AUDIO DESCRIPTION TRAINING RETREAT—LEVEL 2
Thursday March 26 through Monday March 30, 2020
Lake James, NC
Cost: $975 all-inclusive (details below)
Instructors: Jan Vulgaropulos and Colleen Connor

Included:
• 20 hours of formal instruction in Audio Description (AD)
• Participation limited to maximum of 8 students
• Transportation to and from lake house from Charlotte, NC Airport (CLT)
• 4 nights in lake house: private bedroom, shared bath, kitchen privileges
• Sheets, towels and household supplies provided
• All meals provided (4 dinners, 4 breakfasts and 3 lunches)
• Lunches and dinners prepared by staff, breakfasts will be self-prepared
• Shared use of canoe and 3 kayaks (2 single, 1 tandem)
• 2 hours free time in afternoon for excursions or relaxation
• Optional evening viewing of audio described movies

Curriculum:
• Pre-requisite: participants must attend Level 1 prior to attending Level 2
• Review, practice and consolidation of primary skills learned in Level 1
• Each student will present an example of AD for feedback and critique
• Spatial orientation guidance for people with visual impairment
• Instruction and practice in writing extended Audio Description scripts (for TV, cinema, and other media)
• Pre-show description of settings, characters, costumes, props (for TV, cinema, and theatre)
• Theatrical, dance and cinematic vocabulary
• Purchasing and using Audio Description equipment
• Experience of a tactile theatre tour
• Instruction in leading tactile tours of theatres and museums
• Practice creating tactile renderings of art
• Audio Description of art, dance, and museums/exhibitions

Discounts and Options:
• $150 per person discount for anyone sharing a room
• $100 per person discount for anyone sleeping in the loft bedroom
• $100 per person discount for sleeping in the “GO” pop-up camper
• A limited number of non-student partners can share room and meals, for surcharge. Contact us for details.
Transportation Outline:
• We will pick up students Thursday afternoon (3/26/20) at CLT airport. Please plan to arrive at CLT prior to 5 PM if you’d like to use our transport to the house.
• On Monday morning (3/30/20) we will transport students to the CLT airport, arriving at CLT by 9 AM. Please plan your departure from CLT accordingly, so you will have time for check-in and security. Rental cars are available at CLT if you’d like to arrive and depart at your convenience.

Lake James is nestled in the mountains of western North Carolina with hiking trails and mountain vistas nearby. Our lake house has a fire-pit, a waterside gazebo, a canoe, kayaks, and a motorboat for lake tours.

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 of theatre and movies in the Raleigh-Durham area for the past 14 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. 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/vlogger. 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 visually impaired, 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. Colleen edits AD for studios and worked on the AD tours of both the international Spy Museum and The George W. Bush Heritage Library and Museum. She was recently appointed to the Subject Matter Expert Committee of the ACVREP, which is working toward the establishment of official certification for Audio Describers and consultants. Colleen and her Seeing Eye dog, Joplin, raise awareness of disabilities and the arts wherever they go!