

** VOCALEYE ONLINE ZOOM BULLETIN | MARCH 2024

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** 1) SPRING LINED UP

Cherry blossoms, here we come! Not sure if anyone has a favourite month, but March has to be up there for me. It's a month of excitement and transition, and our Almost Live lineup is no different! Read on for all the details + two great Community Highlights to check out online.

First, here are two award-winning Haiku's (a type of Japanese poetry) from last year's [Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival](#).

abandoned farmhouse

scent of blossoms

in the mist

Allison Douglas-Turner

Victoria, British Columbia (Winner of the Sakura Award British Columbia 2023)

first blossoms

a bit of Bach

from a busker's guitar

Leroy Gorman

Napanee, Ontario (Canada Top Winner 2023)

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 conversation, Q and A and a community prize draw.

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

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

** 2) DRAWING ON OUR HISTORY

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time

[Almost Live Episode #146](#)

[Carleton University Art Gallery](#) educator Fiona Wright presents descriptive highlights from Drawing on Our History, a wide-ranging exhibition that celebrates and showcases drawings by historical and contemporary Canadian artists. This exhibition marked the thirtieth anniversary of the gallery and included a dynamic public program curated by Fiona Wright, such as a virtual walk-through of the exhibit, audio tour, and in-person walk-through, with artists and curators.

**** 3) STORYTELLING SHOWCASE WITH ROBERT KINGETT**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time

[Almost Live Episode #147](#)

Robert Kingett identifies as a blind, gay, disabled author of fiction and non-fiction. We're thrilled to welcome Robert back to the Almost Live space to share a sampling of his own short stories from a variety of genres including romance, sci-fi and fantasy.

**** 4) VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST LITERARY CABARET 203**

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time

[Almost Live Episode #148](#)

It's a formula that never fails: combine six acclaimed and award-winning authors with one band and a table of friends for a night of exceptional art and delight!

We're thrilled to present the recording of this live event from the 2023 Festival with returning special guest Sarah Wang, Programming Coordinator for the VWF.

Presented in partnership with [Vancouver Writers Festival](#)

NOTE: This event will not be recorded for copyright reasons.

** 5) MOUNT PLEASANT MURAL TOUR

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:30 pm Pacific Time

[Almost Live Episode #149](#)

Join us for highlights from last summer's descriptive tour of Vancouver Mural Fest murals in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood, with tour guides Alasdair (Ali) Butcher from Vancouver DeTours and describer Eileen Barrett from VocalEye.

Presented in partnership with [Vancouver DeTours](#) and the [Vancouver Mural Festival](#).

** 6) VOCALEYE DESCRIBER CAFE

VocalEye's Describer Cafe 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. **Describer Cafes are held on the last Friday of**

the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm Pacific Time. Join the conversation!

TOPIC: Describing the Body, with Roz Chalmers

Friday, March 22 at 11 am Pacific Time

Online via Zoom

[Register here](#)

What do people “look like”? What exactly are we describing when we describe someone’s appearance? How do context, clothing, age, race, ability, size and gender inform our description of characters, other people and ourselves? This conversation explores current approaches to describing physical appearance.

Roz Chalmers has been an audio describer and captioner at the [National Theatre](#) since 2000 and shortly after began to work for VocalEyes and Stagertext, organisations that increase access and inclusion to UK arts and heritage. Roz also works independently at the Old Vic Theatre and other venues and recently won an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in King Charles III’s Birthday Honours list, in recognition for services to the arts and to people with sensory disabilities.

Describer Cafe Recordings Now Available!

Get lifetime access to VocalEye's library of Describer Café recordings! A one-time purchase of a Pro D Account gives lifetime access to all cafe recordings, plus discounts on future workshops and access to professional support materials. [Learn more](#)

** 7) COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE

- * MapMission Virtual KickOff | An app and a movement to map accessibility across Canada. On March 24, 2024, communities across Canada will come together for a common goal: to make our neighbourhoods more accessible and inclusive. With the power of the [AccessNow app](#), you can be a part of this movement. A virtual kick-off event will set the stage for an exciting day of mapping accessibility across Canada. Get ready to connect with fellow participants, hear from guest speakers, and learn how you can make a difference from the comfort of your own space. Virtual MapMission Kick Off takes place **Thursday, March 21 from 9 to 10 am Pacific Time**. Event Zoom link will be sent to your email. [Register here](#)

* Podcast Spotlight: 2024 Oscars Audio Description Roundtable from [The Dark Room Podcast](#), hosted by two legally blind cinephiles who discuss their love of movies and their unique way of navigating the entertainment landscape. In their most recent episode, Alex and Lee present a panel presentation, featuring audio description writers and narrators who worked on 7 of the 10 Oscar-nominated Best Picture films, including 'Barbie', 'Oppenheimer' and 'Poor Things'. [Listen here](#) (You can also listen to this episode and others wherever you get your podcasts!)

[Donate To VocalEye](#)

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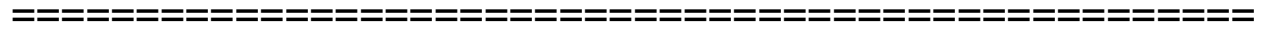
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We occupy the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.



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