

Famous Deaf People in Education

[Alice Cogswell](#) - Alice was the young deaf girl who inspired Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet to devote his life to educating the deaf.

[Laurent Clerc](#) - Met Gallaudet in Europe and returned with him to the United States and together, started the first school for the deaf in the US.

I. King Jordan - After the [Deaf President Now \(DPN\)](#) protest, he became the first deaf president of Gallaudet University.

Andrew Foster - The first deaf African-American to graduate from Gallaudet. He also was the founder of many schools for the deaf in Africa.

Dr. Gerard Buckley - President of National Technical Institute for the Deaf, NTID. First alumni to be president of NTID.

Robert F. Panara - The first faculty member at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a beloved teacher, founding member of the national Theatre of the Deaf, and honored by the World Federation of the Deaf for his contributions to education and culture.

Rachel C. Mazique - A deaf teacher of English Writing and Miss Deaf America Ambassador.

Famous Deaf People in Entertainment

[Linda Bove](#) - The deaf actress who played "Linda the Librarian" on *Sesame Street*, as well as many other roles.

[Marlee Matlin](#) - The famous deaf actress who won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her debut role in [Children of a Lesser God](#) at the age of twenty-one.

[Heather Whitestone](#) - The first deaf woman to be crowned Miss America.

Michelle Banks - A famous deaf African-American performer.

[Deanne Bray](#) - The star of *Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye*.

Phyllis Frelich - A very well respected deaf actress who won the Tony Award for Best Actress for her role as Sara in the Broadway version of *Children of a Lesser God* and acted on shows such as *E.R.* and *Diagnosis Murder* as well as *Love is Never Silent*, the made-for-tv movie.

Amy Ecklund - Played Abigail on the soap opera, *Guiding Light*.

C.J. Jones - A very intelligent and talented African-American deaf actor and comedian. He has performed in many plays, TV shows, and films.

Howie Seago - Starred in the feature film, *Beyond Silence*.

Anthony Natale - Most famous for his role in *Mr. Holland's Opus*.

Shoshannah Stern - Best known for playing Holly Brodeen in *Threat Matrix*, Bonnie Richmond in *Jericho*, and Megan Graves on *Weeds*.

Christy Smith - Was the deaf contestant on a season of *Survivor*.

Terrylene - Played Laura Williams on the TV program, *Beauty and the Beast*.

Rush Limbaugh - A talk show host who experienced sudden deafness.

Matthew Morgan - Deaf World Magician (<http://www.magicmorgan.com>).

Liliana Morgan - Deaf Russian Dancer (<http://www.deafrussiashow.com>).

David K Shelton - Movie actor, comedian, and owner of Deaf Funny Videos website (<http://www.deaffunnyvideos.com>).

Lou Ferrigno - Played the "Hulk" in the original series.

Rosa Lee Timm - The Rosa Lee Show is an unique Deaf one-woman multimedia performance featuring the live Deaf performance, music, and video (visual artist).

Kelly Monaco - Actress who plays "Sam" on daytime soap General Hospital once stated that she has some hearing loss due to an accident while portraying a lifeguard on a FOX television program years ago.

Tristan Thunderbolt - Deaf Native American Actor (<http://www.tristanthunderbolt.com>).

Luke Adams - Contestant on The Amazing Race.

Russell Harvard - Well known Youtube star and participated in the hit show CSI. (<http://www.russellharvard.com>).

"**JJ**" **Jones** - Deaf mime performer since 1978 (<http://www.jjmime.com>).

Pinky Aiello - An ASL storyteller at www.ASLTales.net.

Evelyn Glennie - A world famous deaf percussionist.

Trix Bruce - Deaf One Woman Show Artist (<http://www.trixbruce.com>).

Herb Larson - Deaf Administrator, who also was an actor. Won an Emmy Award for a Television Talk Show, "Off Hand" (co-hosted by Lou Fant through KHJ TV and the Silent Network).

Ricky Smith - A mime and beloved instructor. (<http://www.rickysmithmime.net>).

Leslie Nielsen - Starred in many classics... most notably *Airplane*.

Sean Forbes - Deaf rapper, founder of D-PAN, Deaf Performing Artist Network.

Sean Berdy - A deaf actor, comedian and dancer. He was in *Sandlot 2*, *Legend of the Mountain Man*, *The Deaf Family*, and the hit TV show *Switched at Birth* (<http://www.seanberdysite.com>).

Bob Hiltermann - Founder of Deaf West Theater (Fountain Theater) in North Hollywood, California.

Robert Hoskin - A well-known deaf filmmaker.

Troy Kotsur - Deaf American actor.

Peter Cook - Deaf story teller (<http://deafpetercookonline.com>).

Tommy Korn - A well known Deaf fashion model and actor and the first ever Mr. Deaf California '09-'11.

Jane Lynch - Famous actress known for her starring role on the hit TV series "Glee". She is deaf in one ear.

Sam Sandler - Deaf illusionist (<http://www.samsandler.com>) -- Great for school functions and birthdays!

Michael Barreca - Deaf actor who played Dummy Hoy in *Signs of Time* (Documentary 2008).

Bernard Bragg - a Deaf performer, writer, director, poet, and artist. He was a founder of The National Theater of the Deaf and is "regarded by many as the leading professional deaf actor in the country".

Rob Lowe - American actor, completely deaf in right ear.

Mark Wood - Deaf Executive Producer/Director/Writer of ASL Films (<http://www.aslfilms.com>).

Robert DeMayo - Deaf actor, educator, ASL consultant, and one of the subjects of "See What I'm Saying" (<http://www.robertwhere.com/>).

Rhondee Beriault - Deaf actress and dancer. (*Quantum Leap* (1991), *Alexander Graham Bell: The Sound and the Silence* (1992), *Reasonable Doubts* (1993), *I Love You, But* (1998)).

Alexander Genievsky - Deaf Russian-born actor, filmmaker, writer, producer, and artist. Founder and President of the non-profit art organization Universal Sign Entertainment (<http://universalsignentertainment.wordpress.com>).

Katie Leclerc - American actress who has appeared on several television series, including *Veronica Mars* and *Fashion House*. In 2011, she received a lead role on the show *Switched At Birth*, starring as Daphne Vasquez.

Ryan Lane - Deaf actor with a role in the Dummy Hoy documentary and on television shows such as *Switched at Birth*, *Cold Case*, and *House MD*.

Marko Vuoriheimo "Signmark" - Deaf rapper from Finland and the first deaf person to sign a record deal with an international recording company.

Iosif Schneiderman - Deaf mime and professional actor who grew up in Russia and has performed all over the world. He directed the grand opening of DeafWay II in 2001 and co-wrote and starred in the internationally acclaimed award winning play, "Deaf Snow White" produced by Cleveland Sign Stage Theatre.

Ann Marie "Jade" Bryan - First black Deaf female filmmaker to graduated from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU; first black Deaf filmmaker to produce an indie feature film, *If You Could Hear My Own Tune* and with a majority of Deaf actors of color; founder of DeafVision Filmworks and Jade Films and Entertainment.

Famous Deaf People in the Media

Laura C. Redden Searing - First deaf female journalist.

Julius Wiggins - Creator of *Silent News*, the newspaper of the Deaf Community.

Ken Davis - Founder/owner of *Deafnewspaper* (www.deafnewspaper.com)

Thomas J. Cooney, Sr. - Sports Writer for The Silent News publication, Recipient of Thomas Jefferson Award, Points of Light honoree, Grand Marshall for the Helen Keller Parade, A Kentucky Colonel, and, presently, a Motivational Speaker and Advocate for Deaf Awareness, introducing over 1.5 million individuals to Deaf Culture and Signed Languages.

Famous Deaf People In Organizations

Juliette Low - The founder of the Girl Scouts.

Rocky Stone - Founder of Self Help for Hard of Hearing people (SHHH).

Terry Sproul - Founder of Deaf Kids Kamp. (deafkidskamp.com)

Sheri Farnihas - Deaf rights and NAD activist.

Famous Deaf People in Sports

Dummy Hoy - The first deaf major-league baseball player.

Shelley Beattie - Professional bodybuilder who once held the record for bench pressing (315 pounds!)

Terrence Parkin - A deaf Olympic swimmer who took home a silver medal in the 2000 Olympics and two gold medals in the 2005 Deaflympics.

James "Deaf" Burke - A famous deaf boxer. He was the first boxer who was involved in a fight that resulted in a death.

Curtis Pride - A current deaf professional baseball player.

Kenny Walker - Was a deaf professional football player.

Matt Hamill - Contestant on The Ultimate Fighter, now UFC fighter. Also 3 time NCAA Division III National Wrestling Champion.

Kevin M. Hall - A professional golfer that graduated from Ohio State University (<http://www.kevinhallgolf.com>).

Donna Sue Baker - A Deaf woman who went to TSD and won many medals in track. She represented the U.S.A. in the Deaflympics and traveled to Europe.

Marcus Titus - US National Swim Team.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Float - A former American swimmer who became the only legally deaf athlete from the USA to win an Olympic gold medal.

Tamika Catchings - A professional basketball player in the WNBA. She played for the University of Tennessee.

LeRoy Colombo - Famous deaf lifeguard entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for saving 907 lives.

Louis Long (aka The Silent Warrior) - Deaf American professional wrestler and founder of Deaf Wrestling Alliance.

Alan Kilby - The first deaf British professional wrestler who won champion. He is a retired wrestler now.

Sean Midnight - Deaf British professional wrestler.

Yakami Aoi - Deaf Japanese pro female wrestler.

Lance Allred - American basketball player, first deaf person to play in the NBA.

Tracey Kilby - A deaf UK pro wrestling valent with Sean Midnight.

Alan Kilby - World of Sport professional wrestler in the United Kingdom.

Carlos Rexach (aka The Silencer) - Deaf pro wrestler.

Jonathan Ramser - First deaf pro-wrestler in OVW (Ohio Valley Wrestling) debuted on March 2nd 2013.

Famous Deaf Artists

Chuck Baird - A well-known deaf artist.

Betty G. Miller - A deaf artist whose work truly edifies the struggles and issues in the deaf community.

Louis Frisino - A well-known deaf painter who painted pictures of realistic-looking animals.

Douglas Tilden - A well-known deaf sculptor.

[Granville Redmond](#) - A landscape artist whose artwork is worth 6-figures.

Gerald Becker Steffen - Deaf artist at Pike Place Market in Seattle.

Samuel Hudson - An African-American Deaf artist.

Douglas Tilden - World famous deaf sculptor.

Nancy Rourke - Deaf Artist, Expressionist Paintings (<http://www.nancyrourke.com>).

Famous Deaf Writers

Stevie Platt - The deaf author of the books *Go to the Hill* and *The Last Servant*.

Connie Briscoe - A modern deaf author who became deaf in her 20s.

[Jamie Berke](#) - The former About.com Deafness Guide

[Dianrez](#) - Well-Known Deaf Blogger

Sondra McCoy - Author of *Hard Road, Easy Riding: Deaf Biker Lady*.

Tomora Michelle Pace - Deaf author and teacher.

[Henry A. Kisor](#) - Author of *What's that Pig Outdoors?* and other novels based on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan locales.

Famous Deaf-Blind People

Julia Brace - A deaf-blind girl who was born before both Laura Bridgman and Helen Keller. She was successfully educated, but lost the credit as the first to Helen Keller.

Helen Keller - The most well-known deaf-blind girl who successfully learned language.

Laura Bridgman - The deaf-blind girl who was successfully educated before Helen Keller.

Other Famous Deaf People

Nellie Zabel Willhite - The first deaf female pilot in South Dakota to get her license.

Rodger Young - Deaf man who faked his Army hearing test in WW2. Won a Posthumous Medal of Honor in the Solomon Islands.

Howard Hughes - An aviator, film producer, engineer, film director, industrialist, and philanthropist.

Ludwig van Beethoven - Was completely deaf for the last part of his life and yet managed to produce some of the greatest music of all time.

Robert Weitbrecht - Invented the TTY along with James Marsters who was also deaf.

Ashley Fiolek - Deaf motocross racer that is sponsored by Redbull (<http://www.ashleyfiolek.com>).

Cal Rodgers - The very first deaf pilot in the USA in 1911.

Kitty O'Neil - A former stuntwoman and racer.

Sue Thomas - Undercover specialist for FBI, the inspiration for the TV series *Sue Thomas: FBEye*, international speaker, author, founder of Kennels of Levi: EPEC Service Dogs for physically challenged, founder of WaterBrooks a Christian spiritual renewal center, and founder of Sue Thomas Ministries outreach to homeless.

Thomas Alva Edison - An American scientist, inventor, and businessman.

George William Veditz - Was a former president of National Association of the Deaf of the United States and was one of the first to film American Sign Language.

Allison Lam - Deaf firefighter.

Gregory Hlibok - First person with a disability to be appointed by the FCC to the head of its Disability Rights Office.

Rhulin Thomas - First deaf aviator to fly coast to coast.

John Gotti - Boss of the most powerful organized crime family in the USA. He was deaf in one ear.

Erastus Deaf Smith - A revered Texas scout, guide, and spy and is famous for the important role he played in the Texas Revolution.

James Lee Taylor III - Deaf Rapper from the South Bronx on NY Daily Newspaper and City Limits Magazine. His story has been told in the book *Train Go Sorry*.

Kunle Adegboye - CEO at Morayo Communications, Morayocare & Morayowireless and a role model to many young Nigerians with his line: "Disability is in the mind".

Claudia Gordon - First deaf female African American lawyer. She was also the first deaf student to graduate from the American University Washington DC College of Law.

Tanya Wyatt-Dennis - First black deaf hospice medical social worker, the first to graduate from Wayne State University Social Worker Program in 1997 with a Master of Social Work degree, and the first black deaf school social worker to work for Detroit Public School.