

SPECIAL DESIGNS BY ORAL IMAGE STUDIO HELP THOSE WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES “SEE” THE MOON

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The blind will no longer be excluded from “seeing” stage performance. With the help of special designs that included wireless earphone and oral images, the Oral Image Studio at Tamkang University enabled those with visual disabilities in northern Taiwan to appreciate the stage performance “The Moon Is in Our House” by Green Light troupe Sept. 18, 19. After enjoying the performance, Mr. Tseng, an audience with visual disability, remarked: “It is a precious experience to enjoy a stage performance. Through the help of oral images, I now understand more about performers’ actions and their facial expressions in details.”

Dean of College of Liberal Arts Dr. Chao Ya-ly, who established the Oral Image Studio, has devoted herself to the study of oral images for near ten years and applied its result to those with visual disabilities. The performance “The Moon Is in Our House” was a typical Broadway musical play embedded with a great amount of songs and dances however, most dance performance was omitted for easier access to and grasp of the plot for those with visual disabilities.

The Oral Image Studio has designed many auxiliary props for the performance in Taipei Municipal Social Education Hall, including a graphic model of stage design, banner headlines, and programs written in Braille, among others. Chao Yo-tsu, assistant of the Studio, indicated that an understanding of the stage design would help those with visual disabilities to place the elements provided by the Studio at the right places and help create related images.

All the members of the Studio worked very hard for this event. Kuo Hui-

shuan, a volunteer and a junior in Mass Communication Department, for example, spent many nights in wiring scripts and preparing for the technical equipment for broadcasting. " Although energy-consuming, yet worthy," said she after all these exhausting efforts. The Studio has launched a much bigger project for the movie " Harry Potter" to bring this movie in front of the eyes of those with visual disabilities, more efforts are expected in the near future.