

Accessibility Evaluation Report:

# On the Boards.tv

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## Summary of Accessibility Findings

Accessiblü conducted a high-level accessibility evaluation of OntheBoards.tv, a curated streaming platform featuring contemporary performance films from artists working in dance, theater, music, and experimental forms. The platform is made available to library patrons through University of Washington’s institutional access. The review was conducted using the JAWS 2025 screen reader on Windows 11 with Google Chrome, keyboard-only navigation, and manual inspection, supplemented by automated scanning with axe DevTools, for conformance with select WCAG 2.2 AA success criteria.

The evaluation covered four key page types: the OntheBoards.tv home page, a keyword search results page, the Featured Artists browse page, and the Browse Films page.

OntheBoards.tv offers a visually distinctive interface for discovering and accessing contemporary performance work, with a clear primary navigation structure (Films, Artists, About, Join) and functional skip-to-main-content link. The platform does present landmark regions including banner, main, and content information, which provide a basic structural foundation for screen reader navigation. Social media links in the footer include descriptive labels identifying the destination platform, which is a helpful practice for screen reader users.

That said, the evaluation identified several opportunity areas across all four pages that may create friction for users relying on assistive technologies. The most consistent patterns involve heading hierarchy problems, insufficient color contrast on interactive elements, missing or non-descriptive accessible names on linked images and interactive controls, and keyboard accessibility barriers on the home and films pages. These are foundational patterns that, once addressed, would improve usability across the entire platform rather than requiring page-by-page fixes.

### Key Findings

Across all four pages, three recurring patterns account for the majority of opportunity areas identified. First, the platform’s primary interactive color (#3a9dce, a medium blue) does not meet the 4.5:1 minimum contrast ratio when displayed against white backgrounds, yielding approximately 3.04:1. This affects the Search button, category filter labels on the Browse Films page, “View Trailer” and action link text, and the “Featured Film” and “Staff Pick” badge labels. Second, heading hierarchies are inconsistent: the home page announces two H1 headings, the Browse Films page presents three, and search result item titles appear as H3 with no intervening H2. Third, multiple linked images throughout the platform carry empty or absent alt attributes while functioning as the sole navigation mechanism to artist and performance pages.

These issues create meaningful friction for users with disabilities. A screen reader user discovering artists through the Featured Artists page or searching for a specific ensemble would encounter a series of anonymous linked graphics with no descriptive text, making it

difficult to determine the destination of a link without activating it. Users would then have to find their way back and repeat the process until they find the destination they are looking for. Keyboard users on the home and films pages encounter links and controls that cannot be reached or activated without a mouse. Resolving these core patterns would meaningfully expand access for library patrons who rely on assistive technologies to engage with the platform.

## Top 3 Issues Identified

### Insufficient Color Contrast on Interactive Elements and Labels

**a. Description:** The platform's primary action color (#3a9dce on white #ffffff) produces a contrast ratio of approximately 3.04:1, falling short of the 4.5:1 minimum required for normal-weight text at standard sizes. This affects the Search button across all pages, "View it now" and "Read more" result links on the search page, "View Trailer" and "Featured Film" labels on the Browse Films page, and category filter text on hover and focus states. The "Featured Film" and "Staff Pick" badge labels also use white text on this same blue background.

**b. Impact:** Users with low vision who rely on color differentiation to identify interactive elements may have difficulty distinguishing actionable links and buttons from surrounding content. Focus and hover states that fail contrast requirements also affect keyboard users with low vision who depend on visible focus indicators to track their position on the page.

**c. WCAG Success Criteria:** 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (AA)

### Heading Hierarchy Inconsistencies Across Multiple Pages

**a. Description:** The home page contains two H1 headings ("Shifting Contexts" and "Watch world-class performances from today's most provocative artists"), creating an ambiguous page anchor for screen reader users. The Browse Films page similarly presents three H1 headings ("Browse Films," "Skeleton Flower," and "Americana Kamikaze") at the same level. On the Search page, result item titles are coded as H3 with no H1 or H2 preceding them in the results region, creating an incomplete heading structure.

**b. Impact:** Screen reader users who navigate by heading to orient themselves to a page will encounter conflicting or missing page-level anchors, making it difficult to determine primary page purpose or content hierarchy. The issue affects all user groups that rely on heading navigation as a wayfinding strategy.

**c. WCAG Success Criteria:** 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)

## Linked Images Missing Accessible Names Across Browse and Search Pages

- a. Description:** On the Search page, all seven result thumbnail images are used as links to artist or performance pages, but each carries an empty alt attribute (alt=""). On the Featured Artists page, artist portrait images used as navigation links also have empty alt attributes. The Browse Films page features film images used as primary navigation elements that similarly lack descriptive text alternatives. In each case, the image link is the only or primary means of navigating to the destination page.
- b. Impact:** When an image is the only content inside a link, the image's alt text becomes the accessible name for that link. Blind users navigating by link or tab cannot determine the destination of these image links without activating them. The alt="" null attribute should only be used for decorative images with no links and never for images with links. Users relying on voice control software cannot target image links without accessible names. The combined effect on the search and browse pages is that core discovery workflows become significantly harder to complete without sighted assistance.
- c. WCAG Success Criteria:** 1.1.1 Non-text Content (A), 2.4.4 Link Purpose (Link Only) (A), 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)

## Disabilities Impacted

### Blind and Low-Vision Users

**Issues:** Screen reader users encounter two H1 headings on the home page and three on the Browse Films page, leaving no reliable page-level anchor for navigation by heading. On the Search and Featured Artists pages, linked thumbnail images carry empty alt attributes, making link destinations unknown without activation. On the home page, the meta-viewport tag disables text scaling (maximum-scale=1), preventing low-vision users from enlarging text on mobile browsers. Multiple navigation landmark regions share the same generic label across all pages, reducing the utility of landmark navigation.

**Impact:** Blind users face the most direct barriers on the search and browse pages, where anonymous linked images represent the primary discovery path for artists and performances. Low-vision users are affected by the platform's contrast deficiencies on action links and filter labels, and by the disabled text scaling on mobile. Heading structure anomalies affect both groups' ability to efficiently orient to page content.

### Users with Motor Disabilities

**Issues:** On the home page, the homepage slideshow controls—including "Read More" and "View Trailer" links within the rotating carousel—are not reachable by keyboard. The Pause link for the slideshow receives keyboard focus but is hidden from view. On

the Browse Films page, the featured film link and “View Trailer” button are not keyboard accessible. Filter category links on the Browse Films page (Classical, Contemporary, Dance, etc.) display no visible focus indicator when navigated by keyboard.

**Impact:** Users who cannot use a mouse will find the featured content carousel on the home page entirely inaccessible, and the primary film browsing and filtering tools on the Browse Films page difficult to navigate. The absence of visible focus indicators on filter links makes keyboard navigation on that page particularly disorienting.

## Neurodiverse Users

**Issues:** The inconsistent heading structure across pages—multiple H1s, skipped heading levels in search results, and varying patterns across the four tested pages—reduces the predictability of the platform’s document structure. The inclusion of decorative vertical bar characters (|) within footer link accessible names (e.g., “Home Vertical Bar Help” as announced by JAWS) adds noise to the reading flow. Non-descriptive link labels like “Read more” and “View it now” appearing multiple times on search results pages, without context about which artist or performance they describe, increase cognitive load.

**Impact:** Users who benefit from predictable, consistent page structure may find the heading inconsistencies disorienting across sessions. Repeated identical link labels on the search results page require additional effort to disambiguate, which is particularly challenging for users with attention or processing differences.

## Users with Hearing Impairments

**Issues:** No auto-playing audio or video without user control was identified on the tested pages. The platform does feature a video slideshow on the home page, but audio playback was not triggered automatically during testing. No captioning controls or transcript links were present on the Browse Films or home page, though these pages do not themselves play full-length content.

**Impact:** No significant barriers for users with hearing impairments were identified on the four evaluated pages. Captioning and audio description considerations would be more relevant to the individual film viewing experience, which was outside the scope of this evaluation.

## Page-Specific Findings and Impact Analysis

### OntheBoards.tv Home Page

URL: <https://www-ontheboards-tv.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/home>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
<b>Multiple H1 Headings on Page</b>	<b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b>	The home page announces two separate H1 headings: “Shifting Contexts” (for the featured artist panel) and “Watch world-class performances from today’s most provocative artists.” There is no single primary heading that identifies the page’s overall purpose for screen reader users navigating by heading.	JAWS announces “Shifting Contexts Heading Level 1” followed by “Watch world-class performances from today’s most provocative artists Heading Level 1”. Subsequent headings (What Is It, How It Works, Get Started) are coded as H2.
<b>Homepage Slideshow Controls Keyboard Inaccessible</b>	<b>2.1.1 Keyboard (A)</b>	The homepage rotating slideshow includes “Read More” and “View Trailer” links within hidden carousel frames that are not reachable via keyboard navigation. A Pause link receives keyboard focus but is visually hidden, providing no usable control for keyboard users who cannot stop the auto-advancing carousel.	Axe DevTools: keyboard-inaccessible (critical) on <code>&lt;a class="btn-cta btn-light slide--button slide--button-1" href="about"&gt;Read More&lt;/a&gt;</code> . The Pause link is coded within a <code>div.element-invisible</code> container that receives focus but is not visible.
<b>Missing Focus Indicators on Promotional Links</b>	<b>2.4.7 Focus Visible (AA)</b>	The three promotional link blocks in the lower section of the home page (“What Is It?,” “How It Works,” and “Get Started”) are wrapped in anchor elements that display no visible focus indicator when navigated by keyboard. These links are also wrapped in block-level elements	Axe DevTools: focus-indicator-missing (critical) on <code>&lt;a href="/about"&gt;</code> containing <code>&lt;h2&gt;What Is It?&lt;/h2&gt;</code> and <code>&lt;p&gt;Your front row seat to works...&lt;/p&gt;</code> . No <code>:focus</code> CSS styling is applied to these anchor elements.

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
		containing headings and paragraph text, which is unconventional markup for a linked region.	
<b>Duplicate Navigation Landmark Labels</b>	<b>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)</b>	The home page contains four separate navigation landmark regions (<nav>) that all share the same generic label. Screen reader users navigating by landmark cannot distinguish between the primary navigation, footer navigation, social links navigation, and any secondary navigation areas.	JAWS announces four separate “Navigation Region” landmarks when cycling through page landmarks. All four use the same <nav id="primary-nav"> or equivalent structure without unique aria-label or aria-labelledby attributes to differentiate them.
<b>Insufficient Color Contrast on Action Links</b>	<b>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (AA)</b>	The “View Trailer” button in the homepage slideshow uses foreground color #3a9dce on background #ffffff, producing a contrast ratio of approximately 3.04:1. This is below the 4.5:1 minimum for normal-weight text. The same blue is used for other interactive links and labels across the page.	Axe DevTools: color-contrast (serious) on <a class="btn-cta btn-light slide--button slide--button-1">VIEW TRAILER</a>. Foreground #3a9dce, background #ffffff, ratio 3.04:1. Required: 4.5:1.

**Impact Summary** Screen reader users arrive at the OntheBoards.tv home page without a clear single H1 anchor, encountering competing primary headings and four identically labeled navigation landmarks that offer little structural distinction. Keyboard-only users cannot access the homepage’s primary promotional content—the rotating feature carousel and its associated links—and receive no visible focus indicator on the lower promotional blocks. Low-vision users face insufficient contrast on interactive elements. Establishing a single clear H1, providing unique labels for navigation landmarks, ensuring all interactive elements are keyboard accessible with visible focus indicators, and updating the primary action color to meet contrast requirements would address the most impactful barriers on this page.

## Home Page Screenshot

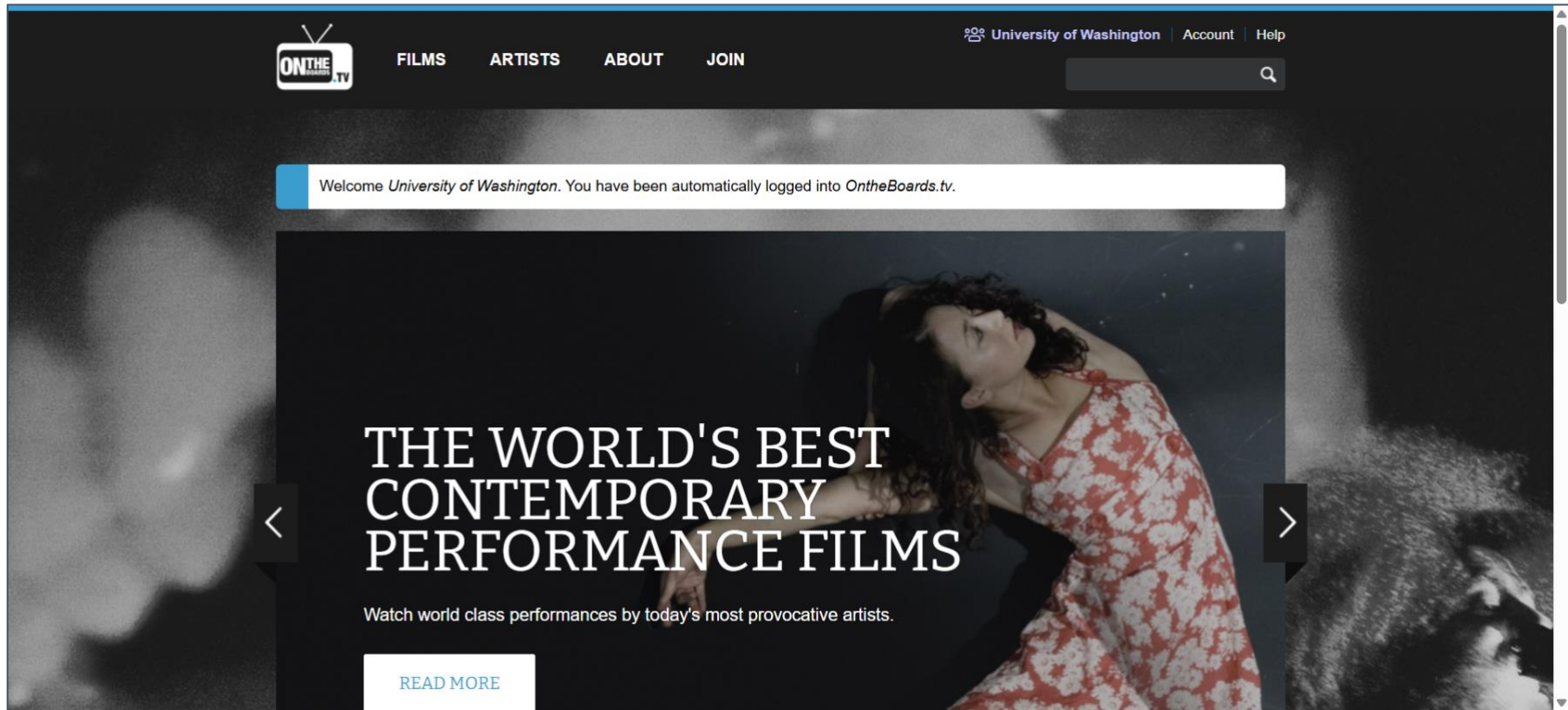


Figure 1: OntheBoards.tv home page showing site header, homepage slideshow with featured performance, and promotional content blocks.

## Search Results Page

URL: <https://www-ontheboards-tv.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/search/node/art+ensemble>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
<p><b>Search Result Thumbnail Images Lack Accessible Names</b></p>	<p><b>1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)</b></p>	<p>All seven search result thumbnail images are coded as anchor links to artist or performance pages, but each image carries an empty alt attribute (alt=""). The link element wrapping the image also has no accessible name, meaning screen reader users receive no indication of the destination or content before activating the link.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: link-name (serious) on <code>&lt;a href=".../artists/degenerate-art-ensemble"&gt;&lt;img src="CrowandJoshua.jpg" width="210" height="150" alt=""&gt;&lt;/a&gt;</code>. The same pattern applies to all seven result thumbnail links on the page.</p>
<p><b>Result Action Links Not Distinguishable from Surrounding Text</b></p>	<p><b>1.4.1 Use of Color (A)</b></p>	<p>"Read more" and "View it now" action links in search result snippets are displayed in the platform's blue (#3a9dce) without any underline or other non-color visual indicator to distinguish them from surrounding body text. The contrast between the link color and surrounding text (#555555) is approximately 2.44:1, below the 3:1 minimum required for adjacent text differentiation.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: link-in-text-block (serious) on <code>&lt;a href=".../artists/degenerate-art-ensemble"&gt;Read more&lt;/a&gt;</code>. Link text color #3a9dce, surrounding text color #555555, contrast ratio 2.44:1. No text-decoration or other non-color indicator present.</p>
<p><b>Heading Order Invalid on Search Results</b></p>	<p><b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b></p>	<p>Result item titles are coded as H3 elements, but no H1 or H2 heading precedes them in the results list region. The page heading "SEARCH" does not appear to be coded as a heading at all, leaving the result H3 titles with no structural parent in the heading hierarchy.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: heading-order (moderate) on <code>&lt;h3&gt;&lt;a href=".../artists/degenerate-art-ensemble"&gt;Degenerate Art Ensemble&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/h3&gt;</code>. No H1 or H2 precedes this element in the results region.</p>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
<b>Insufficient Color Contrast on Search Button</b>	<b>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (AA)</b>	The Search submit button uses white foreground text (#ffffff) on the platform’s primary blue background (#3a9dce), producing a contrast ratio of approximately 3.04:1. This applies to the search form’s primary action control on every page that includes the search field.	Axe DevTools: color-contrast (serious) on <input type="submit" id="edit-submit" value="Search" class="form-submit">. Foreground #ffffff, background #3a9dce, ratio 3.04:1. Required: 4.5:1.
<b>Result Links Lack Descriptive Accessible Names</b>	<b>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)</b>	Thumbnail image links and teaser text links on the search results page are identified by axe DevTools as having missing or incorrect accessible names. The thumbnail links wrap images with empty alt attributes and carry no aria-label. The teaser links ("Read more," "View it now") lack context that identifies which artist or performance they describe.	Axe DevTools: aria-name-missing-incorrect (critical) and aria-role-missing (critical) on result thumbnail and teaser link elements. Example: <a href=".../performances/skeleton-flower">View it now</a> with no accessible name connecting it to the Skeleton Flower performance.

**Impact Summary** The search results page is where library patrons attempt to discover specific artists and performances, and it presents several patterns that create barriers at that key discovery moment. A screen reader user navigating search results encounters seven anonymous thumbnail links and a set of generic action labels ("Read more," "View it now") that provide no indication of where each link goes. The heading structure of the results region is incomplete, with H3 result titles that have no H1 or H2 parent. Adding meaningful alt text to all result thumbnail images, replacing generic action link labels with descriptive text that includes the artist or performance name, correcting the heading hierarchy, and addressing contrast and link differentiation would significantly improve the search experience for users relying on assistive technology.

Search Results Page Screenshot

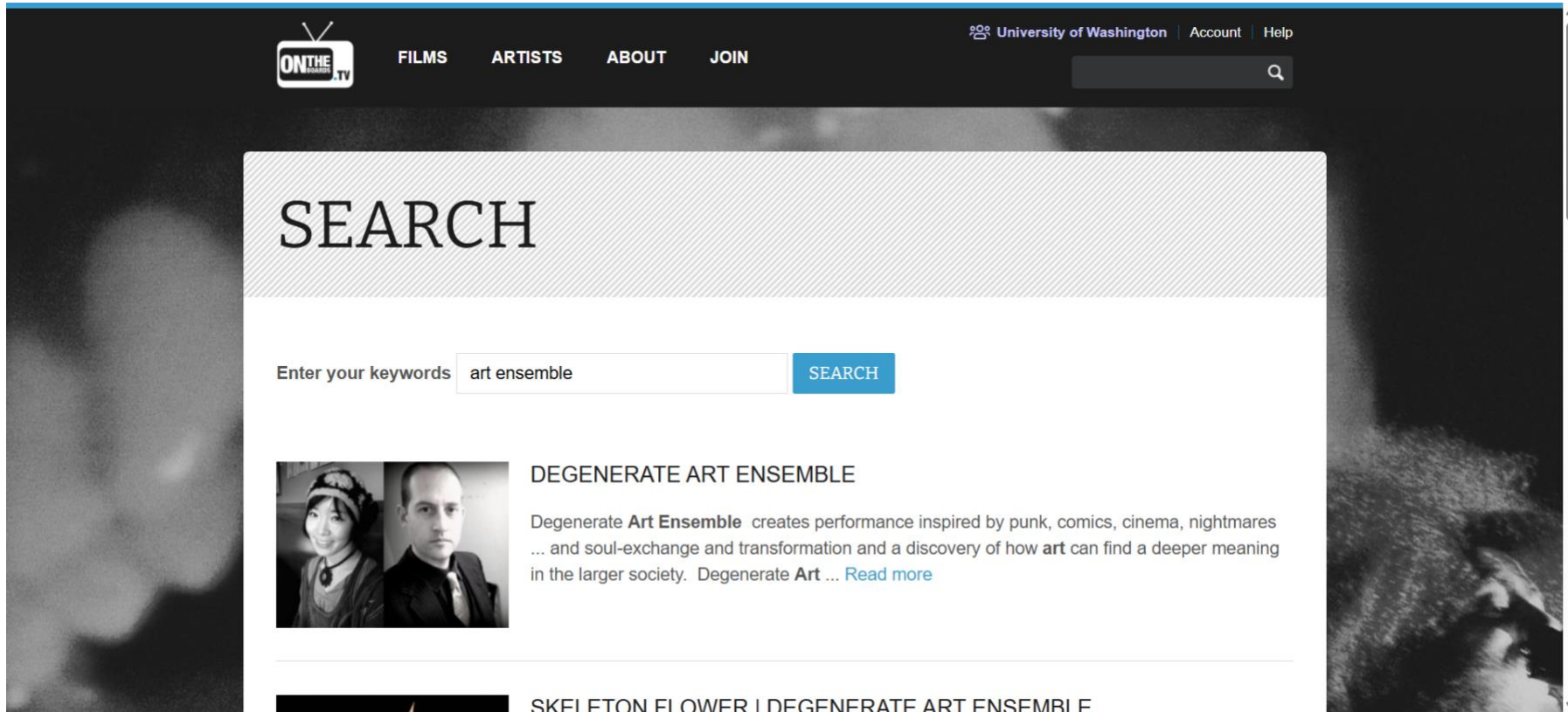


Figure 2: OntheBoards.tv Search page for the query "art ensemble" showing search field, Search button, and result cards with thumbnail images and text excerpts.

## Featured Artists Page

URL: <https://www-ontheboards-tv.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/artists>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
<p><b>Artist Image Links Lack Descriptive Alternative Text</b></p>	<p><b>1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)</b></p>	<p>Artist portrait and performance photographs used as navigation links on the Featured Artists page carry empty alt attributes (alt=""). Because the image is the sole content of the link element in multiple cases, screen reader users cannot determine the artist or group the link represents without activating it.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: alt-text-short-text-not-meaningful (serious) on &lt;img src="ralphlemon-220.jpg" alt="" title="" width="220" height="165"&gt;. The same pattern applies to images for multiple featured artists including Ralph Lemon, Rashaun Mitchell/Silas Riener/Charles Atlas, and Beth Gill.</p>
<p><b>Artist List Content Not Marked as List</b></p>	<p><b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b></p>	<p>The grid of artists on the Featured Artists page presents visual list content without using proper HTML list markup. The artist items are presented in a container div structure that does not communicate list semantics to screen readers, so users cannot determine the number of items or navigate by list element.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: semantic-list (serious) on the div.view-content container wrapping the browse-artists grid. Screen reader users receive no indication that the artist cards form a navigable list, and list navigation commands do not apply.</p>
<p><b>Featured Artists Section Heading Contrast Unverifiable Against Photo Background</b></p>	<p><b>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (AA)</b></p>	<p>The H1 heading "Shifting Contexts: Ways of Thinking About Contemporary Performance" is rendered in white text over a photographic background. The contrast between the white text and the varying background image colors produces a ratio estimated between 2.46:1 and 2.77:1, which does not meet the 4.5:1 minimum.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: advanced/text-contrast (serious) on &lt;h1 class="browse-page--subhead"&gt;Shifting Contexts: Ways of Thinking About Contemporary Performance&lt;/h1&gt;. Text color #ffffff, background color range #9b9b9b to #a5a5a5, ratio 2.46:1–2.77:1.</p>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
<p><b>Duplicate Navigation Landmark Labels</b></p>	<p><b>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)</b></p>	<p>As on the home page, the Featured Artists page contains multiple navigation landmark regions sharing the same generic unlabeled designation. Screen reader users navigating by landmark cannot distinguish the primary site navigation from secondary navigation areas.</p>	<p>JAWS announces multiple "Navigation Region" landmarks when cycling through page landmarks on the Featured Artists page. The banner, main, and content-information landmarks are correctly present, but navigation landmark differentiation is absent.</p>

**Impact Summary** The Featured Artists page is the primary destination for library patrons who want to discover performing artists through the platform, and its core functionality—browsing artist images that link to individual artist pages—is largely inaccessible to screen reader users due to the absence of alt text on linked images. A user navigating this page by tab would encounter a series of anonymous links with no indication of which artist each represents. Adding descriptive alt text to all artist image links, marking the artist grid as a proper HTML list, and ensuring the page heading meets contrast requirements against its photographic background would transform this page into one that supports independent artist discovery for all users.

### Featured Artists Page Screenshot

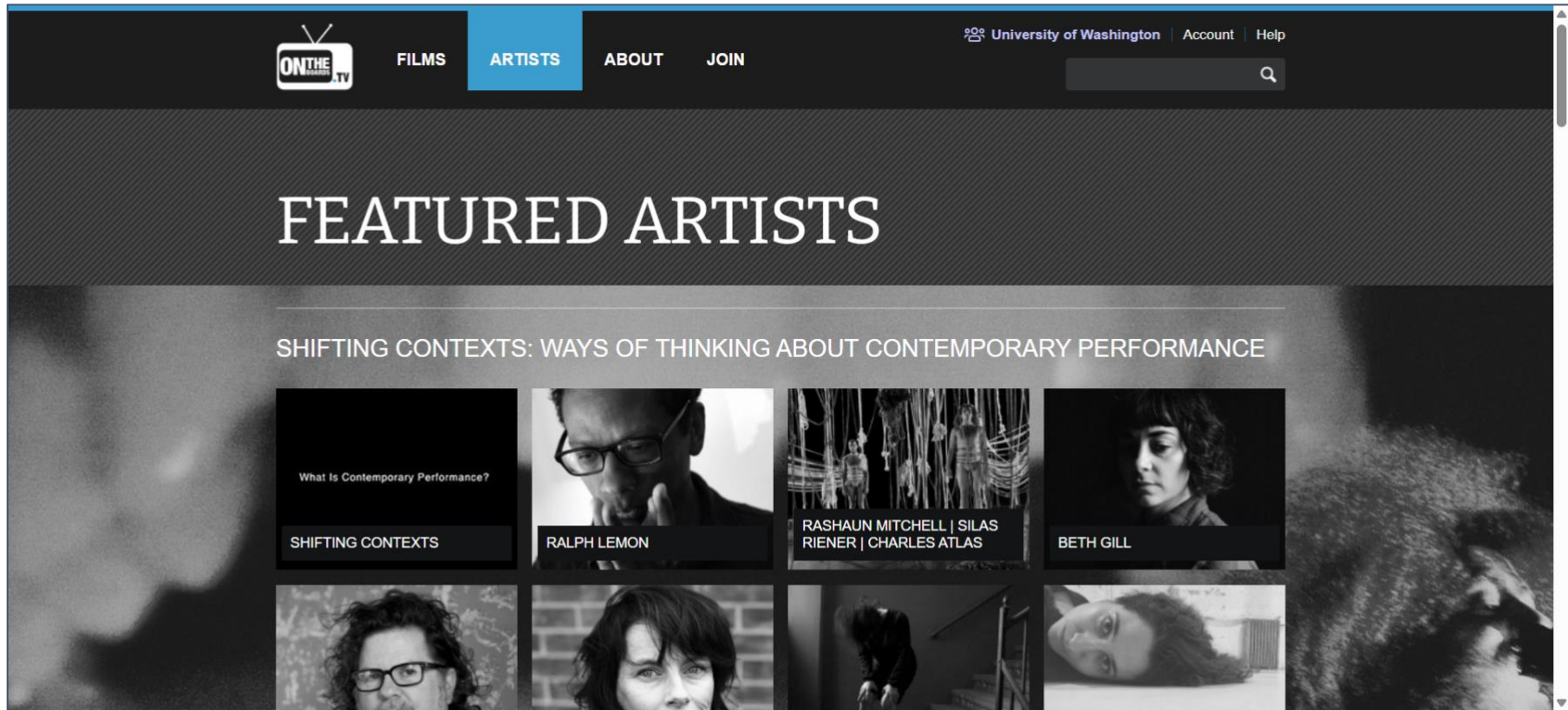


Figure 3: OntheBoards.tv Featured Artists page showing the page heading, a subheading for "Shifting Contexts," and a grid of artist portrait images with name labels.

## Browse Films Page

URL: <https://www-ontheboards-tv.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/performances>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
<p><b>Multiple H1 Headings on Page</b></p>	<p><b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b></p>	<p>The Browse Films page announces three separate H1 headings: "Browse Films" (the page title), "Skeleton Flower" (the featured film title), and "Americana Kamikaze" (a staff pick title). Using H1 for featured content titles creates a flat, ambiguous heading structure that does not communicate the hierarchical relationship between the page and its featured items.</p>	<p>JAWS announces: "Browse Films Heading Level 1," then "Skeleton Flower Heading Level 1 link," then "Americana Kamikaze Heading Level 1 Link." All three are at the same heading level, with no H2 subheadings distinguishing featured content from the page title.</p>
<p><b>Featured Film and Staff Pick Links Missing Accessible Names</b></p>	<p><b>1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)</b></p>	<p>The featured film image link (<code>&lt;a href="/performances/skeleton-flower"&gt;</code>) wrapping the Skeleton Flower promotional image carries no accessible name. The Staff Pick link for Americana Kamikaze similarly has no accessible name. The "View Trailer" element is coded as a paragraph (<code>&lt;p&gt;</code>) rather than a button or link, and it also lacks an accessible name.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: aria-name-missing-incorrect (critical) on featured film <code>&lt;a href="/performances/skeleton-flower"&gt;</code> and staff pick <code>&lt;a href="/performances/americana-kamikaze"&gt;</code>. Also: alt-text-short-text-not-meaningful (serious) on the featured film image with <code>alt=""</code>.</p>
<p><b>Filter by Category Control Coded as Link with No State</b></p>	<p><b>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)</b></p>	<p>The "Filter by Category" expand/collapse control is coded as an anchor link (<code>&lt;a class="page-filters--filter-opener" href="#"&gt;</code>) rather than a button. It carries no aria-expanded or aria-controls attribute, so screen reader users cannot determine whether the filter panel is open or closed without activating the control.</p>	<p>Axe DevTools: aria-role-missing (critical) and aria-state-property-missing (critical) on <code>&lt;a class="page-filters--filter-opener" href="#"&gt;Filter by Category&lt;/a&gt;</code>. The control performs an in-page expand/collapse action but is</p>

Opportunity Area	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
			announced as a link with no state information.
<b>Focus Indicators Missing on Category Filter Links</b>	<b>2.4.7 Focus Visible (AA)</b>	All nine category filter links in the expanded filter panel (Classical, Contemporary, Dance, Experimental, Free, Installation, Music, Performance, Theater) display no visible focus indicator when navigated by keyboard. The "Filter by Category" control and "View Trailer" button also lack focus indicator styling.	Axe DevTools: focus-indicator-missing (critical) on <a class="films-filter" href="/performances" data-filter="c87">Classical</a> and all eight remaining filter links. No :focus CSS outline or border style is applied to these elements.
<b>Insufficient Color Contrast on Badge Labels and Action Elements</b>	<b>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (AA)</b>	The "Featured Film" and "Staff Pick" badge labels use white text (#ffffff) on the platform's primary blue background (#3a9dce), producing a ratio of 3.04:1. The "View Trailer" button element uses the same color combination. The "Filter by Category" label text also fails contrast requirements against its background.	Axe DevTools: color-contrast (serious) on <span class="description">Featured Film</span> and <span class="description">Staff Pick</span>. Foreground #ffffff, background #3a9dce, ratio 3.04:1. Also: advanced/text-contrast on "Filter by Category" label text against photo background.

**Impact Summary** The Browse Films page is the central discovery and browsing experience for OntheBoards.tv's film library, and it presents several patterns that reduce accessibility for users relying on assistive technology. Screen reader users encounter three competing H1 headings, anonymous featured film and staff pick links without accessible names, and a filter control that announces only as a link with no state. Keyboard users cannot see a focus indicator on any of the nine category filter links, making filter-based browsing effectively inaccessible. Addressing the heading hierarchy, providing accessible names for featured content links, converting the filter control to a properly coded button with state, adding visible focus indicators to filter links, and updating the badge label contrast would substantially improve the Browse Films experience for all user groups.

### Browse Films Page Screenshot

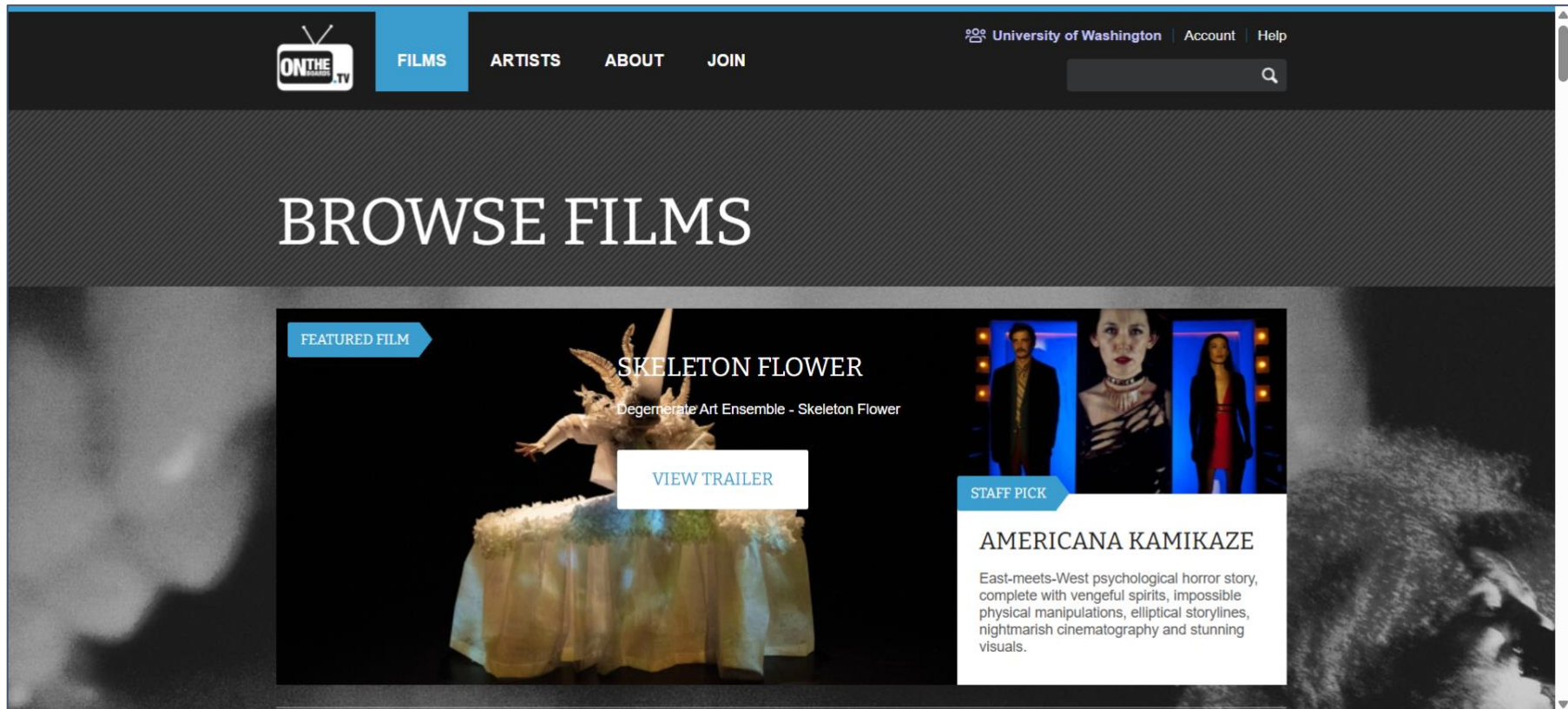


Figure 4: OntheBoards.tv Browse Films page showing the page header, a featured film panel for Skeleton Flower with a View Trailer button, and a Staff Pick panel for Americana Kamikaze.

## Code Recommendations and Technical Guidance

The following examples represent HTML-first solutions for five of the most impactful opportunity areas identified. These are starting points, not prescriptive implementations. Developers should test all changes with JAWS 2025, NVDA, and keyboard-only navigation before deployment, and may use alternative CSS or JavaScript approaches as long as the underlying accessibility outcomes are achieved.

### 1. Correct the Heading Hierarchy (Home Page and Browse Films)

**WCAG Reference:** 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)

**Current Implementation:**

```
<!-- Current: multiple H1 headings on the same page -->
```

```
<h1 class="slide--title">SHIFTING CONTEXTS</h1>
```

```
<!-- later in the page -->
```

```
<h1>Watch world-class performances from today's most provocative artists.</h1>
```

```
<!-- Browse Films: featured content also coded as H1 -->
```

```
<h1><a href="/performances/skeleton-flower">Skeleton Flower</a></h1>
```

```
<h1><a href="/performances/americana-kamikaze">Americana Kamikaze</a></h1>
```

**Recommended Implementation:**

```
<!-- Recommended: one H1 per page; featured content uses H2 or lower -->
```

```
<h1>OntheBoards.tv</h1>
```

```
<!-- Featured artist section header becomes H2 -->
```

```
<h2 class="slide--title">SHIFTING CONTEXTS</h2>
```

```
<!-- Promotional text uses H2 as a section-level heading -->
```

```
<h2>Watch world-class performances from today's most provocative artists.</h2>
```

```
<!-- On Browse Films, featured film titles become H2 -->
```

```
<h2><a href="/performances/skeleton-flower">Skeleton Flower</a></h2>
```

```
<h2><a href="/performances/americana-kamikaze">Americana Kamikaze</a></h2>
```

## 2. Add Descriptive Alt Text to Artist and Film Image Links

**WCAG Reference:** 1.1.1 Non-text Content (A) | 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)

### Current Implementation:

```
<!-- Current: linked image with empty alt, no link name -->
```

```
<a href="/artists/degenerate-art-ensemble">
```

```
  
```

```
</a>
```

<!-- Featured film link with no accessible name -->

```
<a href="/performances/skeleton-flower">  
    
</a>
```

### Recommended Implementation:

<!-- Recommended: descriptive alt text on linked images provides the link name -->

```
<a href="/artists/degenerate-art-ensemble">  
    
</a>
```

<!-- Featured film: alt text describes the link destination -->

```
<a href="/performances/skeleton-flower">  
    
</a>
```

<!-- If a visible title immediately follows the image in the link,  
 use aria-hidden on the image to avoid duplication -->

```
<a href="/artists/degenerate-art-ensemble">  
    
  <span class="artist-name">Degenerate Art Ensemble</span>  
</a>
```

### 3. Make Search Result Action Links Descriptive

**WCAG Reference:** 2.4.4 Link Purpose (Link Only) (A) | 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)

**Current Implementation:**

```
<!-- Current: generic link label provides no destination context -->  
<a href="/artists/degenerate-art-ensemble">Read more</a>  
<a href="/performances/skeleton-flower">View it now</a>
```

**Recommended Implementation:**

```
<!-- Recommended option 1: update visible link text to include context -->  
<a href="/artists/degenerate-art-ensemble">  
  Read more about Degenerate Art Ensemble  
</a>  
  
<!-- Recommended option 2: use visually hidden supplemental text -->
```

```
<a href="/performances/skeleton-flower">  
  View it now  
  <span class="visually-hidden"> - Skeleton Flower</span>  
</a>
```

```
<!-- Recommended option 3: use aria-label on the link -->  
<a href="/performances/skeleton-flower"  
  aria-label="View Skeleton Flower now">View it now</a>
```

```
.visually-hidden {  
  position: absolute; width: 1px; height: 1px;  
  margin: -1px; padding: 0; overflow: hidden;  
  clip: rect(0,0,0,0); border: 0;  
}
```

#### 4. Fix the Filter by Category Control Role and State

**WCAG Reference:** 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)

**Current Implementation:**

```
<!-- Current: filter toggle coded as anchor link, no state -->
```

```
<a class="page-filters--filter-opener" href="#">Filter by Category</a>
```

**Recommended Implementation:**

```
<!-- Recommended: use a button with aria-expanded and aria-controls -->
```

```
<button type="button"  
  class="page-filters--filter-opener"  
  aria-expanded="false"  
  aria-controls="filter-panel">
```

```
  Filter by Category
```

```
</button>
```

```
<div id="filter-panel" hidden>
```

```
  <ul class="films-filters">
```

```
    <li><a class="films-filter" href="/performances?filter=c87">Classical</a></li>
```

```
    <!-- remaining filter items -->
```

```
  </ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<!-- JS: toggle aria-expanded and hidden attribute on button activation -->
```

<!-- Also add visible :focus styling to .films-filter links -->

## 5. Disable Mobile Text Scaling Prevention

**WCAG Reference:** 1.4.4 Resize Text (AA)

### Current Implementation:

<!-- Current: maximum-scale=1 prevents text zoom on mobile browsers -->

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1, maximum-scale=1">
```

### Recommended Implementation:

<!-- Recommended: remove maximum-scale restriction to allow browser text scaling -->

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
```

<!-- Or if you need user-scalable enabled explicitly: -->

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1, user-scalable=yes">
```

These code suggestions are recommendations and not guaranteed fixes. All changes should be thoroughly tested with assistive technology (screen readers, keyboard-only navigation) to confirm effectiveness before implementation. WCAG guidelines are designed to provide multiple paths to compliance. Developers may implement these improvements using alternative approaches with CSS and JavaScript, as long as the underlying accessibility principles are met.

## Final Thoughts and Recommendations

OntheBoards.tv offers a genuinely distinctive library resource—a curated archive of contemporary performance work that would otherwise be inaccessible to most patrons. The platform’s basic structural elements are in place: landmark regions are present, the primary navigation uses standard link patterns, and a skip-to-main-content link exists. The social media links in the footer include descriptive labels that help screen reader users understand link destinations. These are real starting points to build from.

The opportunity areas identified in this report cluster around a relatively small set of root causes: a heading structure that uses H1 for content titles as well as the page-level heading, image links without alt text throughout the browse and search workflows, interactive controls without accessible names or roles, and color choices that don’t meet contrast thresholds. Most of these are addressable through targeted markup and CSS changes that would improve accessibility across the entire platform rather than requiring individual page-by-page remediation.

### Recommended Fixes by Priority

#### Immediate Priority - Highest Impact

- Add descriptive alt text to all artist and performance image links across the search, browse, and featured artist pages. This is the highest-impact single change, as anonymous image links represent the primary discovery mechanism on multiple pages.
- Replace generic result link labels ("Read more," "View it now") with descriptive text or supplemental accessible names that identify the artist or performance.
- Correct the heading hierarchy by ensuring each page has a single H1 that identifies the page, with featured content titles coded as H2.
- Remove maximum-scale=1 from the meta viewport tag to restore mobile text scaling.

#### High Priority - Significant Impact

- Add visible focus indicators to all category filter links on the Browse Films page, and to the promotional link blocks on the home page.
- Convert the "Filter by Category" control from an anchor link to a properly coded button element with aria-expanded and aria-controls attributes.

- Update the platform's primary interactive color to a value that meets the 4.5:1 contrast ratio minimum, or adjust background colors to achieve sufficient contrast.
- Make the homepage carousel controls keyboard accessible, including "View Trailer" and "Read More" links within slideshow frames.

### **Important Priority - Enhanced Experience**

- Add unique aria-label attributes to each navigation landmark region so screen reader users can distinguish primary navigation from footer and social navigation.
- Mark artist and film grid containers as proper HTML lists using <ul> and <li> elements so screen reader users can determine item counts and use list navigation.
- Remove decorative vertical bar characters (|) from footer link accessible names, or replace them with visually hidden separators using CSS that are hidden from assistive technology.
- Ensure the Featured Artists page heading has sufficient contrast against its photographic background by using a text shadow, overlay panel, or alternative color combination.

### **Complimentary Consultation Included**

As part of this evaluation, Accessiblü's partnership with the LAA includes one hour of complimentary consulting with the team that conducted this evaluation. This session can be used to discuss implementation priorities, review technical approaches, or address questions about specific recommendations. To schedule this consultation, contact Jeff Rodgers directly at [jeff@accessiblu.com](mailto:jeff@accessiblu.com).

### **Disclaimer**

Accessiblü prepared this report as a high-level accessibility evaluation of the Portland Press platform, accessed via the University of Washington's institutional library portal ([offcampus.lib.washington.edu](http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu)). The evaluation utilized industry-standard testing methodologies, including screen reader testing (JAWS 2025) on Windows 11 with Google Chrome, keyboard-only navigation, and automated scanning with axe DevTools for select WCAG 2.2 AA success criteria.

This report does not represent a comprehensive WCAG compliance audit and should not be considered a certification of accessibility compliance. While significant accessibility opportunity areas and usability barriers have been identified, this evaluation was limited in scope

and may not encompass all accessibility issues present on the platform or across all use cases, browsers, or assistive technology combinations.

**No Legal Liability:**

Accessiblü offers this report for informational purposes only and assumes no legal responsibility for accessibility barriers or compliance failures resulting from its use. Organizations seeking formal certification of compliance should conduct a comprehensive audit inclusive of user testing with people with disabilities.

**Limitations of Testing:**

This evaluation was conducted at a specific point in time (April 2026), and platform updates may have occurred after testing was completed. While automated tools and expert screen reader review were utilized, real-world users with disabilities determine the true measure of a platform's accessibility. User testing with participants who have a range of disabilities is recommended as a follow-up to this evaluation.

Pages were accessed through the University of Washington's institutional proxy ([offcampus.lib.washington.edu](http://offcampus.lib.washington.edu)). The proxy environment may affect certain dynamic behaviors and should be noted when comparing results to testing conducted in a direct-access environment.