

Audio Description Association



note pad

Items 210 - 216

August 2017

210 ADA's 2017 AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Audio Description Association will take place on Tuesday 26 September at Theatres Trust, 22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL from 12.30-1.30pm. The AGM is open to all members of ADA; non-members are also very welcome to attend in a non-voting capacity.

In a change from the previously advertised programme, the meeting will be followed by an afternoon session exploring the use of pre-recorded audio description for theatre and the visual arts. More details are given in item 212.

Coffee will be served in the interval between the AGM and the afternoon session for people leaving after the AGM, or staying on/arriving for the session.

We look forward to seeing you on the day – an advance email to let us know you plan to attend the meeting would be welcome for seating/catering arrangements.

office@audiodescription.co.uk

211 Elections to ADA's Executive Committee

Nominations are invited to fill the vacancies on ADA's Executive Committee created by six of its 10 members reaching the end of their two-year term of office in September 2017. Elections to fill the vacant places will take place at the AGM on 26 September 2017.

Audio describers, representatives of consumer interests, and representatives of service providers, are eligible to stand for election. Candidates and their proposers and seconders must be fully paid up members of ADA.

Further details and nomination forms are available from ADA's Secretary/Membership Secretary, Jonathan Nash, at: jonathan_sightlines@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date for nominations: **15 September 2017**

212 Recorded Audio Description for Theatre and the Visual Arts Post-AGM 2017 Presentations and Discussion

ADA's 2017 AGM will be followed by an afternoon session exploring pre-recorded audio description in contexts other than television and film. Already available in the US for shows such as The Lion King, as well as museums and galleries here and abroad, recorded audio description gives venues the potential to offer this service at every performance or visit. Is pre-recorded AD now the way forward?

The session begins with a presentation by Alison Clarke, Audio Describer, and David Philips, Head of Production at New Wolsey Theatre, entitled:

A COLLABORATIVE JOURNEY

First Steps in Recorded Description for Live Performance

They will report on recent experiments with pre-recorded audio description in Ipswich, and answer questions from the floor.

This will be followed by a look at the current use of pre-recorded audio description in Europe, including (subject to confirmation) a presentation from French colleagues at Acces Culture, and a discussion of the application of recorded AD in the visual arts, museum and heritage sector.

The essential details are:

Title: Recorded AD for Theatres and the Visual Arts

Audience: AD providers and users

Venue: Theatres Trust, 22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Date: Tuesday 26 September 2017

Time: 2.00-4.30pm

Cost: ADA members: £25 Non-ADA members: £35
(includes coffee/tea on arrival and mid-afternoon)

Numbers are strictly limited and advance booking/payment is strongly recommended.

Cheques should be made payable to Audio Description Association and sent to ADA, PO Box 306, 17 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1D.

For bank transfers, ADA's account details are available when booking (see below).

PayPal payments should be made to accounts@audiodescription.co.uk

Please note that in this instance payments are non-refundable unless the event is cancelled.

Directions: See: www.theatrestrust.co.uk

Access: The AGM and following session will take place in the Meeting Room at the Theatres Trust premises on the 1st Floor of the building which is only partly wheelchair accessible; there is a small lift in addition to the stairs, but several steps are involved in reaching the lift from street level. To arrange assistance, please email Jonathan Nash (jonathan_sightlines@yahoo.co.uk) giving a few days' notice.

Booking/Enquiries: office@audiodescription.co.uk

213 "Audio Description to Allow the Blind To 'See' the Total Eclipse" **Press release from the American Council of the Blind**

WASHINGTON, August 10, 2017 - The Audio Description Project, an initiative of the American Council of the Blind (ACB), along with the Mid-Tennessee Council of the Blind, the Tennessee School for the Blind and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, announces an opportunity for blind people world-wide to experience the upcoming total eclipse of the sun.

On Monday afternoon, August 21, at exactly 1:27 p.m. (CDT), the Sun above Nashville, TN will disappear from view. The sky will go completely dark. But through the use of succinct, imaginative and vivid language - audio description - the event will be accessible to the millions of people who are blind or have low vision, or anyone who wishes to experience a verbal version of the visual.

Between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. (CDT) on August 21, Dr. Joel Snyder will host "A Total Eclipse - Audio Described!" on ACB Radio. Snyder, the director of ACB's Audio Description Project, will present an hour of songs ("Ain't Got No Sunshine," "Here Comes the Sun,"

"Blinded by the Light," "When The Sun Goes Down," etc.), interviews and special guests - with the main event being described live from the Tennessee School for the Blind between 1:15 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. (CDT). Trained audio describer, Nashville-based Julia Cawthon, will describe the eclipse as it happens and provide a vivid "translation" of the visual event into words for the benefit of anyone who tunes in.

"Audio description uses the spoken word to provide access to visual images that would otherwise not be accessible to people who are blind or have low vision," stated Kim Charlson, president of the American Council of the Blind. "Audio describers help make so many aspects of our culture accessible. We're delighted to sponsor this program on August 21 and help people experience this important event."

How to access the broadcast: Go to <http://www.acbradio.org/interactive> and select "Click Here to Play." Then be sure to select the link that opens the player that you use to listen to music or stream internet radio stations. You can also listen on any telephone by dialing (605) 475-8130 and select option 4. If you are using an iOS device such as an iPad or iPhone, install "ACB Link"; open the app, select the radio tab and then tap on the menu button. Select "live streams" and "ACB Radio Interactive," select the play button and the stream will launch.

For more Information about ACB's Audio Description Project visit:

www.acb.org/adp

214 ADLAB PRO Research Questionnaire for Describers



ADLAB PRO is a three-year (2016-19) project financed by the European Union, which aims to create a curriculum and accompanying materials for training audio describers. It has completed and reported on its initial investigation of existing training programmes and materials (ADA came out well!) and is now in the process of investigating the current workforce with a view to building up a professional profile for audio describers with the skills and competences required.

If you would like to take part in ADLAB PRO's online survey of audio description personnel, please follow the link below. It takes approximately 20 mins to complete.

<http://survey.websurveycreator.com/s.aspx?s=02647b49-1805-4afd-92d0-b2c6d7b99f73>

More information about the project can be found at:

<https://adlabpro.wordpress.com>

215 What's On Where?

VocalEyes lists AD events nationwide

VocalEyes' redesigned website features listings of audio described theatre performances and museum and gallery events throughout the UK. Individuals and venues are invited to submit details of upcoming events on the entry at:

<http://vocaleyeyes.co.uk/event-form/>

Entries are checked and approved before going live. By submitting the entry, the venue agrees to share with VocalEyes information about the number of people (including those who are blind or partially sighted) who use the audio description service/attend the tour etc. The aggregated information will be used to increase understanding of access to the arts in the UK and will be shared with the sector.

The website also covers venues offering audio description. For more information, visit:

www.vocaleyeyes.co.uk

216 Sennheiser MobileConnect App

A footnote to the previous item on the use of Sennheiser's new app in UK theatres: *MobileConnect* is installed in several theatres in the London area (eg. Duke of York's, Harold Pinter) belonging to the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) but is featured on their websites only as a sound transmission system for hard of hearing patrons.

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