

Audio Description Association



note pad

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November 2017

223 Promoting AD Services

ADA Workshop, Birmingham Hippodrome, Monday 27 November 2017

We return to Birmingham Hippodrome, home to our conference last year, for our next workshop which explores ways of promoting and enhancing audio description services. Hippodrome staff will join us during the afternoon as we look at the huge potential of social media for marketing audio description, and the valuable contribution that volunteers bring in the role of customer care assistants. Here are the details:



Workshop: Promoting Audio Description Services

Audience: Audio Describers, Venue Staff

Venue: Birmingham Hippodrome
Hurst Street, Southside
Birmingham B5 4TB

Date: Monday 27 November 2017

Time: 14.00-16.30 (doors open 13.30)

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

Payment: Cheques payable to Audio Description Association and forwarded to: ADA, Box 306, 17 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1RW. For bank transfers, ADA's account details are available from office@audiodescription.co.uk

Please note payment must be made in advance and is non-refundable unless the event is cancelled.

Directions: www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Booking: To book your place, email office@audiodescription.co.uk
Closing date for bookings: 20 November 2017

Enquiries: To Jonathan Nash at: info@audiodescription.co.uk

224 Brewing in the Basement

Touretteshero, The Pit, Barbican Theatre, London, 3-4 November 2017



The Touretteshero project, co-founded in 2010 by performer Jess Thom as a creative response to her experience of living with Tourette's syndrome, will host a two-day event at the Barbican Theatre this week.

Friday will see a medley of creative activities for school groups, repeated on Saturday afternoon for the general public and finishing with an exuberant parade through the Barbican Centre.

On Saturday evening, Jess and her *alter ego* Touretteshero will compère a cabaret-style show in which performers from the disability arts world and beyond come together in a celebration of the humour and originality of neurodiversity. The prospective line up includes audio described burlesque by visually impaired performer, Amelia Cavallo.

Brewing in the Basement promises a relaxed and immersive experience for its audience and this extends to the audio description too. Jess and her team felt that locating the describers in a separate room was incompatible with their inclusive approach, and the audio description will be as free range as possible, with the describers having a visible and audible presence within the performance space. It is another style of integrated audio description, with the emphasis on the social integration of the describer rather than the artistic integration of the audio description itself.

The trio of roaming describers covering the two days are Julia Grundy, Alison Clarke and Ruth James. For more information about the event, visit the Barbican Centre and Touretteshero websites at:

www.barbican.org.uk/theatre/

www.touretteshero.com

For ticket availability, discounts and general enquiries, email: access@barbican.org.uk or call the Barbican Centre Box Office at: 020 7638 8891.

225 American Council of the Blind press release

BENEFITS OF AUDIO DESCRIPTION IN EDUCATION CONTEST

Young People Who Are Blind Write Reviews of Film and Video

October 13, 2017 - The American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project (ACB-ADP) and the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) are co-sponsoring an exciting opportunity for blind and visually impaired young people, in four categories from ages 7 to 21: the Benefits of Audio Description in Education (BADIE) contest.

Kids love movies! Multimedia experiences are integral to public, private, and special education curriculum. Audio description provides access to all the visual images of the films and videos that sighted young people enjoy.

Students choose an audio described film or video from the more than 6,000 titles available through DCMP - visit www.dcmp.org. Or a young person who is blind can borrow an audio described video or film from a library, and dozens of audio described film videos are available for purchase through the ACB-ADP's website at: www.acb.org/adp/dvds.html.

Reviews can be submitted in writing, in braille or via an audio recording. Register for the contest at: http://listeningislearning.org/badie_entry-form.html. Entries can also be submitted via e-mail or postal mail (submissions from outside the United States are fine) to:

ACB-DCMP Benefits of Audio Description In Education
1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22311 USA
E-mail: jsnyder@acb.org
Phone: (202) 467-5083

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Saturday, December 1, 2017

Contest winners in each category will be chosen by January of 2018, and the grand prize winner will receive an iPad Mini! Each first-place winner will receive a \$100 iTunes gift card. Second-place winners will receive a \$50 iTunes gift card, and third-place winners will receive a \$25 iTunes gift card. Each supporting teacher who has a first-place winning student will be awarded a \$100 Amazon gift card.

226 Equity-approved model contract for the engagement of audio describers (attached)

In July 2011, Equity, the trade union for the UK's entertainment industry, effectively recognised audio describers as creative practitioners, thereby entitling describers to membership of the union in their own right, rather than as actors or other theatre professionals with audio description as one of their ancillary skills. Eligible (ie. paid) describers who want to take advantage of the membership benefits that Equity offers,

can find information about joining the union on the Equity website at: www.equity.org.uk and the membership options at www.equity.org.uk/join/step1/

The July 2011 conference motion which presented the case for audio describers, also called on Equity to produce a standard agreement or guidelines for the engagement of audio describers for use by venues and describers as a model for their own contracts should they wish.

The resulting contract was designed by ADA and Equity staff working in close collaboration, and later approved by Equity's Stage Committee for ADA to promote. It should be emphasised that this document is purely a template, which venues and describers can adopt or adapt to suit local circumstances if required.

A PDF version of the Equity-approved contract is being sent with this bulleting as a separate attachment; a Word version is available on from: office@audiodescription.co.uk

227 Report on recorded AD at New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich (attached)

This is not the first time an item reporting the use of recorded AD for live theatre performances has appeared in *Note Pad*. In February 2014 we reproduced a letter from the *New York Times* about Sound Associates' D-Scriptive system delivering automated audio description to Broadway theatregoers; and two years later we featured New Wolsey Theatre's experiment with recorded audio description written by describer Jonathan Lodge and voiced by the actors, for an in house production of *The Last Five Years*, a modern American musical for two performers.

The experiment's success inspired the Ipswich venue to tackle the far greater challenge of *Sinbad*, its rock 'n' roll pantomime, last December. The audio description was written and recorded by describers Ruth James and Alison Clarke who, with New Wolsey's Head of Production David Phillips, opened ADA's recent seminar on recorded AD with an absorbing account of how the description was prepared and delivered. Catering for the unpredictability of panto was a major consideration.

In the handout accompanying their presentation Jamie Beddard, Agent for Change at New Wolsey, reports on the *Sinbad* experience. (The report is also available on the Agents for Change website with a companion article.) A PDF of the handout is being sent as a separate attachment, with apologies for the non-availability of a Word version.

Related websites:

www.wolseytheatre.co.uk

www.soundassociates.com

www.rampsonthemoon.co.uk

www.anagentforchange.co.uk

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