



**A NIGHT AT THE OPERA**



HAI's guests enjoying the Metropolitan Opera's performance of *Tosca* on the Great Lawn in Central Park. Photo: Lynn Padwe, 2005

In June, HAI's Summer Program celebrated the beginning of its 26th year with the Metropolitan Opera in the Park's performances of *Tosca* and *Samson & Delilah*. HAI's Summer Program provides special wheelchair accessible locations at city parks events. Many guests count these experiences as their most memorable of the summer.

On June 14th, Arleen Metta along with 650 frail elderly and physically disabled individuals enjoyed *Tosca* in Central Park despite the record heat of 95°. Through good times and bad, Arleen has counted on the HAI Summer Program.

Following a series of setbacks - a ski accident that required her to use a wheelchair, the death of her father, and her mother's progressing Alzheimer's - Arleen "found out about HAI."



Arleen Metta in front of HAI's Omni\*Bus. Photo: Lynn Padwe, 2005

While she now walks with a cane, after the accident Arleen had to use a wheelchair and would push her mother, also in a wheelchair, to parks events. "There was nothing else to look forward to. My life was horrible, just work, and taking care of Mom alone. But there was HAI, every summer."

**"HAI is my lifesaver. It brings joy into my life."**

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**This July, HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience of 25,890 at 858 events by offering opportunities...**

**...TO ENJOY DANCE, THEATER, CONCERTS AND MORE**

**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. Included this month:

Harbor Lights Cruise	Circle Line
<i>Rain</i>	New Victory Theatre
New York Liberty	Madison Square Garden

Other components of HAI's CEP include:

▷ The **Summer Program** provides access for individuals with physical disabilities and for frail elderly persons. Included this month:

New York Philharmonic	Central Park, Cunningham Park, Prospect Park, Snug Harbor, and Van Cortlandt Park
<i>As You Like It</i> (New York Shakespeare Festival)	Delacorte Theatre

- ▷ Two **Omni\*Buses** enable people who are bed confined and those using wheelchairs to enjoy life outside an institution. In July, the Omni\*Buses have 57 trips scheduled to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and Shakespeare in Central Park, among other destinations.
- ▷ **Tickets To Go** sponsors greatly discounted tickets to cultural events for NYC residents aged 60+.
- ▷ **Describe!** makes live theater performances accessible through audio description for visually impaired and blind individuals. This month *Birdie Blue* at Second Stage will be audio-described.
- ▷ **Community Performing Arts Series (CPAS)** arranges weekday afternoon music and dance performances by professional artists at physically accessible venues.
- ▷ **Student Teacher Enrichment Program (STEP)** has purchased tickets to *Drumstruck*, an original, interactive musical that is built upon traditional South African drumming and songs.

**lai** This July, the **On-Site Performance Program** will feature ASCAP artist, composer and keyboardist Nurit Tilles, who has collaborated with Meredith Monk and Steve Reich, among others. She is also half of the piano team *Double Edge*. For HAI audiences she plays both her own and others' Ragtime compositions, sharing her technical and historical knowledge of the genre. In July, she will perform for HAI at The Markwell Hotel-Encore 49.

**...TO DEVELOP COMPETENCE THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION**

**lai** The Gallery At HAI will present the exhibit, "Summer in the City," beginning on July 11 with a reception on July 19, 6pm - 8pm. The invitational exhibit will include art by Outsider artists from around the United States and Canada as well as participants in the HAI **Arts Workshop Program**.

**...TO ACQUIRE SKILLS FOR SUPPORTIVE/INDEPENDENT LIVING**

**lai** HAI's **Youth Leadership and Education Program** uses theatrical role-play and youth oriented theatrical productions to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, homelessness and violence. Thanks to the Marion E. Kenworthy-Sarah H. Swift Foundation's generous contribution, HAI will begin a new project under the direction of Elizabeth Swados entitled *Heart & Mind*. The show will address mental health issues facing teens. As with Ms. Swados's last HAI collaboration, *Loss & Gain*, participants will develop monologues and songs through a series of workshops.

**...TO GAIN ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION**

HAI will soon expand the **Access for All** online guide currently available on our website at [www.hospitalaudiences.org](http://www.hospitalaudiences.org). Through this interactive bulletin, theatergoers, concertgoers, museum attendees, etc., will be able to post and review comments regarding a particular venue's physical accessibility. For more information please email [accessguide@hospaud.org](mailto:accessguide@hospaud.org).

**This July, HAI will reach a projected audience of 25,890 at 858 events... through the:**

<b>Cultural Events Program</b>	<b>4,750 at 117 events</b>
<b>On-Site Performance Program</b>	<b>9,800 at 151 performances</b>
<b>Arts Workshop Program</b>	<b>9,140 at over 556 hours of workshops</b>
<b>Prevention Education Program</b>	<b>2,200 at over 34 workshops</b>