



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: **media@sign1news.com**
 (716) 427-4461

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sign1News Anchor Interprets ‘Wizard of Oz’ Theatrical Performance

ATLANTA, Ga. – On Saturday, March 30, 2019, Sign1News anchor Jethro Wooddall will perform as a shadow interpreter in “The Wizard of Oz” at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Ga.

During theatrical performances, Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons have two options: side interpreting (performers are on stage while the interpreter is off to the side) and shadow interpreting (interpreters are on stage following the actors as part of the show).

Shadow interpreting at the Alliance Theatre is usually reserved for children’s performances for school groups. But for the first time the theater is opening up a shadow interpreted performance for the general public.

“The goal is to create equal access for the audience of Deaf and hard-of-hearing,” said Wooddall, a Georgia native and graduate of the [Atlanta Area School for the Deaf](#).

The Alliance Theatre partnered with [StageHands](#) to enlist the shadow interpreters. StageHands is a theatrical production company operated by [The Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) that provides sign language interpreting service in Metro Atlanta.

As a Deaf person, Wooddall understands the need for creating and promoting equal access for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. He joined Sign1News in 2017 as a broadcast journalist to present the news in ASL. He was invited to collaborate with StageHands as an ASL coach and interpreter, which also gave him the platform to exhibit his love for acting.

“When I’m on the stage with the actors, I don’t feel like I’m interpreting,” said Wooddall, who will be performing as Tin Man in the 70-minute production based on the American children’s novel. “I feel like I’m the character I was given to be.”

When Wooddall is not shadow interpreting or presenting the news in ASL, he teaches young mothers with Deaf children how to sign. It is his way and commitment to building strong relationships between the Deaf and hearing communities.

And performing in theatrical productions like the "Wizard of Oz" is another achievement in what Wooddall believes is paramount to creating equal access and building alliances.

"My hope for this show is to have the seats filled by a majority of the Deaf community so the Alliance Theatre sees that we, the Deaf community, truly enjoy the art that comes to life on the stage."

To purchase tickets, visit <https://alliancetheatre.org> Be sure to enter the promo code GCDHH to receive a 15% discount. For more information, call the Alliance Theatre ticket office at 404-733-8000.

About Sign1News Your Life. Your Language.

Sign1News, LLC is the first and only digital network, partnered with world news leader CNN, to offer online news and information in American Sign Language. The company provides equal access to local, regional and national news and information to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community via daily prerecorded newscasts, live breaking news, feature stories and real-time streaming of events. Sign1News is broadcasted in more than 45 countries and has more than 50,000 followers on its digital platforms.

For more information, visit <https://sign1news.com/>. You may also follow Sign1News on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn at @sign1news.

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