JESS RASSP

ASL-English INTERPRETING STUDENT

Los Angeles, CA | (818) 371-9144 | jessrassp@gmail.com

ASL interpreting student completing Interpreter Preparation, with developing experience in theatrical, museum, educational, religious, and DeafBlind settings. Background includes 15+ years of professional theater experience and extensive engagement with the Deaf community.

KEY SKILLS AND AREAS OF EXPERIENCE:

- Tactile ASL and Deafblind Co-navigation
- Braille Class Interpretation
- Interpretation of Children's Stories
- Theatrical and Museum Settings
- Spiritual: Jewish, New Thought
- Working with Children Ages 2-17

EDUCATION

Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Baltimore, MD
- Associate of Applied Science in Interpreter Preparation, Projected completion 2026
- Associate of Arts in American Sign Language and Deaf Culture, 2025

Brandeis University, Boston, MA
- Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Magnum Cum Laude, 2013

EMPLOYMENT

Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Educator, Storyteller, Puppeteer, Noah's Ark Family Programs, 2026-Present
    - Volunteer Interpreter for Programming, Communication with Deaf visitors

Heartsong Interpreting Mentorship Program, Southern CA
- Hands-up time with mentor support in various settings, 2026-Present

Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Baltimore, MD
- Resident Costumer, Collaborator with Deaf-led Theater
    - *Milan 1880* - Costume Designer, Director Michelle Banks, DASL Jac Cook, 2025
    - *Goya* - Costume and Mask Designer, Director Willy Conley, 2023

VOLUNTEER WORK

The Braille Institute, Los Angeles, CA
- Weekly Volunteer with DeafBlind Program, 2026-Present
    - Braille Class Tactile ASL Interpreter, Technology Consultation Appointments

Center for Spiritual Living, Online Community
- Volunteer Interpreter Zoom Book-Study with mentor Renuka Purimetla, 2026-Present

Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia, MD
- Weekly Volunteer w/ Family Education and Early Childhood Development, 2023-2025
    - Toddler, Pre-K, and Kindergarten Classrooms (Ages 2-5)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), Student Member
- Southern California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (SCRID), Student Member

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SUMMARY OF INTERPRETING EXPERIENCE:

I am a beginner interpreter at the start of my professional journey. I have experience with theatrical and museum settings, working with children, and DeafBlind co-navigation. I have 15+ years of experience in theater, and learned ASL in order to collaborate with Deaf Artists on two Deaf-led productions. This experience gives me a solid framework for creating Art that is empowering to the Deaf community and dedicated to accessibility. I currently work as an Educator at the Skirball Cultural Center in their Family Programs Department facilitating play in the Noah's Ark Exhibition. I communicate with Deaf visitors to the museum and interpret storytime and other programming from English to ASL. I bring my theatrical background to embodying the story characters and matching the tone and energy of the vibrant storytellers to provide equivalent artistic experience.

I am a weekly volunteer with The Braille Institute Los Angeles in their DeafBlind program where I use Tactile ASL to interpret braille class, technology consultation appointments, and social interactions. I enjoy one-on-one interpreting work with DeafBlind folks and growing meaningful relationships with my clients.

Before moving to Los Angeles, I was a weekly volunteer with Maryland School for the Deaf in Columbia and assisted Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First-Grade classrooms with children ages 2-5. I have experience assisting children with various levels of language development, and can blend play with learning and social development. I demonstrate cultural competency in Deaf spaces and show respect by communicating in ASL.

I attend ASL social events, such as Starbucks Coffee Chats, ASL Climbing Day at gyms, or go to Deaf Night Out events when invited. I understand the importance of presence and visibility in the Deaf community, and it's important to me that people recognize me from these events so I can build familiarity and trust when stepping into an interpreter role.