



Audio Description Training Retreats

AUDIO DESCRIPTION TRAINING RETREAT **FUNDAMENTALS—LEVEL 1**

Thursday, July 28 through Sunday July 31, 2022

Virtual via Zoom conference

Cost: \$770 USD all-inclusive

Instructors: Colleen Connor and Liz Gutman

Included:

- 22 hours of formal instruction in Audio Description
- 4 days, 5.5 hours per day, in Zoom conference format
- Educational handouts emailed to students in advance
- Class sessions: 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM (EST)
- 1 hour break from 2:00 to 3:00 PM (EST)
- 5-minute mini-breaks every hour
- Participation limited to maximum of 8 students

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
- Review of complex rules of Audio Description
- Our *Top Ten Tips*, highlighting how to organize and approach description, along with other rules and guidelines
- Emphasis on practice time—this is an art learned by doing!
- Collaboration, feedback and critique from leaders and fellow participants
- Do-over opportunities allow fine-tuning to improve your description
- Recording of practice for review and networking opportunities

To get on our mailing list, for questions or an application form,
e-mail Colleen at:

[**ADTrainingRetreats@gmail.com**](mailto:ADTrainingRetreats@gmail.com)

Instructor Bios:

Liz Gutman is an Audio Description writer and narrator based in Brooklyn. She graduated from NYU Tisch with a major in acting and a minor in creative writing. After college, she co-founded and ran her own food company for 9 years before returning to her roots as a writer and performer. Liz has written award-winning description for over 500 hours of features and series across a broad range of genres and has voiced over 175 hours of Audio Description (AD). She has experience spanning the entire process of AD creation, including script and mix QC, writer training, and directing VO and pickup sessions. Liz is passionate about creating outstanding descriptions that support and enhance the source material, without distracting from it. She's always looking to improve her craft, and to help push the industry forward by consistently incorporating feedback from the AD patron community. Recently, Liz was instrumental in influencing company style guides to include more descriptions of content pertaining to representation, skin color, hair texture, and sensual material via her advocacy with clients.



Colleen Connor is the co-founder of Audio Description Training Retreats and is based in Los Angeles, CA. Colleen earned a Bachelor's in Music Theatre from The Catholic University of America and attended The London Dramatic Academy in the UK. As a blind expert in the Audio Description industry, Colleen provides valuable insight and feedback to those training in Audio Description (AD). Colleen discovered AD during her time at The International Spy Museum, where she utilized her affinity for writing and editing to craft tours. Her ongoing work and outreach in the AD field include performing Quality Control for several studios, teaching the various roles within the scope of description, and cultivating a network of diverse professionals. Colleen is an appointed member of the Subject Matter Expert Committee of the ACVREP, which is working toward the establishment of official certification for Audio Describers and consultants. Guided by her Seeing Eye Dog Joplin, Colleen advocates for equity and equality wherever they go.