

# Audio Description Association

## note pad

Items 228 – 235

December 2017

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### 228 ADA Workshop, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, Tuesday 27 March 2018

ADA's first workshop of 2018 will focus on the role of technology in delivering live audio description. Further details will follow in next month's *Note Pad*.

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### 229 Christmas offers



Print copies and CD recordings of *Growing Audiences for Audio Description*, the report of ADA's Conference held at Birmingham Hippodrome in March 2016, are available free of charge while stocks last. To request copies, email Stef Bell at: [sv\\_bell@love.co.uk](mailto:sv_bell@love.co.uk)

Also available free of charge, ONE PRINT COPY of *Purveyors of Happiness*, the report of the First National Audio Description Conference held at Nottingham Playhouse in March 1997. Contact [office@audiodescription.co.uk](mailto:office@audiodescription.co.uk) to request the print copy, or to have the report emailed to you. It can also be downloaded from: [www.audiodescription.co.uk](http://www.audiodescription.co.uk)

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### 230 Mind's Eye celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday

The Octagon Theatre in Bolton pioneered audio description and touch tours for visually impaired patrons in the North of England almost 30 years ago. It was the second British theatre to offer audio description, after Windsor Theatre Royal's debut in 1988.

The service was introduced by Anne Hornsby, then Head of Marketing at the Octagon, with the collaboration of Phil Clarke, then Chief Electrician, and blind theatregoer, Sheila Birkett, whose enquiry about AD sparked the Octagon initiative.



Anne went on to launch Mind's Eye Description Service in 1992, offering audio description on a national scale. Over the intervening 25 years, she has audio described more than 1000 events – plays, musicals, operas, ballets, burlesque, zoo animals, exhibitions, museum objects and films - to thousands of blind and partially sighted people in over 50 events throughout the UK. Her small, but equally dedicated, team of fellow describers have provided the same access for visually impaired people to many more events.

In 2015, Anne received the Audio Description Project of the American Council of the Blind's International Award for Achievement in Audio Description, in recognition of her services.

Liverpool Everyman's news item about the birthday celebration for Mind's Eye at Bolton Octagon on 1 December, ends: "Anne is a joy to work with, and to celebrate this significant milestone, we've dedicated a seat to her in the Everyman auditorium. Here's to the next 25 years!"

And so say all of us!

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### 231 VocalEyes seeks audio description users and ambassadors

Invitation from VocalEyes, the UK's largest audio description agency:

We're seeking people to get more involved and help VocalEyes develop

- User Panel

Would you like to have the opportunity to share your thoughts and join a discussion in an open forum on anything to do with audio description of the arts as well as helping to shape the future of VocalEyes?

We are setting up a User Panel, meeting 3 times a year in Central London, to enable us to gain a better understanding of what blind and partially sighted people want and expect from audio-described theatre performances, audio-described events at museums, galleries and heritage sites and any other aspects of access to the arts.

For further details and to express an interest in joining our User Panel, visit our website at: [www.vocaleyeyes.co.uk](http://www.vocaleyeyes.co.uk)

- Ambassador Scheme

Do you live in Nottingham, Bath or Bristol? Would you like to be a VocalEyes ambassador?

We are embarking on a year-long pilot ambassador scheme in the Nottingham/East Midlands and Bath/Bristol areas and are looking for two volunteers in each area.

If you are passionate about audio description for blind and partially sighted people at theatres and museums and have 2 to 3 days a month free to help us form greater links between local arts venues and the local blind/partially sighted community, please visit our website at: [www.vocaleyeyes.co.uk](http://www.vocaleyeyes.co.uk) for further information about the Ambassador Scheme and next steps.

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### 232 Disability Arts Online features integrated audio description

**Audio description: an art form in its own right** is the title of an article by blind theatre-maker and performer Mandy Redvers-Rowe, which was posted on the Opinion pages of **Disability Arts Online** on 11 November 2017.

The article discusses various approaches to integrating audio description into stage and screen events, with the aim of giving visually impaired audiences greater independence in interpreting the performance than traditional audio description, where the information received is pre-selected by the describer. To read more, visit **Disability Arts Online** at: [www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk](http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk)

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### 233 Georgie Morrell and A Poke in the Eye on tour



After two successful Fringe runs, and a London transfer to the Soho Theatre in between, comedian Georgie Morrell, who is partially-sighted, brings her debut show **A Poke in the Eye** to Nottingham's Theatre Royal on 5 March 2018. Part of the theatre's Third Stage programme of events, it takes place in the informal surroundings of the Dress Circle foyer and bar.

Georgie's show is a unique account of what it is like to face inevitable blindness, told with her own brand of humour. Check for other tour venues and dates on Georgie Morrell's website at: [www.georgiemorrell.co.uk](http://www.georgiemorrell.co.uk)

## 234 CASTLE Project offers free workshops for describers

The CASTLE Project, entitled **New Employability and Business Creation in the Audio Description and Subtitling Sector**, is co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme and involves six partners from five European countries, including the University of Wolverhampton which hosted the project's kick-off meeting last month.

Focusing on business start-up support for audio describers and captioners, the project offers two free training workshops, one in April 2018 in Slovenia and one in April 2019 in Poland. Five places are available for UK audio describers and captioners, with travel, accommodation and subsistence costs covered by the project. The organisers are looking ideally for people new to the field or aiming to grow their businesses beyond a basic level.

For further information, please contact Alison Carminke, Academic Enterprise Manager, University of Wolverhampton, at: [alison.carminke@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:alison.carminke@wlv.ac.uk)

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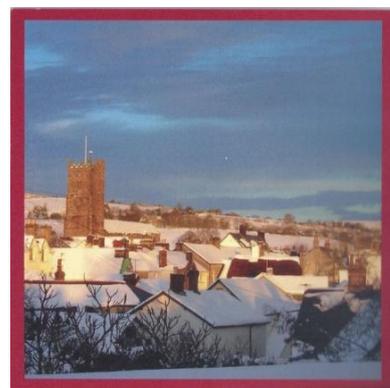
## 235 Christmas Post



This year's Christmas card from Sightlines is doubled-sided, with a close up of a robin's red plumage and inquisitorial eye, backed by a view of winter sun on the snow-covered rooftops and church tower of Moretonhampstead with a distant glimpse of Dartmoor beneath a brilliant blue sky.

The card comes with season's greetings from the Sightlines team: Jonathan Nash, photographer Margaret Spittles, and Julia Grundy. For more about the services Sightlines provides, visit their website at:

[www.sightlines-audio-description.com](http://www.sightlines-audio-description.com)



**Note Pad's** latest Christmas card has a Scottish connection. Hand drawn on white card and delicately coloured by describer Ellie Packer, it features a couple of sprigs of winter greenery picked near the Falls of Clyde on New Year's Eve three years ago. Their stems

are tied at the base with a gold ribbon that matches the single gold star in the top left corner of the card.



The evergreen yew and fern bring with them the traditional Christmas message of peace and goodwill, together with ADA's hope that for everyone involved in audio description, 2018 will be an inspiring and productive year.

This year's card from Mind's Eye invites us to **Spot the Elf**, with a photo of Anne Hornsby, wearing a big smile, a pointy red hat and shiny scarf over her theatre blacks, posed in front of a towering Christmas tree festooned with colourful baubles and twinkling fairy lights. The tall plate glass window behind it places her in a civic building or store.

Anne's message wishes us **Happy Christmas from all at Mind's Eye and a Wonder-Filled New Year.**



To discover what an Elf does when Christmas is over, visit the Mind's Eye website at:

[www.mindseyedescription.co.uk](http://www.mindseyedescription.co.uk)

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- **comment on items**
- **unsubscribe**
- **receive Note Pad in Word**
  
- **become a member of ADA**
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