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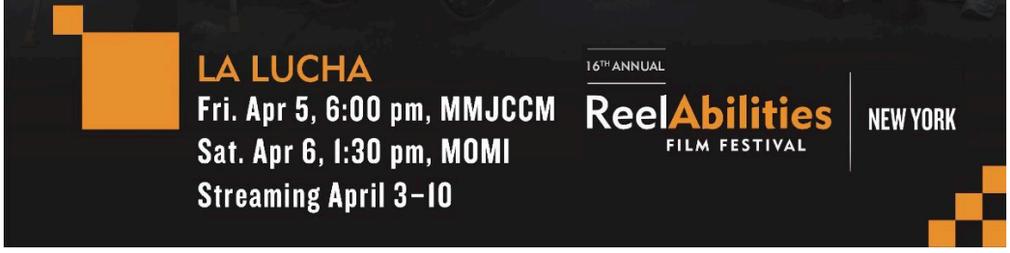
DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - April 2024

CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



Join Us at ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York

Experience the power of accessible cinema at the ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York – the largest event celebrating the lives and stories of people with disabilities through film. The festival showcases international films, engaging conversations, and performances across New York and beyond between April 3 and 10. **Don't miss your chance for an incredible festival,** get your tickets.

LatinX Films: We're proud to highlight **"La Lucha"**, a compelling documentary about hundreds of people with disabilities who made a 250-mile journey across the Andes to reach the Bolivian capital, battling harsh conditions and hunger along the way. Confronting barricades, riot police, and hostility from fellow citizens, these activists persist and ultimately arrive in La Paz, rewriting national history.

Opening Event Accessible with All4Access: The screening of **"Ezra"**, a touching film about family and personal growth, will be fully accessible thanks to Dicapta's All4Access app. **Don't miss this heartwarming narrative on April 3.** Check the schedule and find showtimes.

This festival is a testament to the resilience, creativity, and diversity of the disability community. **We're thrilled to offer the Dicapta dedicated code for a 20% discount applicable for all festival general admission virtual and in-person screenings** at the main festival venue (excluding opening night). **rffdicapta** (case sensitive).

New Expert Insights Series

Dicapta is thrilled to announce the launch of our new series of expert insights, which will explore the worlds of accessibility, technology, and beyond. Our inaugural edition, now live on the Dicapta website, features a compelling piece by our esteemed CEO, **Maria Victoria Diaz, PhD.** This article delves into the innovative intersection of dubbing and audio description and how new technological advancements mark a significant stride toward inclusive media consumption.

In her insightful piece, Dr. Diaz explores how **combining dubbing with audio description not only enhances the viewing experience for audiences with sensory disabilities but also embodies our commitment to breaking down barriers in media accessibility.** This series aims to enlighten, inspire, and provoke thought among our readers, paving the way for a future where technology serves as a bridge to a more inclusive world. Stay tuned as we continue to share knowledge and spark discussions on making the digital age accessible to everyone.

Read the piece "Voices of Inclusion: Pioneering the Fusion of Dubbing and Audio Description - By Maria-Victoria Díaz, PhD".

National Deaf History Month: Insights from Brian Steinhoff

National Deaf History Month is celebrated in April to commemorate important achievements that shaped the history of the deaf community. **We met with Brian Steinhoff, an Arizona native and an active leader in the deaf community in Florida,** to talk about historical events that shaped the deaf community's history, notable figures, and deaf culture and identity. He told us about the Milan Conference of 1880, oralism vs manualism, ASL and baseball, Christine Sun Kim, technology, and more!

Brian is an Adjunct Professor at Valencia College, an avid aerial photographer, an Advisor to the Deaf Florida Art Show and Vice President of Corporate Communications at ASL Services.

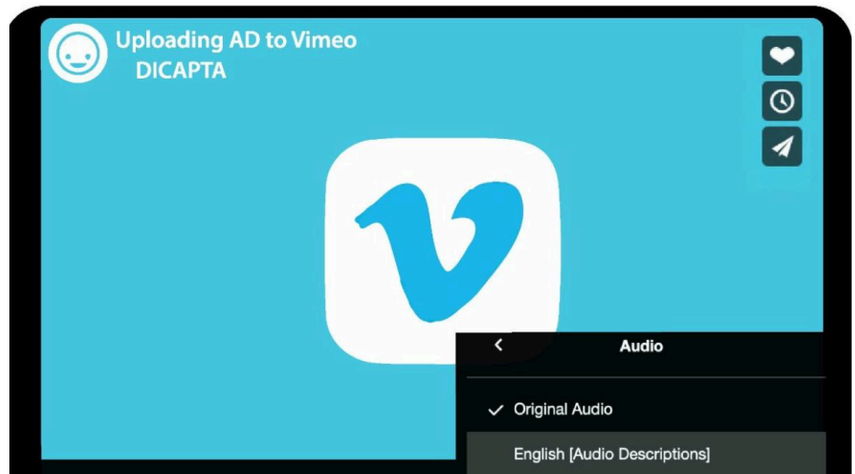
Check the first clip from his interview. We will share more of his insightful comments during this month on our social networks. Stay tuned!

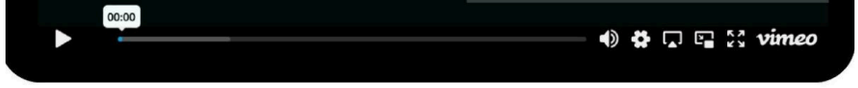
Celebrating a Milestone in Cultural Accessibility: Mexico Mandates Audio Descriptions in Cinemas

In a pivotal move towards cultural inclusivity, **Mexico's Supreme Court mandated that cinemas are required to include audio description, in addition to being dubbed into Spanish or subtitled,** to ensure that individuals with visual impairments can enjoy cinematic experiences. This decision highlights the necessity of **making cultural content fully accessible**, addressing the overlooked needs of visually impaired audience members.

The ruling also emphasizes that movie theaters are required to have electronic devices that allow the accessibility of people with visual disabilities to cinematographic materials with audio description.

Dicapta applauds Mexico's commitment to inclusivity and the broader implications of this mandate for global accessibility standards. With the new age of technology upon us, **we're eager to support and witness further international efforts to enhance access to audiovisual material.** We hope this will set a precedent for future regulations and promoting the universal right to access audiovisual content.





Vimeo makes great strides in accessibility for visually impaired audiences

Vimeo has taken a significant step towards greater inclusivity by **introducing the multi-language feature to its platform** in January. This feature enhances accessibility options by allowing easy access to audio descriptions for any Vimeo content.

The feature works similarly to various streaming channels, **enabling users to select their preferred track directly from the video content, whether it is an audio description or an alternative language audio**. While similar features exist on platforms like YouTube, they are currently limited to a few content creators.

Vimeo has also bolstered the accessibility of its player by enhancing color contrast and optimizing support for screen readers. Adding an audio description track on Vimeo is a streamlined and user-friendly process. For detailed instructions, visit our blog post on adding AD to Vimeo.

This concerted effort by Vimeo highlights its commitment to fostering a more inclusive digital landscape, **ensuring that visually impaired audiences can engage with online video content more seamlessly than ever before.**

Our Mentor's Corner: Judy Matthews

"If her great-grandfather hadn't gotten sick, Judy's entire family would have arrived at the same time from Havana, Cuba, to Miami, USA. After Judy's visual condition was diagnosed, her parents decided to immigrate to the United States. However, neither the Caribbean Sea nor the Miami heat could fill the void of nostalgia and longing to reunite with family" -

Fragment of "Judy in G Major," an article about Judy Matthews.

Judy is a long-time member of Dicapta's advisory group. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Therapy, a Master's in Visual Rehabilitation, and certifications as a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist and Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist. Beyond these accolades that mirror her life's passions and showcase her expertise, Judy Mathews has been Dicapta's true partner-in-crime. We were delighted to meet with her and learn more about her childhood, family, and the people who influenced her the most.

Enjoy Judy's full interview in "Judy in G Major."

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

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

"Climb-It Change" Explore how climate change impacts alpine ecosystems and go on a climbing adventure with scientists who will take you to some of the most stunning mountain ranges in the United States.

On **"Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef"**, climate change isn't a question anymore. It's happening now, and fast. Coral bleaching, cyclones, and warm water are threatening our reef and marine life. Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef are taking action to confront the crisis, moving past apathy to build a better world. For scientists on the Adori II expedition, it's not if a healthy reef is possible, but what we'll do to make it happen.

"Voces de mujer" features interviews with thirteen exceptional women in the arts; composers, singers, writers, sculptors, and poets. Mexican playwright Silvia Peláez delves into their professional journeys, personal lives, and artistic visions.

For the full list of releases, you can visit our website.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Deaf History Month** - April 1 to 30, 2024
- ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York **-** April 3 to 10, 2024

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