

Mary Beth Miller

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DFST 330

ASL Artistic Expressions

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We will be going over Mary Beth Miller in this paper. We will cover her family, upbringing, schooling, achievements, and the impact she made on the deaf community. We will first be talking about her family and upbringing.

Family and upbringing

Unfortunately, I am not able to find information on the family of Mary Beth Miller, this seems to have been a very common name, the info I have found of Mary Beth Miller doesn't seem to be about the Mary Beth Miller I will be talking about. I am not able to find much about her upbringing due to the common use of the name. The one thing I was able to find was that she was born in Kentucky. I was able to find things about her later in life and what schools she was in, so let's jump into what I could find.

Schooling

Mary Beth Miller seemed to have been born deaf or became deaf early in life, I'm not able to confirm this due to research struggles, but she did go to a deaf school. Mary had gone to school at the Kentucky school for the deaf, "Miller graduated from Kentucky School for the Deaf and went to Gallaudet University for her B.A. She also got other degrees from two other universities, Connecticut College and New York University." (Abenchuchan, A.). After school, Mary Beth Miller went on to affect those not only in her life but also in her community.

Achievements

Mary Beth Miller enjoyed theater and helped with that along with doing a one-woman show. "Miller was one of the founders for New York Deaf Theatre and she was involved with the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) by acting and writing/directing original plays."

(Abenchuchan, A.). Mary Beth Miller was a writer of both books and plays, enjoyed being on stage as she was both in plays and a comedian. While Mary Beth Miller isn't a part of the New York Deaf theater, she left behind a legacy.

Impact on the deaf community

The theater for the deaf is still around today but they did end up having to “pause on live theatre due to the Covid-19 pandemic” (NTD). The theater has managed to appear “and performed on Broadway, the Disney Channel, on Sesame Street, at the White House”(NTD) over its “50+ years”(NTD). Another impact that Mary Beth Miller had that she probably doesn't think was all that big was that she ended up on a jury for a court case. While she said “The experience was interesting, but I wouldn't say it was fun,”(Anderson, S. H., & Bird, D). ““But inside I was smiling, because my six years of struggle were finally paying off,” she said yesterday.”(Anderson, S. H., & Bird, D), she had struggled to get on the jury as hearing people thought she would not be able to follow along, make a decision, and take it as a responsibility. This was a big deal in the deaf community due to her being“the first deaf person to serve on a Manhattan jury and one of the first in the state to participate in jury deliberations, using a court-appointed sign-language interpreter.”(Anderson, S. H., & Bird, D).

Conclusion

While I wasn't able to find much about Mary Beth Miller early in life we can see that she was written about. She decided to do what she loves and managed to make an impact on her community.

References

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