

mika brojer 1945 -1998

Deaf rights campaigner and advocate Mika Brojer passed away in April. In his youth he was known to have performed in several amateur drama productions, including "The Pearl" and "Masquerade". **David Moller** remembers him

I have known Mika since we were aged four. We went to the same Deaf School in London (then afterwards we went to different schools). We met up again when we were in our early teens at a Deaf drama show at Red Lion Square in London.

For several years we went everywhere together every weekend and had great times at different functions - both Deaf and hearing. I will remember the great 24-hour "Golden Egg" restaurant at Marble Arch (now closed) where we talked and talked with several other deaf people signed through the night until the sun rose again and our tired arms could not sign anymore.

We both were involved in the early days of the Theatre of the Deaf, and he was a great actor, particularly in "The Pearl". He continued acting long after I left.

In the early days of Deaf Theatre British Sign Language wasn't widely used in a theatrical context. But Mika's signing had a clarity, that both the audience and fellow actors appreciated.

Mika saw acting primarily as a hobby, and when the British Theatre of the Deaf was established in 1974,

he left and continued acting as an amateur, mostly doing comedy sketches, particularly at Scope Deaf Youth Club, now known as D'Zone in Lewisham, London.

The best thing I remember about him is that he was always eager to learn and was a great "listener" with both Deaf and hearing people alike. I will always remember the look of surprise on his face whenever he learnt something that was new to him. Now I can imagine him in the Great Learning Centre in the Sky - without any pain, no worries, still learning, still forever catching up...



Above and below:

Mika Brojer, left, with his fellow actors in the 1969 production of Steinbeck's "The Pearl" by the British Theatre of the Deaf

