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# INDEPENDENCE STARTS HERE!

February/March 2012 Accessible Cultural Events

## Featured Performance

**The Lantern Theater Company** is putting on its first ever open-captioned performance of *Romeo & Juliet* at **St. Stephen's Theater** on March 16th @ 8pm. See below for details.

## Promotions and Discounts

**Wilma Theater** is offering a **\$5 discount** to its open-captioned performance of *Body Awareness* on February 4 @ 2pm. Order tickets [online](#) or call [215-546-7824](tel:215-546-7824).

**Philadelphia Theatre Company** is offering a **\$5 discount** to its audio-description performance of *The Scottsboro Boys* on February 4th @ 2pm and its open-captioned performance on February 11 @ 2pm. Order tickets [online](#) or call [215-985-0420](tel:215-985-0420). Use the code "ARTREACH" when ordering.

**Arden Theatre** is offering a **\$5 discount** to its open-captioned and audio-description performances of *Clyborne Park* on March 2nd @ 8pm and 3rd @ 2pm. Order tickets [online](#) or call [215-922-1122](tel:215-922-1122). Mention "Independence Starts Here" when ordering.

## Accessible Events

### ***Body Awareness***

**Wilma Theater**

**Open Captioning on February 4th @ 2:00pm**

Director Anne Kauffman thrilled Wilma audiences in 2010 with the smash hit *Becky Shaw*, winning a Barrymore for Best Director. She returns to Philadelphia next season to direct another Off-Broadway hit comedy! Welcome to Shirley State College, Vermont where it's Body Awareness Week. In charge of the week's festivities, college professor Phyllis has anything but a conventional life with girlfriend Joyce and her son Jared. But when a visiting artist brings his photographs of nude women into their home, conflicting feelings over sexuality and identity get passionately stirred up. Nominated for the Drama Desk Best New Play award, this hilarious comedy is fresh from Obie-award winning playwright Annie Baker (*Circle Mirror Transformation*, *The Aliens*).

***The Scottsboro Boys***  
**Philadelphia Theatre Company**  
**Audio Description on February 4th @ 2:00pm**  
**Open Captioning on February 11th @ 2:00pm**

"From the legendary songwriting team of Kander and Ebb (Cabaret, Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman), *The Scottsboro Boys* is a stirring musical that explores the infamous 1930's 'Scottsboro Case' in which a group of African-American men are falsely accused of a terrible crime, ultimately provoking a national outrage that sparked the American Civil Rights movement. *Scottsboro Boys* is the definition of inspired American musical theater with a gorgeous and melodic score

***Motherhood the Musical***  
**Society Hill Playhouse**  
**Open Captioning on February 5th @ 2:00pm**

Having a baby is just the beginning...motherhood is for life. In the original play *Motherhood the Musical*®, four women share their insights, challenges and pleasures at a baby shower. In 90 minutes of fun, you'll get a peek into the powerful friendship of Amy, a soon-to-be first-time mom; Brooke, a hard-working lawyer; Barb, a stressed-out mother of five; and Tasha, a single mom seeking to balance work, her family and her divorce.

*Motherhood the Musical* is a funny, yet loving look at being a mom at any age. It's climbing the emotional mountain only to find that there's laundry at the top. It's discovering how powerful your love can be and how quickly they grow up. It's helping them find their way and not losing yours. It's about laughing and crying, craziness and calm, smiles and tears . . . and all before breakfast.

***The Mouse Trap***  
**Walnut Street Theatre**  
**Open Captioning and Audio Description on February 12th @ 7:00pm**  
**ASL on March 4th @ 7:00pm**

Agatha Christie, the mistress of mystery, brings you her most popular creation, *The Mousetrap*. When a group of strangers are trapped together at a manor house during a snowstorm, they soon discover one of them is a murderer! Is it the newlyweds whose rampant suspicions nearly wreck their marriage? Maybe it's the spinster with the curious background. It could be the architect, the retired Army Major or maybe the odd man who claims his car overturned in a snow drift! Walnut Street Theatre will never tell...you would think audiences would know whodunnit by now, but after more than half a century they are still guessing! Currently celebrating it's 59th year in London, *The Mousetrap* will have you gripping the edge of your seat!

***TacTile Tour***  
**Philadelphia's Magic Gardens**  
**February 19th**

TacTile tours lead visitors who are blind or partially sighted through the Magic Gardens' main site, allowing them to touch and explore the fully mosaiced gallery walls and labyrinth sculpture garden with trained PMG interpreters. Tour topics include Isaiah Zagar's mosaic techniques and artistic influences, the materials used in the mosaics, the narratives behind his iconography and images, and the history of South Street and Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. Guests who are blind, partially sighted, and sighted companions are welcomed to experience sculptures and tiles from around the world through this fun and informative new program. Tours are regularly scheduled every third Sunday of the month, but can be scheduled any day of the week. They last approximately an hour and are capped at six people per tour. While most of PMG is accessible, some areas can only be accessed by stairs. *Please contact PMG to reserve your tour by calling [215-733-0390](tel:215-733-0390) or by email to [khealy@philadelphiamagicgardens.org](mailto:khealy@philadelphiamagicgardens.org)*

***Hair***  
**Academy of Music**  
**ASL on February 29th @ 7:30pm**

With a score including such enduring musical numbers as "Let the Sun Shine In," Aquarius," "Hair" and "Good Morning Starshine," HAIR depicts the birth of a cultural movement in the 60's and 70's that changed America forever. The musical follows a group of hopeful, free-spirited young people who advocate a lifestyle of pacifism and free-love in a society riddled with intolerance and brutality during the Vietnam War. As they explore sexual identity, challenge racism, experiment with drugs and burn draft cards, the show resonates with an irresistible message of hope more than 40 years after it first opened on Broadway.

***Clyborne Park***  
**Arden Theatre**  
**Open Captioning and Audio Description on March 2nd @ 8:00pm and March 3rd @ 2:00pm**

Clybourne Park tells the story of a house, a neighborhood and the people who have come and gone over five decades. This daring comedy, leasing characters and property from the 1959 classic A Raisin in the Sun, unearths that gentrification is not just black and white.

***Of Mice And Men***  
**People's Light**  
**ASL, Open Captioning and Audio Description on March 9th @ 8:00pm**

John Steinbeck's heart-wrenching tale of George and Lennie, an unlikely pair of migrant workers, who dream of purchasing a piece of land to farm and call their own. This classic American drama is a story of deep friendships and hard choices, set against the backdrop of Depression era California.

***Romeo & Juliet***  
**Lantern Theater Company at St. Stephen's Theater**  
**Open Captioning on March 16th @ 8:00pm**

*Romeo and Juliet* is beloved all over the world for the tragic romance of its star-crossed lovers. But it is the story, too, of an enduring feud between the Capulet and Montague families—a conflict grown so deadly that it throws an entire city into turmoil. The danger on the streets is palpable: armed enemies from both sides lurk around corners, while the Prince threatens death to anyone who is caught up in the clash. When Romeo and his Juliet rise above the old grudges, their love may heal the deep divisions in Verona...or bring the whole city crashing down. Don't miss this devastating explosion of poetry, sex, and violence, brought to you by "the city's top presenter of Shakespeare's work." (TheaterMania.com)

***Fela!***  
**Academy of Music**  
**ASL on March 21st @ 7:30pm**

Fela!, the most critically acclaimed musical of the season, received three 2010 Tony Awards®: Best Choreography, Best Costume Design for a Musical and Best Sound Design of a Musical! His story inspired a nation. His music inspires the world. FELA! tells the true story of the legendary Nigerian musician Fela Kuti, whose soulful Afrobeat rhythms ignited a generation. Motivated by his mother, a civil rights champion, he defied a corrupt and oppressive military government and devoted his life and music to the struggle for freedom and human dignity. FELA! is a triumphant tale of courage, passion and love, featuring Fela Kuti's captivating music and the visionary direction and choreography of Tony Award® winner Bill T. Jones.

***West Side Story***  
**Academy of Music**  
**ASL on March 28th @ 7:30pm**

More than fifty years ago one musical changed theater forever. Now it's back, and mesmerizing audiences once again. From the first note to the final breath, *West Side Story* soars as the greatest love story of all time. Directed by David Saint, using Tony Award-winning librettist Arthur Laurents' Broadway direction, *West Side Story* remains as powerful, poignant and timely as ever. The new Broadway cast album of *West Side Story* recently won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album. The Bernstein and Sondheim score is considered to be one of Broadway's finest and features such classics of the American musical theatre as 'Something's Coming,' 'Tonight,' 'America,' 'I Feel Pretty' and 'Somewhere.'

***Cyrano***  
**Arden Theatre**  
**Open Captioning and Audio Description on March 30th @ 8:00pm and March 31st @ 2:00pm**

The most legendary nose in literature gets a makeover with this American adaptation of the French classic. Will Roxane fall for Christian's dashing looks or Cyrano's daring poetry? Find out in this play full of wordplay and swordplay that's been an inspiration to writers and lovers for centuries!

## **NEW!**

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### For More Information

*Independence Starts Here* is a joint project of [Art-Reach](#) and [VSA Pennsylvania](#). For more information on these events or to purchase tickets, go to [www.phillyfunguide.com/access.PNC Arts Alive](http://www.phillyfunguide.com/access.PNC Arts Alive) is the sponsor of the *Independence Starts Here* Cultural Calendar. Please forward this email to anyone you know who cares about accessibility in the arts. Thank you!

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