

Access Rider – Jane Shi

Jane Shi is the author of [*echolalia echolalia*](#) (Brick Books, 2024).



ID: A person with pale-tan skin with her body away from the camera but her face smiling towards it. She's wearing a blue jean jacket that reads "Nobody Loves You" in the back, embroidered in white calligraphy. Her hair is nearly shoulder-length with dark red highlights at the end and she's wearing large round black-gray glasses. The background is a park during daytime.

Photo credit: Joy Gyamfi

The purpose of this document is to share Jane's access needs for bookings, including but not limited to events, readings, and speaking engagements.

Access needs:

Jane is prioritizing online readings, and in-person readings with clear COVID protocols. She is eager to work with organizations that have committed to [PACBI](#) and made efforts to prioritize the safety, well-being, and flourishing of Black, Indigenous, and people of colour—particularly poor, working-class, disabled, Mad, neurodivergent, d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing, blind/non-sighted, queer, trans, and Two-Spirit—authors, artists, staff, and community members alike.

In practice, this can look like equipping volunteers and staff with de-escalation training from an anti-carceral lens, Naloxone and other harm reduction training, building relationships, giving ample time for d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing audiences to request their preferred ASL interpreters, finding venues with accessibility audits, considering the impacts of a gentrifying space, having COVID protocols, and taking the time to learn people's needs.

Virtual:

- Where possible, provide Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) and American Sign Language (ASL).
- Please provide automatic captioning where CART and ASL are not possible, with the knowledge that automatic captioning is not a substitute for accessibility/inclusion.
- If a video of the event will be posted online, please include edited captioning in the video and a transcript in a separate document.
- No video with flashing lights (these can cause seizures in some viewers).

Resources:

<https://inclusiveasl.com/inclusive-communication-services-guides/cart-captioning-everything-you-need-to-know-for-live-and-virtual-events/>

<https://themindhears.org/2019/05/01/captions-and-crapions-for-academics/>

<https://www.queerasl.com/>

<https://www.wavefrontcentre.ca/acs/captioning/>

<https://wavli.com/>

In-person:

- Where budget allows, include air purifiers or HEPA filters in the space and open the windows for better ventilation.
- When hosting in a public space where masking cannot be enforced, please adopt masking as a part of safer space/anti-oppressive policies for the duration of the event and ask participants to not attend if they are feeling sick.
- Do not require readers to remove their masks on stage and give readers the option to wear transparent masks if there are audience members who rely on lip-reading in attendance.
- Do not require people to explain why they require masking nor why they cannot mask.
- Please encourage readers to put their masks back on when not eating, drinking water, or reading where masks can be temporarily removed in a space.
- High-quality masking (N95 or KN95) is currently the standard for airborne illnesses like COVID. Please consider reaching out to your local mask blocs (e.g. Masks4EastVan in so-called Vancouver) to acquire them for free.
- Where travelling is required, please consider asking hosts and other readers to test beforehand for COVID where tests are freely available.
- Jane will not be able to attend as many in-person readings in a row in the winter during flu season or at times when there are higher levels of COVID and other airborne illnesses in the community.
- Allow for the option to switch events online.

Note about enforcement and segregation:

The pandemic has given police cover to use COVID to increase their powers, without pretense that the purpose is to prevent spread of illness. Simultaneously, healthcare and public health institutions have abandoned their responsibilities for the economy, reducing and cutting funding for programs that would support workers, including artists, to stay home when

they are ill, among others. It is thus our responsibility as writers, artists, organizers, and community members to understand and inform one another that preventing the spread of airborne illnesses will continue to be a safety and accessibility concern at in-person events.

The purpose of personal protective equipment such as masks is to ensure that we do not spread illness among ourselves, and among our most vulnerable, marginalized communities, especially in carceral institutions such as psychiatric wards, long-term care homes, and prisons where people cannot leave on their own accord. Along with young infants, there are also many disabled people who cannot mask for medical reasons, so those who can need to do so for their safety as well.

Segregating immunocompromised, disabled people within the arts is eugenics, and equipping one another with layers of protection—including knowledge—is crucial for combating it. Masking policies at events is not to put burden on event organizers to enforce masking in a space, but to include layers of protection as part of everyday anti-oppressive/safer space policies.

Resources:

<https://linktr.ee/masks4eastvan>

<https://maskbloc.org/> (Free masks directory)

<https://peoplescdc.org/2023/06/14/testing/>

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-05-n95-masks-blocking-airborne-covid.html>

<https://theconversation.com/ventilation-reduces-the-risk-of-covid-so-why-are-we-still-ignoring-it-194820>

Socials:

- Where possible, please invite Jane to events where eating and drinking can happen outside or in not crowded areas.

Image Descriptions:

Please provide image descriptions and alt text for promotional materials. Ask authors/artists to describe themselves and work of cultural significance and specificity. Alt text functions exist across all social media platforms, embedded in each image.

See example of an image description below:



[Image Description: A book cover with an expressionist-realist painting of a person with buzzed hair and yellow skin, wearing a grey-white smock, fighting/eating a bright orange snake in a lush dark green, maroon, orange growth/jungle; the forest floor is a dark green and the sky is a pale pink-lavender. the person's mouth is open and they are barefoot. above the person in a snaky S wiggle are the words "echolalia echolalia" in bolded white serif font and the words "jane shi" in regular white serif font.]

Resources:

<https://alt-text-as-poetry.net/>

<https://kdesign.co/blog/how-to-write-alt-text/>