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Nalagaat Center-2011

Name of program

56

Year of activity

2011

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Status of program

We are pleased to report that the new multi-cultural deaf-blind theater ensemble began in March 2011 to stage the new original show "Luna Park".

The show is staged every Sunday evening. So far approximately 1,000 people have viewed and enjoyed the show. The audience's reaction has been highly enthusiastic and the actors were applauded warmly after each performance.

The current shows are "trial runs" and the Nalaga'at team continues to work in order to adjust and improve the performance. The work includes on-going training with the deaf-blind theater group to refine their skills and communication and acting abilities.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

During the last year we managed to reach substantial breakthroughs:

The show "Luna Park", performed by the new multi-cultural deaf-blind theater ensemble, was staged five times since the beginning of March 2012.

The deaf-blind actors ended the pre-performance training. During the training, the group's members acquired communication, acting, movement and expression skills which they implemented both on stage and at home. Careful attention was given to bridging knowledge gaps - in sign language skills, familiarity with the group's different cultures and artistic knowledge.

We are still on the "trial runs" phase of the show and the work with the actors continues, as previously mentioned. We are hoping to hold a premier at the beginning of June 2012.

It is important to mention that all actors of the new theater group are employed by the Nalaga'at Theater. Together with the veteran group of deaf-blind actors, the Nalaga'at Theater now employs 22 deaf-blind individuals and is the biggest employer of deaf-blind individuals in Israel.

Evaluation

Nalaga'at Center staff members accompanied the actors' three-year long work process. Some of the personnel, including the Center's Social Welfare Director and Social Welfare Coordinator and the Tactile Sign-Language Interpreters catered to the actor's special needs. The theater's professional team, including the Artistic Director, the Theater's Director and the Theater's Producer, were in charge of the professional elements of the training and the rehearsals, as well as for evaluating the work process. By recording the work process and analyzing the recordings (mainly film footage), they were able to learn which aspects need strengthening.

In addition, meetings were held between the actors and staff members, in which challenges and solutions were brought up.

Last year, the deaf-blind actors-to-be were still in the midst of the work process and rehearsals, while this year they are already employed actors, acting in the theater every week. We hope to have to needed resources in order to continue staging the show next year as well.

Others

This coming year, we focus on refining the deaf-blind actors' professional abilities in order to improve the new show, towards the premier in June 2012.

Throughout 2012, the show "Luna Park" is scheduled to perform once a week.

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