

** VOCALEYE COMMUNITY NEWS | APRIL 2024

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** 1) APRIL MARKS AD AWARENESS DAY

We have a really exciting lineup of live theatre events coming up in April, plus a few Community events not to be missed! (You'll have a chance to catch Amy as a panel speaker, plus two more opportunities to say hello and support VocalEye!).

Another meaningful date to mark on your calendar is: **April 16, Audio Description Awareness Day!** This day celebrates and advocates for quality and excellence of audio description and for

access to AD in all its forms, whether it be for film, video games, Netflix, and of course, live in the theatre!

Just by attending a VocalEye Live Described Performance, you are advocating for audio description, so thank you for being part of this wonderful community! Love this quote below from our colleague and friend Susannah - we couldn't have said it better!

"I enjoy practicing my work as an audio describer, and I love the VocalEye community. Audio description is for everyone!"

- Susannah, Audio Describer, Singer, Actress and VocalEye Crowder participant

Reminders:

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

** 2) VOCALEYE IN-PERSON

** 3) RED VELVET

The riveting true story of a theatre pioneer

Described twice: Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm AND Friday April 19 at 8 pm at the Arts Club Stanley, 2750 Granville Street, Vancouver. The Arts Club offers special ticket prices for VocalEye users: Zone A+, A or B seats \$49; Zone C seats \$29. Please call the Arts Club Box office to purchase, [604-687-1644](tel:604-687-1644), and be sure to mention VocalEye, or [purchase tickets online](#).

It's 1833, and at London's Theatre Royal, Ira Aldridge is making history by becoming the first Black actor to tread the boards as Shakespeare's Othello. As the public and parliament debate the abolition of slavery, how will audiences react to the revolution already taking place on the stage? Be transported to the tempestuous Covent Garden rehearsal hall in this thought-provoking and captivating play within a play about the little-known but true story of the groundbreaking performer.

Described by Stacie Steadman.

[Accessibility at the Arts Club](#)

** 4) BASKERVILLE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY

A murderously funny adventure!

Described on Saturday April 20 at 7:30 pm at at the Gateway Theatre, 6500 Gilbert Rd, Richmond. The Gateway offers a 50% ticket discount to VocalEye users. [Purchase your tickets](#) online or call the Gateway Box Office at 604-270-1812.

Who killed Sir Charles Baskerville? Could the legend of a monstrous supernatural hound be true? Can the case be solved before the family curse dooms its newest heir?

From the award-winning mastermind of mayhem Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor*), comes a fast-paced, pulse-pounding comedy like no other. Equal parts adventure and comedy, *Baskerville* finds Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson attempting to crack their most notorious case.

In this madcap retelling of the ultimate Victorian whodunit, a nimble cast of five takes on nearly forty characters, darting on and off stage almost as quickly as the twists and turns of this delightfully complex plot. As Holmes and Watson race against

time to solve the baffling mystery, you'll find yourself on the edge of your seat, guessing at every twist and turn.

Described by Anika Vervecken.

[Accessibility at the Gateway.](#)

** 5) YOU USED TO CALL ME MARIE

An epic Métis love story

Described on Sunday April 28 at 2 pm at The York, 639 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. The Cultch offers a 50% ticket discount to VocalEye users. Please call 604-251-1363 to purchase and be sure to mention VocalEye.

We follow Iskwewo, Napew, and Mistatim through eight intertwined stories of love, loss, and the fight of the Métis people as the Métis nations emerge across the plains amidst the fur trade's robust colonization. As we experience the love stories shared by the Callihoos, through the political uprisings of the 1930s and into the present day, we witness their struggle to protect their people and celebrate their resilient sovereignty as Métis women.

Experience the premiere of this new work by Jessie Award-winning playwright, Tai Amy Grauman, inspired by the stories of Métis women in her family (the Callihoos). Produced by [Savage Society](#), the company that brought you Little Red Warrior and His Lawyer.

Described by Eileen Barrett, with the assistance of Artist in Residence and Cultural Consultant, Deanna Gestrin.

[Accessibility at The York.](#)

** 6) [VOCAL EYE SIGHTED GUIDE TRAINING](#)

VocalEye offers Sighted Guide Basic Training several times a year, free of charge. Our last workshop filled up quickly, so be sure to register early!

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

**LOCATION: BMO Theatre Centre, 162 West 1st Avenue,
Vancouver**

[Register Now!](#)

For assistance with registration, email info@vocaleye.ca or call 604-364-5949.

Shoutout to our partners at the Arts Club for providing the space!

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.](#)

Interested in becoming a Theatre Buddy? [Learn more](#)

** 7) COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

IN PERSON

- **Accessible Community Forum: Arts and Culture in BC** will address important topics such as improving accessibility within arts venues, fostering representation of artists with disabilities, and different opportunities to create accessibility in the community. The panel of four speakers includes **Amy Amantea** and the event is hosted by James Sanders, Founding Artistic Director of Realwheels. Presented by the Disability Foundation,

the forum takes place at Creekside Community Recreation Centre (1 Athletes Way Vancouver) on **Thursday, April 4 from 1 to 3 pm PT**. This event is free, but registration is required.

[Register here](#)

- **Accessible Art Exhibition | Through My Eyes: An Artist's Re-Creation** This in-person exhibition showcases a new collection of paintings by Maureen Coles, a visual artist with vision loss. This exhibition will be completely accessible, with audio descriptions, oralfactory elements, and portion of the works will be completely touchable. Guests with vision of all types are invited to feel their way through the pieces and immerse themselves completely in the art.

Attend the Opening Reception on **Saturday, April 6 from 5 to 9 pm**. Admission to this event is free, but you must register in advance as space is limited. [Register here](#)

The gallery will be open to the public for a relaxed viewing and Meet and Greet with the artist on **Sunday, April 7, between 1 and 5 pm**. No ticket required! Located at the [Alternatives Gallery and Studio](#) at 1659 Venables Street, in Vancouver.

We are very grateful to announce: you also have the chance to purchase a raffle ticket or make a donation to VocalEye at this event! If you purchase raffle tickets (either [online](#) or in-person)

you could win original artwork by Maureen with ALL proceeds going to VocalEye! Sending our heartfelt thanks for this generosity and opportunity!

- **The Maple Ridge Lions Club Health and Wellness Event**
Connect with community, while shopping and learning about new products and services. This free Lions Club event will feature Hearing, Sight, Mobility and more. Refreshments and light lunch options will be available for sale.

Saturday, April 13 from 11 am to 2 pm

at Ridge Meadows Seniors Activity Center, 12150 224th St.,
Maple Ridge For more info, email

mapleridgelionsclub@shaw.ca

Come say hello! VocalEye will have a table at this event. Stop by and say hello to Amy and Gail and purchase some Blind Beader jewellery!

[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](#).

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

Metro Vancouver

The Hamber Foundation

The Sisters Troubetskoy

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info@vocaleyecanada.ca

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

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