

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – January 9 - 13, 2011

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

The author of the play *Sign Me Alice*, a play with all deaf actors, based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* and Alan Jay Lerner's *My Fair Lady*.

- a) Eric "Malz" Malzkuhn
- b) T. J. O'Rourke
- c) Gilbert Eastman
- d) Bernard Bragg

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Answer "c" – Gil Eastman, long time chair of the Gallaudet University Theatre department was a writer, translator, director and performing artist of sign-mime. Before his tenure at Gallaudet University Eastman was a founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf. While a professor at Gallaudet he hosted the important video series, *Deaf Mosaic*, which was one of the first news-style series highlighting the accomplishments of notable contemporary deaf individuals and Deaf life and cultural interests. Gil Eastman narrates his own autobiography in the video series entitled Deaf Culture Autobiography Series produced by Sign Enhancers (1989). Gil Eastman passed away December 2, 2006. See pictures of Gil Eastman and a short biography of his very impressive accomplishments here:

[http://www.gallaudet.edu/theatre\\_arts/gilbert\\_c\\_eastman.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/theatre_arts/gilbert_c_eastman.html)

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