

**'SUPERCALIFRAGILISTIC-EXPIALIDOCIOUS'**  
**A Howling Success! (Especially for 8 Guide Dogs & their Partners!)**

On January 30, 2008, HAI's *Describe!* Program audio described the Broadway smash hit *Mary Poppins* for the first time. In attendance were 50 people, 31 of whom are blind or visually impaired with family members, and eight accompanying guide dogs. During the performance, the guide dogs sat next to their partners in the theater and both had a howlin' good time. The describer, Cathy Markoff, received rave reviews from the listeners.

In 1988, HAI established *Describe!*, which makes theater accessible to the blind and visually impaired. Participants purchase subsidized theater tickets directly from HAI and receive live audio description from HAI-trained audio describers at the performance through tiny receivers and earphones. The audio describers depict the sets and costumes beforehand, and character actions during pauses in dialogue throughout the show. The describer sits in a remote location in the theater.

HAI secures blocks of tickets for shows to be described several months in advance. This information is then disseminated and posted on HAI's website. Individuals call to reserve tickets and receivers for these performances. Blind and visually impaired individuals also are referred to this service through Telecharge and Ticketmaster.



*Describe!* participants with their guide dogs at *Mary Poppins*.

To date, HAI is the only organization in NYC providing this unique service to blind or visually impaired individuals attending live theater performances. Funding for *Describe!* is provided by the New York City Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Richmond County Savings Foundation and the Allene Reuss Memorial Trust.

One of the visually impaired individuals attending the performance, Paula Dertouzos, wrote:

*"Thank you for a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an affordable, fun-filled evening at the theater. It was heart-warming to observe the respect and caring shown to the many guide dogs in attendance. They were settled comfortably and safely without negative comments or concerns."*

*Please congratulate the describer, Cathy, who skillfully described the stage, costumes, action, facial expressions, dance movements and lights enabling us to thoroughly participate and fully embrace what others were seeing. She verbally leaped from one second of action to the next without a pause for breath."*

Over...

## **This February HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience totaling 18,150 at 1,115 events.**

**lai** HAI's **Cultural Events Program (CEP)** opens the world of concert halls, theaters and other venues to individuals who are culturally isolated due to mental or physical disability, age or frailty. Featured in February:

### **NEW YORK CITY BALLET \* HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS \* LUNA NEGRA**

▷ Members of **Tickets To Go**, HAI's senior discount ticket program, will attend the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, *Come Back Little Sheba*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* and *A Chorus Line*.

▷ The two **Omni\*Buses** enable people who are bed confined and those using wheelchairs to enjoy life outside of institutions. In February, the Omni\*Buses have scheduled trips to The Queens Theatre in the Park, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, and various movies and restaurants.

▷ Through HAI's **STEP Program**, New York City public school students have purchased discounted tickets to the Broadway shows *The Color Purple*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Hairspray*, *Wicked*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Lion King*. These arrangements are made possible through a vendor agreement between HAI and the NYC Department of Education.

**lai** Performers from the **On-Site Performance Program** will help audiences celebrate Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Lunar (Chinese) New Year (and sometimes all three!) with 200 performances reaching 10,000 people. The Heidi Latsky Dance Company will be performing excerpts from GIMP (From the Limb) at Riverdale Manor. A new work choreographed by Latsky, it is inspired by the expressive physicality of disabled dancers, for whom the work, in part, was created.

**lai** In February, the **Youth Leadership and Education Program** will launch its newest program, *PhotoVoice*, as well as continue to work in schools, mental health facilities, juvenile detention centers, and homeless shelters. Through a new initiative made possible by Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Center for Economic Opportunity HAI has been selected to launch *Photovoice* at Carnarsie High School and the High School for Global Citizenship. This project will be part of New York City's Department of Youth and Community Development's Teen Action Program, which promotes youth development by engaging young people in meaningful service activities and reflection on these service experiences. Students in HAI's *Photovoice* project will use cameras to identify community strengths and weaknesses, promote dialogue and group discussion, and engage policy makers in the social change process.

**lai** HAI's **Arts Workshop Program** provides ongoing, weekly participatory workshops led by professional artists in music, dance/movement, performance, visual and computer arts. In addition, HAI is now able to serve groups that are not eligible for such subsidies or grants through direct purchases of HAI's services. Contact Betty Marks at (212) 575-7696.

**lai** **The Gallery at HAI** exhibits art by self-taught Outsider artists with mental disabilities and is also available to community groups for exhibition. Outsider Art: SURVEY 2008 is currently on exhibit at The Gallery. In addition, HAI will present "Nourishing the Spirit," at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. The exhibit runs between February 11 through March 3 with a reception and gallery talk on February 20.



George Zuniga, Cat

For more information please visit our website  
at <http://www.hospaud.org>

**This February HAI will reach a projected audience of  
18,150 at 1,115 events...through the:**

<b>Cultural Events Program</b>	<b>1,750 at 65 events</b>
<b>On-Site Performance Program</b>	<b>1,500 at 50 performances</b>
<b>Arts Workshop Program</b>	<b>12,100 at over 900 hours of workshops</b>
<b>Prevention Education Program</b>	<b>2,800 at over 100 workshops</b>