

**DECEMBER
2003 EDITION**

**CHRISTMAS
EDITION!
NEW
FEATURES!**

THIS NUMBER:

- HOH Education in...
- Famous HOH People in History
- HOHollywood !
- Strasbourg Report
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IFHOHYP NEWS

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Study session "Building communication for hard of hearing young people: breaking barriers and stereotypes"

Strasbourg 2003



By Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP

IFHOHYP is the only international non-governmental federation for national and regional youth organizations that are dedicated to hard of hearing young people throughout the world and is independent of sex, race, religion, nationality and politics. Today IFHOHYP is comprised of mostly European countries. Our greatest priority is improving the quality of life of hearing impaired youth and promoting equal rights for hard of hearing young people at all levels of society. We raise disability awareness on national and international level through activities run by and for hard of hearing young people aged from 18 to 35. In IFHOHYP, there are young people with hearing loss who mainly rely on hearing aids and lip-reading to manage their communication - preference is given to oral speech rather than sign language which is used quite seldom. Many hard of hearing people in IFHOHYP can be considered physically as profoundly deaf, but they learnt to speak and recognize speech through their long-life training. Study session "Building communication for hard of hearing young people: breaking barriers and stereotypes" was the 5th study session of IFHOHYP in European Youth Centre Strasbourg since 1994, and perhaps one of the best IFHOHYP study sessions ever. 29 participants from 14 countries came here together for one week. The topic of the study session came from understanding that communication is one of the major problems facing youth groups and youth organizations in their work, and is especially difficult for hard of hearing youth. The lack of communication skills and self-confidence resulting from hearing impairment makes hard of hearing less visible on a scale of local and international youth work. On the other hand, people often don't know how to communicate with hard of hearing people - this may result in frustration, intolerance and conflict for both hearing-disabled and non-disabled members of community. Society has formed the stereotype that hard of hearing minority is complacent with life in their own environment; that a number of benefits, hearing aids and sign language compensate for their disability. This stereotype is e-



qually common in countries with different levels of economic, cultural, ethnic and social development. In light of this, the main aims of study session were to increase communication skills of hard of hearing youths from personal level to level of organisation's external communication, for their inclusion into society. The overall long-term aim is to increase participation of hard of hearing youth in civil society and empower them in addressing disability concerns to wide public - especially so following the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003.

Methodology was based mainly upon interactive methods aimed at raising self-confidence and ability to express oneself, such as Forum Theatre (transformation of participants' experiences), skills building workshops on communication, conflict management, leadership, teambuilding, how to combat negative stereotypes, fundraising. Lecture on public speaking and communication as a challenge for hard of hearing was also a highlight of the study session. Special attention was paid to communication technologies. Why? Breaking barriers and stereotypes by hard of hearing young people suggests that they should have courage to speak to outer world about themselves. And technology devices (such as hearing aids, induction loops in cinemas, banks, institutions) are often the only way of communication between hard of hearing and hearing people. Stereotypes should be as well diminished with appropriate communication methods where technology plays a vital role. For example, special equipment provided by EYCS has contributed to the success of the study session. Not only EYCS is equipped with "induction loop system" which enables hard of hearing participants to follow everything said in plenary. As it is still insufficient for complete speech distinguishing, the most effective technical tool was provided - "speech-to-text" service by hired palantypist, when participants can read text of all plenary presentations simultaneously on a screen. A participant described her experience as "one of the most fragile yet invaluable experiences of my life...it was good to watch people initially shy + quiet gain confidence to make attempts to participate more, make their voices heard, to contribute to the group task". Funny moments were abundant too. A participant broke her glasses and a long time thereafter the participants joked about her saying: "I can't hear without my glasses!" You see, glasses are important for hard of hearing people who are used to understand speech by reading from lips and following simultaneous text on screen. Team composed of external trainer Arturas Deltuva (Lithuania), Karina Chupina (Russia), Jennie Westh (Denmark), Markku Kunnas (Finland) and Ervinas Klimavicius (Lithuania) noted the increased personal development of participants throughout the week, stressed their improved ability to communicate, especially in English as foreign language study is not always accessible for hard of hearing youth due to social situation/limits of specialised education in some countries. Participants acknowledged that recognizing one's own identity as hard of hearing person, self-awareness, integrity (this implies identifying own strengths as well as limitations, and accepting them), motivation for social action and positive appreciation of others' differences, tolerance - all this is crucial for successful communication and inclusion into society. It is mainly only through trainings that youth with disabilities can acquire these attitudes. Ability to break barriers and stereotypes in society depends as much on an attitude of society to people with disabilities as it does on attitude of people with disabilities towards themselves.

Education of HOH people in ... ITALY

by Andrea Pietrini



Many things have changed in Italy in the last 30 years. Until 1970 children and boys had to go in special institutes for deaf in order to get adequate education and culture. At the beginning of Seventies, many experiments to introduce deaf and HOH children in public, “normal” schools were made. The big change was the introduction of modern hearing aids and improvement of rehabilitation treatments, that allowed children to speak fluently and to stay in their families, having a normal life. It was made possible also thanks to a philosophy that consider disabled persons as “normal persons with specific difficulties”, trying not to discriminate them, putting them in society “au pair” with other people. Lots of good results were obtained and children grew up in a “hearing” environment that allowed them, in many cases, to continue their career until university studies and more. In the last 30 years, due to big efforts from National Health and Rehabilitation assistance, many things were offered to HOH people families, such as free hearing aids, free assistance, some economical helps, free schools, specialized teachers, etc. But now things are changing, because of economical crisis: so many things are not “for free” anymore, other services are offered at high costs, assistance is cut away in many cases, etc. So it results in lack of education and culture, and HOH and deaf children are coming back to “old” deaf institutes. In my opinion it would be a big mistake, because rehabilitation and “mainstreaming” programs functioned very well in many cases. There are some associations that are working to turn back this way, but , at the moment, it seems difficult.

HOH PEOPLE WHO MADE HISTORY

By Andrea Pietrini

Famous Hard of Hearing people in history ?

Probably not many people know anything about them, but there were many famous people who were hard of hearing or deaf.

So, let's go and discover them.

The next could be....you!

This month we will know more about.....

FRANCISCO GOYA

(Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, 1746-1828)



Goya was born in a very poor village near Zaragoza, in Aragon, on 30 March 1746. Goya's father was a gilder and it was there that Goya spent his childhood and adolescence.

He began his artistic studies at the age of 13 with a local artist, who had trained in Naples and who taught Goya to draw and to paint in oils.

In 1763 and 1766, he competed unsuccessfully for a scholarship of the Royal Academy of San Fernando in Madrid. To continue his studies he went to Rome at his own expense.

By the end of 1771, Goya was back in Zaragoza, where he received his first official commission, the frescoes in the Cathedral of El Pilar.

In 1773 Goya married Josefa Bayeu. In 1774, the German artist Anton Raphael Mengs summoned Goya to Madrid to paint cartoons for tapestries for the Royal Factory of Santa Barbara. In any event, it was Mengs who started him on his career at court. Under the direction first of Mengs, and later of Francisco Bayeu and Mariano Maella, Goya executed over 60 tapestry cartoons between 1775 and 1792.

In 1780, Goya was elected a member of the Royal Academy of San Fernando. In 1780-81, he worked on the frescoes of El Pilar in Zaragoza. On his return to Madrid he received the royal invitation to paint one of seven large altarpieces for the newly built church of San Francisco el Grande. The King's opinion of his work must have been favorable, because in 1785, a year after the paintings were first shown to the public, Goya was appointed Deputy Director of Painting in the Academy.

About at age 30, Goya started to feel pains "inside his head", and to become deaf.

In 1783-85, Goya painted a number of portraits of the influential persons of his time. In 1789 the new King raised him to the rank of Court Painter. Under the new regime Goya reached the height of his career as the most fashionable and successful artist in Spain.

During a visit to Andalusia towards the end of 1792, Goya was struck down by a long and serious illness. The nature of the illness is not known for certain but it caused temporary paralysis and partial blindness and left him permanently deaf, so that henceforth he could only communicate by writing and sign language. He returned to Madrid in the summer of 1793.

The illness brought about a new phase in the artist's oeuvre. The fruits of this new change in direction were the highly enigmatic paintings in his country house, the Quinta del Sordo (the House of the Deaf Man), where Goya took immediacy to extremes, creating a horrifying, hallucinatory world of imagery.

In 1795, Goya succeeded his former teacher as Director of Painting in the Academy (but resigned for reasons of health two years later), and in 1799 was appointed First Court Painter.

Goya, who had made his last appearance at the Academy on 4 April 1820 to swear allegiance to the Constitution, went into hiding early in 1824. After the declaration of amnesty Goya left Spain. Except for two short visits to Madrid in 1826 and 1827, the painter remained in France, mainly in Bordeaux, for the rest of his life. He died in Bordeaux on 16 April, 1828.



Other page: Goya's selfportrait and "Maya Desnuda".

This page: The Milkmaid, The Shootings and "Maya Vestida".



BUDAPEST 2003 Report

By Vanessa Migliosi

Council of Europe Youth Advisory Council meeting (Budapest, 3-4 November 2003)

Vanessa Migliosi, President of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP), member of the EDF Youth Committee appointed last year as member of the Council of Europe Youth Advisory Council, represented EDF in the Advisory Council meeting which took place in Budapest on 3-4 November 2003.

The Advisory Council is composed of 30 members from various organisations such as the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Muslim Youth, some national youth councils, European Youth Against Violence Network, International Union of Socialist Youth, United for Intercultural Action, Young Business and Professional Women, International Young Nature Friends, etc... Also present were representatives of the European Youth Forum.

Vanessa Migliosi was the only representative of a disability organisation (EDF) and felt that there is a lot of work to be done as most the Advisory Council members have never really been in contact with young disabled people nor been concerned with disability issues.

The Advisory Council discussed which actions and activities to support in the next years, including two big activities : a campaign for culture and peace and a globalisation event in 2004.

Vanessa proposed to the Advisory Council members to include disability as a transversal theme in both these campaigns as well as the necessity to foster the participation of young disabled people in all Council of Europe activities.

EDF and its youth committee will explore ways to ensure disability is included in Council of Europe campaigns and will strengthen its cooperation with the European Youth Forum to follow up the work at EU level.

Find out about the activities of the Youth Council of the Council of Europe on their webpage : http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Youth/

HOH...ollywood!

(or, when HOH people/characters went to the cinema)

By Andrea Pietrini

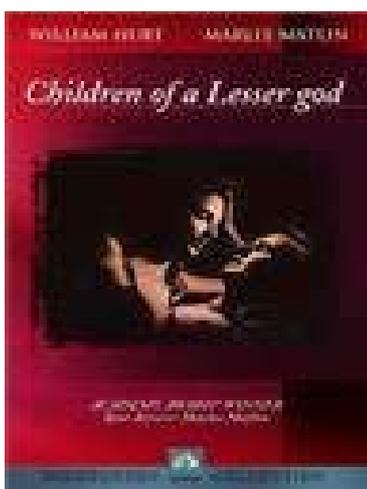
What about a nice trip in the Cinema world? Of course, from our own point of view.....

Let's go and see some movies with HOH interest, with a little help from the internet movie database.

For example, do you know that TWO MOVIES won the "Oscar" Award due to HOH/Deaf characters ?

The most famous movie:

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD



<u>Year:</u>	1986
<u>Directed by:</u>	Ronda Haines
<u>Starring:</u>	Marlee Matlin William Hurt Piper Laurie

Plot: James (William Hurt) is a new spec teacher at a school for the deaf. He falls in love for Sarah (Marlee Matlin) a student ho decided to stay on at the school rather than going into the world. She reject him at first, refusing to read lips and only using sign language. But soon her feelings will change...

Facts: Marlee Matlin, the main actress in this movie plays the role of a deaf mute girl and she is really deaf.

Marlee Matlin won the Academy Award ("Oscar") Prize for this movie, Best Actress category.

But the most appreciated was:



JOHNNY BELINDA

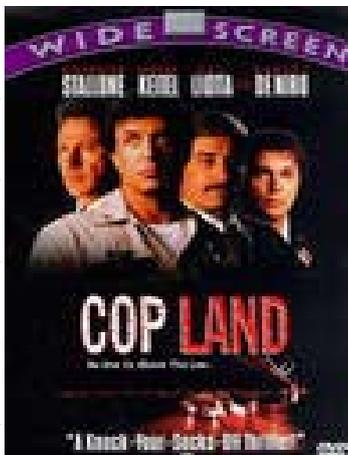
Year: 1948
Directed by: Jean Negulesco
Starring: Jane Wyman
Lew Ayres

Plot: In a small fishing village on an island, doctor Robert Richardson (Lew Ayres) knows a deaf and mute girl, Belinda (Jane Wyman). He teaches her sign language and lip reading, and she falls in love with him. One night Belinda is left alone, and she is raped by the city villain, a guy called Locky. When Robert takes her to see a doctor, she finds herself to be pregnant. Everybody think Robert is the baby's natural father. The people decide Belinda is unable to take care for the baby, so they decided Locky and his wife to take custody of him. But when they came to to take the baby away, Belinda kills Locky. Belinda is arrested and face trial for murder. Dr. Richardson tries to save her....

Facts: Jane Wyman were not deaf but she won the Academy Award ("Oscar") prize for Best Actress.

Acclaimed as "superb movie" by most of critics.

A more recent movie, starring well-known actors:



COPLAND

Year: 1997
Directed by: James Mangold
Starring: Sylvester Stallone
Harvey Keitel
Robert De Niro
Ray Liotta

Plot: Policemen have always been the idols of Freddy Heflin (Sylvester Stallone): Due to being deaf, Heflin could never pass the physical to become a police officer himself. However, because of his friendly and amiable nature, he's managed to get himself elected sheriff of a small New Jersey city, and he lives in a town where many cops also live. Mo Tilden (Robert De Niro) is an investigator for New York Police Department and his investigation for some crooked cops leads him to this small town, and to sheriff Freddy Heflin. Heflin begins to help Tilden and discovers that some heroes are not so honest....

Next time: more movies !

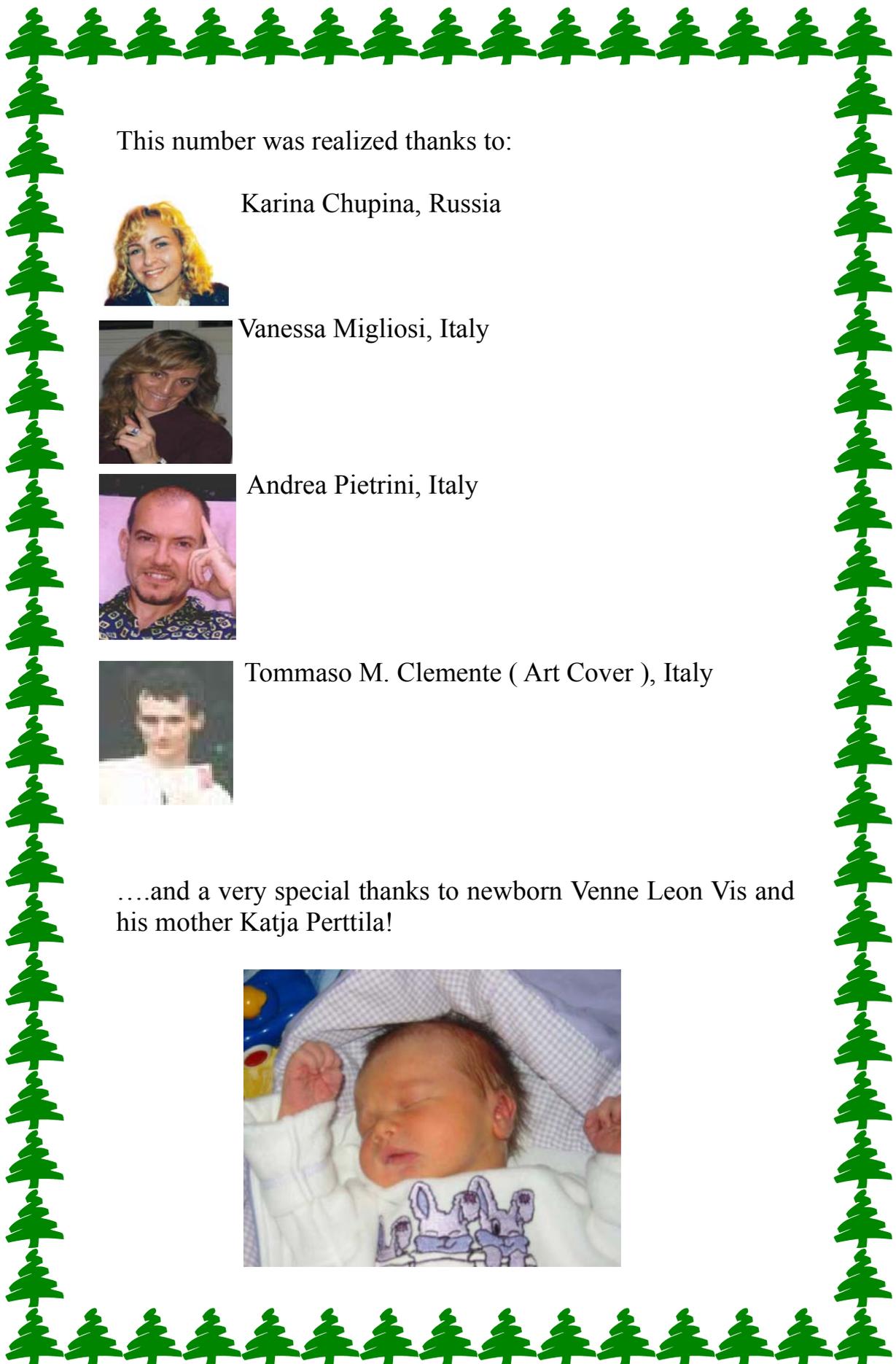
“The Angel of Vengeance”

“Sur me lievres”

“Marianna Ucria”

and others.....





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Karina Chupina, Russia



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....and a very special thanks to newborn Venne Leon Vis and his mother Katja Perttila!





IFHOHYP NEWS
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