero energy.”

CJ Jones performs in NC.



POST-VIEWING

ESSAY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A Grave of Disappointments – M

43:45 – Robert tells the story about his mother.

On Robert's line, "Yeah, there were presents, but not what I wanted." Take a look at the signing here after Robert signs, "no gifts" and he points from left to right. What details do you notice about Robert's signing that translates into, "yeah, there were presents"?

A Grave of Disappointments

46:16 – Robert signs Raul Midon's song at VSA Festival.

Watch Robert's translation of Raul's lyrics, "Picture yourself in a world where there's no one else." Discuss the ASL that Robert uses.

A Grave of Disappointments

47:40 – Robert prepares for his HIV workshop.

How many times does Robert use the sign for blowing on both hands to signify "none?" See if you can spot them and their meanings.

A: Three times: 47:53 – control–none, 48:14 – counseling–none, 48:22 – my time–nothing.

Planning the Event

49:44 – Mural by Julio Sims in Hollywood.

What does the phrase, "Where does my voice touch you?" mean? Who are these individuals in the mural?

A: CJ Jones (where); Michael Davis (my); Megg Rose (voice); Anthony Natale (touch); Shoshannah Stern (you).

Planning the Event

50:04 – James interprets for Julio Sims to Evelina Gaina.

What is the sign that James Foster uses (after he spells "invisible") for "Deaf people can be invisible to larger society."

A: He signs "overlooked."

DID YOU KNOW...

James Foster, the film's ASL Translation Master, worked with the director on finalizing the English captions. This process took over a month, and repeated viewings over several months to tweak the translations, punctuation, grammar and timing.

Planning the Event

50:11 – CJ signing an interview in front of a tie-dyed background.

Practice glossing what CJ is signing, then go back and review the ASL translation.

Planning the Event

52:37 – CJ is interviewed in his office after showing a check to Cassandra.

CJ: "You have to hustle."

What is the sign that CJ is using for "hustle?"

Come up with examples for using that sign in other ways.

Trying to Gain a Hearing Audience

57:18 – Robert is in the elevator in the storage building.

Practice glossing what Robert is signing, and then go back and review the ASL translation.

Trying to Gain a Hearing Audience

58:47 – Robert is talking to Harvey in his kitchen.

Robert is signing something to Harvey in the background during Harvey's interview (Harvey: "Robert and I have conversations with sign language.") What is Robert signing to Harvey? Why isn't this captioned?

A: Robert is talking about the tech check at the theater saying that he is going to come back right afterwards. This isn't important information to the scene and would clutter Harvey's captions in his interview. Discuss how this often happens in reverse on television when spoken background conversations that are not pertinent to the scene aren't captioned.

Trying to Gain a Hearing Audience

59:02 – The Beatles scene with Robert in Harvey's kitchen.

What is going on in this scene? What is Robert talking about? What is Harvey talking about? Why did this happen? Has this ever happened to you? How could Harvey clarify his intent more clearly to Robert?

Trying to Gain a Hearing Audience

1:00:19 – Robert is chatting with his friend Chris at the Village Lantern Comedy Club in NYC.

How is Robert's signing different when signing to Chris compared to Robert's signing at other times in the movie? Why does it change?

POST-VIEWING

ESSAY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Trying to Gain a Hearing Audience

1:00:40 – Chris Tester is signing to Robert at the Village Lantern.

See if you can gloss what Chris is signing for the section, “We tend to stay with our own but need to include the hearing world and expose them to the idea that deaf actors have a wealth of talent.” How would you sign this concept? What did you like about this conversation? What are some things that you would consider the “deaf have?”

Trying to Gain a Hearing Audience

1:01:00 – Robert steps up and taps the microphone.

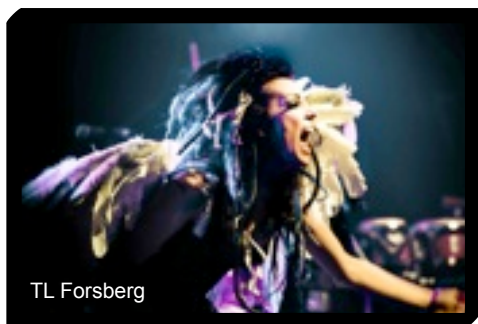
What is Robert signing when he first gets on stage? Why isn't it captioned? Who is Robert's interpreter?

A: Robert is signing, “Hello, I'm deaf. I don't speak.” It's not captioned because the filmmakers wanted to give the hearing audience the same experience as the audience in the hearing club, respecting the decision Robert and his interpreter Keith Wann made to not voice for this introduction. Keith Wann is a CODA who performs comedy.

The Price You Pay

1:06:08 – Maisha A. Franklin interview at GLAD while TL is practicing.

What is Maisha talking about when she mentions that signing needs to be clear? What is the sign she uses for, “Deaf people won't be able to follow?” What is the sign she uses for, “They'll tune out?”



The Price You Pay

1:07:00 – Maisha gives feedback on TL's signing at GLAD.

What is the ASL Maisha uses for, “Where the audience was

struggling to understand her, now her signing has clarity, and you don't have to work so hard.” What signs do you recognize? Are there any signs that are unfamiliar to you?

International Sign Language Theater Festival

1:09:40 – CJ calls Robert to the theater to discuss some last minute changes.

How many performers are going to do five minutes to cover? How do you know?



A: At least four performers. CJ signifies with his “five minutes” sign.

What character is Robert going to get dressed as?

A: Superman. Robert signs this very quickly and subtly as, “Upstairs, embody Superman clothes.”

International Sign Language Theater Festival

1:10:04 – Phyllis Frelich, Tony Award-winning actress.

For what role did Phyllis win a Tony? How does she sign, “Just sit back and enjoy?” Were you able to understand this?

A: She fingerspells this very quickly.

International Sign Language Theater Festival

1:10:38 – Robert performs his rollercoaster sketch with two volunteers.

The captions follow Robert's voice interpreter. How would you interpret Robert's signing?*

Hearing students may want to turn the sound off for this exercise.

International Sign Language Theater Festival

1:12:11 – Michelle Banks performance.

What is Michelle signing here? How would you translate/voice this?

A: Obsessed with Latino guys. Be careful!

POST-VIEWING

ESSAY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Beethoven's Nightmare

1:18:59 – TL's performance, "Of This I'm Sure".

How would you translate TL's lyrics, "This beaten metal is connected to my soul. This twisted feeling is the pain that makes me whole. My feet are bleeding 'cause I'm walking on a knife. I just ignore it. That's the story of my life. 'Cause it's all or nothing. Thoughts of acid rain. And there's always someone messing with my brain. I'm never gonna love again. I'm never gonna feel again. I'm never gonna breathe again. Not like before. I'm never gonna fall again. I'm never going to touch again. I'm never going to deal again. Of this I'm sure."

Challenge exercise: Film yourself signing these lyrics and send in your translations to director Hilari Scarl (via the website or Facebook) who will forward your video to TL. She will love it!

Beethoven's Nightmare

1:18:47 – Steve, Ed and Bob in the dressing room before they go on stage.

Can you see what each of the three guys are signing? It's fast, subtle and took the filmmakers several repeated viewings to work out the translations. It didn't help that someone was taking a picture during all of this!

Beethoven's Nightmare

1:20:12 – CJ introduces Beethoven's Nightmare.

What does CJ almost sign instead of "real loud applause?"

A: "Give a real warm welcome." CJ had been doing a lot of MC work that month!

Beethoven's Nightmare

1:24:21 – Girl in a green blouse is interviewed after the concert.

She signs, "Adding the signing helped me understand the lyrics. Without that, I'd be lost." What is the sign she uses for "lost?" Where else did you see that sign in the movie where this same issue was discussed?

A: Maisha signs this concept during her interview at GLAD at 1:06:08.

Credits [Epilogue]

1:25:20 – Each subject discusses their closing thoughts during the photo shoot.

Comment on each person's closing remarks.

"I would love to perform more and more often. I just want to play, really."

- Bob Hiltermann

"I definitely feel like I have a place in the deaf community now. It's not fully accepted by everybody, but that's okay."

- TL Forsberg

"I'd rather stay who I am because it works well for me. My life is good. I continue to succeed. I think struggling really helps shape you to be successful."

- CJ Jones

"Deaf people can do many things. We can be lawyers, doctors, actors. . anything. We really can. Maybe some day there will be a deaf president. Who knows?"

- Robert DeMayo

Credits [Epilogue]

1:26:46 – Photo shoot of the four subjects.

Each subject signs "See What I'm Saying" to form the title of the movie. This is the same translation used in the poster. Why do you think the film's title is translated this way? What are some other ways of translating "See What I'm Saying?"

A: Robert DeMayo and CJ Jones set the official translation during the photo shoot, playing on the double entendre of the phrase "See What I'm Saying." Sign language can actually be visually seen, so you can see what they are saying, but more importantly, they want people to get what they are saying, to comprehend instead of merely just seeing the signing, hence the literal translation, "Understand what I am saying."



Max Fomitchev

SEE WHAT
I'M SAYING

DVD
EXTRAS



Alexandria
Wailes

DVD EXTRAS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL SCENES

*Running times are noted after each title.

CJ – Elephant Story – 1:19

E

Did you find CJ's story humorous? Why or why not? Can you have a sense of humor in sign language? How is humor in sign language different than in spoken language? Have you noticed a difference in deaf and hearing humor? How do deaf people travel to other countries?

A: *Just like everyone else!*

Kathy Buckley – 3:48

P E

For what is Kathy Buckley famous? Why doesn't she sign during her performance? Are oral deaf individuals a part of the Deaf community?

Max – World Premiere – 3:20

E

What are your impressions of Max's performance? Did he use any sign language? Were you able to understand the story? How? What type of performance genre did Max use?

Robert – Full Ice Age – 2:45

A E

Were you able to understand the story? What classifiers did you recognize? What ASL storytelling technique did Robert use?

A: *Visual Vernacular (VV), a storytelling technique in ASL that was developed by Bernard Bragg.*

Robert – “The Wall” – 2:58

E

What is “The Wall?” Where is it located? Why does it exist? What is Robert's story about the wall? How did it make you feel? What is your opinion about war?

Robert – Where's Robert? – 3:19

C P E

What is the difference between a deaf residential school, a day school for the deaf and a mainstream program? Which one did Robert experience? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of schooling?



CJ – Dad Can't Talk – 3:47

C P E

What are your thoughts about CJ turning off his voice and just signing to the audience? Were you still able to understand his story? Do you think hearing people in the audience that didn't know ASL could follow CJ? Why do you think he decided to turn off his voice? How does CJ's signing style differ when he is acting/telling a story compared to his signing when he is talking or being interviewed? Why are they different? What element(s) of Deaf culture does CJ include in this story?

A: *CJ's dad identified each child by name and also showed their name sign.*

DVD EXTRAS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DELETED SCENES

*Running times are noted after each title.

Actors Discuss – 1:12

P

Who are the actors in this scene? What are they famous for? What TV show(s) or film(s) have you seen with deaf actors? When deaf actors are shown on TV or in films, what types of subjects are usually addressed? What sort of stereotypes have been portrayed about deaf people?

Bob – Children of a Lesser God with Marlee – 1:24

C

Who is Marlee Matlin? How old was she when she won an Academy Award? What else is she known for? What percentage of filming typically gets cut out in a movie? Is Bob's experience typical in the film world? How did Bob deal with his disappointment? How do you deal with disappointment?

DID YOU KNOW...

In the production of *See What I'm Saying*, the director filmed over 300 hours of footage. Some great scenes, including the DVD extras and two additional DVDs, still only cover a small percentage of what was filmed. Scripted films have a much higher percentage of what is included in the final film, but often scenes are shortened or cut out entirely for a wide variety of reasons.

Bob – Night Before the Big Show – 1:15

E

Have you ever performed? How did you feel the night before? Were you prepared?

Bob – Woodley Park and Dry Ice – 1:58

E

Have you ever attended a deaf event? What was it like? Why are deaf social events important?

It's Just a Deaf Thing – 2:01

A C P E

What are each of the "Deaf things" mentioned in this scene? What do they mean? How are they used in Deaf culture? Are any of these "Deaf things" also used in the hearing world?

Robert – Spatula Scene – 1:41

E

What was one of most creative things that you have ever done? What is "improvisation?"

Robert – Supercuts Extended Scene – 1:37

C P E

What percentage of lip-reading can Robert understand?

A: 60% – *he mentions this in the film.*

Do you think lip-reading a reliable way to communicate? Why or why not?

Robert – Supercuts Pepe le Pew – :45

E

Act out your favorite cartoon character in sign language. See if others can guess who it is!

TL Lemon Scene and Evelyn Glennie – 3:49

P

Can someone speak and still be deaf? Can hearing aids be a useful tool?

Advanced question: What about cochlear implants? Do you think it matters how a deaf person chooses to communicate? Why or why not?



DVD EXTRAS

WRITING EXERCISE

DELETED SCENES – INTERVIEWS

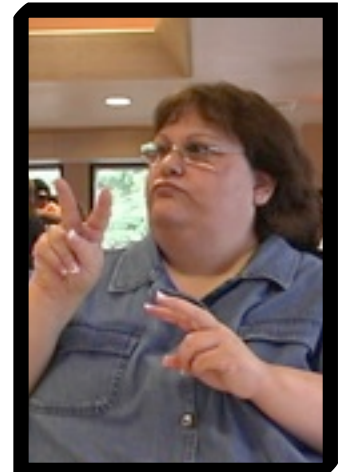
*Running times are noted after each title.

Select one of these interviews to write. Discuss the performer's background and/or the issues they bring up during their scene. You may choose another deaf performer from anywhere on this DVD, including the end credits montage if you'd like. What does this person represent to you? Why did you choose your specific person to write about? What are their accomplishments?

Teachers may also form their own questions based on these interviews.



MARY WILLIAMS
(RT: 1:34)
Discuss Mary's message about facing challenges.



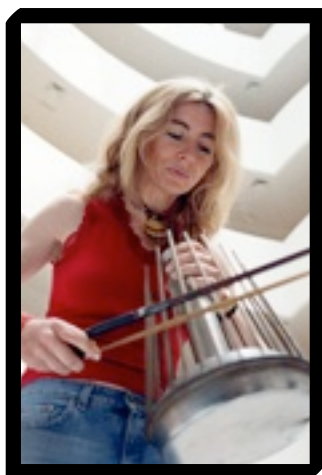
ANTHONY NATALE
(RT: 11:38)
Discuss cochlear implants and "seeing the person."



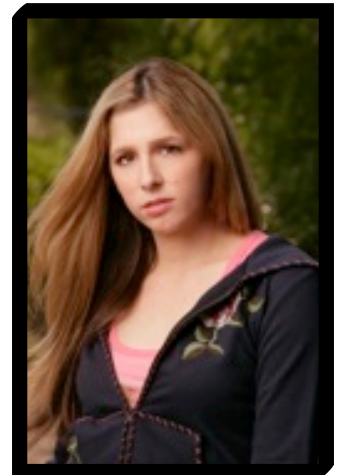
MAX FOMITCHEV
(RT: 6:22)
Discuss cultural differences and deafness around the world.



DAME EVELYN GLENNIE
(RT: 9:40)
Discuss deafness and music.



SHOSHANNAH STERN
(RT: 1:25)
Discuss the term "hearing impaired."





Robert DeMayo

NEHEAR NEON

ADDITIONAL
PERFORMANCES
FROM
SEE WHAT
I'M SAYING

FEATURING:
ROBERT DEMAYO
TL FORSBERG
CJ JONES
MICHAEL DAVIS
MAX FOMITCHEV
MEGG ROSE
NEDOSLOV RUSSIAN
DEAF THEATRE

ME HEAR NONE

ASSIGNMENT SUGGESTIONS



Robert tells several great stories in Me Hear None. Pick one and see if you can re-tell the story in ASL. Can you come up with one of your own stories from your life? Bonus points if you can make it funny!

Robert – Me Hear None – Fingermime

Robert came up with some great Fingermime stories around a Halloween theme. See if you can make up a few around a theme such as Christmas, sports, shopping, animals or something else.

Michael Davis – Other Entertainers

What is Michael's story about? Could you relate to anything in his story? If so, what? What did you think about the sign language students/interpreters and Michael during the dance story? Would you have done anything differently in his situation?

ASL & DEAF STUDENTS

The Nedoslov Russian Deaf Theater uses visual storytelling in their performances. Come up with a short story or fable using only classifiers and Visual Vernacular.

INTERPRETING & ASL STUDENTS

Try turning the volume off and voicing for Robert's performance. Can you match his timing? See if you can match his intentions, sense of humor and expressions using your voice. (Students can read off of the captions if they wish, or use their own translation.)

EVERYONE

TL signs "Forgiven" in the SWIS Extra Performance section, Robert signs "Got 2 Be Down" in the Robert Me Hear None section and Megg Rose signs "Ain't No Other Man" in the Other Entertainers section. See if you can come up with a sign language interpretation for a song. Try to use more conceptual ASL signs rather than English word order.



SEE WHAT I'M SAYING EDUCATIONAL DVD

Over 300 hours were filmed for the production of See What I'm Saying: The Deaf Entertainers Documentary. Included in this DVD are short scenes, interviews, and clips that are not in the final film. They offer deaf perspectives, insights into deaf culture and sign language practice.



Deanne Bray performs
with Bob Hiltermann and
Beethoven's Nightmare
at the El Rey Theatre.



EDUCATIONAL DVD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Running times are noted after each title.

1. Robert – Odyssey – :45



Robert shows an example of ASL storytelling of “The Odyssey” in first and third person.

How does Robert change perspectives? What are the various ways you can tell a story? Come up with your own story and tell it using first person narrative, third person narrative or both.

2. Robert – Deafness Isn’t a Problem – 2:04



Robert’s interview that he has no problem being deaf and why he would not get a CI.

Do you see deafness as a problem? What are some things about you that might be viewed as different? How do these things make you unique? Do you think it’s good to have differences? If you could take a magic pill to change who you are, would you do it?

Advanced discussion: What is a cochlear implant? Can deaf people with cochlear implants be part of Deaf culture? Do cochlear implants make you hearing?

3. Robert – Identity – 1:44



Robert discusses being deaf and gay and the cultural differences.

Discuss different cultures and communities (Deaf, Gay, Latino, African American, etc.)

4. Robert Compares ASL to Visa Commercial – :47



Robert talks about what happens when a hearing person with limited ASL skills approaches a deaf group.

What is the difference between deaf people who sign to each other or to other hearing people? What is an appropriate way to approach a deaf person you don’t know?

A: Each person is different, as is each situation. Use your best judgment when interrupting a conversation or approaching a deaf person who doesn’t know you.

5. Robert – ASL is Precious – 2:21



Robert discusses his opinions on teaching and the reasons why hearing people learn sign language.

Should ASL students teach sign language? If a hearing person is fluent in sign language, should they audition for deaf roles in film and television?

Our answer: No.

6. Robert – Why Speaking is a Choice – 2:10



Robert talks about his choice to voice or sign.

Why would Robert choose to sign instead of voice?

A: Just because he can speak doesn’t mean he can hear. Robert is often more comfortable having people adapt to his preferred communication method, which is signing.

SIGN NAMES

What are sign names? Do you have a sign name? If so, what is the story behind your sign name? You cannot give yourself a sign name; it can only be given to you by a deaf or hard of hearing person. Feel free to research this to explore the concept further.

7. Performers Create a Sign Name for Beethoven’s Nightmare – :57



Bob and his Beethoven’s Nightmare performers try to come up with a sign name for Beethoven.

How did Bob and the performers come up with the sign name for Beethoven? Can you come up with a different one? Why are sign names useful?

8. Hearing Misconceptions – 4:53



Bob Hiltermann tells CJ Jones his story about being called “disabled” at the airport, plus Ed Chevy and Robert DeMayo tell their related stories.

What is the difference between being Deaf and being disabled? Do you think the airline was correct to deny Bob a seat in the emergency seating? Why or why not? What are some misconceptions about deaf people? How do Ed and Robert illustrate these misconceptions? Has anyone ever made incorrect assumptions about you?

EDUCATIONAL DVD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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9. Deaf Thing/Train Gone Sorry – 2:01

A C P E

Montage of examples of Deaf culture – applause, deaf goodbyes, attention getters, etc. (a repeat from official DVD extras but worth discussing here too).

What are the cultural references mentioned in this scene? What do they mean? How are they used in Deaf culture? Are any of these things also used in the hearing world?

10. Robert – Shakespeare Double Entendre – 1:34

A M

Robert shows how double entendre can be achieved through ASL.

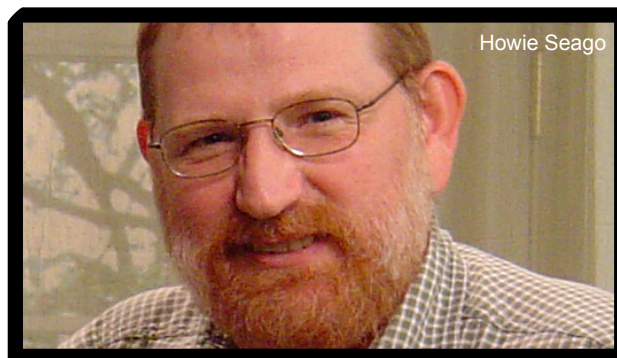
Can you come up with some ASL translations for some lines in Shakespeare, such as the prologue in Romeo and Juliet?

11. SPO – Signed Performance Only – 3:06

P

Alan “SPO” Schwartz tell his opinion on the difference between deaf and hard of hearing.

Do you agree with his definitions? Why or why not?



Additional Footage from “See What I’m Saying.”

1. Hard to be a Deaf Actor – 1:14

A P E

Famous deaf actors (Anthony Natale, Shoshannah Stern, Howie Seago and Tyrone Giordano) give their thoughts about acting.

What are your thoughts about deaf actors? Why do you think there aren't more deaf people in movies or on television? Why does Tyrone think it is strange to be the only deaf actor on set?

2. Robert – Jesus Story – 2:34

E

Robert tells a story about pulling a prank on his town by appearing as Jesus.

3. Robert – Driving to Storage – 1:04

P E

Robert talks about how he is able to enjoy music while driving.

4. Robert – Announcements on Trains – 1:54

P

Robert talks about the importance of having accessibility to information.

5. Mary Williams – Service Dog – 3:02

C

Mary lost her hearing at age 39 and talks about how her service dog helps her.

6. TL – Cowboy, Hotdog, Baseball – 4:41

P

TL goes to the audiologist for hearing aids and jokes about how people can communicate better.

EDUCATIONAL DVD

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS & PERFORMANCES

*Running times are noted after each title.



BERNARD BRAGG, ACTOR

(RT: 9:28)
BB talks about being the first deaf actor on television, meeting Marcel Marceau and teaching Marlee Matlin.



ED CHEVY, BASSIST, BEETHOVEN'S NIGHTMARE

(RT: 9:30)
Ed talks about first discovering music, Beethoven and his motorcycle accident.



JOHN MAUCERE, PERFORMER

(RT: 12:51)
John talks about being the cruise director on Deaf Freedom Cruise, Superdeafy and Deaf Jay Leno.



MICHELLE BANKS, ACTRESS

(RT: 6:43)
Excerpts from Michelle's one-woman show filmed live.



EVON BLACK, ACTRESS

(RT: 1:43)
Evon's live performance about being black, deaf and growing up in the south.



SPO, ACTOR

(RT: 1:39)
Signed performance of the Star Spangled Banner at the beach.



EDUCATIONAL DVD

ASL PRACTICE

*Running times are noted after each title.

ASL STUDENTS

These scenes are for sign language students and beginning interpreter students to practice their receptive and/or voicing skills. Most of the scenes do not contain voice over and none of them are captioned. Some of these clips are new footage; some were used on the other DVDs. We have included this section primarily because it depicts the natural use of ASL by native users in both performance and conversational situations.

ABC Stories Explained – 5:04

A C E

Robert explains what an ABC story is and gives two examples.

Can you find the letters in the alphabet in Robert's stories? Can you make up an ABC story?

Adrian Blue Interview – 4:40

A C P

Deaf playwright Adrian talks about Bernard Bragg, Robert and being a writer.

Anthony Natale – 2:39

A C P

Anthony shows the power of deaf actors and how voice overs/captions make deaf actors accessible.

CJ – The Beauty of ASL – 1:20

A C P

CJ explains the beauty of sign language.

Robert – Sex and Drugs Signs Class – 8:00

A M

Robert teaches an advanced group of court/medical interpreters sex and drug signs.

Were any of these signs new for you? Did you have any variations on these signs from your region? Are there Are there any signs you wish to know but are nervous to ask?

“Where’s Robert?” Performance – 3:13

A C P E

Robert performs from his one-man show about how he got his sign name.

Robert – Performance – Dorm Life – 5:02

A C P E

Robert performs from his one-man show about pranks he pulled at his dorm at PA School for the Deaf.



Troy Kotsur gets his makeup done for the “See What I’m Saying” music video.

EXTRAS

- ★ See What I’m Saying trailer
- ★ Me Hear None trailer
- ★ Music Video – “See What I’m Saying” by Powder, directed by Hilari Scarl, editing and cinematography by Jeff Gatesman
- ★ Making of the “See What I’m Saying” music video

GLOSSARY & ACRONYMS

ASL – American Sign Language – the primary sign language used by Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States and Canada.

CI – Cochlear Implant.

CODA – Children of Deaf Adults.

Code-switch – the switching of language style to adapt to the situation.

GLAD – Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness.

Glossing - To gloss is an attempt to transcribe a language (write it down or represent it in text form) word for word or sign for sign. Glossing is not translating (transliterating) the language.

Hearing – The term that members of the Deaf community use to describe people who can hear.

MHN – Me Hear None – the title of Robert DeMayo's one-man show and the name of our additional performances DVD.

NTD – National Theater of the Deaf.

PSE – Pidgin Signed English is a combination of American Sign Language (ASL) and English.

SEE Sign – Signed Exact English – a sign language system that represents literal English.

SWIS – See What I'm Saying – the 90-minute feature film that tells the story of four deaf entertainers.

VP – videophone – accessible device for phone calls for the deaf and hard of hearing.

[Note: when "Deaf" is capitalized in Deaf culture, it refers to those who use sign language, have a Deaf identity and are culturally Deaf vs. "deaf" people who have a hearing loss but do not identify with the Deaf community.]





Interpreter James Foster signs to Rose Crisman, star of the "See What I'm Saying" music video.

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