

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – May 31 – June 4, 2010

Bill Newell, Principal, Washington School for the Deaf

Which of the following individuals is the founder of Deaf West Theatre?

- a) Anthony Natale
- b) Bernard Bragg
- c) Howie Seago
- d) Ed Waterstreet

Scroll down for the answer

Answer: “d” - ED WATERSTREET (*DWT Artistic Director/Producer*) founded Deaf West Theatre in 1991, making it the first resident theatre company in America operating under the direction of a Deaf artistic director. Under his leadership, Deaf West has received numerous awards for outstanding artistic achievement, including six Ovation Awards (including one for Best Play — *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and one for Best Musical – *Oliver!*), over 30 Ovation nominations (including 11 for DWT’s production of *Big River*), six Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards (including Best Production — *Big River* and the Polly Warfield Special Award for Best Season), eight LA Weekly Awards, 14 Drama-Logue Awards and nine Back Stage West Garland Awards (including Best Musical — *Big River*). Ed also won a Drama-Logue Award for Best Director of DWT’s *Shirley Valentine* in 1992. A former member of the National Theatre of the Deaf, with whom he toured for 12 years, Ed is best remembered for his starring role in the Emmy-Award winning *Love Is Never Silent*. In 2002 Ed received the International Fete d’Excellence Gold Medal Award for Cultural Education in Theatre at Geneva, Switzerland. Cited from: www.aldrichpr.com/waterstreet.htm

Visit the Deaf West Theatre website at: www.Deafwest.org

Note: All of the actors listed above are well known Deaf actors. Why not have students research each of them and consider acting as a career?