Visual Arts for the Visually Impaired

Theater Arts

January 29, 2018

3-4pm

Presented by

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Developed for Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Programs
Outreach Programs Events Update:

- For upcoming webinars: http://www.tsbvi.edu/2015-10-17-20-13-33/webinar-listings
- For upcoming workshops and conferences: http://www.tsbvi.edu/2015-10-17-20-13-33/outreach-workshops-conferences

Housekeeping

- Download handouts and sign-in roster
- Send sign-in roster to sobeckb@tsbvi.edu or fax to 512-206-9320
- Make sure you registered and complete evaluation within 60 days including code for ACVREP/SBEC credit
- View captions in a separate window at https://tcc.1capapp.com/event/tsbvi/embed
- The code will be announced during the presentation

Adobe Connect Webinar Tour

- For tips about screen navigation go to http://www.connectusers.com/tutorials/2008/11/meeting_accessibility/
- Location of pods
- Power Point content included in your handout
- Poll participation – enter response in chat if you cannot access the poll

Link to enter room: http://tsbvi.adobeconnect.com/visual-arts/
Visual Arts for the Visually Impaired
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Video: Shrek, The Musical

Agenda
• Benefits of theater arts instruction for students with visual impairment
• Challenges to inclusion of children with visual impairment in theater arts activities
• Strategies for inclusion and accessibility
• Questions and comments

Video: Twelve Angry Jurors
“… I discovered the acting company of TILT is primarily comprised of people with special needs, disabilities, unique abilities .... I'll admit, I was a bit thrown. How would I review this piece? By what rubric? Where would the bar be fairly set? Once I stopped myself from thinking like a privileged, ableist ... (viewer), I settled in and quickly found myself in awe of the passion, dedication, and talent put forth by a wholly inspirational cast.”
Shannon Weaver, Austin Chronicle, October 27, 2017

Video: Willy Wonka Jr.

Barriers
• Visual orientation of the body
• Gestures
• Mobility
• Perception that VI is not capable
• Braille transcriptions - bulky and hard to carry around, difficulty getting materials transcribed
• Anxiety during auditions

Video: Small Actors

Barriers
• Time limitations, high caseloads of TVI’s
• Limited preparation and in-service training for TVI’s in theater arts
• Focus on core courses (STAAR tested) – Theater is not seen as an essential skill.
• Subject matter viewed as not appropriate for VI students
Video: Check, Please

What is the Impact?
- Not exposed to creative problem solving techniques associated with arts instruction
- Excluded from sharing in the common experiences of peers
- Isolation from a major component of culture and society
- Removed from self-determination regarding participation in arts activities

Video: To Burn a Witch

Benefits
- Access to full general education curriculum
  - Enhancement of Language Arts
  - Familiarization with significant cultural practice
- Expanded Core Curriculum
  - Orientation and Mobility
  - Sensory integration - Awareness of body and gestures, a format to teach rather than just telling them what to do
- Social Skills
  - Helps people with autism to mitigate traits
- Personal Development
  - Self-esteem
  - Commitment, responsibility
  - Self-expression
  - Self-determination
- Orientation and Mobility
- Sensory integration
- Social Skills
- Supports and helps people with autism
- Helps people with autism to mitigate traits
- Personal Development
- Self-esteem
- Commitment, responsibility
- Self-expression
- Social Skills
- Small percentage of people who can become working artists, Knowledge of cultural significance

Video: The Wizard of Oz

Tools and Accommodations
- Keep a positive outlook – always assume a student can do the work
- Thinking outside the box
- Allow additional time
- More table work
- Provide electronic version of script rather than hard copy
- Audio description and hands-on exploration of the entire set
Video: You Can’t Take it With You

Video Interview: Devin and Victoria

This Year’s Show: To Be Determined
Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
1100 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
April 26th, 27th, 28th

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- For more information about accommodations for student in theater arts.
- Help problem-solving a specific situation.
- Share your own information and experiences.
Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

Figure 1: TSBVI logo

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Figure 2: IDEAs That Work logo and OSEP disclaimer