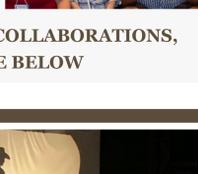
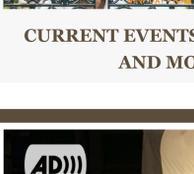


# DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - March 2024



## CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



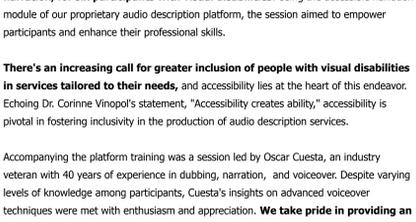
### Desconolizarte Teatro Kicks March Off With A Completely Accessible Production

As part of the **Dicapta and Desconolizarte Teatro partnership**, we are pleased to announce the upcoming play **Casos y Cachos Llaneros**, which will be presented with accessibility provided by Dicapta. The performance will take place from **March 1st to the 3rd, 7 pm - 9 pm, at the Orlando Science Center** located at 782 E Princeton St in Orlando, FL 32803.

The play, based on the book by author John Moreno Riaño, brings to life the stories from the llanero culture that blur the line between reality and fiction. **Using shadows, live sound effects, and llanero music, it showcases the Latino traditions of the cowboys of eastern Colombia and western-central Venezuela**, which have never been depicted on stage before.

The performance will feature **integrated audio description, American Sign Language (ASL), and simultaneous Spanish-English interpretations**, making it accessible to all.

If you are in the Orlando area, don't miss this fantastic production. Tickets are available at <https://www.descoteatro.org/>.



### Dicapta's Accessible Narration Training: Empowering Visually Impaired Narrators

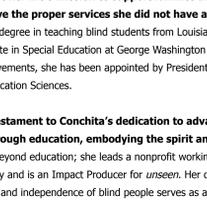
**Dicapta recently hosted a pioneering training session in audio description narration, for six participants with visual disabilities.** Using the accessible narration module of our proprietary audio description platform, the session aimed to empower participants and enhance their professional skills.

**There's an increasing call for greater inclusion of people with visual disabilities in services tailored to their needs**, and accessibility lies at the heart of this endeavor. Echoing Dr. Corinne Vinopol's statement, "Accessibility creates ability," accessibility is pivotal in fostering inclusivity in the production of audio description services.

Accompanying the platform training was a session led by Oscar Cuesta, an industry veteran with 40 years of experience in dubbing, narration, and voiceover. Despite varying levels of knowledge among participants, Cuesta's insights on advanced voiceover techniques were met with enthusiasm and appreciation. **We take pride in providing an accessible platform that serves as a catalyst for individuals keen on honing their voiceover skills.**

We want to thank Lucy Argujio, Carlos Martínez Jr., Gabriel López Kafati, Andrea Herrera, María Fernanda Saavedra, José Miguel Derisan, and Shalmarie Arroyo for participating in this initiative. We will continue supporting, tracking, and encouraging their growth and expertise as audio description narrators. We now plan on continuing to increase the pool of audio description narrators with visual disabilities using accessible tools for more equitable professional environments.

Dicapta is committed to revolutionizing audio description narration through accessibility and empowerment.

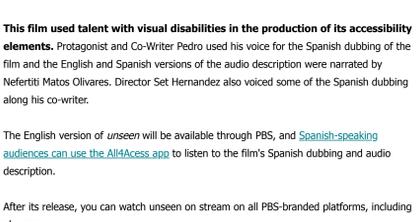


### Congratulations Conchita, Blind Educator of the Year!

We are thrilled to share that **Dr. Conchita Hernández**, a member of our advisory board, has been honored with the prestigious **Blind Educator of the Year Award** by the National Organization of Blind Educators, a division of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). Established in 1991, this esteemed award is given annually to a blind educator who has demonstrated exceptional teaching abilities, contributed significantly to community service, and shown an unwavering commitment to the principles of the National Federation of the Blind.

**Conchita has made it her life's mission to support families and students, ensuring they receive the proper services she did not have access to herself.** She obtained her master's degree in teaching blind students from Louisiana Tech and later completed her doctorate in Special Education at George Washington University. In addition to her academic achievements, she has been appointed by President Biden to serve on the National Board for Education Sciences.

**This accolade is a testament to Conchita's dedication to advancing the cause of blind individuals through education, embodying the spirit and philosophy of the NFB.** Her work goes beyond education; she leads a nonprofit working with blind Spanish speakers internationally and is an Impact Producer for *unseen*. Her dedication to promoting the welfare and independence of blind people serves as an inspiration to all.



### Unseen Will Be Released on POV with Accessibility Features

**The film *unseen* will be released by POV on March 18th**, and Dicapta is honored to have provided the Spanish audio description for the film, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, project H327C210001. *Unseen* uses experimental cinematography and sound to reimagine film accessibility for blind and low-vision audiences, and careful work has been done to provide total accessibility for them.

*Unseen* is a compelling narrative centered around Pedro, a blind, undocumented immigrant with aspirations of becoming a social worker. Despite facing political barriers, Pedro perseveres through his college education, aiming to support his family and community. The film explores themes of immigration, disability, and mental health, showcasing Pedro's journey from uncertainty to self-discovery and healing.

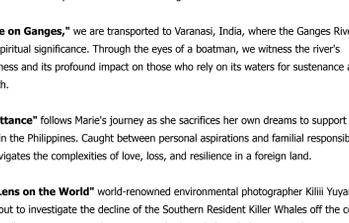
The film has received several accolades including being shortlisted at the 39th IDA Documentary Awards, winning the CAAMFest 2023 Documentary Competition Award, and winning three separate awards at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

Director Set Hernandez also won the 2024 Truer Than Fiction Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards, which is given to an upcoming director of non-fiction features that has yet to receive significant recognition.

**This film used talent with visual disabilities in the production of its accessibility elements.** Protagonist and Co-Writer Pedro used his voice for the Spanish dubbing of the film and the English and Spanish versions of the audio description were narrated by Nefertiti Matos Olivares. Director Set Hernandez also voiced some of the Spanish dubbing along his co-writer.

The English version of *unseen* will be available through PBS, and [Spanish-speaking audiences can use the All4Access app](#) to listen to the film's Spanish dubbing and audio description.

After its release, you can watch *unseen* on stream on all PBS-branded platforms, including pbs.org.



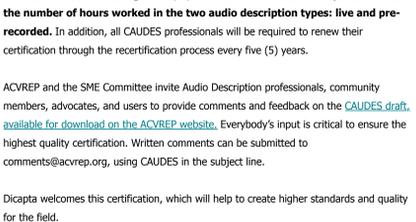
### Embracing Diversity in Audio Description

**Is it important to include racial and ethnic characteristics in audio description?** For many years, audio description guidelines recommended avoiding mentioning race or ethnicity unless pivotal to the plot or context. This practice stemmed from a desire to promote inclusivity by not highlighting differences.

**However, a shift in perspective has emerged, recognizing that omitting racial and ethnic descriptions can inadvertently contribute to exclusion.** By incorporating these elements, audio descriptions can foster diversity, promote empathy, and challenge stereotypes while building a new society.

In the white paper "Embracing Diversity in Audio Description: A Paradigm Shift for Inclusivity," **Dicapta's audio description team analyzes this topic and provides a comprehensive guide on best practices, especially applied to children's media.** By ensuring that children's media is inclusive and diverse, we can encourage the development of a more accepting and understanding society.

Read the complete discussion by downloading the paper "[Embracing Diversity in Audio Description: A Paradigm Shift for Inclusivity](#)."



### Don't Miss Our New Accessible Releases for this Month!

**We have a great selection of new accessible releases for you!**

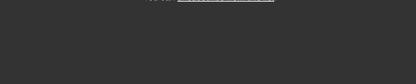
**"Amazon Adventure"** invites us on an epic journey with explorer Henry Bates through the Amazon rainforest in the 1850s. Bates's discoveries of mimicry in the animal kingdom unveil nature's secrets and inspire awe. His relentless pursuit of knowledge reminds us of the power of curiosity and the wonders waiting to be uncovered.

In **"Life on Ganges,"** we are transported to Varanasi, India, where the Ganges River holds spiritual significance. Through the eyes of a boatman, we witness the river's sacredness and its profound impact on those who rely on its waters for sustenance and strength.

**"Remittance"** follows Marie's journey as she sacrifices her own dreams to support her family in the Philippines. Caught between personal aspirations and familial responsibilities, she navigates the complexities of love, loss, and resilience in a foreign land.

In **"A Lens on the World"** world-renowned environmental photographer Killi Yuyan, heads out to investigate the decline of the Southern Resident Killer Whales off the coast of Seattle, allowing us to not only appreciate the knowledge, dedication, and passion it takes to be an environmental photographer, but also gain a deeper understanding of why incredible imagery plays an important role in solving the issues the world faces.

For the full list of releases, [you can visit our website](#).



### Audio Description Certification Draft Open for Comments

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP) and the Audio Description Specialist Subject Matter Expert (SME) Committee have prepared the **Certified Audio Description Specialist (CAUDES) certification criteria draft. The draft is open for comments until March 31st.**

This certification will formally recognize individuals who demonstrate knowledge of and proficiency in Audio Description (AD) best practices across various formats and venues. **The areas of practice include pre-recorded media, performing arts, interactive displays, live events, museums, and education.** The certification is aimed at professionals who craft Audio Description language and/or provide quality control for or editing of Audio Description language.

The draft proposes three certification categories along with a code of ethics. **The differences between categories 1, 2, and 3 involve education requirements and the number of hours worked in the two audio description types: live and pre-recorded.** In addition, all CAUDES professionals will be required to renew their certification through the recertification process every five (5) years.

ACVREP and the SME Committee invite Audio Description professionals, community members, advocates, and users to provide comments and feedback on the [CAUDES draft, available for download on the ACVREP website](#). Everybody's input is critical to ensure the highest quality certification. Written comments can be submitted to [comments@acvrep.org](mailto:comments@acvrep.org), using CAUDES in the subject line.

Dicapta welcomes this certification, which will help to create higher standards and quality for the field.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **World Hearing Day 2024**, March 3
- **CSUN Assistive Technology Conference - March 18 to 22.** Don't miss our partner's presentation: ["DCMP & Fred Rogers Productions: Sign Language at Scale"](#), along with various innovative advances in the assistive technology world. Join industry leaders as they share knowledge, innovations, and best practices to promote inclusion for all.



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