

Culture Close-Up

THAT DEAF GUY



BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



THAT DEAF GUY



BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



Gaining Attention

- Touch: it is acceptable to touch another person to gain their attention, even if you do not know them well. However there are rules about where or how to touch. A light touch on the upper arm or shoulder is acceptable.
- Thumping tables/floors: this is often done to gain each other's attention (through the felt vibrations of the floor) and is not seen as aggressive in Deaf culture.
- Waving: many Deaf people have great peripheral vision.
- Turning lights on and off: in a crowded room, this will signify to Deaf participants the meeting/seminar/conference is ready to begin.
- Egypt Alert: indicating that you would like for the audience to tap the people either side of them in order to gain the whole groups attention.

IN DEAF CULTURE... BY MATT DAIGLE



THAT DEAF GUY



BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



When you're talking to someone and they keep getting too close



Physical Proximity

Deaf people sit or stand further apart than hearing people and preferably opposite each other so that they can see each other's signing space comfortably.

Clapping

Traditional clapping is not only auditory based, but is often not visible due to the action frequently being conducted at waist level. Deaf people instead, applaud by raising their hands in the air while rotating their hands side to side.



Eye Contact

Since a Deaf person relies heavily on body language and facial expression for cues, eye contact is extremely important. Avoiding eye contact or looking away while someone is signing to you not only disrupts communication but is seen as incredibly rude.

THAT DEAF GUY

