

## \*\* VOCALEYE ONLINE ZOOM BULLETIN | JANUARY 2024

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## \*\* 1) A NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN!

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Happy 2024, Friends, we've missed you! We're thrilled to welcome you into the new year and back to the virtual space for a new lineup of Almost Live "Cultural Connections" - your weekly dose of awesome events and community conversation!

We've lined up a bunch of cool events for you this month, and whether you're a returning friend or a newcomer to the VocalEye

community, get ready for an accessible ride through art, music, theatre, and more!

## \*\* 2) ALMOST LIVE ZOOM

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Almost Live events are designed to be accessible for people who are blind and partially sighted. If you've never attended a VocalEye Almost Live Zoom event before, you can register for a single event or sign up for the full season. A Zoom link and reminder will be sent to you on the day of the event. Everyone is welcome!

[Register here](#) or call 604-364-5949

[Time Zone Converter](#)

The VocalEye virtual lobby opens at 6:30 pm Pacific Time for socializing and community updates with host Amy Amantea. The pre-show introduction begins at 6:45 pm with Amy and guests. The featured presentation begins at 7 pm, followed by Q and A and community conversation.

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👉 For schedule updates, visit the [VocalEye website](#)

👉 Catch up on past events on [VocalEye's YouTube Channel](#)

**\*\* 3) ACCESSIBLE PUSH PREVIEW 2024**

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**Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time**

**[Almost Live Episode #140](#)**

Find out what's exciting and accessible at this year's annual [PuSh Festival](#)! One of Vancouver's signature events, produced over three weeks each January, the PuSh Festival presents groundbreaking works in the live performing arts: Theatre, Dance, Multimedia, Music, and Circus. Amy will be joined by Accessible PuSh Coordinator, Andrea Cownden and special guests.

Presented in partnership with the PuSh Festival.

**\*\* 4) EAST VAN PANTO: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

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**Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time**

**[Almost Live Episode #141](#)**

Get ready for a hilarious adventure through the neighbourhoods of East Van! Featuring unforgettable characters, pop song parodies, stunning sets, silly costumes, and fantastic performances by some of Vancouver's best actors, Theatre

Replacement's East Van Panto is an enchanting experience for audiences of all ages! Join us for the filmed version of the live theatre performance, presented with audio description by Eileen Barrett.

"This is the kind of show that would be worth seeing more than once." -Colin Thomas

"Only in East Van could such creative insanity take place." -Janet Smith, Stir Magazine

"This East Van Panto is a beauty" -Jerry Wasserman, Vancouver Sun

Presented in partnership with [Theatre/Replacement](#) and [The Cultch](#).

\*\* 5) ITHACA MURAL CROWDER HIGHLIGHTS

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**Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time**

**[Almost Live Episode #142](#)**

Last summer, VocalEye partnered with [Ithaca Murals](#) on our first satellite [CrowdSource Description Project](#) in Ithaca, New York.

The online phase of this project included 12 murals that we asked volunteers to describe for people who are blind and partially

sighted. An in-person descriptive tour was also created and hosted in Ithaca last October.

Join us for highlights from this project with special guest Caleb Thomas from Ithaca Murals and project assistants Lucy Jiang, Jiten Beairsto and Lindsey Adams.

Presented in partnership with [Ithaca Murals](#).

\*\* 6) VOCALEYE DESCRIBER CAFE

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Join us for the first Café of the new year! VocalEye's Describer Café is a forum for professional audio describers, students, AD users, access providers, artists, performers, and anyone interested in the art of audio description and arts access. Join the conversation! **Describer Cafés are held on the last Friday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm Pacific Time.**

TOPIC: Creative Access: Imagination Storybooks

Friday, January 26 at 11 am Pacific Time

Online via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Children's books usually have wonderful illustrations that accompany the text. The tradition of reading these books aloud makes the text accessible to children who are blind or partially sighted, but what about the illustrations? This month's guest, author Richard Rieman, will share his journey and approaches to making illustrated children's books accessible to all children.

## \*\* 7) COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

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### ONLINE

- \* Contemporary Improv Dance: An inclusive movement class from All Bodies Dance Project. Connect with the joy of movement, self-discovery, and imagination, all from the comfort of your home. Explore and improvise through action prompts, phrases, shapes, and activities that celebrate the diversity of inclusive community dance. No experience is required; everyone is welcome. Move as much or as little as you would like. Facilitated by Janice Laurence, a disabled dance artist, educator, and movement ambassador. Takes place on Fridays, via Zoom, at noon Pacific Time. [Register here](#)
- \* Podcast Spotlight: The New Yorker Radio Hour - Poet John Lee Clark Translates the DeafBlind Experience to the Page. This

episode features a conversation between DeafBlind poet John Lee Clark and author Andrew Leland, learn about Clark's new collection "How to Communicate," which includes original works and translations from American Sign Language and Protactile. It's funny and surprising, mapping the contours of a regular life marked by common pleasures and frustrations. [Listen here](#)

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Java January! [Buy Me a Coffee](#) is 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](#). Thank you 🙏

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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.

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



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