

[Home](#)

[Return to
Breaking
News](#)

[View Archived
Bulletins](#)

[View
bulletins in
section:](#)

[All Current](#)

[Listings
Announcements](#)

[Dance](#)

[Education](#)

[Events](#)

[Interviews](#)

[Literature &](#)

[Poetry](#)

[Movies & Film](#)

[Music](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Technology.](#)

[Art and Policy](#)

[Theater &](#)

[Performance](#)

[Art](#)

[Visual Arts](#)

Arts4All Newsletter *Breaking News*

Deaf West Theatre's Ed Waterstreet to Receive Special Ovation Award in Los Angeles

Arts4All,
Ltd.

Deaf West Theatre's ED WATERSTREET

To Receive a Special OVATION AWARD

November 23, 2003

L. A. Stage Alliance Honoring Waterstreet with James A. Doolittle Award for Leadership in the Theatre

The Board of Governors of L.A. Stage Alliance (formerly Theatre LA) has announced that it will bestow its 2003 James A. Doolittle Award for Leadership in the Theatre to Ed Waterstreet, founder and artistic director of Deaf West Theatre. The special award will be presented to Waterstreet at the annual Ovation Awards ceremony, on November 23 at the historic Orpheum Theatre, downtown Los Angeles.

Deaf West Theatre has received countless theatre awards since it was established by Waterstreet in 1990, including six Ovation Awards (out of 11 nominations) for its production of *Big River* which originated at Deaf West's NoHo Arts District venue in October 2001. After an extended, sold-out run, the acclaimed musical was subsequently remounted at the Mark Taper Forum in November 2002 (the first time in Taper history that it imported a show from an 'intimate theatre'); the musical then made its way to Broadway as a co-production with Roundabout Theatre Company in July, 2003 and received unanimous critical praise. *Big River* features a cast of deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing actors and is the first "deaf musical" ever to be produced on Broadway.

Previous Southland theatre pioneers who've won the Doolittle Award include Joe Stern (*The Matrix*), Barbara Beckley (*The Colony*) and Gil Cates (*The Geffe*).

Deaf West Theatre is currently represented on Broadway in the Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haines, Artistic Director) and Deaf West Theatre (Artistic Director, Ed Waterstreet) New York premiere production of the multi-award winning American Sign Language adaptation of *BIG RIVER, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Directed and Choreographed by Jeff Calhoun, adapted from the novel by Mark Twain, with music and lyrics by Roger Miller and a book by William Hauptman, *BIG RIVER, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a limited engagement through September 21, 2003.

BIG RIVER, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn includes deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing actors performing each role in a synchronized ballet of speaking and signing. Spoken English and American Sign Language (ASL) are interwoven with music, dance and storytelling techniques from both hearing and deaf cultures into a "third language" creating a unique theatrical event.

BIG RIVER, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is one of the greatest creations in American fiction. This tale of adventure and self-discovery begins on a raft on the Mississippi River. The musical numbers include "Do You Want to Go To Heaven," "Waiting for the Light To Shine," "Muddy Water," "When the Sun Goes Down in the South" and "Worlds Apart."

Tickets for *BIG RIVER, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (\$26.25-\$91.25) are available by calling Roundabout Ticket Services at (212) 719-1300 or at the box office at the American Airlines Theatre at 227 West 42nd Street.

[Top](#)