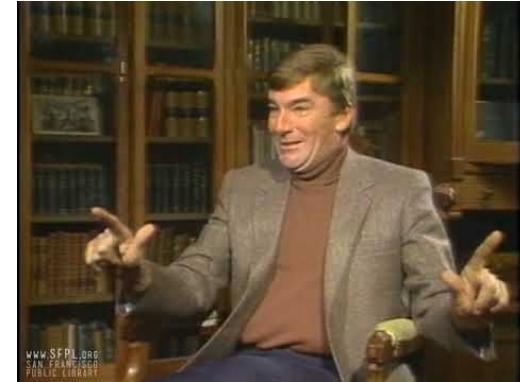


Gil Eastman

1934-2006



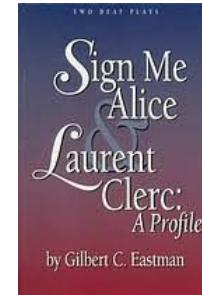
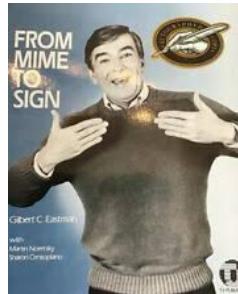
Who was he?



- Gil attended the American School for the Deaf, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Art from Gallaudet University.
 - He then went on to earn a Master's of Fine Arts in Drama from the Catholic University of America.
- Gil created Gallaudet University's Department of Drama, which is now named *Theatre Arts*.
 - He also created *Visual Gestural Communication* (VCG), which is a means of communication where people use gestures vs. voice., which has had a lasting impact in and out of the university.
- Gil Eastman was a founding member of the *National Theatre of the Deaf* (NTD), which was started in Waterford, Connecticut in 1965
 - NTD was the first professional Deaf theatre company, although actors are both Deaf and hearing. ASL and speech are used during performances

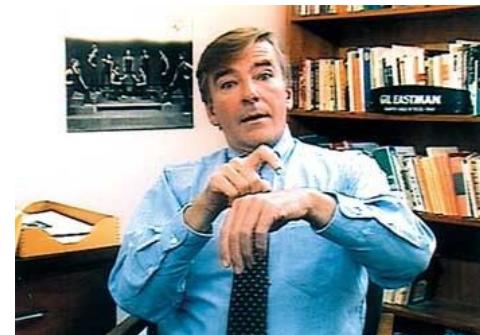
His Other Works

- Gil also worked as an actor, director, stage manager and playwright.
 - He wrote a play about Laurent Clerc, and wrote a story inspired by classic *Pygmalion* entitled, “*Sign Me Alice*.”
- Eastman also received an Emmy Award for his role as co-host on Gallaudet University’s news program, *Deaf Mosaic*.
 - He also received an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet, and was inducted into the ASD Hall of Fame for his exceptional leadership.
- Gil was also an author, and penned many books in his lifetime.



Gil's Impact

- Gil Eastman passed away in his early 70s, leaving behind a wife, two daughters, four grandchildren and a long list of admirers.
- Because of his many contributions to the arts and beyond, many Deaf individuals have opportunities they may not have had otherwise.
 - He also helped many hearing people become exposed to aspects of the Deaf experience.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY GILBERT EASTMAN



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SIGN ENHANCERS, INC.
1989
Grade Levels: 7-13+
40 minutes

Sources

Deaf Network Website: <http://deafnetwork.com/>

Deaf People Website: <https://www.deafpeople.com/>

Encyclopedia Britannica Website: <http://www.britannica.com>

National Theatre of the Deaf Website: <http://www.ntd.org>

<https://www.rit.edu/>