



*Bringing visual entertainment to the visually impaired*

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

Thursday, October 28 - 31, 2021

Virtual class via Zoom conference

Cost: \$750 US Dollars

Instructors: Jan Vulgaropulos and Colleen Connor

### **Included:**

- 22 hours of formal instruction in Audio Description
- 4 days; 5.5 hours of class time per day, via Zoom
- Educational handouts emailed to students 1 week in advance
- Class sessions: 12:00 noon to 6:50 PM (EDT)
- 1 hour break from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM (EDT)
- Hourly 5 minute breaks (see attached daily schedule)
- Please note, class times are listed in New York City time (EDT)
- 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 audio 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 description

Visit our website [ADTrainingRetreats.com](http://ADTrainingRetreats.com).

To get on our mailing list, for questions or an application form,

E-mail Jan and Colleen at:

[ADTrainingRetreats@gmail.com](mailto: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 15 years. 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, established Audio Description Training Retreats (ADTR) in 2015. ADTR offers small group immersive training experiences in AD, with an emphasis on generous time for practice and participation. So far, Colleen and Jan have trained students from 11 countries and 5 continents, including students from 32 US states.



**Colleen Connor** is an accessibility consultant, instructor, quality control specialist of Audio Description, and podcaster/vlogger. She earned a Bachelor's in Music Theatre from The Catholic University of America, 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, providing a valuable 'voice of the consumer' for those training in AD. Colleen started her career in AD establishing and editing tours for museums and exhibitions. Soon after, she met Jan and they began co-teaching describers. Her ongoing work and outreach in the AD field currently have her in Los Angeles doing quality control, editing, and consulting for several production companies. In 2018, Colleen was appointed to the Subject Matter Expert Committee of the ACVREP, which is currently 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!