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Sunshine Too stages show

Sunshine Too, a professional theater company of deaf and hearing actors, will serve up a banquet of skits, songs, poetry and storytelling Thursday at 7 p.m. in Western Piedmont Community College's Moore Auditorium in Morganton.

Sponsored by Western Piedmont's Student Government Association and Hearing Impaired Program, The N.C. School for the Deaf and the Burke Arts Council, the program will feature three deaf and three hearing performers, each with a strong background in the arts and deafness, college officials said.

All performances will be presented in both sign language and voice, and are specifically adapted for each audience.

Sunshine Too is an outreach program of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester, N.Y., Institute of Technology.

The group tours the United States each year presenting programs to deaf and hearing audiences at public schools, colleges, schools for the deaf, community centers and civic clubs.

Since its beginning in 1980, Sunshine Too annually has presented more than 650 performances and workshops for about 70,000 people.

In its five years of touring, the group has performed in 46 states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Calgary and Newfoundland.

Through a variety of skits, songs, poetry, sign-mime, storytelling and scenes from plays and real life, the troupe will bring a better understanding of deafness to audiences everywhere, college officials said.

The performances are designed to stimulate new ideas for deaf and hearing interaction as well as to increase

awareness of the potential of hearing-impaired people.

Hearing audiences will have the opportunity to experience the beauty of sign language while gaining insights into the world of deafness, college officials said; at the same time, deaf audiences will enjoy an accessible production performed in American Sign Language.

Sunshine Too members serve as positive role models for deaf and hearing youngsters of all ages, officials said.

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf at is the world's largest technological college for deaf students.

Created by Congress and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, it represents the world's first effort to educate large numbers of deaf students within a college campus planned primarily for hearing students.

Together with 15,000 full-time and part-time hearing students, more than 1,250 college-age deaf students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories study and reside on the campus of Rochester Institute of Technology.

In addition to the academic programs based within the institute, nearly 200 other technical and professional courses of study are offered by the institute's other eight colleges.

In addition to the Thursday evening performance at WPCC, Sunshine Too will appear at the N.C. School for the Deaf on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, Feb. 5 and 6.

Admission for the Feb. 6 performance at Western Piedmont is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children under 12.

For more information about any of the performances, call Cindy Voegeli at WPCC at 437-8688 or 324-6141 from the Hickory area.

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