

BARBARA BOXER

CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON BANKING,
HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

DEPUTY WHIP

1700 MONTGOMERY STREET
SUITE 240
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
(415) 403-0100

2250 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
SUITE 545
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245
(310) 414-5700

525 B STREET
SUITE 990
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 239-3884

2300 TULARE STREET
SUITE 130
FRESNO, CA 93721
(209) 497-5109

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 112
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505
(202) 224-3553

October 30, 1996

Retinitis Pigmentosa International (RP International)
Post Office Box 900
Woodland Hills, California 91365

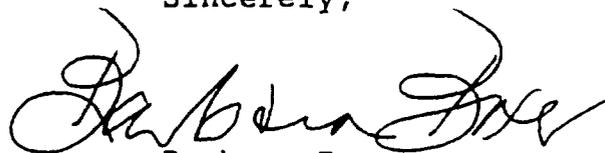
Dear Friends:

My warmest greetings to you as you announce your findings on the restoration and preservation of eyesight through retinal cell transplantation.

I commend Retinitis Pigmentosa International for its ongoing dedication and commitment to the treatment of visually challenged citizens. Through your efforts, you are making a tremendous difference in the lives of many.

My best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

BB:smj



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GEORGE W. BUSH
GOVERNOR

December 23, 1996

Ms. Helen Harris
P.O. Box 900
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Bush requesting his support for your audio-vision project.

Because of the large number of requests we receive from Texas organizations and our limited taxpayer funds, we are unable to comply with requests from outside the state.

I appreciate your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Green".

SHIRLEY M. GREEN
Director of Correspondence
and Constituent Services

BARBARA BOXER
CALIFORNIA

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209) 497-5109

February 6, 1997

Ms. Helen Harris
President and Founder
RP International
P.O. Box 900
Woodland Hills, California 91365

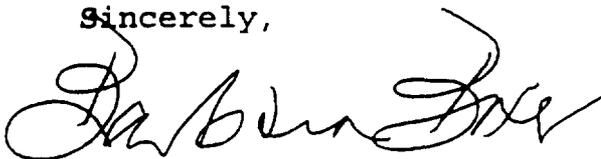
Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for your letter and the information regarding Theatre Vision and your establishment of the National Academy of Audio Description in Los Angeles.

I am so pleased to learn that your audio-description can bring thrilling accounts of motion pictures to blind and visually challenged people across the nation. Through your work, you will touch and enrich the lives of many.

I appreciate your effort to keep me informed of new and innovative projects in the community. Best wishes to you for continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

BB:nmk



STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JIM GERINGER
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

January 8, 1997

Helen Harris, President and Founder
Research Retinitis Pigmentosa Service
P.O. Box 900
Woodland Hills, California 91365

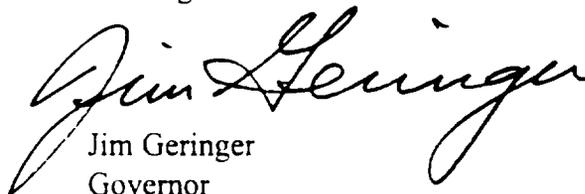
Dear President Harris:

Thank you for our letter of encouragement for the State of Wyoming to get involved with your Audio Description project. I appreciate knowing of innovations that will help those with disabilities enjoy a more fulfilled life.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Ken Kamis, Director of the Wyoming Department of Health, for his review and direct reply to you. Ken will have the knowledge of organizations for you to contact regarding your project. Should you wish to speak with Ken directly, he can be reached at: 307-777-7656.

I assure you Ken will treat your request in the most professional manner, and assist in anyway to put you in touch with helpful contacts in Wyoming.

Best regards,


Jim Geringer
Governor

JG/mj

cc: Ken Kamis, Director of the Department of Health



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CN-001
TRENTON
08625

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
GOVERNOR

NOEL T. MCGUIRE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CONSTITUENT RELATIONS

February 11, 1997

Mrs. Helen Harris
President
RP International
P.O. Box 900
Woodland Hills, California 91365

Dear Mrs. Harris:

Thank you for writing to invite Governor Whitman to lend her support to your organization's efforts to promote audio-description for movies and television. While the Governor is precluded by legal and ethical considerations from satisfying your request for official endorsement of your efforts, she sends her best wishes for the continued success of RP International's work in behalf of the blind and the visually impaired.

Again, thank you for writing to Governor Whitman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Noel T. McGuire".

Noel T. McGuire
Director
Office of Constituent Relations

Attachment 2:

**TheatreVision™ Support Letters
from the
Entertainment Industry**

Helen Harris
President and Founder
RP International & TheatreVision™
Post Office Box 900
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

CS Docket No 97-141



P.O. Box 900
Beverly Hills, California 90213-0900
Phone 310 369 3986 • Fax 310 369 2105

FOX FILMED ENTERTAINMENT
CENTURY FILMS CORPORATION

Peter Chernin
Chairman

March 12, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

As an entertainment executive and decision-maker, I am voicing my enthusiasm for Helen Harris' TheatreVision program for the visually challenged.

Helen Harris has galvanized the Hollywood community with her vision for the blind to "see" movies, television programs and stage productions via TheaterVision. I am extremely impressed with the quality of the production, both in writing and narration.

I hope that you will seriously consider this worthy program for funding.

Sincerely,

Peter Chernin



Dolby Laboratories Inc
Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation
Signal Processing and Noise Reduction Systems

100 Potrero Avenue
San Francisco, California 94103-4813
Telephone 415-558-0200
Facsimile 415-863-1373

February 29, 1996

To whom it may concern:

While attending a recent International Theatre Equipment Association seminar, I became acquainted with Mrs. Helen Harris and learned about a new process she calls "TheatreVision".

During the seminar, Mrs Harris showed clips from several recent motion pictures that have been completed with the application of this new process. The effectiveness of TheatreVision's ability to bring the blind an accessible "mainstream" social activity was immediately apparent.

I was also quite pleased to note that three of the TheatreVision projects we viewed that day, *Braveheart*, *Pocahontas* and *Batman Forever*, employed my company's Dolby Digital sound process. With proper funding, it is easy to foresee the development of a technological standard for theatrical playback equipment which can be applied to every motion picture produced.

TheatreVision holds great promise for those who have, until now, been excluded from the full enjoyment of motion pictures. I intend to support TheatreVision wherever possible. I encourage funding for this exceptional program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Allen', with a horizontal line underneath the first name.

Ioan Allen
Vice President

IA/kb

VIN SCULLY

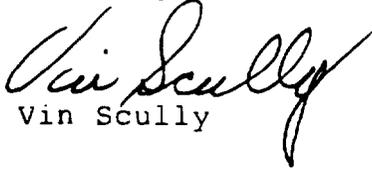
To whom it may concern:

I am a professional announcer who has had the pleasure of working with Helen Harris on several THEATREVISION projects.

In each instance, I have felt a sense of pride in being associated with each production, and have been very pleased with the caliber of the material I have worked with. I found the entire THEATREVISION Production Team to be speedy, professional in their approach and committed to excellence. They did everything they could to help me deliver the best narrative performance possible.

I look forward to the opportunity of working on other THEATREVISION projects, and urge you to consider this program for funding.

Best regards,


Vin Scully



WARNER BROS.
DISTRIBUTING

4000 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, California 91522
(818) 954-6066
Fax: (818) 954-0673

D. Barry Reardon
President

February 22, 1996

To Whom It May Concern

As an entertainment executive and decision-maker, I am voicing my enthusiasm for Helen Harris' THEATREVISION program for the visually challenged.

The movies are a very important venue in our lives and are affordable to everyone. Our lives would be a lot less interesting without movies. Mrs. Harris is providing a much needed service to the community of mankind through this important program and I plan to continue my efforts to support it in any way I can.

Very truly yours,


D. Barry Reardon

/fmb



COLUMBIA TRISTAR MOTION PICTURE COMPANIES

a SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT company

SIDNEY GANIS

*President
Worldwide Marketing*

February 28, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to become acquainted with Helen Harris as she pushes forward to make major motion pictures, T.V. shows and stage productions more accessible to the visually impaired.

This is an extremely worthwhile program, and I have lent my support to this venture. In fact, one of our studio's films, *LITTLE WOMEN* was produced in TheatreVision with excellent results, and discussions are underway to produce more films in this format in the future.

Filmmaking, of course, is a very visual medium. Without the gift of sight, much content and nuance is lost to the blind theatergoer. TheatreVision -- by providing essential information about costumes, scenery, facial expressions and action on the screen -- is a vital means through which we can communicate this information to the sightless audience member, and therefore, maximize the impact of the film. TheatreVision is a very welcome and necessary innovation in our industry.

I strongly urge the support of TheatreVision.

Best,


Sid Ganis

10202
West
Washington
Boulevard
Culver City,
California
90232-3095
Tel
310 280 7800
Fax
310 280 1539

ITEA International Theatre Equipment Association

PRESIDENT

Joan Allen
Dolby Labs.
100 Potrero Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 558-0272

VICE PRESIDENT

Tim Reed
General American Theatre Supply
919 S.W. Taylor, Suite 900
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 221-0213

TREASURER

Dan Taylor
Sunny Cinema Products
10202 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 290-8000

SECRETARY

Jerry Van de Rydt
MTS Northwest Sound, Inc.
1804 Victory Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 247-8667

DIRECTORS

Charles Adams ('97)
Marilyn Dashwood ('96)
Barry Farrell ('97)
Jerry Harrah ('97)
Jim A. Laverano ('97)
Steve Lawrence ('97)
Dan Lynch ('96)
Janene Masten ('97)
Ron Offeman ('96)
Mitch Schwam ('96)
Mark Spink ('96)
John Wilmers ('96)

PAST PRESIDENT

Terry Washchysyn
King Cinema Services
P.O. Box 3438, Station D
Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4J3
(403) 455-1622

LEGAL COUNSEL

Yale Richards
Markis Clark & Richards
11605 Miracle Hills Drive
Suite 300
Omaha, NE 68154-4487
(402) 492-9800

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert H. Sunshine
244 West 49th Street
Suite 200
New York, NY 10019
(212) 246-6460

February 22, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Helen Harris THEATREVISION project. The International Theatre Equipment Association (ITEA) finds this to be a worthy program, and we have lent our technical expertise and other resources to this venue on several occasions.

We at ITEA think THEATREVISION does a lot of good for a lot of people, and will continue to support this program whenever possible.

Please consider THEATREVISION in your grant plans.

Very truly yours,


Robert H. Sunshine

Paramount Pictures

Motion Picture Group
5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90038-3197
213-956-4575
Fax 213-956-8510

Sherry Lansing
Chairman and CEO

February 23, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

When Helen Harris first approached me about the idea of doing a descriptive narration track of a Paramount film for the visually challenged -- specifically, 'FORREST GUMP,' I thought it was a great idea. Happily, that opinion has not changed, but has only grown deeper in its conviction.

Helen Harris has galvanized the Hollywood community with her vision for the blind to "see" movies, T.V. shows and stage productions via THEATREVISION. I am extremely impressed with the quality of the productions, both in writing and narration, and will continue to support the idea of other Paramount films being produced in this format -- in fact, we recently completed "BRAVEHEART" and "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" in THEATREVISION.

As a proud member of the THEATREVISION founding committee, I am asking you to seriously consider Helen Harris' worthy program for funding.

Sincerely,

Sherry Lansing
Sherry Lansing

SL/tob



I X T L A N

To Whom it May Concern:

In my travels as a filmmaker, I have had the opportunity to meet a woman with a rare sense of unwavering commitment and zeal for her cause. Helen Harris is that woman -- a key figure behind the success of THEATREVISION, a program which allows the visually challenged greater access to motion pictures.

I support the idea of THEATREVISION and recorded a Public Service Announcement voicing that support. I am also in discussions with Disney to produce my latest film, "Nixon," in this format.

In a free society that espouses equal opportunity and the "pursuit of happiness" among other ideals, I think it is important that the visually challenged be included in that equation, with provisions made to allow them to participate more fully in the mainstream popular culture. Motion pictures, of course, play a big part in that mainstream culture.

Please seriously consider Helen Harris' THEATREVISION program for funding.

Respectfully,


Oliver Stone



To whom it may concern:

This past December I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Helen Harris as we collaborated to present a very special program on the United Paramount Network, KCOP Channel 13 in Los Angeles called "THE EYES OF CHRISTMAS," Helen's "gift of sight" to the blind and visually challenged. An important part of this wonderful program was the airing of the classic film "HEAVEN CAN WAIT," presented for the first time ever on commercial television with descriptive narration by the innovative process Helen calls "TheatreVision."

I am more than pleased to have been a part of TheatreVision's introduction to the television viewing audience, and sincerely hope to be able to offer more descriptive programming through TheatreVision in the future.

TheatreVision is a vital and worthwhile program which should not go unsupported. I wholeheartedly advocate funding of this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Feldman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rick Feldman



February 22, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, I have had the pleasure to become acquainted with Helen Harris as she pursues her quest to make major motion pictures, television and stage productions more accessible to the visually impaired via her brainchild, TheatreVision.

I whole-heartedly embrace the idea of this program. In fact, one of our studios' films, "The American President," was produced in TheatreVision, and we would certainly consider producing more motion pictures in this manner in the future.

A worthwhile program of this nature is long overdue. I strongly urge the support of TheatreVision.

Sincerely,

Alan F. Horn

AFH/bt

Michael Verdick
Transparent Sound
2201 W. Burbank Blvd.
Burbank, CA. 91506
(818) 846-3003 Fax- (818) 845-8357
AOL- MrVerdy

February 23, 1996

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Producer/Engineer who has been called upon to lend technical support to THEATREVISION, I am writing you to say I am very enthusiastic about the goals of this program.

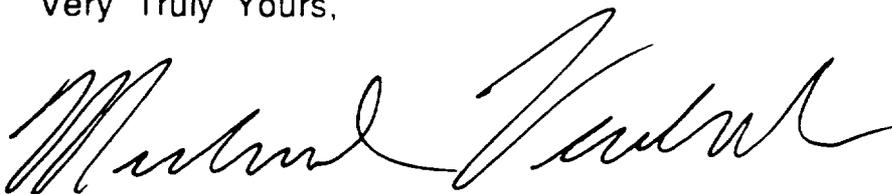
In the Entertainment Industry we use audio/visual art forms to communicate and inspire feelings in people through stories. The concept for THEATREVISION is to break the barriers for the visually impaired using technology and carefully crafted scripts to allow them to feel what those of us without these handicaps can take for granted.

Often when working on these projects I have found myself more moved by the THEATREVISION version than the original presentation. Witnessing a visually impaired person experiencing THEATREVISION for the first time was similar to when I took my four year daughter to see her first movie in a theater.

The joy THEATREVISION brings cannot be measured, nor the suffering and isolation it ends. Your support is needed to help us use this new technology to bring light to those who live in darkness.

I urge you to contribute to the funding of THEATREVISION.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Verdick", written in a cursive style.

Michael Verdick

PROWEST Video & Audio

21408 Ventura Blvd.

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Tel. 818/715-9995 Fax 818/715-9883

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a technician who has had the opportunity to work on a technical level with THEATREVISION. I am writing to voice my support for this program.

I have seen how much the blind children and adults seem to enjoy the movies when they are done this way, and I really think it makes a big difference in their lives. I hope to be working on other THEATREVISION projects in the future. Please consider THEATREVISION for an NEA grant.

Sincerely,

Alan Breneman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Breneman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.



National Association of Theatre Owners

February 27, 1996

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

RE: THEATREVISION

To Whom It May Concern:

We know that THEATREVISION has applied to the National Endowment For the Arts to assist in its continued development of technology which will bring the motion picture experience to the visually impaired.

It is our understanding that THEATREVISION has worked diligently to develop this technology and we are advised by them that the technology works. THEATREVISION now needs additional funding to continue refining the technology.

The National Association of Theatre Owners is a non-profit trade association. We do not have funds available for projects such as THEATREVISION's. While we cannot fund this project, the NATO Technology Committee has agreed to assist THEATREVISION in the development of technical design standards for their theatrical playback system, so that the equipment will be compatible for the vast number of theatre screens in the United States.

I understand how difficult it must be to determine the worthiness of one project over another. This is the first real work being done to bring the visually impaired to the movies. We would ask that you favorably consider the THEATREVISION proposal for funding.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Grasso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Ann Grasso
Executive Director

L:MAG:NEA

2.23.96

To Whom it May Concern:

As a professional actor, I have had the pleasure of working with Helen Harris on several occasions, most recently, in conjunction with TheatreVision where I was called upon to narrate one of these productions for the visually challenged.

I found the entire THEATREVISION production team to be extremely professional and supportive, and obviously committed to not only communicating visuals and ideas, but also artistry.

I hope to be associated with other THEATREVISION projects, and urge you to consider this program for a grant.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David F. Doyle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

David Doyle



3250 TOPANGA CANYON BLVD., CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 5760 (818) 998-2200 FAX (818) 998-1000

To Whom It May Concern:

My association with Helen Harris began when she produced her first "AudioVision" program here in our Chatsworth facility. I thought it was an inspirational idea to record the voices of celebrities and nationally known figures reading Christmas greetings and descriptions for those who could not read for themselves.

Now, Helen has taken this concept a step further with "TheatreVison," making movies and television programs a possibility for those who cannot see what's happening on the screen during moments when dialogue is absent; another inspirational idea.

I am gratified to say we were able to participate in TheatreVison's television debut on Christmas Eve by airing the movie classic, "Christmas Eve," beautifully described and narrated for our viewers, and carried by satellite across the United States to those stations licensed to carry this film.

I sincerely hope CVI's viewers will have the opportunity to experience more movies and television programming through TheatreVison as soon and as often as possible, and pledge my support in the realization of this effort.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Popkin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Alan Popkin



RICK FELDMAN
VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER

To whom it may concern:

This past December I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Helen Harris as we collaborated to present a very special program on the United Paramount Network, KCOP Channel 13 in Los Angeles called "THE EYES OF CHRISTMAS," Helen's "gift of sight" to the blind and visually challenged. An important part of this wonderful program was the siring of the classic film "HEAVEN CAN WAIT," presented for the first time ever on commercial television with descriptive narration by the innovative process Helen calls "TheatreVision."

I am more than pleased to have been a part of TheatreVision's introduction to the television viewing audience, and sincerely hope to be able to offer more descriptive programming through TheatreVision in the future.

TheatreVision is a vital and worthwhile program which should not go unsupported. I wholeheartedly advocate funding of this program.

Sincerely,



Rick Feldman

Joseph Eastburn
11917 Dorothy Street
Los Angeles, CA 90049

February 21, 1996

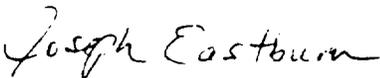
To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to write a letter of commitment to the project of describing movies for the blind that THEATREVISION is currently involved in. I have worked as a co-writer, in conjunction with Helen Harris, on three films now: BATMAN RETURNS, HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, and HEAVEN CAN WAIT.

Describing each film was a challenge, and probably some of the most intense and enjoyable writing experiences I've ever had. As a published novelist and working screenwriter, I can't think of a better way to discover the "grammar" of film and at the same time become the eyes of a sight-impaired person. It has been very rewarding.

I hope you will wholeheartedly endorse this important effort.

Yours Sincerely,


Joseph Eastburn

DEBORAH J. BROWN
Writer/Editor & Publicist
Phone/fax: 310-442-6049

February 22, 1996

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is written in support of Helen Harris' THEATREVISION program.

Since the program's inception, I have been involved with various THEATREVISION projects on a public relations level, and have also done some preliminary and post work on scripts for some THEATREVISION projects.

In all cases, I have been impressed with the diligence, attention to detail and artistry of Helen Harris and her support staff in the preparation of these materials. As a visually challenged person herself, Helen knows what it takes to convey both the bare essence and the fine nuances of a movie to a person who cannot see. She works very hard to produce the best product possible, keeping the needs of the visually challenged person first and foremost in her mind during the process. The superior end result is a direct reflection of this monumental and conscientious effort.

I look forward to continuing my association with THEATREVISION, and applaud this program on all levels.

Sincerely,



Deborah Brown

11635 Mayfield Ave., #8, Los Angeles, CA 90049