Audio Description: Inclusive. A Microsoft Design Toolkit.

Kristen Marie "Rajarajeshwari" Weiner. Founder of Deafhood Yoga.

"I am... prana (vital energy-life force), shakti (divine goddess energy of continuous creation) & prem (love)."

As Rajarajeshwari signs, an interpreter voices her words.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): Honestly, a lot of people come up to me and have offered me

"opportunities," so-called, to "fix my ears through medical magic." And I'm like, "I will never,

never change that about myself. Never." I love being a Deaf person. I think it's a beautiful thing.

It's actually a gift.

Audio Description: Photos show Rajarajeshwari as a toddler grinning at a big doll, then as a young woman standing on a sand-dune, and hugging her dog by a Christmas tree.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): That's a challenge between technology and human-centric,

because technology has an aspect in which it tries to fix things. That is based on the idea that

we're not complete.

Audio Description: In a park, Rajarajeshwari leads a yoga class. Three Deaf students stretch and

bend on mats as they follow Rajarajeshwari's poses.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): But it doesn't define the vibration of the culture and the linguistics of my community and my people. Now that I'm older and I look back on things, I was quite fortunate in my educational environment growing up.

Audio Description: Rajarajeshwari adjusts a woman's yoga pose, gently pressing her shoulders down.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): And then during a summer, fortunately, my parents found a Deaf camp for children, so it was very exciting. Every summer, I would go to Deaf camp and I'd hang out with a lot of Deaf kids there.

Audio Description: In the park, Rajarajeshwari signs to her students.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): In this environment, sign language was going on, and when I was placed there, my parents were shocked to see how hungry I was to pick up things visually,

to be able to manually communicate.

Audio Description: She checks her phone as she converses with a student.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): Sign language is more than one dimension or even two dimensions. We're moving in space three dimensionally. It's visual, it's a lot of tactile touch. For example, Deaf people are very affectionate.

Audio Description: After class, Rajarajeshwari and her three students share friendly hugs.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): And that's how we can interact with people quite easily.

Audio Description: Now, Rajarajeshwari wears boots and a winter coat as she waits on a sidewalk. A street-car arrives and she steps on board.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): I had a vision of an online yoga studio.

Audio Description: She lights candles. A web page appears on her computer: Deafhood Yoga.

Office Yoga. You will need: a folding chair, a yoga mat.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): In the World Federation of the Deaf, WFD, 70 million people is a lot of people! So an online studio, in that sense, can become a resource and a way of reaching out

to my own community and sharing these resources. So I have been experimenting quite a bit

with various video platforms and studying what works and what doesn't.

Audio Description: In a split screen, six students appear on the monitor, along with Rajarajeshwari.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): I finally found a Deaf team with the skills, understanding,

and expertise who could support me in building and designing a Deafhood, customized, online

yoga studio.

Audio Description: A camera on top of her monitor captures Rajarajeshwari's signs and body

language.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): So I'm really looking forward to the look and the feel and making sure that that's successful for Deaf people.

Audio Description: As Rajarajeshwari sips tea in the kitchen, an alert light flashes, drawing her attention.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): Can technology be emotional? Hmm...

Audio Description: She puts down her mug and checks her phone. Grinning, she signs "hello."

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): There's pros and cons for Deaf people, honestly, because we strongly rely on facial expressions, hand movements, body language, how the body moves.

So when sign language is translated through technology to written English, a lot of Deaf people have misunderstandings. I see a lot of technological advances. There is a lot of creativity.

Audio Description: A light flashes and Rajarajeshwari taps the touchscreen on a tablet. A young woman appears on the screen. The two converse in sign language, then Rajarajeshwari ends the video-chat.

She playfully repeats a sign.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): Like holograms!

INTERPRETER (Off Screen) and RAJARAJESHWARI: (laughing)

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): Definitely holograms. Yeah, so that I can appear where

you are. It'll be easier for me to just transport myself to another place, and communication will be instantaneous. Or if there is a hologram in front of me, I can just sign to them immediately.

That would be so amazing!

Audio Description: At the beach, a labyrinth forms a circular path.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): The cool thing about signing is that sign really transcends

boundaries and borders.

Audio Description: Rajarajeshwari walks along the labyrinth's path, bordered by stones.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): So that human connection with each other I cherish and I feel is so important, it's important to just remind people that actual human contact and interaction is very important.

Audio Description: Her eyes closed, Rajarajeshwari stands with her head tilted up toward the sun.

INTERPRETER (Off Screen): I really cherish that within the Deaf community.

Audio Description: Titles: This is part of a film series created to build empathy and inspire designers.

Inclusive: A Microsoft Design Toolkit.

A Slanted Light Production.

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