

Let's Go! Broadway and Beyond

From the Experts at Lighthouse International



LIGHTHOUSE
INTERNATIONAL

For anyone with vision loss who wants to enjoy the world-class theater experience in New York City, where Lighthouse International has been headquartered for over a century, we say **Let's Go!**

VISION-FRIENDLY OPTIONS

Preferred Seating

Many theatergoers enjoy sitting close to the stage, but it may be essential if you have low vision. Fortunately, there are programs that ensure that you have optimal seating, at no additional cost. Preferred seating in most theaters is in the first few rows, or elsewhere in the orchestra section. Check with the theater's box office or its designated ticketing vendor for information about preferred seating policies. You can also enroll in the access programs detailed below, which can also enhance your appreciation — and understanding — of a show.

Audio Description via Headphones

Audio description provides live, detailed description of the visual features on the stage and the physical actions taking place, generally during scene transitions and pauses in dialogue.

THEATER ACCESS PROGRAMS

• Theater Development Fund: Accessibility Programs (TAP)

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 801

New York, NY 10018-6507

Tel: (212) 912-9770, ext. 381

E-mail: tap@tdf.org

Web: www.tdf.org/tap/

The TAP program provides discount ticket offerings on a monthly basis for selected plays, concerts and other performances, including some Broadway and off-Broadway productions. Program participants with impaired vision are generally offered orchestra or front-row seating, and occasionally audio descriptive services.

• **Hospital Audiences, Inc. Describe! Program**

548 Broadway, 3rd Floor

New York, NY 10012

Tel: (212) 575-7676

Web: www.hainyc.org/services/tickets/describe/

The “Describe!” Program provides audio description for selected shows, including Broadway and off-Broadway performances. They also provide “Program Notes” either live or on a pre-recorded DVD, which includes an overview of the show, cast lists and production details.

GENERAL TICKETING VENDORS

• **Telecharge**

Tel: (212) 239-6200

Web: www.telecharge.com

Telecharge offers “Access Services,” which can help you secure accessibility accommodations for any event you attend with tickets purchased through Telecharge. You can ask for “vision seating,” which are reserved seats in the front of the house. Availability varies by show.

• **Ticketmaster**

Tel: (800) 745-3000

Web: www.ticketmaster.com

Ticketmaster agents will either arrange for preferred seating and help with other accessibility needs, or direct you to the show's box office for assistance, depending on the venue's policies.

QUICK TIPS FOR THE NIGHT OUT

- ◆ Ask your low vision doctor about optical devices you may be able to use to enhance your theater experience.
- ◆ Plan ahead: If you don't have reserved seats, arrive early to make sure you sit in the best location for you.
- ◆ Familiarize yourself with the location of restrooms and exits before the show starts.
- ◆ If you experience glare from bright stage lights, wear tinted lenses to minimize the effect.
- ◆ Go online beforehand to read about the show, cast and other related information.
- ◆ Going to dinner before or after the show? Ask for a copy of Lighthouse International's fact sheet, "**Practical Tips for Cooking & Dining.**"

For information about theater programs outside New York City, check out **Let's Go: Lifestyle & Leisure Listings** online at **lighthouse.org**. You'll also find museums, sporting venues, etc., with "vision friendly" features in your community. This is a growing database, so we welcome your suggestions!

Lighthouse International is dedicated to fighting vision loss through prevention, treatment and empowerment.

For products that make life easier for people with vision loss, visit shop.lighthouse.org.

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