

Brailled It! Movie Transcript

AD: Hello, I'm Meredith. My voice will be your guide throughout this film, providing visual information for audiences across the sight spectrum. My approach is intended to enhance immersion into the world of the Braille Challenge contestants. In order to translate cinematic experience across sensory boundaries, not every single visual element will be described. This film was created out of footage captured almost entirely by three contestants in the competition: Salome, Isaiah, and Chris. They chose what to film and when. They wore small action cameras on their chests



pointing forward. So you almost never see them except in brief moments, like when they pass their reflection in a mirror. Because of the camera position, the point of view is relatively low, and we often do not see the faces of people they are standing in front of. The film is thus visually disorienting and may cause motion sickness in sighted audiences due to the perspective and movements of the camera. With that, please join me for the film. On a black screen, the Artifact Studios logo fades in and out. The Suncatcher logo fades in and out.



Phone speaker: First name. Heading. First name required question. Text field. Insertion point at end. Cap A, Cap C. Charlie. Delete. Swipe. 80%, 75, 70%, 65%, 60%.

AD: Leading with one hand, a white cane in the other, a teenager with a light skin tone feels around a hotel room.

Phone speaker: Cancel. Click. Cancel.

(phone speaker continues, sped up and inaudible)



AD: They navigate past the beds to the door. They step into the hallway with their white cane extended on the ground in front of them. They navigate down the hallway, the cane sweeping side to side in front of them. They turn right into a foyer with two elevator doors. They slide their hand along the wall until they find the elevator call button. Slide their knuckles to the right along an elevator door. Slide their hand along the wall. Back to the elevator call button. Back to the door. Back to the call button. Over to the other elevator door. They slide their finger along the seam of



the door. Step back over to the opposite door. As they sway in place, the camera pans between the two elevator doors. They run their finger across the elevator door. They press the illuminated call button again. They reach their hands out, entering onto an empty elevator. Hello. The reflection flashes in the elevator's mirrored wall. A teenage girl with medium length brown hair. She moves her finger along the Braille on the buttons, then presses the button for the first floor. This is Salome. The screen blurs with light and shadow.

(indistinct voices overlapping)



AD: The image comes into focus as Salome bumps into a sign on an easel in the hotel lobby.

SALOME: Whoa, whoa. Deda! Help! Sign.

RACHEL: Got it. Got it. Salome, it's Rachel. Good to see you!

SALOME: Hi Miss Rachel.



RACHEL: How are you doing?

SALOME: Good.

RACHEL: We are so excited.

SALOME: I am too. I'm going to win.

RACHEL: Yes. Yes.

AD: She meets a woman at the registration table and takes her hand.



JACKIE: It's Jackie. How have you been?

SALOME: Hi, Miss Jackie.

JACKIE: Hi.

SALOME: Look at this.

JACKIE: What's that, Salome?

SALOME: A camera.



JACKIE: A camera! Are you wearing a camera the entire weekend?

SALOME: You're on film.

JACKIE: Oh my gosh! Hello everybody. Welcome to the Braille Challenge!

SALOME: You're on film, whether you like it or not!



AD: The image blurs in and out of focus.

WOMAN: You want to get this video camera recording fun stuff?

BOY: Yeah. And then after that.

WOMAN: Where's your cane?

BOY: Oh, yeah.



AD: In a mirror we see reflected a boy with brown short hair and light skin tone, wearing a camera on his chest. This is Isaiah.

WOMAN: Where did I leave it?

ISAIAH: Miss Jean, you have to go to Chick-fil-A. It's so good.

AD: He grabs his cane and walks down a hotel hallway with his mother, grandmother and miss Jean, his Braille teacher.



ISAIAH: Oops, sorry.

WOMAN: Oh. That's okay.

ISAIAH: I'm going to film the Braille Tech Showroom, so let's go do that. I already got a coloring book.

WOMAN: Pardon me?

ISAIAH: I'm just talking to the camera.



WOMAN: Oh.

AD: He passes through a doorway to the Braille Technology showroom.

ISAIAH: Here it is.

AD: Vendors sit at tables around the perimeter of the small room.

ISAIAH: Hi. What's all at the table?



PETER: What's at the table? We have a Brailliant 40, Mantis, Stream, Stellar Trek, Monarch, and a Touch plus. So, the Monarch is right over here. What's your name?

ISAIAH: Isaiah. This is so cool!

PETER: Where are you from, Isaiah?

ISAIAH: Ah, Saskatchewan.

PETER: Saskatchewan! Dude, that's what I'm talking about, brother. From Regina?



JEAN: Saskatoon, not Regina!

PETER: Oh, Saskatoon. Oooh.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Are you Peter?

PETER: I'm Peter. Yeah.

ISAIAH: This is the Monarch! This thing is so cool.



AD: Isaiah's hand touches the Braille device.

PETER: So this can do some graphics.

ISAIAH: Something's happening!

PETER: So up, down, left, right. You'll feel I moved it more to the left. Now you're kind of looking at the left edge of the piece of paper.

ISAIAH: That's so cool!



PETER: And you'll see that there's all this white space here.

ISAIAH: Yeah. Can I try and move it?

PETER: Yeah. Do whatever you want. There's no rules. Do whatever you feel like.

ISAIAH: This thing is so cool.

PETER: Saskatoon, dude.



ISAIAH: Is there anything else here? Where's Miss Jean? Miss Jean, look. Look at this. It's a braille coloring book.

JEAN: Oh yeah. So is it all raised lines?

ISAIAH: Yeah.

JEAN: Ah, sweet. Feel this.

ISAIAH: What's that?



JEAN: That is for when you're doing a signature.
Can I take a couple?

VENDOR: Yes.

JEAN: Okay, excellent. So when we learn how to sign your name, you're gonna use one of these, okay? I'm gonna hold on to it for you.

ISAIAH: Okay.

JEAN: So that you can learn to sign your name and put your signature in things.



ISAIAH: In print?

JEAN: Yeah.

ISAIAH: Cool!

JEAN: When we do handwriting.

ISAIAH: That's cool. We're doing handwriting?

Boy, what!



BOY: See you guys.

AD: The image blurs again with light and shadow.

BOY: I walked in here a while ago, but I'm just here to see some people.

RACHEL: See your friends!

BOY: Yeah.



AD: This is Chris.

RACHEL: Party's here!

CHRIS: Hello!

AD: He enters the Braille technology
showroom.

CHRIS: Hey guys.

RACHEL: Where do you want to go first?



CHRIS: I don't know, I'll just walk around.

RACHEL: Okay.

AD: He has medium brown skin and holds a white cane.

CHRIS: What's over here?

MAN: What's that? Are you Christopher?



CHRIS: Yes I am.

MAN: Yeah EmmaGrace is right in front of you.
She's looking at the Monarch.

CHRIS: Oh, cool. So, I'm right outside of
Atlanta— a place called Douglasville.

CHRIS'S MOM: So tell them where you're
thinking about going.

CHRIS: I'm thinking about going to USC, that is
one of my options. I am also thinking about



going to some colleges in California: UC Berkeley, Stanford—those places. Who's on my right?

KAREN: I'm Karen.

CHRIS: Oh, hey.

KAREN: Hi. And this is Tiffany somewhere.

TIFFANY: I'm over here. Hi.



KAREN: What's your name?

CHRIS: Chris.

KAREN: Oh, hi, Chris. Good to meet you.

CHRIS: Hi, nice to meet you.

KAREN: Yeah. Same here. We both work at Braille right now. We're here trying to get information for a writing workshop that we're trying to do in the fall.



CHRIS: Oh, yeah, yeah...awesome.

KAREN: So how's your day been?

CHRIS: Pretty good. Had an early morning. So usually the disability line is shorter at Hartsfield Atlanta Airport, but this time it was long. I'm like, dang y'all.

EMMAGRACE: That's cool.



MAN: We'll be doing the survey in the, uh, ballroom?

KAREN: On the second floor in the ballroom.

MAN: We will head there shortly, whoever wants to head out.

EMMAGRACE: I turn right?

MAN: No no no. Head straight.



AD: Chris follows Tiffany and her guide dog through the hotel to the ballroom.

CHRIS: We are the blind leading the blind.

EMMAGRACE: Literally.

CHRIS: Sorry.

AD: He sits at a table. (screen reader plays audio at fast speed) Required question. Start.



CHRIS: What is this question about how much experience do you have working with other braille readers in an academic setting?

TIFFANY: Well, just like—

KAREN: Have you interacted with other blind students who read braille in an academic setting, in a classroom? Or are you the only blind kid?

CHRIS: Well, in most classrooms, I am the only blind kid, so I guess “none” would be applicable here.

KAREN: None? Or, like, very little?

CHRIS: Yeah, I’d say very little— because Braille Challenge, I guess. (screen reader plays audio at fast speed) Alright.

KAREN: Looks like you’re done.

CHRIS: Yep.



KAREN: Thank you very much for your time.

CHRIS: No problem.

AD: In the hotel lobby. Salome walks over to a group of two adults and two children sitting on a couch, a white cane on the floor between them. She sits on the floor in front of them.

GIRL: Hi.



SALOME: You reading? What are you reading?

GIRL: This little, Braille Challenge book.

SALOME: Which one? The yearbook?

GIRL: Um, it's the one with the binder.

SALOME: Yeah, the yearbook.

GIRL: Yeah, I'm reading it.



SALOME: If you have time, flip to JV and find mine.

GIRL: JV?

SALOME: Uh huh, Here, I can help you find it if you give it to me.

GIRL: Here you go.

SALOME: I'll find it. Junior Varsity. Junior Varsity.



GIRL: What's JV?

SALOME: Junior Varsity, that's—ah hah! I found Leo DeSantis.

GIRL: So you get to do the Speed and Accuracy.

SALOME: Yeah, but you—that's not actually a good thing. It's a curse. Speed and Accuracy is insane. No, it's not about technology, dude.



GIRL: It's not?

SALOME: No it's not.

GIRL: Oh, wow.

SALOME: It's about other things, like braille
really, really fast. It's the bottom part.

WOMAN: So that's right there. See?

GIRL: Sa...Sal...Solomon?



SALOME: Salome.

GIRL: Solomon. Cummins. Right? That's your name? From Miss...

SALOME: Missouri.

GIRL: That's where my favorite singer was born.

SALOME: It's a state. What's your favorite singer?



GIRL: She's SZA, "...who loves the Braille Challenge." I need to see. I need proof. I'm mad at you.

AD: In the lobby, Salome and three girls stand in a group playing with their name tags.

GIRL: I got it. Wait wait wait. What!

JANNA: What?



GIRL: What! No. You need to look at this.

JANNA: Where did they get your name from?

SALOME: Look at mine, Janna!

JANNA: Um. Salome C. You got second last year!

SALOME: Yeah, because this kid called Leo DeSantis!



JANNA: And I got third!

GIRL: Oh, by the way, you're going against him
this year again.

AD: Salome walks over to Chris.

SALOME: Christopher Morgan!

CHRIS: Hey, what's up!

SALOME: Whassup!



CHRIS: How are you doing?

SALOME: Good. When did you get here, Chris?
Last night?

CHRIS: Literally two hours ago. Less than that?
Less than that.

SALOME: Chris you are totally taller than me.

CHRIS: How are you doing?



SALOME: Janna—Christopher Morgan. He wins Varsity all the time.

JANNA: Yes.

AD: Chris walks down a hallway. Bumps into a cart. Chris's mom stands in front of him in the elevator.

CHRIS: (imitates beeping sound) Can you hear it?



CHRIS'S MOM: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. Let me move this out of your way, honey. Excuse me.

CHRIS: That's a high-pitched beep baseball—possibly a beep kickball.

CHRIS'S MOM: Here we're four. So you're going out first.

CHRIS: Sorry.

CHRIS'S MOM: Make it happen quickly, sir.



AD: Chris steps out of the elevator. Using his cane to navigate, he turns left down the hallway.

CHRIS'S MOM: And you're going to go to the left. How'd you know?

CHRIS: I was just going to check the first room and see which one.

CHRIS'S MOM: So it's going to be—



CHRIS: No, no, let me find out—

AD: He slides his cane along doorways on the left.

CHRIS: Usually hotels are even and odd sides.

CHRIS'S MOM: They are. This one is different.

CHRIS: This one's different. This one is. Yep.

411. Here we go.



AD: He takes his key and touches it to the door lock. As he enters the room, he pulls his suitcase past his mother. His reflection in the mirror. A teenage boy wearing glasses who is tall and has short dark hair. Isaiah opens the door to his room with his family.

ISAIAH: This is my room. Here's a mirror—it's actually a closet. Very clever. Let's close it. That's the bathroom. And then that is the room. You should see the view. You can see the university. It looks great. Look at that.



AD: Through the window, the horizon of the bright blue sky meets palm-tree lined streets.

ISAIAH: Don't listen to my grandma. She's crazy. You can just take a look. Looking out to downtown LA. Look at that.

AD: In her hotel room, Salome sits facing a bed. There is a window along the back wall, covered by a curtain and a desk and a chair off to the right.

SALOME: Deda?



SALOME'S MOM: Uh huh?

SALOME: If you meet Jane or her mother, tell her our room number. I want her to meet her here after the reception. (applause greets new arrivals to the event)

AD: A volunteer holding a cane gives directions in a hallway. Salome and her family stand in a crowded elevator as people get on and off.

WOMAN: You know what? You guys go ahead.



SALOME'S DAD: Sorry.

SALOME'S MOM: Hey Emma, this is Salome's family.

SALOME: Emma!

EMMA: Hi.

SALOME: You're back.



EMMA: I am back. You get to see me again.

SALOME: You think Grace is going to beat you?

EMMA: I don't know, she's not in my age group.

SALOME: Are you going to beat Hayley for her?

EMMA: I hope so.

SALOME'S DAD: Oh, guys.



AD: Salome walks through the lobby.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Hello, sweetie. How are you?
Isaiah, come this way.

SALOME: I'm trying to follow my family.

AD: Her family walks with her to the hotel
ballroom.

SALOME: You see Leo DeSantis?



SALOME'S DAD: No, but if you do, you just be nice to him.

SALOME: I'm not going to be mean, Papa.

AD: In the ballroom, Chris follows a competitor under a balloon arch on stage.

STAFF: Straight on.

CHRIS: Sorry.



STAFF: And I'm gonna have you turn to face the camera.

AD: Salome walks on stage.

SALOME: Do we line up in alphabetical order?

ANNOUNCER: Welcome and good evening.

Welcome to the 2024 Braille Challenge Finals weekend.



ISAIAH: Let's go!

ANNOUNCER: Our students today are the top 50 participants who tested far and wide across the U.S., U.K., and Canada.

AD: Spectators take photographs of Salome and other competitors lined up on stage.

ANNOUNCER: And now I say...

CONTESTANTS IN UNISON: And now I say!



ANNOUNCER: Let the challenge begin.

CONTESTANTS IN UNISON: Let the challenge begin!

SALOME: Yay! (Salome sings to herself)

AD: Salome stands by a table on the ballroom floor.

PHILIP: What's your name?



SALOME: Salome.

PHILIP: Salome!

AD: She shakes his hand.

SALOME: JV

PHILIP: JV. I'm Phillip. I work at Braille Institute.

Are you excited for tomorrow?



SALOME: Yeah.

PHILIP: Yeah? You gonna win?

SALOME: Yeah.

PHILIP: Yeah? How'd you do last year?

SALOME: Second.

PHILIP: Second. Oooh. So close.



SALOME: Leo DeSantis beat me. But I'm gonna beat him this year.

PHILIP: Okay. I'm gonna look out for it.

CHRIS: Praise the Lord!

AD: A girl with long brown hair and eyeglasses holding a cane stands in front of Chris. This is Brooke.

CHRIS: What would you do?



BROOKE: I would do it normally and then cry later.

CHRIS: Like, cry about the end of school or just cry like?

BROOKE: Cry that I'm not going to see my friends anymore, because then we're all going to go different places.

CHRIS: Oh that's true.



BROOKE: Like that's going to be sad.

CHRIS: I don't really have any friends at school, but I do have a couple which are really cool and I will miss them. But like, most of those people, I honestly could care less if I ever see again.

BROOKE: Yeah, I understand.

CHRIS: You have people like that with every place though.

BROOKE: True. Yeah.



CHRIS: I wish they made a Braille Challenge School. I've been saying that forever that you need to make a Braille Challenge School.

BROOKE: I know you've told me that.

AD: Isaiah sits at a table.

LUISE: Isaiah?

ISAIAH: Yeah?



LUISE: I wish— (crosstalk from two women at table) Isaiah?

ISAIAH: Yeah?

LUISE: Isaiah?

ISAIAH: Yeah?

LUISE: Isaiah?



ISAIAH: Yes?

LUISE: Um, so, so—Mommy I can't think when you're talking!

ISAIAH: Yeah?

LUISE: So, um, you know—do you too sometimes are annoyed that you can't see?

ISAIAH: Yes.



LUISE: You know, when you are like—what is seeing like? Were you born blind, Isaiah?

ISAIAH: Yes I was. Were you too?

LUISE: No I wasn't. I turned blind at 17 months.

ISAIAH: Ohh. Do you remember anything that you see?

LUISE: No, that's the annoying thing.



ISAIAH: I wish, like, I always sometimes just wish I could see one— I wish I could just see for a day. I would probably remember it for the rest of—

LUISE: My friend told me that someday there might be something invented so that people who are totally blind can see like shadows and stuff. But I didn't know what to think of it because I do want to see, but still—

ISAIAH: This is what I think. If it's not going to make you fully see anything, like you're still



going to need help getting around, I wouldn't do it because that would probably be like really lots of money. And if it doesn't really make you fully see then there's not really a point.

LUISE: Know what I think?

ISAIAH: What?

LUISE: I think it would be hard to learn like—

ISAIAH: Yeah, like print.



LUISE: Besides, think about this: if you could see shadows, then your sense of touch wouldn't be that good, and then you couldn't read braille that well. Think about that.

ISAIAH: Well, I mean, I'm not completely blind, so I can see just light and dark and a bit of shadows, but still like, you get used to it, and then you just—

LUISE: Yeah, I'm 0%



ISAIAH: Oh, okay.

AD: In a crowd, Salome reaches her hand out to navigate. She touches the hand of a competitor.

WOMAN: Hi Salome! Leo, she's right here, she's saying hi.

AD: They shake hands.

SALOME: Hi Leo, may the best win, Leo.



SALOME'S DAD: What did you just say?

SALOME: May the best win, Leo.

SALOME'S DAD: Oh, Salome, stop it.

SALOME: No, it could be him, it could be me.

SALOME'S DAD: There you go.



SALOME: I wasn't trying to let him win last year.
Bye bye. Good luck, Leo!

CHRIS: I will never drink.

AD: Chris, standing with Brooke.

CHRIS: One time I just tasted it. Well I tasted
both alcohol and beer, like wine and beer.
Wine. Okay. I've had that. Like, you know,
when they do communion at church and they
give you the wine.



BROOKE: Yeah.

CHRIS: But, like, wine is not good, I hate it. And then one time when I was really young, I tasted beer and it was so disgusting that, uh-uh, never again.

BROOKE: Yeah.

CHRIS: No, I hate it.



BROOKE: I just don't want to, like, is it worth it?
No. I'm already impaired enough as it is. Don't
need it to be worse.

CHRIS: I agree.

AD: Isaiah at the table.

LUISE: But I have become famous, honestly.

ISAIAH: Me too. Because like, I've been on the
news a lot of times, like not school, like actually
on TV. I've been on the news eight times and a



lot for the Braille Challenge, so. A lot of the people know me and like basically everyone in my school knows me. It's so annoying when people just know you as the blind kid.

LUISE: Well...

SALOME: Brooke! Brooke!

AD: Salome darts across the room, grabs Brooke by the arm.

SALOME: Brooke!



BROOKE: Hi, what's going on?

SALOME: What's up?

BROOKE: Can you let go of my arms, please?

Thank you.

SALOME: How far do you get in Speed and
Accuracy usually?



BROOKE: Why are you asking? What? You didn't even say hi to me. I can just ask you, how was your way in? How was your day?

SALOME: Good.

BROOKE: Okay. Speed and Accuracy. Last year I got 11 pages in. What about you?

SALOME: Seven.

BROOKE: Yeah, they get harder and harder, I feel like with the years, not even with the aging



up. Like the Regionals—I barely got in. The Regionals were so hard. Don't beat yourself up for only getting through seven.

SALOME: No, I only got seven at Nationals.

BROOKE: I know, they're making them way harder now.

SALOME: I just don't get that far, and I'm scared of Varsity.



BROOKE: Don't be scared of Varsity. I'm scared of Varsity and I'm in Varsity.

AD: Isaiah at the table.

ISAIAH: Luise?

LUISE: Yes?

ISAIAH: Okay. You're still here. I have something that's called Leber's congenital amaurosis.



LUISE: What?

ISAIAH: That's what I have.

JEAN: That's his eye condition. It's a big, long name.

ISAIAH: Yeah. It's so hard to write.

LUISE: Well, that's interesting. It's just a weird name.



AD: Chris talks to another female contestant.

LYNN: Um, do you have a phone?

CHRIS: I do.

LYNN: Want to exchange numbers?

CHRIS: Sure!



LYNN: Do you want to type my phone number
or do you want me to type yours?

CHRIS: It doesn't matter.

LYNN: Can you type mine then?

CHRIS: Oh, yeah.

LYNN: It's kind of loud in here.



AD: With his cane tucked under his arm, Chris taps on his phone screen. Brooke rubs her eyes.

BROOKE: What's your dinner plan?

CHRIS: I don't know. Maybe both of our families can go do something.

BROOKE: Yeah, we were thinking— my parents were, like, “We should ask Christopher and his mom to go get dinner.” I was, like, “That's a good idea!”



CHRIS: Yeah, it'd be fun.

BROOKE: We'll see.

AD: Isaiah at the table.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Luise, are you tired?

ISAIAH: Mom, can we go eat?

ISAIAH'S MOM: Yeah.



ISAIAH: Let's go.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Alright.

AD: The image is blurred with light and shadow.

ISAIAH: What is down here? Who's down here?

AD: Isaiah and his family walk through the hotel lobby.



ISAIAH: Is it still on? Is this still on? Can you check?

ISAIAH'S MOM: Yeah.

AD: They exit the hotel and walk along the sidewalk.

ISAIAH: I guess it's going to video me eat my food. Come on, let's go to chick-a-flick. Or flick-a-chick.



ISAIAH'S GRANDMA: Oh, I'm not eating chick-a-flick all week, I can tell you that.

AD: Salome's family crosses a street.

SALOME'S DAD: You think you'd like to go to USC, Salome?

SALOME: No.

SALOME'S DAD: Why?



SALOME: Don't got no law school.

SALOME'S DAD: It doesn't?

SALOME: I don't think so.

SALOME'S DAD: I think most lawyers don't go to the same school they went to for undergraduate.

SALOME: Yeah, right. But if USC is going to be that expensive, then— If I don't have to go to the same school, I might as well just go to like a



fairly cheap, you know, like SLU, which even has a law school I think.

SALOME'S DAD: I think USC has a law school.

SALOME: I bet they don't.

SALOME'S DAD: USC Gould School of Law.

SALOME: Alright. Fine. You got me.

CHRIS'S MOM: I just want food at this point.



AD: The low sun peers through trees as Chris and his mom lead Brooke and her family down the sidewalk

CHRIS'S MOM: I want to eat.

CHRIS: I want a burger. I want me a big old juicy burger.

CHRIS'S MOM: Yeah. I just want food at this point. Beautiful LA.



CHRIS: I think Atlanta's more beautiful.

BROOKE'S MOM: Closed for the Summer.

CHRIS'S MOM: It's closed?

CHRIS: What the heck? Uh, oh. If McKay's is not open, I'm going to have to beat somebody up. Wait. Hold up. Let me see something. (phone activates) Restaurants near me.

AD: Salome carries an ice cream sandwich and sits down at a table full of people.



SALOME: Jane, look at my big sandwich. Jane,
you want to try some of my cookie?

JANE: Eh.

ISAIAH: I'll show you how to use my cane.

AD: Isaiah walks hand-in-hand with his
grandmother.



ISAIAH: Okay. So my hand sweeps. Just like this.
Hi! Sweep across just like this. Very simple. You
can see my hand moving. And I hit something.

AD: Salome holds on to her father as her family
walks along a sidewalk.

SALOME'S DAD: Salome. What am I gonna say?
Here. You can. You're on a sidewalk. No. You
can walk.

AD: Her father shrugs her away.



SALOME: Then I give up! I give up. Fine. I'll figure out how to get to the Braille Challenge.

AD: She grabs onto his backpack.

SALOME: Ahh!

SALOME'S DAD: No, no, no. You're falling in a bush, let go. (Salome sobbing and laughing)

SALOME'S SISTER: Papa!



SALOME'S DAD: See what sighted people do,
they lead you right into a bush. (Salome
sobbing and laughing)

SALOME'S SISTER: Papa!

SALOME: But if the blind man walks alone he
will fall into a hole! I'm quoting the Matthew
thingy!

AD: She bumps into her sister.

SALOME'S SISTER: OWWWWW! You freak!



SALOME: OWWWWW! Okay, now—

AD: Salome's sister takes her cane. (Salome sobs and laughs)

SALOME'S DAD: Okay, give her her cane.

SALOME'S SISTER: Why can I not be blind?

SALOME: You can be blind.



SALOME'S DAD: You can be blind, but you have to get your own cane.

SALOME'S SISTER: No, Salo!

SALOME: She can use my cane if she's gonna yell.

SALOME'S SISTER: YOU FORGOT MINE! I AM NOT HAPPY AT YOU, PAPA! AH HH!

AD: Isaiah and his family on the sidewalk.



ISAIAH'S GRANDMA: There's dog s*** here.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Hey Isaiah! Isaiah, Isaiah! Just bring your cane!

ISAIAH'S GRANDMA: This way, this way! Ahh! Mom's gonna go home and disinfect the thing now. (laughter) Have to clean it! (Salome sobs and laughs)

AD: Salome follows her family along a sidewalk.



SALOME: Ahh! I've had it with navigating today.

AD: Back at the hotel, Isaiah and his family file into the elevator.

ISAIAH'S MOM: I guess we probably could have found the stairs. I don't quite know where they are.

WOMAN: Whoops! Here you go, we're good.
Thank you.



ISAIAH: Is there another person from the Braille Challenge in here?

WOMAN: Yes this is Michael, yes.

ISAIAH: Oh, hi!

WOMAN: Hi!

ISAIAH: What category are you in?

MICHAEL: Uhh, Freshman.



ISAIAH: Same!

ISAIAH'S GRANDMA: The same! Oh my!

ISAIAH: I'm Isaiah.

WOMAN: Say hi!

MICHAEL: Hi!

ISAIAH: What's your name?



MICHAEL: Michael.

ISAIAH: Okay.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Who's at seven?

WOMAN: We are.

EVERYONE: Bye!

MICHAEL: Bye!



ISAIAH: See you tomorrow! Good luck!

WOMAN: Thanks, you too!

ISAIAH: Bye!

AD: Chris. He takes his key and touches it to the door lock.

CHRIS'S MOM: I don't have on clothes! I don't have on clothes!



AD: In the lobby, mirrored glass sliding doors close, revealing the reflection of a yellow taxicab outside. Slide open as a person walks through.

ISAIAH: Hi welcome back. We're just getting ready to go.

AD: In his hotel room, Isaiah puts on his shoes.

ISAIAH: To the Braille Challenge finals.



AD: He uses his cane to navigate down the stairs.

ISAIAH: More?

ISAIAH'S MOM: One more.

ISAIAH: Even more stairs? This is crazy.

AD: Salome in line for the bus.



SALOME: It feels so surreal, I can't believe it's even time.

SALOME'S MOM: I know.

SALOME: Like you know what I mean, it's like Christmas. (chanting)

SALOME'S DAD: Braille Challenge. Braille Challenge.

SALOME: Braille Challenge. Braille Challenge. Here we go.



STAFF: Hey Christopher, good morning.

CHRIS: Good morning.

STAFF: One more step, and then to the back if you wouldn't mind.

CHRIS: You got it.

AD: Chris boards the bus.



CHRIS: Sorry. Excuse me, sorry.

WOMAN: Sorry.

CHRIS: They told me to go to the back of the shuttle— I didn't know segregation was still a thing.

CHRIS'S MOM: No!

AD: Salome sits on the moving bus.



SALOME: I'm Junior Varsity and I'm going to beat everybody in my category. You think I will?

GIRL: You never know.

SALOME: (singing) I hop off a plane at LAX for the Braille Challenge every year. (singing)
Welcome to Los Angeles, there's a Georgian restaurant here.

AD: They step off the bus.

STAFF: Morning! Go with the last step!



SALOME: I'm ready!

STAFF: You're ready? Good luck.

ISAIAH: Thanks.

STAFF: Have fun.

ISAIAH: Thanks.



STAFF: Careful with the last step. Good. And then the curb is straight ahead, okay.

AD: Parents, contestants, and staff gather at a plaza on the University of Southern California campus.

SALOME: Salome. JV.

STAFF: You excited today. Ready?

SALOME: Yeah! I live to conquer!



AD: Chris meets up with Brooke.

BROOKE'S MOM: Want to get a picture with Christopher?

BROOKE: Sure. How many pictures are we going to take today?

BROOKE'S MOM: (laughing) A lot.

BROOKE: Too many.



CHRIS: Brooke, how are you feeling?

BROOKE: Um, like I'm gonna pass out. How are you? Are you good?

CHRIS: I don't know.

AD: Isaiah turns the camera to himself.



ISAIAH: One thing I just need to say, I hope this GoPro camera makes me GoPro in braille.
That's all I got to say.

LUISE: Isaiah?

ISAIAH: Yeah?

LUISE: I wanted to wish you good luck again.

ISAIAH: Thank you. Good luck to you as well.



LUISE: Thank you.

AD: Salome stands with her family amidst a group of competitors.

GIRL: Remember Salome, you either win or you die.

SALOME: You either win or you die! Ho!

SALOME'S MOM: No, no, no. You have fun and do your best!



ISAIAH: Come on, come on, come on!

AD: Isaiah walks with his mom.

ISAIAH: Go faster. Just go!

ISAIAH'S MOM: If I walk any faster, I'll be bumping into people.

ISAIAH: Okay. I bump into people.



AD: Chris, in a crowd.

CHRIS: Sorry. Where am I? Where am I? Can someone from Varsity say something?

GIRL: I'm right here.

CHRIS: I'm so nervous.

GIRL: Me too, it'll be fine.



STAFF: Don't be nervous. All of you guys have done this before. I recognize all of you from years past. You guys got this.

CHRIS: This is my eighth time but like, still.

STAFF: Eighth?

CHRIS: But still, this is so fricking nerve-wracking, bro. Alright, I'm so scared!

AD: Isaiah, in a line.



ISALAH: I'm so excited! I'm so excited, I'm so excited. Let's gooo!

AD: Salome, in a line.

SALOME: See Leo DeSantis over there? I'm going to crush him.

STAFF: Are you? Just going to crush him? So you guys competed against each other?



SALOME: Yeah and he freaking beat me!

STAFF: Aww. You gotta get him this year.

AD: The image cuts to black. (marching band music plays) The screen fades in on the USC marching band, marching and swaying their shoulders as they play their instruments. The band lines up, trombones in the front, drums in the back. The maroon red feathers of their helmets swaying in the breeze. The competitors line up, following each other inside.



CHRIS'S MOM: Ready guys? Ready Varsity?
(cheering)

SALOME: Go Braille Challenge!

AD: The competitions are held in classrooms
divided by age group.

ISAIAH: This is the room of glory!

AD: Classic blue Perkins brailers sit on tables.



STAFF: Okay, you just choose one? Do you have a preference? There's one right here if you'd like it. First one in, girl.

CHRIS: Yes, I am indeed at the wrong table.
Sorry.

GIRL: Oh hello, you are at the wrong table. You got one ahead.

STAFF: Good luck!

CHRIS: Thanks.



AD: Chris sits.

CHRIS: We're gonna die! Yeah!

ISAIAH: Okay, so I'm about to start the Braille Challenge contest. This is what I'll be writing it on.

AD: Isaiah taps the brailler.

ISAIAH: This is space.



AD: He taps the space button in the center.

ISAIAH: I can move it back like this.

AD: Pulls a lever.

ISAIAH: And this is a new line.

AD: Taps a button.



ISAIAH'S MOM: And so which session is this one?

ISAIAH: And so this is the spelling session.

AD: Salome untangles headphones.

SALOME: I have a Victor Reader Trek, it's very similar.

FACILITATOR: We don't have a whole lot of time. I just want to ask if there's anyone who



has not used a Victor Stream, if you raise your hand.

AD: A facilitator in the center of the room.

FACILITATOR: Okay. So where are you? And I'm blind and I apologize if I bump into your table. I'm sorry, but I'm here to support you in any way I can. But I'd like to make sure you guys know how to use the Victor Streams before we begin. And there's a Victor Stream on your left hand side.



STAFF: Right hand.

FACILITATOR: On the right, we moved them to the right? There's a Victor Stream on the right, and you have your own headphones. You can plug them in, and if you want to go ahead and play with the settings, you can—speed it up, slow it down. If you have any questions on how you speed up, slow down or play/pause, please let me know. Where's that hand raised up?

STAFF: Raise your hand if you don't know.



AD: Salome plugs headphones into the Victor Reader Stream audio player. The screen turns black. (muddled sounds of facilitators giving instructions) (Chris breathing heavily)

CHRIS: I'm so nervous. I just want to get this over with.

FACILITATOR: Alright, any more questions?
Alright, I have 45 minutes on my timer, and you may begin.

AD: We see hands on a braille.



TEST AUDIO: Today, you'll take a series of braille skills tests. Okay, guys. First up, Speed and Accuracy. Please transcribe the audio passage. You will be judged on how much you finish and how accurate your transcription is.

AD: In two side-by-side images, competitors type on their brailers.

TEST AUDIO: Streaming. Capital. N. New line. Center Heading. Capital. Traditional. Capital. Word Indicator. TV. Question Mark. New line.



New line for blank line. New paragraph. Capital.
The landscape of television has. New line.
Shifted dramatically over the last. New line.
Few years. Meaning that people have
cancelled. New line. Their cable subscriptions
and opted. New line. To use solely streaming
services. Period. New line. Capital. This has
been particularly apparent in the. Capital.
United States.

Salome: Yes!

AD: Salome loads a new piece of paper.



TEST AUDIO: They need to come up with
engaging. Comma. New line. Diverse. Comma.
And unique content to. New line. Keep people
coming back for more. Period. New line.

AD: Isaiah types on his braille.

ISAIAH: Are we on 21?

FACILITATOR: Yep!



ISAIAH: Okay, thanks.

AD: In two side-by-side images, contestants type quickly on their brailers.

TEST AUDIO: Opening quotation mark. Capital. At first. New line. Glance, the decline in linear. Capital word indicated. TV.

AD: Chris at a table tapping his brailier.

CHRIS: No, no, no, no, no. Oh my God. No, no, no. Ohhh.



AD: Salome loads paper into the braille then taps the keys.

TEST AUDIO: As digital platforms continue. New line. To evolve and diversify. Comma.

AD: Isaiah.

ISAIAH: These words are hard.



TEST AUDIO: Streaming. New line. Services such as Netflix, capital NET...

SALOME: Yes, passage 2!

AD: Salome loads new paper.

SALOME: Yes.

TEST AUDIO: As digital platforms continue. New line. To evolve and diversify. Comma. It. New line. Remains to be seen how the. New line. Relationship between... (audio plays backwards



momentarily) TV. And streaming will. New line.
Develop in the future.

SALOME: Ah! Ah!

FACILITATOR: You're doing fine, you're doing
great.

SALOME: No, no, no. I'm just...

FACILITATOR: Okay. Okay.



SALOME: Breathing heavily.

AD: Chris.

FACILITATOR: 30 seconds!

CHRIS: No! No! Go go go!

AD: A series of competitors with their brailers.

Chris.



FACILITATOR: Time is up! Stop your brailers.
Take your paper out, please.

CHRIS: Oh my God, bro! I finished on the
buzzer.

AD: Salome sits in front of her brailier.

FACILITATOR: Okay. We're done. Woo hoo! You
guys finished Speed and Accuracy!

SALOME: YAY! I got Speed and Accuracy!!!



FACILITATOR: Okay that's a little loud. That's great. Yes. That is very exciting.

AD: Isaiah takes his final paper out of the brailler.

ISAIAH: That was, like, so hard.

KID: I know, right?

ISAIAH: I finished with, like, five seconds left.



KID: More like three! Ohhhh.

AD: Chris, with other competitors.

CHRIS: There was, like, 2 or 3 words, I'm like, I'm really not going to try this.

GIRL WITH BRITISH ACCENT: You know what really annoyed me—I can't understand the American accent.



CHRIS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

GIRL: Well, the guy's voice just sucks. How did Speed and Accuracy go for you?

GIRL WITH BRITISH ACCENT: Awful.

KIDS CROSS TALKING: First one like, oh my gosh, I was awful.

CHRIS: I did horrible.



SALOME: I think it's either going to be me or
Leo DeSantis.

AD: Salome, with other competitors.

SALOME: I want Leo to get tenth.

BOY: That'd be funny.

JANNA: Oh, god.

SALOME: That'd be awesome.



CHRIS: Is this your first Braille Challenge?

GIRL WITH BRITISH ACCENT: Do they say if you come tenth?

GIRL: No.

GIRL WITH BRITISH ACCENT: Because it's going to be really embarrassing.

GIRL: They only go through three.



GIRL WITH BRITISH ACCENT: Okay. I'm happy they don't say who's tenth because it would definitely be me in big red letters.

AD: Chris sits at a table.

FACILITATOR: Alright. Please put a paper in your braille. This is proofreading.

CHRIS: Woo-hoo!



FACILITATOR: So you're going to write your first name, last name, and just a page number—you don't have to put proofreading. There are ten questions. You may begin.

AD: Chris types on a braille then reads Braille papers beside him.

TEST AUDIO: Please read each text, and then answer the subsequent questions.

AD: Isaiah reads. Then types. Salome. Reads the papers beside her. Chris reads the papers



beside him. Isaiah turns the page and continues to read.

ISAIAH: This is so hard.

AD: Chris. Salome.

FACILITATOR: You have two minutes left.

CHRIS: Oh my God.

AD: Chris reads. Salome.



SALOME: Yeah!

AD: Chris reads.

FACILITATOR: Alright. Sorry that's the time.

CHRIS: Awww. Jesus.

FACILITATOR: Time is up, please stop.

AD: Salome puts the headphones down.



FACILITATOR: Except for those who have given extra time because of problems with their braille writer. Take your paper out of your braille writer and...

CHRIS: Oh my God!

AD: Chris hands his paper in.

FACILITATOR: Thank you.



CHRIS: Horrible.

AD: Salome plays with her nametag.

SALOME: Oh. Ah. I did it.

AD: Salome and another competitor leave the competition room and walk outside.

SALOME: You like Charts and Graphs or Reading Comp better? You just don't like doing these?



STAFF: Does it stress you out?

SALOME: My braille paper got jammed, and I still had a personal record on Speed and Accuracy.

AD: Chris stands outside with his mom.

CHRIS'S MOM: Was it tough, or?

CHRIS: Oh yeah. It was very tough. I think I did really bad, but it's kind of a common thing with everyone, it's not just me.



CHRIS'S MOM: Good.

SALOME: And there was one that I just couldn't figure out at all. And I was like, seriously, I swear I was in the middle of passage 2 and it was awesome.

SALOME'S MOM: Wow. That is so fantastic.

SALOME: Hi Pop.



SALOME'S DAD: How did it go this morning?

SALOME: Awesome.

SALOME'S DAD: Oh, yeah, you feel good about your performance?

JIM: How are we doing so far, Christopher?
How's it going?

CHRIS'S MOM: It's Jim.



CHRIS: It's going alright.

JIM: It's Jim, yeah, yeah.

CHRIS: It's going alright.

JIM: Alright. Alright.

CHRIS: Just try to get this over with, you know.

JIM: What time does it start?



CHRIS: Now.

CHRIS'S MOM: They're heading there now.

JIM: Okay. Alright. Good luck. Good luck.

RACHEL: Christopher! You got this!

CHRIS: Thank you.

ISAIAH: Let's go! I'm so excited. I'm so excited.
I'm so excited. I'm so excited.



ISAIAH'S MOM: Isaiah, stop.

ISAIAH: Why?

ISAIAH'S MOM: Because it's overwhelming for some people.

ISAIAH: I'm sorry, but I'm excited.

ISAIAH'S MOM: It's kind of like the noise is overwhelming—



ISAIAH: But I'm so excited.

SALOME'S DAD: I love you. Have fun. Okay?

SALOME: I will, I will conquer!

STAFF: You better believe it, Salome! Hey!

AD: White paper covers Salome's camera.



FACILITATOR: Alright, you guys, good luck!

Salome?

SALOME: Yeah.

FACILITATOR: Can we flip your cane?

SALOME: Yeah, sure.

AD: She puts the paper down, sits in front of a
braille.



SALOME: Alright, guys, last one. Last one. Last one. Last one!

FACILITATOR: The final test of the day. Alright. I'm not seeing any questions. We're all ready to start, I presume? You're going to have 45 minutes. And you may begin.

TEST AUDIO: Charts and Graphs. Please examine the braille charts and graphs and then answer the subsequent questions.



AD: Chris reads the braille on the paper beside him. Salome types on her braille then reads the text Chris reads and types.

FACILITATOR: 27 minutes.

AD: Isaiah reads and types.

ISAIAH: Come on, come on, come on!

AD: Salome reads a braille chart. Chris reads and types. Salome.



SALOME: I'm gonna die if I don't finish these all.

AD: Paper jams in her braille.

SALOME: No! I only have like seven minutes for graphs.

AD: She reads the graph on the page.

SALOME: No! We're dead. I'm dead, I'm dead, I'm dead. I just want to finish. And I'm not going



to be able to win if I don't finish. Aaagh! This is stupid.

AD: Isaiah.

FACILITATOR: You can do it.

ISAIAH: Come on, come on. Where is— I can finish. I can finish. I can finish!

AD: Chris. Salome. She flips over her papers.
(timer alarm beeps)



SALOME: No! I failed at the Braille Challenge. I failed.

FACILITATOR: No, you did not. You actually won by just being here. That means you're in the top 10 in the country.

SALOME: Did anyone finish all the...

FACILITATOR: I just want to just be clear. You have done a tremendous job, and you're very hard on yourself.



SALOME: I usually finish.

FACILITATOR: I'm talking. Just acknowledge that you deserve some credit. You've done a great job of being here, you know that? Cut yourself some slack. You're doing a great job making some friends and having a good time. That's what this is all about— having a good time, and a good competition, and having fun, right?



SALOME: Did anyone finish? I got pretty close too. Did anyone actually finish this thing?

AD: A guide leads Salome outside.

SALOME: I don't think I did as well this year.

GUIDE: Aww, why not?

SALOME: 'Cause I didn't finish my Charts and Graphs. I think I did do fairly well on the ones that I did do though.



GUIDE: Yeah.

SALOME: You know what I mean? Leo got excellence in Charts and Graphs last year.

GUIDE: Well, there's three places when you go up there, right? First, second, and third right?

SALOME'S MOM: Salome!

SALOME: Deda, do you have my backpack?



SALOME'S MOM: Yes I do. Yeah.
Congratulations.

SALOME: Not congratulations.

SALOME'S MOM: What's wrong?

SALOME: I didn't finish Charts and Graphs.

SALOME'S MOM: You did not?



SALOME: That's a big bummer.

SALOME'S MOM: That is okay.

AD: Chris is led outside by a guide.

CHRIS: That was horrible.

GUIDE: We're going to go back to the same place we had breakfast.

COMPETITOR: There were a lot of errors.



CHRIS: Yeah. Oh no.

COMPETITOR: That's why Pat literally came over to my table.

MAN: Sorry, friend. Sorry, friend. My bad. Sorry about that.

CHRIS: There was a, uh—Speed and Accuracy was so darn hard.



AD: Isaiah walks back to the bus.

ISAIAH'S GRANDMA: So how did everything go this afternoon?

ISAIAH: Okay.

ISAIAH'S GRANDMA: Right on. Give me five.

STAFF: There's railings to the right side.

AD: Salome gets off the bus.



STAFF: Go, Salome!

SALOME: You won't hear my name tonight!

STAFF: Huh?

SALOME: You won't hear my name tonight!

STAFF: Oh, don't say that.

SALOME: I flunked Charts and Graphs.



STAFF: Oh, don't say that. If I remember correctly, that's what you said last year, and you still won.

AD: Chris and his mother stand in a hotel hallway.

CHRIS'S MOM: So how did you feel about your contest today?

CHRIS: I feel like—I feel like I did the best I could. I think that I worked really hard. And



there is room for improvement, as always. It's always one of the best times of the year for me because I'm with people that I can relate to. The connections that I've made have been so much more important.

AD: Salome's family meets her in the lobby.

COMPETITOR'S FAMILY: Hello Salome!

SALOME'S MOM: Hello! How are you?

SALOME: Hi.



SALOME'S MOM: She's feeling depressed about Charts and Graphs.

COMPETITOR'S FAMILY: Oh no! Was it hard?

SALOME: I didn't finish.

COMPETITOR'S FAMILY: Oh, I'm sorry.

SALOME'S DAD: It's okay, Salo.



SALOME: Yeah, but I wanted to get first place, and I'm not going to.

SALOME'S MOM: That's okay you didn't need to.

SALOME'S DAD: Maybe other people didn't finish either.

SALOME: Leo won't tell, but I think he did.

SALOME'S DAD: Well, maybe it is just tough, you know.



SALOME: One kid got to question nine on that...

SALOME'S DAD: Here, sit down and let's just relax.

AD: She sits beside her dad.

SALOME'S DAD: What do you feel like you learned that you could use in the future?

Because, you know what? Whether you place or not tonight, is that really going to affect your future?



SALOME: Yes.

SALOME'S DAD: No. Not really. But what if you learn something from that experience and you apply it?

SALOME: What did I learn? The only thing I learned was that I need to rush.

SALOME'S DAD: Well yeah, and that's okay. That happens.



SALOME'S MOM: And it's alright, baby. You don't have to win every year. You don't even have to place every year. But you can still enjoy the experience, right?

SALOME: I'm just used to it.

SALOME'S MOM: I know you're used to it baby, but it's okay.

SALOME: It's like when you cut my pancake. It's just like, not everyone does it, but now that it's in my brain that that usually happens—



SALOME'S MOM: But Junior Varsity is just harder and it's a new experience, and you got to come and do it. And you made some friends, and you had a good time.

SALOME: But I want to. And I've just come to—

SALOME'S MOM: It's not going to change anything about you, and it's not going to change anything about— Like it's fun to win, but it's not necessary to win. We love you, and we're always rooting for you.



SALOME: I do hope I place still though, then I'd be happy.

SALOME'S DAD: Well, we'll see, we're hoping too.

SALOME'S MOM: Yeah, but if you don't, it's not going to change anything.

SALOME: But it'll break my streak!



SALOME'S DAD: You can always talk with Mom and Dad, and debrief if you want to, and we can talk through those feelings, and then we can move on.

AD: Fingers read braille. A staffer sits at a table grading papers with a pencil. A woman sits at a computer. A man wearing a Braille Challenge t-shirt stands behind her. A staffer stands in front of crates labeled "Apprentice, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior varsity."

ISAIAH: (singing) Change what?



ISAIAH'S MOM: Okay, get your cane.

AD: In his room, Isaiah wears a black suit and a bow tie. His mom wears a black dress.

ISAIAH: (singing) Okay, so now we're heading to the Braille Challenge Finals award ceremony. Let's go and do it. Walking out, turn. Walking along. Walking to the awards ceremony. This is the way that it could happen—I'll either come up happy and with something in my hand. Or I'll come up—



ISAIAH'S MOM: Or come up happy.

ISAIAH: Or I'll come up empty handed and not as happy.

AD: He navigates down the hallway onto the elevator.

ISAIAH'S GRANDMOTHER: Oh I'm here. I got lost.



AD: The doors close.

ISAIAH: Oh, no.

AD: He is alone.

ISAIAH: Guys.

AD: Chris wears a dress shirt as he hurries down the hallway past a cleaning cart. To the elevator bay, where three people are already waiting.



STAFF: Hello!

CHRIS: Hello!

STAFF: I think I know where you're going.

CHRIS: Yes, I am. I am. I am indeed going there.

STAFF: (laughs) Yeah, I am indeed going to where you think I'm going.

SALOME: Oh, sorry.



GUEST: Are you okay?

SALOME: Yeah.

AD: Salome bumps into people in the crowded ballroom.

BROOKE'S MOM: Salome?

SALOME: Yes.



BROOKE'S MOM: Want me to guide you to your parents?

SALOME: Yeah.

AD: Chris enters the ballroom.

CHRIS: Sorry. Sorry.

AD: Chris holds his mom's shoulder as they navigate through the crowd.



CHRIS: Sorry.

AD: Salome trails her dad's elbow.

SALOME'S DAD: You're recording?

SALOME: Me? Of course I am.

SALOME'S DAD: Oh, Good.

SALOME: Why?



SALOME'S DAD: Just wondering.

SALOME: As usual.

ISAIAH: This is the coolest thing ever! Let's go!

AD: Salome sits at a table with her family and other guests.

SALOME'S DAD: Next to me is Salome.



PETER: Salome! You're gonna win tonight,
Salome!

SALOME'S DAD: Salome, he's reaching out to
shake your hand.

PETER: "Are you ready" is the question.

SALOME: I am ready to see if I win or not. I
didn't finish. I only answered 33 of the 40
charts and graphs. So I missed 105 points, so
I'm not as confident, but....



PETER: Don't get shut down. You're here!

ANNOUNCER: Guests, please take your seats.

SALOME'S MOM: Are you nervous?

SALOME: But I'm ready.

SALOME'S MOM: You ready?

SALOME: I think I'm gonna get third. I've decided I'm going to get third.



SALOME'S MOM: Okay.

AD: In the ballroom, the competitors and their families sit at dozens of round tables set with plates, glasses and silverware.

ANNOUNCER: Welcome to the 2024 Braille Challenge finals awards ceremony.

CROWD: Woo!



AD: The guests eat.

ANNOUNCER: Let me take a moment to describe the room. There are 240 guests here this evening, and even more online through our livestream. The tables are draped in a white underlay, lined with a sandalwood overlay, and at each seat is a red napkin that has a fan-fold. The tables have a centerpiece made of mixed white flowers and a glass vase. Are you all ready to get this evening started?

CROWD: Woo!



ANNOUNCER: We have five contest categories.
We have Apprentice, Freshman, Sophomore,
Junior Varsity, and Varsity. I love that energy!
Yeah! Woo!

CROWD: Woo!

ANNOUNCER: Alright, we are going to move
over to some student awards.

CROWD: Woo!



AD: Brooke and her family clap. Salome moves her legs nervously under the table cloth.

SALOME: Okay, now I'm in a nervous wreck. I just want to see. I want to know.

ANNOUNCER: The Harley Fetterman Award for Excellence in Charts and Graphs, named after his favorite contest. The Harley Fetterman Award for Excellence in Charts and Graphs goes to... Are you ready?

CROWD: Woo!



AD: The guests drum roll with their hands on the tables and their legs.

ANNOUNCER: Christopher Morgan.

AD: Chris stands up as everyone cheers around him.

CHRIS: Seriously, bro? Seriously, bro? Wow!
Okay!



GUIDE: Do you want a guide?

CHRIS: Sure.

AD: Brooke and her family clap. Chris steps onto the stage and takes his award.

GUIDE: Well done, Christopher.

STAFF: Here you go, sir, congratulations.

CHRIS: Thank you.



STAFF: This is your award.

ANNOUNCER: In 2023 he earned a spot on the USA youth boys national goalball team. Moving forward, Christopher's dream is to represent the USA in the Paralympics playing goalball.

SALOME: Yay, Christopher! Yay, Christopher!

CHRIS: Well, I wasn't expecting that.



OTHERS AT TABLE: Congratulations.

AD: Chris sits back down at his table.

CHRIS'S MOM: Congratulations!

CHRIS: That's a first. First time I ever got an individual award.

SALOME: I've decided in my heart that I got fourth, just so that if I win, yay! But if I don't, I knew I got fourth anyway.



ANNOUNCER: And next up, I'll be announcing
our Junior Varsity third place winner.

SALOME: It's...

ANNOUNCER: Third place in the JV category is...
Leo DeSantis.

SALOME: Yes! I thought Leo was gonna get first.
Go Leo!



SALOME'S DAD: You got your wish.

SALOME: (laughs) Someone beat him. Not sure me, but maybe.

ISAIAH: I'm so nervous.

AD: Isaiah and his family at their table.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Let's relax, take a deep breath— you might pass out. You have chocolate on the side of your face. I love you.



AD: A contestant plays with a pom pom.

CONTESTANT: I'm scared. I'm scared.

AD: Isaiah's grandma sits beside him.

ISAIAH: Come on, just announce the award!

ANNOUNCER: And now for our Freshman
category second place award. Isaiah Gauthier.



ISAIAH: Wow.

AD: Isaiah stands up.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Woo-wee!

ISAIAH: Do I just stand and wait?

AD: His grandma videotapes him.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Good job, buddy!



AD: Isaiah's mom leads him past the tables to the stage.

SALOME: Yay, Isaiah!

ISAIAH: This is so cool. Where do I go?

STAFF: You wanna take my elbow?

ISAIAH: Sure.



AD: A woman guides him to the center of the stage where he is handed his award.

STAFF: I'm gonna hand you your award, okay?

ISAIAH: Okay.

STAFF: There you go.

ANNOUNCER: Isaiah has two older brothers. The phrase "I can't" is hardly ever found in his vocabulary. He enjoys kayaking, curling, and anything hockey-related. When Isaiah grows



up, he'd like to be the next blind hockey
Gretzky and a color commentator.

CROWD: Woo!

AD: He returns to his seat.

ISAIAH'S MOM: Isaiah!

ISAIAH: My legs are really really shaking, not
figuratively. That was so cool.



AD: Another contestant sits at a table.

MAN: Hey, buddy. Hey, you did a great job. So proud of you. There are plenty more Braille Challenges.

WOMAN: That's a great mindset to have.

MAN: Absolutely.

ANNOUNCER: Two more to go!



CHRIS: Oh, no. Varsity.

ANNOUNCER: This is Varsity, first place.

CROWD: Woo!

ANNOUNCER: Nathan Deeds!

CHRIS: Woo! I said Nathan! Go, Nathan! Well, I have something to build on next year. Didn't place this year— something to build on next year.



CHRIS'S MOM: Right? Okay, but you got money!

CHRIS: That's alright. Thank you. Thank you.

AD: Salome rocks back and forth nervously at her table.

SALOME: You know, whoever's name is said, I know it won't be mine on first place— which, they're going to be my new rival, because—



SALOME'S DAD: All or nothing, Salome. All or nothing.

SALOME: All or nothing.

ANNOUNCER: First place. Wow. Who'd think we'd be here, awarding the first place winner.

SALOME: I hope that the UK woman wins.

CROWD: Woo!



ANNOUNCER: Are you sure you want to hear
the first place winner?

SALOME: YEAH!!!!!!

ISAIAH: YES WE DO!!!!

AD: Isaiah claps, his award on the table in front
of him.

ANNOUNCER: I'm a little nervous.



ISAIAH: I am too!

ANNOUNCER: This is the big one here.

SALOME: YEAH!

ANNOUNCER: Junior Varsity, first place, here we go.

SALOME: And Janna Cheung, Janna Cheung, Janna Cheung, Cheung, Cheung.



ANNOUNCER: Salome Cummins!

AD: Salome jumps up from her seat and throws her hands in the air. (applause)

SALOME: YEAH!!!!!!

AD: Her hair is pushed back with a headband and she's wearing a dark green dress.

GUIDE: Salome! What did you tell me earlier?
“You’re not going to hear my name.” Yeah
right!



SALOME: YEEEEAAAAH!!!!!! (laughter from crowd, applause)

AD: Her eyes closed, a guide leads her to the stage.

SALOME: I beat Leo DeSantis! (laughs) I did it!

AD: The faces of the crowd blur. (audio fades and becomes abstract) Salome stands on the stage, holding her award. She lifts it above her head and then pulls it down, reading the braille



on the clear glass award with her silver sparkly
nails. (applause and cheering) 2024 Junior
Varsity, first place.

SALOME: I DID IT!!!!

ANNOUNCER: Goodnight!

AD: The film title: Brailled It. In the ballroom,
Salome stands next to Leo, who is holding his
third place award.

WOMAN: It's Leo!



LEO: Good job.

SALOME: Hey Leo—

LEO: Yeah. You did it!

SALOME: I'm sorry I smack-talked you, if I
smack-talked you.

LEO: No—I mean you did, but it's fine.



SALOME: Muy muy muy bien.

LEO: Thank you.

AD: Chris stands facing Brooke. Next to her is her father, holding a varsity second place trophy.

CHRIS: Hey, Brooke?

BROOKE: Yeah?



CHRIS: You think you'll stay and dance?

BROOKE: I have to take pictures— I don't know if I'm gonna dance, we'll see.

CHRIS: I'm probably getting ready to leave.

BROOKE: Alright.

CHRIS: Yeah.



BROOKE: I'm really happy to see you, and I hope you have a good time in Colorado.

CHRIS: Can I have a hug?

BROOKE: Yes, of course you can have a hug, Christopher.

AD: His camera goes dark when they hug.

BROOKE: I'm squeezing your camera. Sorry about that. (laughs)



CHRIS: It's alright.

AD: At his table, Isaiah plays with his award.

ISAIAH: I can't believe I won that.

JEAN: I believe it.

ISAIAH: I don't

JEAN: You're so smart, come on.



ISAIAH: I don't believe it. I still don't believe it. I feel like I'm dreaming.

AD: The image cuts to black.

ISAIAH: I'm scared I'll wake up and it's not here.

JEAN: No. You can do anything you want.



AD: Text on screen: Filmed by Salome
Cummins, Isaiah Gauthier, Christopher Morgan.
A busy swimming pool on a bright, sunny day.

STAFF: And what are you? Sophomore?

SALOME: JV. Hey guys, can you get out of the
way? I'm gonna jump.

STAFF: Okay, it's clear.

SALOME: With the camera.



STAFF: It's clear.

SALOME: Ready?

STAFF: Yup. (Salome screams)

AD: Underwater bubbles rise around Salome.

Nearby are the legs and feet of other kids

swimming. Text on a black screen: Additional

Cinematography by Achilleus Budgen, Nathan

Deeds, Madeline Mau, Brooke Petro, Lynn Wu.

Underwater, a kid in swim shorts kicks their



feet. Chris rolls his arms in a circle. More swimmers kick their feet. The screen cuts to black. Credits roll. Our deepest gratitude to the Braille Institute and all the Braille Challenge staff, volunteers, competitors, their friends, family members, and Braille teachers. You made it happen.

