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# A visual voice: communicating without spoken language

**Halley, Cherae**

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Name: Cherae Halley

Student Number: 0602923N

Course: Research Report (Proposal)

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Supervisor: Warren Nebe

Title: A Visual Voice: Communicating without spoken language

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**Abstract**

This research report titled *A Visual Voice: Communicating without spoken language* unpacks the idea that theatre consists of multiple languages which can be used to integrate both Deaf and hearing people as performers as well as audience members. This written component forms part of a practice-based research performance project.

The practice-based research brings to the foreground the social and cultural structures of Deaf people living in South Africa offering theatre as a means to explore levels of inequality for Deaf communities.

The research analyzes specific local and international physical theatre companies in order to construct a working method of its own for Deaf and hearing performers/creators. This context provides a framework for the exploration of a suitable method for working with Deaf and hearing performers.

With specific use of language in theatre, this research report offers an alternative way of communicating from Deaf/hearing actor to Deaf/hearing spectator. Breaking down the walls of either spoken or signed language, this research offers a visual theatre language to integrate multi-lingual audiences.

# A Visual Voice: Communicating without spoken language

Written By Cherae Halley

Supervised by Warren Nebe

“There are many languages besides those that are written or spoken. By learning a new language, a person acquires a new way of knowing reality and of passing that knowledge on to others. Each language is absolutely irreplaceable. All languages complement each other in achieving the widest, most complete knowledge of what is real”

(Boal 1979: 121).