

**** HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE! -----**

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**** 1) THIS IS THE SOLSTICE...**

“This is the solstice, the still point of the sun, its cusp and midnight, the year’s threshold and unlocking, where the past lets go of and becomes the future; the place of caught breath, the door of a vanished house left ajar.” – Margaret Atwood

Friends, we’ve arrived at the winter solstice! On this day:

Thursday, December 21, 2023, the sun is at its lowest point in the sky, resulting in the shortest day and the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In Vancouver, Canada, the winter solstice sunset will take place at 4:16 pm Pacific Time. Cultures the world over have long centered many of their holiest days and

celebrations around the solstices and equinoxes, for good reason. A great time to reflect, rest and reconnect.

As we head into the winter season, we wanted to share a few fun things from around the web, including some holiday-inspired recipes and YouTube vids, to past Almost Live episodes, to a special 'tropical treat'. Most of all, we want to send a twinkling thanks to you, our amazing community, for joining us online and in-person this year; to the incredible artists we have shared conversations with and whose performances we have described; to our amazing team of Describers; to our theatre partners, volunteers, donors, and funders. Thank you.

Stay with us and stay tuned for an exciting 2024, filled with accessible arts adventures live in the theatre and online in the virtual space!

** 2) STOCKING STUFFERS

- **Tippi + Stan** One of our fave stocking stuffers: Tippi and Stan, the series featuring the remarkable friendship between a cat (Tippi) and a pigeon (Stan). [Tippi and Stan](#), parts 1 to 4 have been published in book form with illustrations by Dorothy

Dittrich, Governor General's Award-winning playwright, composer and storyteller. [Audiobooks now available!](#)

- **On Constance** Award-winning audiobook written and narrated by Karin Konoval, published by Posthypnotic Press, [available here.](#)
- [Coconut fudge](#): a quick, three-ingredient tropical fudge recipe.
- Easy gift or fun craft! Make your own simmering holiday potpourri, [with this simple recipe.](#)
- **Braille Christmas Crafts and Treats** A few Braille-themed activities to try out, from [BrailleWorks.](#)
- **Homemade Irish Cream** It's a yearly tradition to include this super yummy and easy recipe! Download the Word doc or visit [Smitten Kitchen](#)

** 3) YOUTUBE + PODCAST ROUNDUP

- [Bright Nights](#) in Stanley Park. Take a virtual ride through stunning displays of Christmas lights in Vancouver's Stanley Park, with Audio Description by Ingrid Turk for VocalEye. Bright Nights is an annual fundraiser for the [Vancouver Firefighter's Burn Fund.](#)

- [Musica intima Highlights](#) from the December 8 performance of 'In Winter's House', featuring music by Saunder Choi, Juhi Bansal, Joni Mitchell, and Dr. Seuss.
- [Talk Description to Me: The Grinch!](#) A fun and festive episode hosted by our Toronto pals Christine Malec and JJ Hunt
- Audio Stories about Orangutans: [A four-part storytelling series](#) curated by Karin Konoval
- [Unreserved: A Light in the Darkness](#) A podcast episode exploring First Nations Solstice ceremonies and stories that lead to light out of the dark days of winter.

** 4) TROPICAL TREAT

As a small offering from her recent adventure to Costa Rica, Communications/ Marketing Coordinator, Lindsey Adams is excited to share three short soundscapes from her travels. Enjoy!

- 1) [Jungle Birds in the Morning, Uvita](#)
- 2) [Dominical, Costa Rica Sunset Waves](#)
- 3) [Squirrel Monkeys at Dawn](#)

** 5) ICYMI (IN CASE YOU MISSED IT)

You can find (almost) all of VocalEye's Almost Live Zoom programming uploaded to our [YouTube channel](#), so you can check out previous episodes you've missed or rewatch your faves! Here are the top-viewed Almost Live events this year:

[Episode 103 - Accessing Art and Architecture](#)

[Episode 108 - Your Eyes, My Vision](#)

[Episode 110 – On Constance](#)

[Episode 115 – The Dark is Rising](#)

[Episode 121 – My Mother's Story](#)

And if you missed it, check out the final, most festive Almost Live event of the year: [Another Holiday Surprise!](#) with host Amy Amantea and our pals Christine Malec and JJ Hunt.

** 6) VOCALEYE UPCOMING

ONLINE ZOOM EVENTS

- VocalEye's weekly [Almost Live Zoom](#) events will resume on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 with a very special PuSh Festival Preview + Highlights with special guests.
- Join VocalEye for our first Pro D workshop of the new year, [Creative Access: Imagination Storybooks](#), Friday, January 26, 2024 with special guest Richard Rieman.

IN-PERSON

- [Lorenzo at the PuSh Festival](#) A comedic and heartfelt ode to elder care. Described on Friday January 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Annex.
- [Beneath Springhill: the Maurice Ruddick Story](#) A heroic Canadian story told through song. Described on **Saturday January 20, 2024 at 4 pm** at the Surrey Arts Centre.
- For schedule updates, visit the [VocalEye website](#).

We hope your holidays are filled with comfort, joy and sweet treats!

Special thanks to the generous funders, donors and supporters who help us make the arts more accessible for people who are blind and partially sighted.

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Canadian residents who would like a tax receipt can donate once, or join our small but mighty **Make it Monthly Team**, through [Canada Helps](#). Thank you 🙏

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We occupy the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

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