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PRESS RELEASE

Prospector Theater Welcomes Guiding Eyes for the Blind for *Spectre*



(RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT) – One of the last things you may expect to see at a movie theater is a group of blind people waiting to see the newest James Bond installment. Yet, at The Prospector Theater, the visually impaired watching movies are part of the *Spectre* experience. Lance Mathena, a student at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, was eager for the movie to begin. “This is the first time since I lost my vision that I am at a movie theater.”

He and his five peers, all with visual impairments, watched *Spectre* with the Prospector Theater’s assisted-listening headphones. The wireless headphones connect listeners to an audio description of a movie. The description is quick and informative, not to leave out any of the scenery, action, or character’s movements before dialogue, music, and special effects hit the silver screen. Don Gardner could not believe how comfortable the wireless headphones were. “The headphones were wonderful. They were easy to use and felt great. I cannot wait to come back here for more movies.”

Carl Richardson, of the American Council of the Blind, described his love for audio description.

“I love audio description because it allows me to follow my first love which is the movies...When I became legally blind, the thing I missed the most was going to the movies. Today, it allows my wife and I to simply just

go on a date. She can relax and not worry about telling me what is going on, and I can feel equal as a peer and filmgoer.”

At The Prospector Theater, the goal is for every patron to have an excellent experience. Accommodations go above and beyond what is typically required for a movie theater. Those with physical disabilities are treated to optimal seating in each theater, with companion seats located next to their space. An elevator has been placed in between the two theaters on the first floor so anyone has the ability to get to and from the front of the auditorium, as well as the Projection booth. The theater provides Closed-captioning glasses for the hearing impaired, displaying description and the dialogue of a movie. Founder and visionary Valerie Jensen says, “the technology has come a long way and I look forward to see where it goes in the next few years.”

The Guiding Eyes for the Blind makes a profound and immediate difference in peoples’ lives, creating and supporting life-changing connections between people and exceptional dogs. The non-profit provides guide dogs, professional training, and lifetime support services to people with vision loss at no cost to them, depending solely on contributions to fulfill its mission. Additionally, Guiding Eyes places specially trained service dogs with children on the autism spectrum.

The students from Guiding Eyes for the Blind certainly enjoyed their Prospector experience.

Morgan Leland, who is here studying from Arizona, said the descriptive audio helped her understand intricacies about characters, which is important when watching a spy movie like *Spectre*. “Hearing that the character was tense, or grinning, those little details are so important when someone can not see what the character is doing.”

Her classmate, Amy Flores, echoed, “This was the best technology for a movie theater I have ever been to. I want to come back!”

To experience the sparkle of the theater and reimagine movie going possibilities, join us for a movie. To learn more about our mission, visit our website at www.prospectortheater.org.

For more information about the Prospector Theater, or to make a donation to our mission of meaningful employment, visit our website at www.prospectortheater.org.