

## \*\* VOCALEYE COMMUNITY NEWS | JANUARY 2024

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### \*\* 1) NEW YEAR, NEW ACT!

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Happy 2024, Friends! We hope everyone feels ready to enjoy a new year, with new (and old friends), and a whole new lineup of live, accessible events!

But before the curtain rises on this new act, let us take a bow to everyone that made 2023 a fantastic year! Last year was VocalEye's first full-scale hybrid season; we described 41 live theatre performances, hosted 8 Touch Tours, 14 Notable Socials, 6 workshops, and one public art tour. And that was just the in-person events!

To our dear community, thank you for joining us in the theatre (kudos & thanks to Kristy and Shawn for attending the most live performances last year!), to our amazing Describers, theatre

partners, and to our volunteers, funders, and donors - THANK YOU for the work you do and for supporting VocalEye! A special shoutout to the artists, creators, playwrights, and performers involved in the creation of live theatre.

Here's to another year of theatrical marvels and collective encores!

Reminders:

- Theatre Buddy sighted guides are available to assist from meet up locations close to transit. Please reserve 3 days in advance by contacting [buddies@vocaley.ca](mailto:buddies@vocaley.ca)
- Ticket Access rebates are available for those in financial need. Please contact [donna@vocaley.ca](mailto:donna@vocaley.ca) before purchasing your tickets.
- For schedule updates, visit the [VocalEye website](#)

\*\* 2) VOCALEYE IN-PERSON

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\*\* 3) LORENZO

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A comedic and heartfelt ode to elder care.

This PuSh Festival production will be described on Friday, January 19 at 7:30 pm at the Annex, 823 Seymour Street, Vancouver with a 50% ticket discount for VocalEye users.

Purchase online (using promo code VOCALEYE), or call 604-449-6000.

In 2020, Ben Target gave up his comedy career to look after his irascible octogenarian uncle, Lorenzo, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this autobiographical hour, he shares acute insights into caregiving, interweaving melancholy and hilarity. Through his deeply personal tale we reflect on common preoccupations: what we leave behind in death, who and what shape the way we are remembered, and how to face disappointing ourselves when we are painfully human.

Pre-show Bonus!!

There will be a pre-show Touch Tour for VocalEye patrons at 6 pm, with light refreshments provided. Please confirm your attendance for the Touch Tour when booking your tickets and Theatre Buddy.

Described by Cas Wanden.

Find out what else is hot and accessible at this year's **Accessible PuSh Preview Almost Live Zoom** on January 17 with host Amy Amantea and Accessibility Coordinator Andrea Cownden.

## PuSH Festival 2024 Accessibility Info

### \*\* 4) BENEATH SPRINGHILL: THE STORY OF MAURICE RUDDICK

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A heroic Canadian story told through song.

Described on Saturday, January 20 at 4 pm at the Surrey Arts Centre, 13750 88 Avenue, Surrey. Ticket prices start at \$29.

Please call the Surrey Arts Centre office to purchase at 604-501-5566, and be sure to mention VocalEye.

Trapped. 4,000 feet underground. With no food, little air, and even less hope of survival. Remarkably and against all odds, the indomitable spirit and song of coal miner Maurice Ruddick served as a lifeline for his fellow miners over nine unimaginable days.

This is the inspiring true story of the African-Canadian “singing miner” that emerged from the 1958 Springhill, Nova Scotia, mining disaster. Journey with this award-winning one-person show that recalls the tense historic events and celebrates hope, courage, and community.

Described by Anika Vervecken.

### \*\* 5) VOCAL EYE SIGHTED GUIDE TRAINING

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## Waiting List Only!

VocalEye offers Sighted Guide Basic Training several times a year, free of charge. Our next workshop is already full! Email us at [info@vocaleyeye.ca](mailto:info@vocaleyeye.ca) to be placed on the waiting list, or [register now](#) for a workshop in April or May.

DATES: Saturday, January 20 from 1 pm to 5:30 pm (waiting list only)

Saturday, April 6 from 1 pm to 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 26 from 2 pm to 6:30 pm

LOCATION: BMO Theatre Centre, 132 West 1st Ave, Vancouver

Learn how to effectively and confidently assist a person who is blind or partially sighted in everyday situations. The training will include an introduction to Disability Justice principles, effective communication, guide dog etiquette, practical techniques and every day scenarios.

Topics include: language, disability history and etiquette, assumptions and bias, respectful and dignified ways of facilitating conversation, guide dogs and service dogs, and the history of the white cane. [More info on our website.](#)

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Java January! [Buy Me a Coffee](#) is a great way to let us know you care about our java levels and perfect for smaller donations that don't need a tax receipt.

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

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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.

Canada Council for the Arts  
Province of British Columbia - Gaming  
British Columbia Arts Council  
City of Vancouver Cultural Services

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[info@vocaleye.ca](mailto:info@vocaleye.ca)

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

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