



Seña y Verbo

Seña y Verbo (Sign and Word) is a one of a kind artistic and educative project in Latin America. Since its foundation, in 1993, Seña y Verbo has achieved international recognition for its high quality theatre and for the impact it has had on Mexico's Deaf community.

Our professional theater company, conformed by deaf and hearing actors, presents throughout the year plays for adults and children. In these plays, Mexican Sign Language is combined with spoken Spanish, creating shows equally enjoyed by the Deaf and the Hearing.

Due to our profile, one of Seña y Verbo's main characteristics is that we divide our work in two areas:

First and foremost, the artistic field, in which we are constantly developing onstage productions for Deaf and Hearing. On the other hand, given the fact that we make use of sign language as our most important resource, we've also made a profound social impact among the Hearing as well as the Deaf Community, while shattering myths and prejudice regarding deafness, transforming attitudes through our creations.

In more than sixteen years of continuous work, Seña y Verbo has acquired an impressive currícula, having produced thirteen plays, touring Centroamérica, Germany, Brazil, Austria, Venezuela, the United States and Canada, in addition to frequent tours all throughout Mexico and more than 2000 representations in Mexico City.

Seña y Verbo 's Chronology

1992

- Grant for supporting the project of Seña y Verbo, made by the Cultural Trust Fund México/EUA (Rockefeller Foundation, FONCA, Bancomer Foundation)
- Founding of Seña y Verbo A.C.

1993

- First casting among 70 Deaf Candidates: 25 were selected for actoral training.
- 10 Deaf actors were finally selected
- Actoral Training with help of the US Nacional Theatre of the Deaf
- Seña y Verbo opens its two first productions, "La Representación o Los Peligros del Juego y La Fiesta del Silencio " (The silent Party and the Representation or the Dangers of the game)
- Grant from the Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes.

1994

- Seasons of both plays in the 3rd. International Art Festival of Costa Rica.
- Grant from SEDESOL.
- Two Deaf Actors of Seña y Verbo were given a scholarship by The National Theatre of the Deaf for summerschool.
- Opening of "Hecho a Mano" (Handmade).

1995

- Opening of "El Códice" (The Codex) in the 3rd World Deaf Federation in Austria.
- Touring of "El Códice" in three cities of Germany.
- Actoral Training by Michael Lamitola, american deaf actor and Director

1996

- Donation by Mr. Plácido Domingo, for the labor made in the Deaf Community of México.
- Season of "El Códice" in México

- Touring of “ El pequeño Teatro de la Manos in Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatán and Quintana Roo in México.

1997

- “El Pequeño Teatro de las Manos” Performances in festivals and Book Fairs
- Actoral Training by the deaf actors of the company, for a posible new cast for Señá y Verbo

1998

- El Pequeño Teatro de las Manos Performance in the 1st Latin American Festival “Art without Barriers” in Sao Paulo, Brasil.
- 2nd Touring of “El Pequeño Teatro de las Manos” in Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatán and Quintana Roo in México.

1999

- Lucila Olalde, mexican deaf actress of Señá y Verbo, goes to the professional school of The National Theatre of the Deaf, in the United States.
- Season of Teatro Escolar SEP/INBA with “El Misterio del Circo Donde Nadie Oyó Nada. “
- Touring with “El Misterio del Circo Donde Nadie Oyó Nada” in Austria.

2000

- Workshop of story telling in Sign Language, given by the deaf american actor Adrian Blue.
- 175 performances of “El Misterio del Circo Donde Nadie Oyó Nada.”
- Opening of “Ecos y Sombras” in the XVI Mexico City Festival.
- Touring of Ecos y Sombras the 2nd Desert Festival in, San Luis Potosí and the Teathre Festival of Monterrey.
- Lucila Olalde, is selected by FONCA for a grant.

2001

- “Señá y Verbo en tu Escuela” is created with 25 workshops for the Childrens Day Festival of the Fondo de Cultura Económica, en abril.

- Opening of “Viajes Planetarios”, with a touring in 41 countries in México.
- Season of “El Misterio del Circo Donde Nadie Oyó Nada” september- december.
- 7 performances of “El misterio del circo donde nadie oyó nada” in the International Festival of Caracas, Venezuela.

2002

- Season of Teatro Escolar INBA-SEP with “ Viajes Planetarios”.
- Season of the workshop “*Seña y Verbo en tu Escuela*”.

2003

- Season of Teatro Escolar del SEP/INBA continues with “**La Noche del Tigre**” with 92 performances.
- 51 performances in Teatro Escolar INBA-SEP with the workshop “**El Libro de Arena**”.

2004

- Performances of several workshops for adults in Cuernavaca and in the Festival of San Luis Potosí, in México.
- Touring in Los Angeles, California for the opening of “¡PAAH!”

2005

- Season of “¡PAAH!” in México City
- Touring of “¡PAAH!” in Chiapas and Colima, in México.
- Grant for the creation of our webpage, given by the Centro Nacional de las Artes.
- Grant: “México: Gateway to the Americas” given by the Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes
- Grant from the International Deaf Children Society de Inglaterra (IDCS) for the project “The Art of Signing”
- Grant from the XXI Coinversión de Proyectos, for a new theater play for children, given by the Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes.

2006

- The First Theater Festival of Special Education takes place, thanks to *Seña y Verbo*, the Educative Innovation Direction of SEP, and the National Coordination of theater INBA.

- Touring of “ El rey que no oía, pero escuchaba” in Tijuana and Los Angeles.
- Season with the play “El Rey que no oía pero escuchaba” in the Centro de Teatro Infantil of the National Coordination of Theater INBA.

2007

- 32 workshops of “The Art of Signing” are given in different schools and centres, in Mexico City and in places such as Cuernavaca, Morelos; Tixtla, Guerrero; Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo and Zitácuaro, Michoacán.
- 24 performances of “The King who could not hear, yet listened” in a second season in the Teatro Orientación, and 12 performances for the *Forum Universal de las Culturas, Forum Monterrey* in Monterrey, Nuevo León.
- Workshop “*El Semillero*” a theater workshop for deaf teenagers, given by the deaf actors of *Seña y Verbo*, supported by the *Dirección de Extensión Académica del Centro Nacional de las Artes*.
- Grant *México en Escena 2a. Emisión*, given by FONCA. This is the most important grant for artistic groups in Mexico.

2008

- Season with the new play for adults “Who can possibly understand you?!” directed by Alberto Lomnitz. Season in the *Sala Villaurrutia* in the *Centro Cultural del Bosque*
- Tour to Blacksburg Virginia, USA for the Congress “Latin American Theatre Today”
- Grant for another year of *México en Escena 2ª. Emisión*
- Project “*Manos a los Estados*” in Culiacán, Sinaloa. This is a project that aims to create similar theater companies as *Seña y Verbo*.
- “Who can possibly understand you?!” wins **Audience Choice Award** in the Dance Festival called *Festival de Danza Red Serpiente*, in Morelia, Michoacán.
- Grant given by *INDESOL* with the aim to create educative and artistic projects for the deaf community.

2009

- Season with the new play for pre-schoolers “UGA” in the theater Julio Prieto, as part of the Programa *Teatro para todos* (Theater for everyone) of the *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social*.

- Another theater group is created with the project "*Manos a los Estados*". The new group is located in Torreón, Coahuila.
- Grant *México en Escena: 3ª Emisión*