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Stern and Jaeger to Star in *Children of a Lesser God* for Deaf West

By Adam Hetrick
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Los Angeles' Deaf West Theatre will stage a 30th anniversary production of Mark Medoff's Tony-winning drama *Children of a Lesser God* in September.

Jonathan Barlow Lee, who was the stage manager for the Broadway run of *Children of a Lesser God*, will stage the drama for Deaf West that will be performed in a manner that is fully accessible to deaf and hard of hearing audiences, according to production notes.

Children of a Lesser God will run Sept. 6-Oct. 11 with an official opening Sept. 13. The production will feature Shoshannah Stern (*Open Window*, "Jericho," "Weeds") as Sarah Norman and Matthew Jaeger ("The Diary") as James Leeds with Brian M. Cole, Rebecca Ann Johnson, Marilyn McIntyre, Tami Lee Santimyer and Time Winters.

The acclaimed play "focuses on the conflicted professional and romantic relationship between speech teacher James Leeds and his profoundly deaf student, Sarah Norman. Sarah will have none of his instruction but in the course of their sparring, the two of them develop a chemistry," production notes state.

The Deaf West production will have scenic design by John Iacovelli, costume design by Dianne K. Graebner, lighting design by Leigh Allen and projection and sound design by Benjamin H. Kamine.

Children of a Lesser God premiered on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre in 1980 starring Phyliss Frelich (for whom the play was authored) and John Rubenstein, both of whom earned Tony Awards for their performances. The 1986 film adaptation starred Marlee Matlin, who earned an Oscar for her performance opposite William Hurt.

Mark Medoff was nominated for an Academy Award for adapting *Children of a Lesser God* for the screen. His plays also include *Prymate*; *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?*; *The Hands of Its Enemy*; and *The Wager*. His screenwriting credits include "Clara's Heart," "Santa Fe" and "City of Joy."

Tickets, priced \$25, are available by phoning (866) 811-4111 or by visiting DeafWest.com.