
INDEPENDENCE STARTS HERE!

June 2010 Accessible Cultural Events

Romeo & Juliet

Pennsylvania Ballet

Audio Description on June 4 @ 7:30pm

Pennsylvania Ballet presents an audio-described performance of the ballet version of Shakespeare's tale of star-crossed love. The raw power and depth of John Cranko's choreography and Sergei Prokofiev's score make this work a favorite for many Company dancers. Last performed in 2005, the Philadelphia Inquirer called it a "sumptuous production" that keeps audiences "fully engaged and at times transfixed." Prior to the show, at 6:30 p.m., a sensory tour will be held, allowing audiences who are blind or have low vision to touch set, costume and prop pieces to enhance their appreciation of the performance.

Jigsaw Jones

Walnut Street Theatre

ASL on June 5 @ 1:00pm

Athena Lorenzo has been slimed, and she doesn't think it's very funny. It's a musical mystery who did it! School kid detective Theodore "Jigsaw" Jones and his friend Mila investigate. This could be their stickiest case yet!

I Am My Own Wife

Amaryllis Theatre Company

Audio description on June 5 @ 2:00pm

Open captioning on June 6 @ 2:00pm

Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, born Lothar Berfelde in 1928, survives both Nazi Germany and Communist-occupied East Berlin. During these years, wearing a dress and living publicly as a transvestite, she braves bombs, Nazi soldiers and the Stasi regime to lovingly rescue furniture, clocks, and other remnants of lives abandoned. The relics become the foundation of her Gründerzeit Museum attracting thousands of spectators yearly. Is she a modern-day hero selflessly risking herself for a greater good? Or is the story more complicated? In an attempt to cement a destiny for Charlotte, and for himself, playwright Doug Wright chronicles and challenges the real-life intrigue of Germany's high-profile transvestite. Featuring Philadelphia local Charlie DelMarcelle in 35 roles!

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

Philadelphia Theatre Company

Audio description on June 5 @ 2:00pm

Open captioning on June 12 @ 2:00pm

Set in a 1920s Chicago recording studio where real-life blues legend Ma Rainey and her band have assembled along with Rainey's white agent and producer, *Ma Rainey* explores issues of art, religion, and race, delving deeply into the very architecture of racism. Featuring Barrymore Award-winner E. Faye Butler (PTC's *Dinah Was*), *Ma Rainey* is considered Wilson's first major play and cemented his reputation as one of America's most important playwrights.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Arden Theatre Company

Shadow ASL interpretation on June 10 @ 2:00pm

Who thought that one cookie could lead to so much chaos? Laura Joffe Numeroff's bestselling book comes to life when an innocent boy generously offers a cookie to a demanding little mouse. This singular action triggers a series of escalating requests that result in mayhem – and a lot of fun! Arden Children's Theatre spins this tiny tale into a charming and sophisticated story that stays true to the beloved book and teaches a valuable lesson of cause and effect. Most enjoyed by families with children ages 5 and older.

Leaving

The Wilma Theater

Open captioning on June 19 @ 2:00pm

Václav Havel, renowned playwright and former President of the Czech Republic, crafts his first play in 20 years, and Wilma audiences will be the first to see it in the U.S. *Leaving* is an inventive story of a recently retired Chancellor who struggles with his family and functionaries over questions of truth and power. Allusions from Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and Shakespeare's *King Lear* invade the Chancellor's consciousness in this wry political tragicomedy that *The Sunday Times* (London) called "deeply serious and thrillingly funny."

Avenue Q: The Broadway Musical

Academy of Music

ASL on June 20 @ 6:30pm

Avenue Q is Broadway's smash-hit Tony Award-winner for best musical, best score and best book. A hilarious show full of heart and hummable tunes, *Avenue Q* is about trying to make it in NYC with big dreams and a tiny bank account. Called 'one of the funniest shows you're ever likely to see' by Entertainment Weekly, *Avenue Q* features a cast of people and puppets who tell the story in a smart, risqué and downright entertaining way. Recommended for ages 13 and up.

Late Renoir

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Visual-Description tour on June 21 @ 10:00am

ASL tour on June 22 @ 9:00am

Late Renoir follows the renowned painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir through the final—and most fertile and innovative—decades of his career. At the height of his creative powers and looking toward posterity, Renoir created art that was timeless, enticing, and worthy of comparison to the greatest of the old masters, such as Raphael, Titian and Rubens. He devoted himself to joyful subjects—frolicking bathers, domestic idylls, the drama of classical mythology, and the brilliance of Mediterranean landscape and sea. His fluid brushstrokes and masterful use of color won the admiration of the emerging modernist avant-garde, who considered Renoir one of the greatest living artists. Approximately 80 paintings, drawings and sculptures by Renoir are being displayed alongside 20 works by younger artists—Aristide Maillol, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso among them—to illustrate, illumine and celebrate Renoir's legacy.

Scott Arboretum

Swarthmore College

Tactile tour on June 21 @ 5:00pm

Join Becky Robert and experience the Scott Arboretum with your sense of touch. Tactile tours lead visitors through the gardens by feeling the texture, and taking in the scents of plants growing in the gardens. These tours are geared toward but not limited to, blind or partially sighted individuals. This program is a part of Independence Starts Here! in partnership with Art-Reach. The tour will begin at the Scott Arboretum offices and is free and open to the public. In case of inclement weather, the tour will be canceled.

Sunday in the Park with George

Arden Theatre Company

Open captioning and audio description on June 26 @ 8:00pm and June 27 @ 2:00pm

Sondheim's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical was inspired by Georges Seurat's stunning masterpiece, *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. Brimming with beauty and light, *Sunday in the Park* celebrates the power of creation. Jeffrey Coon (Seurat) and Kristine Fraelich (Dot) star in this passionate production featuring Sondheim's full orchestrations and a commanding ensemble of 15. Hold on to your hat!

For More Information

For more information on these events or to purchase tickets, go to www.phillyfunguide.com/access and click on the event you are interested in. Please forward this email to anyone you know who cares about accessibility in the arts. Thank you!

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