

Access to Performing Arts Resources

The **Access to Theatre** Project supports the mission of VSA arts of Minnesota to promote quality, accessible arts experiences for people with all types of disabilities. It encourages arts organizations to provide performances using American Sign Language (ASL) Theatrical Interpreting (for deaf patrons), Audio Description (for blind or low vision patrons), or Captioning (for hard of hearing patrons), and helps the organizations pay for those services. It publicizes accessible performances to media and interested persons; offers ticket subsidies to enable low-income audience members to use these services; helps maintain audio description equipment; informs and trains organizations to make their programs, facilities and events more accessible; and makes other resources available. VSA arts of Minnesota collaborates with the Guthrie Theater and the Minnesota Association of Community Theatres (MACT) in providing these services, and receives funding for the metro area from United Arts and Medtronic.

Resources include:

- Available by: Mail ___; E-mail Word attachment ___; E-mail text ___; Other _____
- ___ #1 Access to Theatre Project Summary, 2007
 - ___ #2 Access to Theatre one-page Request for Funds and Publicity Form
 - ___ #3 Access to Theatre Calendar of Accessible Performances via e-mail, ask jon@vsaartsmn.org
(Calendar also available on websites: www.vsaartsmn.org or www.mact.net or www.TCDeaf.com;
- Voicemail: VSA arts of Minnesota, Phone: 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883 (voice/tty); or the MACT Hotline, 612-706-1456 or 800-290-2428, box 4; in *Access Press*; and in brochures
- ___ #4 Artists Pipeline related to arts and disabilities e-mailed monthly
 - ___ #5 List of audience members who want to know about (specify) ___ Interpreted or ___ Described performances – available ___ electronically or ___ in label format
 - ___ #6 List of ___ Theatrical Interpreters and/or ___ Audio Describers
 - ___ #7 Guide for Interpreted Performances
 - ___ #8 What Is Audio Description
 - ___ #9 What Is Cued Speech
 - ___ #10 Promoting ASL and AD Shows
 - ___ #11 Sample Contract for ___ASL interpreters or ___Audio Describers,
 - ___ #12 Guidelines for Pricing Tickets and Assigning Seats for Persons with Disabilities,
 - ___ #13 Accessible Theatre Funding Resources
 - ___ #14 Box Office Guidelines
 - ___ #15 Box Office Signs alerting patrons to ASL and AD services
 - ___ #16 Sample Access Plans for arts facilities or organizations or help in creating Access Plans
 - ___ #17 Sample News Releases with points to make about accessibility
 - ___ #18 Survey forms to gather accessibility feedback from ___ theatre organizations, ___ audience members, ___ performance venues, ___ ASL interpreters, ___ Audio Describers
 - ___ #19 Consultation on access issues to involve more individuals with disabilities in the arts

* Audio Description apparatus is available to borrow for free. The Guthrie Theater maintains the reservation system and equipment: a mask/microphone with a transmitter and listener headsets. Reserve the equipment with Hunter Gullickson, Subscription Manager, at 612-225-6243, e-mail: hunterg@guthrietheater.org; pick up at the Guthrie Box Office, 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis.

For more information, contact: VSA arts of Minnesota, Access to Theatre Project, 528 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 305, Minneapolis, MN 55403; Fax 612-305-0132, e-mail: jon@vsaartsmn.org; call 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883 (voice/tty), ext. 2; or go to our website: www.vsaartsmn.org.