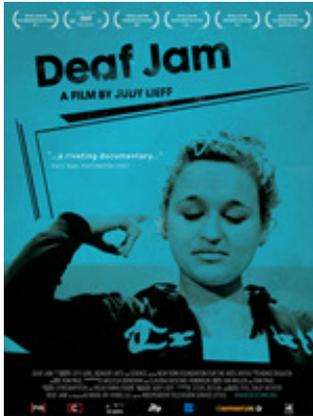


MEDIA RELEASE**4th June 2012****Arts in Action presents the Australian Premiere of DEAF JAM
@ Bella Union 28th June 8.30pm**

Actions speak louder than words in Judy Lieff's award winning documentary **Deaf Jam**, the story of Deaf teen Aneta Brodski's bold journey into the spoken word slam scene. Longing to explore and fully participate in the hearing world, Aneta dives into ASL poetry, a vibrant three-dimensional art form where body movements convey meaning. She and fellow students participating in an ASL poetry workshop gradually find their inner voice in the poems they create. Through poetry, the students reveal their struggles with deafness, their family life, and even their love lives. Aneta's world opens up as she is tantalized by the possibility of competing in a poetry slam with mostly hearing competitors. As one of the first deaf youth to participate in a major slam event, the film follows Aneta's journey as a deaf performer as she courageously takes the stage.

Passionate, fearless and expressive, Aneta an Israeli immigrant living in the Queens section of New York City, in a remarkable twist of fate, meets Tahani, a hearing Palestinian slam poet. The two women embark on a collaboration/performance duet and together they create a hearing/deaf duet touching on their shared personal and cultural experiences — generating a new form of slam poetry that crosses boundaries, cultures, and languages and speaks to both the hearing and the Deaf.

Utilizing high-energy music, animated graphic text, and other innovative techniques, Deaf Jam illuminates ASL poetry's extraordinary potency and power. With ties to rap and hip-hop culture, youth Poetry Slams have gained momentum across the U.S. highlighting a highly verbal and rhythmic form of self-expression. By taking us inside a fascinating and vibrant world where self-expression and cultural identity are fiercely pursued, Deaf Jam may change the way we think about the non-hearing world forever. Watch the Deaf Jam trailer <http://vimeo.com/28547215>

The screening which is hosted by Arts in Action will follow with a discussion led by representatives from the Deaf Arts Network, Centre for Poetics and Justice and Slamalamadingdong Poetry Slam on the topics raised in the film and to explore the potential for collaboration between hearing and Deaf poets in Melbourne. The film is fully captioned and Auslan interpreters will be present to sign on the night.

SCREENING DETAILS:**WHEN:** Thursday 28th June 2012**WHERE:** Bella Union – Trades Hall Cnr Lygon St & Victoria Parade, Carlton (enter via Lygon St)**TIME:** Doors open at 8pm film starts at 8.30pm**TICKETS:** Group Discount (6+ online only): \$10 Online: \$12/\$15 Door: \$17/\$20Tickets can be purchased online <http://www.bellaunion.com.au/ticketing/2821>**For further information contact:****Angie Muccillo****Arts in Action Founder/Events Co-ordinator****Website:** www.artsinaction.com.au**Email:** angie@artsinaction.com.au**Tel:** 0417 391 055