



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Outreach Programs

www.tsbvi.edu | 512-454-8631 | 1100 W. 45th St. | Austin, TX 78756

Visual Arts for the Visually Impaired

Theater Arts

January 29, 2018

3-4pm

Presented by

Scott Baltisberger, TSBVI VI Education Consultant

baltisbergers@tsbvi.edu

Robert Pierson, Theater Arts Teacher

piersonr@tsbvi.edu

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 Theater Arts

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
 - 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

Contact Info

Robert Pierson
Theater Arts Teacher
piersonr@tsbvi.edu
512-206-9404

- 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



This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Special Education Program (OSEP). Opinions expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Department of Education.

Figure 2: IDEAs That Work logo and OSEP disclaimer