



# NewsBreak

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind

July 2024

## *What We Read Aloud:*

- Des Moines Register
- Quad City Times
- Cedar Rapids Gazette
- Cedar Falls-Waterloo Courier
- Sioux City Journal
- Mason City Globe Gazette
- Dubuque Telegraph Herald
- Council Bluffs Daily Non-Pareil
- Fort Dodge Messenger
- Storm Lake Times
- Webster City Freeman Journal
- MidWeek Shopping Cart
- Polk County Senior
- Cityview
- Business Record
- Successful Farming

*IowaRadioReading.org*  
100 E. Euclid Ave., Ste. 117  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
515-243-6833  
1-877-404-4747  
*IRIS@IowaRadioReading.org*

Radio Interaction Diversity  
Support Connections Mentor  
Equality Accessible Voting The Arts  
Volunteers Living Skills Inclusion  
**INDEPENDENCE**  
Technology DIGNITY Community  
Advocacy Engagement  
Neighbors Quality of Life Isolation  
Local Newspapers Participate  
Empower Information Society

## Our 35th Year!

August 21, we will begin our 35th year on the air. What started as a handful of volunteers reading to a few hundred listeners in Des Moines has grown to hundreds of volunteers serving listeners in every corner of the state! We read 10 Iowa newspapers and deliver equal access to the arts in communities from the Missouri to the Mississippi. We have uploaded 13,000 podcast episodes since July 2019. Listeners have downloaded 266,300 times in that same period.

Our Audio Description Services have grown beyond theaters to include events like the State Fair, ball games, exhibits and haunted houses. In this AI world, the preference for our human voices only gets stronger - so does IRIS. NONE of this is possible without our volunteers, donors, sponsors and partners. THANK YOU!

We can't wait to see what the next 35 years will bring!

## IRIS Pop Up Store - ends July 30

IRIS logo gear is available for purchase for a very limited time! T-shirts, hoodies and other styles available. IRIS gets a portion of the proceeds. Our store "closes" at midnight July 30. Purchases will be available for pickup at IRIS after August 7.

<https://irisstore.itemorder.com/shop/home/>



## Beerducation!

Meet us at Big Grove Brewery Thursday, September 19 for our sensational and immersive experience in the art of making (and drinking) beer! The evening will feature blindfolded beer tastings, tasty snacks, a raffle and hands-on beerducation! Tickets on sale August 1 at [IowaRadioReading.org](http://IowaRadioReading.org). All proceeds from this fun evening will benefit IRIS. Mark your calendars to join us at Big Grove Brewery Thursday, September 19!

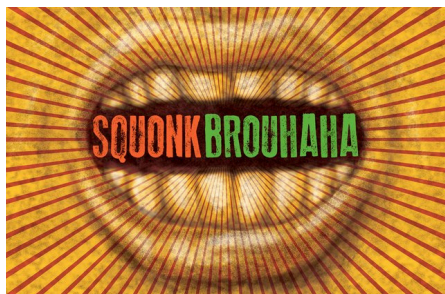


## Volunteer Readers NEEDED!

IRIS requires a minimum of TEN volunteers A DAY to keep our readings of newspapers and other timely publications on the air. A volunteer can read live or record programs from our Des Moines studios or record from home!

Too often, our email responses to volunteer applications have been going to their spam folders. Our phone calls to them go unanswered because rarely do any of us answer calls from numbers we don't know these days!

If you would like to volunteer for IRIS, we would LOVE to have you! If you have applied in the past, please drop an email to [IRIS@IowaRadioReading.org](mailto:IRIS@IowaRadioReading.org) so that we can connect with you again and WATCH YOUR SPAM FOLDER so that we can get you started as a volunteer VOICE OF IRIS!



## Fully-Accessible Brouhaha - August 9!

Friday, August 9, the producers of Brouhaha are hosting a SQUONK touch and play experience for IRIS listeners! Come to the Cowles Commons to explore the Squonkcordion, an enormous musical instrument, then grab a bite to eat downtown and come back for the 6:30pm Brouhaha show!

The touch tour and show are free. Registration is required for the touch tour so that SQUONK can prepare. Register by calling IRIS at 515-243-6833 or on our website [IowaRadioReading.org](http://IowaRadioReading.org). Special thanks to Des Moines Performing Arts for providing this amazing access to SQUONK for our listeners!

## Max & Helen Guernsey Sponsorship

A big Thank You to the Max & Helen Guernsey Foundation for their sponsorship of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier.

This funding supports the expenses required to produce and broadcast readings of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier for one year. We are so grateful to be one of the MANY organizations supported by the Guernsey Foundation!



## Tuesday, August 27 - 4:30 pm

A SWEET gathering of IRIS listeners, volunteers and friends! Bring your best cookies, brownies and other baked treats to share. IRIS and Black Cat Ice Cream provide the rest! Join us at our IRIS Studios in the lower level of the Park Fair Mall at 100 East Euclid Ave. from 4:30 to 6pm August 27th!

Event Sponsor: **BLACK CAT ICE CREAM**





# Friends of IRIS Monthly Giving

A small monthly gift can have a mighty impact on the work we do. It is easy to "set it and forget it" using your credit or debit card. For as little as \$5 per month, Friends of IRIS sustaining donors keep IRIS strong!

Your gift continues month after month - you can change or cancel at any time. Become a Friend of IRIS at [IowaRadioReading.org/Donate](http://IowaRadioReading.org/Donate). THANK YOU!



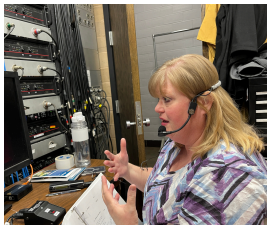
## IRIS Delivers Equal Access to the Arts across the State!



Dancing Queens Angela Carter and listener Martha enjoying Mamma Mia at the DM Civic Center.



Beauty and the Beast with touch tour at Decker Auditorium at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.



Melissa Kellar in Ames for Jesus Christ Superstar at Stephens Auditorium.



Amy Davis does STOMP and touch tour at the DM Civic Center.



The Odd Couple at the Ankeny Community Theater.



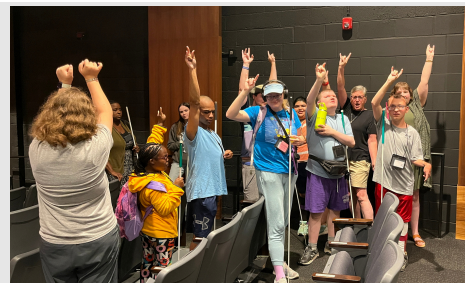
The IESBVI\* kids in Ames for The Nutcracker Ballet at Stephens Auditorium.



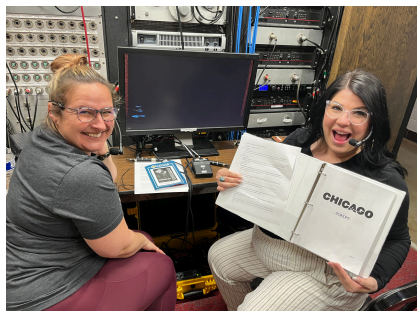
Norma enjoys a touch tour at A Christmas Carol.



These kids loved School of Rock with Audio Description and a wonderful touch tour provided by the crew at the Des Moines Community Playhouse.



Come From Away with Martha & Quinn at Gallagher Bludorn in Cedar Falls



Amy Davis and Angela Carter in the booth ready to describe Chicago at Stephens Auditorium in Ames.



Karrie Craig with listeners Karen and Kim for the musical Chicago at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar & touch tour at Stephens Auditorium with listener Erica.

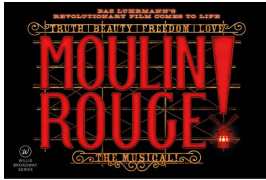


The gang from the IESBVI at the College World Series in Omaha.

- *IESBVI is the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired*



# Upcoming Audio Description



**Moulin Rouge**  
Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Jersey Boys**  
Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024  
DM Comm. Playhouse



**Back to the Future  
The Musical**  
Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Shrek the Musical**  
Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**The Music Man**  
Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024  
Gallagher Bluedorn



**Dracula**  
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024  
DM Comm. Playhouse



**Artrageous**  
Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**Tina: The Musical**  
Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Tina: The Musical**  
Monday, Nov. 11, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**Chicago**  
Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Dear Evan Hansen**  
Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024  
Hancher Auditorium



**Dear Evan Hansen**  
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**The Nutcracker**  
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024  
Hoyt Sherman Place



**Beauty and the Beast**  
Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024  
DM Comm. Playhouse



**HadesTown**  
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025  
Hancher Auditorium



**Shucked**  
Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025  
DM Performing Arts



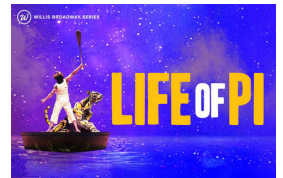
**Menopause 2**  
Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025  
Stephens Auditorium



**Men on Boats**  
Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025  
DM Comm. Playhouse



**Yamato**  
Friday, Feb. 28, 2025  
Stephens Auditorium



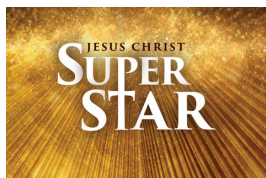
**Life of Pi**  
Sunday, March 2, 2025  
DM Performing Arts



**Mean Girls**  
Sunday, March 9, 2025  
Hancher Auditorium



**Dear Evan Hansen**  
Sunday, March 9, 2025  
Gallagher Bluedorn



**Jesus Christ Superstar**  
Sunday, March 16, 2025  
DM Comm. Playhouse



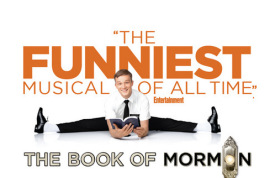
**Some Like it Hot**  
Sunday, March 23, 2025  
DM Performing Arts



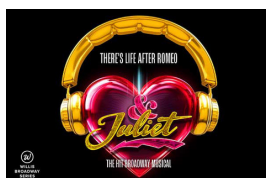
**HadesTown**  
Saturday, April 5, 2025  
Gallagher Bluedorn



**HadesTown**  
Sunday, April 13, 2025  
DM Performing Arts



**Book of Mormon**  
Wed., April 20, 2025  
DM Performing Arts



**& Juliet**  
Sunday, May 11, 2025  
DM Performing Arts



**Tina: The Musical**  
Sunday, June 1, 2025  
Hancher Auditorium



**Waitress**  
Sunday, July 20, 2025  
DM Comm Playhouse



## Thank You, Polk County!

Polk County Senior is a 30-minute show featuring activities and lunch menus for the Polk County meal sites as well as other timely information like emergency cooling centers, tax preparation and vaccination clinics.

Again this year, the Polk County Board of Supervisors is providing funding to support the production and broadcast of this program. We are so grateful for their sponsorship and partnership with IRIS to keep over 1,000 IRIS listeners in Polk County connected to the community!



**Polk County  
Senior**



## IRIS Readers in Cityview!

Des Moines readers Deanny Snyder and Dennis May are featured in the July issue of Cityview! We love reading articles about ourselves in the publications we read.

Our thanks to Cityview for the article. You can check it out at this link: [dmcityview.com/your-neighbors/2024/07/03/iris-volunteers-provide-a-helping-voice/](https://dmcityview.com/your-neighbors/2024/07/03/iris-volunteers-provide-a-helping-voice/)

## Welcome Corteva Agriscience!

Our weekly readings of Successful Farming Magazine are now sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.

This sponsorship supports 52 episodes of this award-winning magazine that reaches 393,000 farmers and ranchers. We're so grateful their support helps them reach just a few more on IRIS!



## Givin' While You're Livin'

Planned giving is a powerful way to create a lasting legacy and assure that IRIS continues to serve our listeners for years to come.

These days, there are so many options to support IRIS in your plans such as Charitable Gift Annuities, Retirement Plans, Bequests and more.

Through the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, IRIS has a dedicated charitable fund as well as a fund eligible for Endow Iowa Tax Credits. If you would like more information about planned giving or assistance in getting started, please reach out to Maryfrances Evans - [Maryfrances@IowaRadioReading.org](mailto:Maryfrances@IowaRadioReading.org) - 515-243-6833.

## State Fair Audio Description

Wednesday, August 14, IRIS listeners can join us for a trip to the Iowa State Fair! We will go at your pace and provide live Audio Description of the sights and sounds as we go! The Fair has also prepared a couple of surprises for our group.

We have a limited number of admission tickets and can provide transportation from the Park Fair Mall to the Fairgrounds and back at specific times. Registration is required. You can register online at [IowaRadioReading.org](https://IowaRadioReading.org) or call 515-243-6833.



## Reader Spotlight - Grace Barter



*Grace Barter of Aplington records IRIS shows from home SIX DAYS A WEEK! She records the Sioux City Journal, Cedar Rapids Gazette and Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier. Her daily dedication to our listeners makes her a hero in our eyes. We asked Grace to share a little information about herself with you:*

"In my earlier years, I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Ag Journalism and Dairy Science. I always enjoyed editing things. My husband, Tom, and I moved to Iowa as our honeymoon as he had a job involving grain bin dryer repair and you don't get a vacation during harvest time! We are celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary in September.

I later received an Associate degree in accounting. In the meantime, I helped area dairy farmers milk cows (or goats) for 40 years. I was a rural mail carrier for 15 years. I play piano at church and was the church financial secretary and sang with Sweet Adelines for 30 years. I resumed playing the viola after a hiatus from high school and am now playing in some area community orchestras. I did all of this while being the business end (my husband was the technical end) of Kesley Electric, Inc.; sales & service of electric motors. To celebrate our 40th year in business on Oct 10th, 2022, we sold the business and I had to start my new life of retirement. Sigh....

So in looking to keep busy and do something "productive" I noticed a listing on the Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley website asking for readers for IRIS. My secret ambition has been to be involved in radio, but I never found the time or place quite right with my involvement in other things. I've been in several theatrical productions and always enjoyed editing – so I figured it might be a fit and contacted the e-mail. I was a bit hesitant when I found out I had to be somewhat of a techie, but plunged forward.

It's a challenge to watch the recording level, roll the page, circumvent the ads and keep a smile on your face to be sure the expression comes through my voice, but I always feel I've accomplished something good when I'm finished. I have to share my chair and lap with our cats while reading sometimes. They think they need to help.

My favorite flavor of ice cream is Nature's Touch Sea Salt Caramel, especially with a little hot fudge over it."

*Grace, we hear you on that salty/sweet combination! THANK YOU for your incredible service to our listeners!*

You don't have to commit to six days a week like Grace! You can set a schedule that works for you! Weekly, Bi-weekly, As-Needed, Live or Recordings. Submit an online application and remember to check your spam/trash folder for our response!  
<https://iowaradioreading.org/become-a-volunteer/>

## About IRIS:

### Listeners:

- 11,000+

### Volunteers:

- 392

### Signal Distribution:

- Custom IRIS Radios
- Smart Speakers
- Live Audio Stream
- Podcasts
- Facility Installations

### Equipment Cost to IRIS per Listener:

- \$40 - \$350

### Equipment + Services Cost to IRIS Listener:

- \$0

### Annual Budget:

- \$180,000

### Employees:

- 1 Full-time
- 3 Part-time

### Podcast Uploads:

- 13,000+

### Podcast Downloads:

- 266,300+ since 2020

### Audio Description

#### Partners:

- DM Community Playhouse
- DM Performing Arts
- Hancher Auditorium
- Gallagher Bluedorn
- Iowa State Center

### Ron:

"My Mom listened to IRIS almost constantly. Thank you for bringing so much to her life in her final years"