Former President George Bush First President to Describe TheatreVision[™] Film, "It's a Wonderful Life"



Former President George Bush became the first President to personally record a TheatreVision™ version of the classic holiday film, "It's A Wonderful Life," starring the legendary Jimmy Stewart. The recording was done at the Speed of Sound Studios in Houston, Texas, with a telephone link to the California home of Helen Harris.

TheatreVision[™] is an exciting new program making films accessible to the visually challenged. The process incorporates a special descriptive soundtrack that runs concurrently with the dialogue



of the picture. This track provides a "descriptive narration" of what is being shown on screen, so that those without sight can still experience the wonderful medium of motion pictures.



President Bush's involvement with RPI has grown from his first meeting with Harris in the Oval Office, where she was raising awareness of RP. Bush was so impressed with Harris' concept of TheatreVision[™] that he agreed to lend his voice and support. Unable to

travel to Houston, Harris was supplied with a special telephone link from the studio to her residence in California, making it possible for her to co-produce the coast-to-coast recording of "It's a Wonderful Life" in TheatreVisionTM.

On December 7, 2002, a star-studded gathering of friends was hosted by TheatreVision[™] for a VIP television premiere as NBC, for the first time, aired the holiday classic film with the description by former President Bush for the nation's 31 million blind and visually impaired.

The premiere was held at the plush San Fernando Valley estate of William and Mickey McAbian, where guests included television and radio personality Casey Kasem; actress Anne Jeffreys; veteran broadcaster, Mario Machado, and friends and supporters including Mickey Rooney and the voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Vin Scully, who all offered congratula-





tions to TheatreVision's blind creator, Helen Harris.

Harris thanked her guests, and impressed the need to pursue the FCC mandate for networks to provide descriptive programming to a full-time reality. The room thundered with applause and tears as all present realized they were part of a beginning, similar to the start of closed captioning for the deaf and hearing impaired 25 years ago.

"It's a Wonderful Life" was aired again by NBC on December 24th, Christmas Eve. The description could be heard by activating the SAP (Second Audio Program) channel.

