



Bringing visual entertainment to the visually impaired

AUDIO DESCRIPTION TRAINING RETREAT—LEVEL 1

Thursday, May 16 through Monday, May 20, 2019

Nebo, North Carolina (on Lake James)

Cost: \$950 all-inclusive (details below)

Instructors: Jan Vulgaropulos and Colleen Connor

Included:

- 20 hours of formal instruction in audio description
- Morning and afternoon class sessions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- 2 hours free time after lunch for excursions or relaxation
- Optional evening viewing of audio described movies, with discussion
- Participation limited to maximum of 8 students
- Transportation from Charlotte, NC airport (CLT) to and from the house
- 4 nights in lake house: private bedroom, shared bath, kitchen privileges
- Sheets, towels and household supplies provided
- All meals provided (3 lunches, 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts)
- Lunches and dinners prepared by staff, breakfasts will be self-prepared

Curriculum:

- History of audio description, issues and future trends
- Disability sensitivity and statistics of our audience members
- Overview of jobs in audio description of live theatre, film, TV and more
- Introduction to equipment used in live audio description in theatre
- Review of complex rules of audio description
- Our top ten tips, highlighting how to organize and approach description
- Emphasis on practice time—this is an art learned by doing!
- Feedback and critique from leaders and fellow participants
- Do-over opportunities allow fine-tuning to improve your description
- Informational handouts, notebooks, pens and highlighters provided

Discounts and Options:

- \$150 per person discount for any students willing to share a room
- \$100 discount for the loft bedroom (lake view, visual privacy but no door)
- A limited number of non-student partners can share room and meals.
Please contact us for surcharge and details.

Transportation Outline:

- We will pick up students Thursday afternoon at CLT airport. Plan to arrive at CLT before 5 PM if using our transport; that will be our last pick-up time.

- On Monday morning we will transport students to the CLT airport, arriving there as early as 9:00 AM. Please plan your departure from CLT accordingly, so you will have time for check-in and security. If you need flight times beyond these parameters, you may want to consider renting a car at CLT so you can arrive and depart at your convenience.

Lake James is nestled in the mountains of western North Carolina, with hiking trails and mountain vistas galore. Our lakefront house has a fire-pit gathering spot, a waterside gazebo, and a sandy beach. Students have free use of kayaks and canoe. Boat tours or hikes are offered during afternoon breaks.

Visit our website ADTrainingRetreats.com.
To get on our mailing list, for questions or an application form,
E-mail Jan and Colleen at:
ADTrainingRetreats@gmail.com

Instructor Bios:

Jan Vulgaropulos has been providing audio description (AD) of theatre and movies in the Raleigh-Durham area for the past 13 years. She also has experience in editing and writing audio description scripts for film, through Serafino Sound Studio. Jan is a graduate of Tufts University, with a BS degree in Mental Health. She lives with her husband Spyro in Cary, North Carolina. Spyro will be the resident chef for our May 2019 retreat. Jan and her business partner, Colleen Connor, created Audio Description Training Retreats, LLC, in order to provide small group immersive training experiences in AD, with an emphasis on generous time for practice and participation.



Colleen Connor is an accessibility consultant, advocate, motivational speaker, performer, and podcaster/blogger. She graduated from The Catholic University of America with a Bachelor's in Music Theatre, and is certified by The London Dramatic Academy in the UK. Being a visually impaired guide dog user, Colleen brings a unique perspective on life to all that she does and provides a valuable 'voice of the consumer' for those training in audio description (AD). Colleen has worked on the AD tours of both The International Spy Museum and The George W. Bush Heritage Library and Museum. Her ongoing work and outreach in the AD field have her reviewing and editing for Serafino Sound Studio's AD, as well as providing voice talent for several companies. Colleen and her Seeing Eye dog, Joplin, raise awareness of disabilities and the arts wherever they go!