

Hand in Hand

Hand in Hand is a unique theater experience seen through the touch of hands and the mind's eye, conceived and performed by acclaimed Minneapolis playwright and actress, Leslye Orr (Best Solo Performance of the Year 2000 for *Women Who Drink* --- Lavender magazine).

"*Hand in Hand* is, like every good work of art, about going beyond looking and listening...an imaginative inner seeing." Mike Steele, Minneapolis Star Tribune, 1982.

"...a fascinating drama of touch and sound." Kristin Tillotson, Minneapolis Star Tribune, 2001.



About the Play

Leslye Orr created this play to “celebrate the possibilities of disabilities”. *Hand in Hand* is a play in which audience members experience a heightened awareness of their senses. They are led into the theater with their eyes closed, seated in a spiral configuration, and brought in touch with the world of Helen Keller, who was deaf and blind, and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, who was legally blind. A myriad of objects are passed around the spiral while actress Leslye Orr, herself legally blind since birth, tells a riveting story inspired by the witty and profound letters and lectures of the great educator and her spirited pupil.

First performed in 1982, *Hand in Hand* has been ‘seen’ across the country, in plush theaters and pool halls, from the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. to Lisbon, North Dakota, for deaf-blind groups and girl scout troops.

(Appropriate for ages 9 to 99+. A discussion with the audience follows every performance).

Artist Biography

Leslye Orr is a freelance playwright, performer and teacher with an extensive background in theater. She regularly performs and tours her original plays, *Hand In Hand*, *Women Who Drink*, and *The Mother-Hood Show*. She is also the author and illustrator of a children’s picture book, *The People on the Corner*. The story centers on five neighborhood friends who learn about the possibilities of disabilities, and how good neighbors can include everyone. Educated at the University of Minnesota, she completed her studies in Voice for the Actor at the Working Theater in New York City. She held the position of company member and voice coach for The Children’s Theatre Company for ten years. Leslye was a member of Ballet of the Dolls, and has written scripts and performed with Illusion Theater, Jungle Theater Outreach Series, Dudley Riggs and The Arkansas Children’s Theater. She was awarded a Jerome Fellowship and a Jones Commission through the Playwrights’ Center and has been honored with a playwriting fellowship from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Born legally blind, Leslye has taught workshops nationally that uphold inclusion and the possibilities of disabilities for the past twenty years.