

Stagetext case studies brief, March 2023

Background

Stagetext is a deaf-led charity that provides and advocates for captioning and subtitling of arts and culture, so that deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people have equal access to culture. We work with theatres, museums and other kind of cultural venues to make live plays, talks, conferences, videos and online content accessible, and to train cultural professionals in welcoming deaf audiences.

We are developing our advocacy and research work, with a focus on putting deaf people's stories and experiences in accessing culture at the forefront.

The project

Stagetext is seeking a freelance research or social history professional to:

- a) Identify and interview at least ten culture lovers who use captions or subtitles to access live cultural events. We are looking for people who are based outside of London, and who represent a variety of ages and a range of ethnicities.

We are primarily seeking case studies on people who use captions and/or subtitles because they are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing, but we are open to a smaller number of case studies on people who use captions for other reasons (e.g. because they have English as an additional language, or because they are neurodivergent).

We will work with you to provide a brief for interviewees and appropriate permissions forms. We will use our channels and contacts at cultural venues to start the search for potential interviewees, but it is the responsibility of the freelancer to ensure the required number of suitable interviewees are found.

Interview questions should be developed by the freelancer and agreed with Stagetext's Head of Advocacy and Research, with the aim of answering the overall question, "how does the inclusion captions and subtitles affect your enjoyment of a cultural event/experience?".

We anticipate interview questions that demonstrate the impact of captioning, both practically and personally, for example:

- *What does captioning mean to you?*
- *Tell us about about your first captioned performance.*
- *How did you find out about captioning?*
- *What was your best/worst experience of access at a cultural venue?*

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- b) Write a case study on each of the people interviewed, with a short summary supported by the transcript of the interviews themselves, a photo if the interviewee agrees, plus data on the age and location of the participant. Case studies will be used to develop communications pieces for publication, and to identify quotes for use on the website and in funding applications.

Candidates should be strong communicators and ideally should have had deaf awareness training. The majority of deaf caption users have English as their first language, rather than BSL, so there is no requirement that the freelancer use BSL.

Project timeline

Please provide a clear, timed proposal for the project. The project should be completed with all finished case studies supplied to Stagertext's satisfaction by Friday 9th June. We would like to see the case studies as they are produced, in particular the first few in order to review and recommend any changes for the rest.

Ways of working and fee

Interviews can be conducted in person or online. We can provide speech-to-text access or BSL interpretation where required, though this needs to be booked at least three weeks in advance.

We are budgeting £5,000 for this project, to be paid 25% in advance, 25% on completion of the interviews and 50% on delivery of the case studies. The freelancer should budget for any travel required to meet interviewees from within this fee. We recommend a hybrid approach whereby some interviews are undertaken in person, and others online. Stagertext will provide access support from a separate budget.

Responding to the brief

The deadline to respond to the brief is 9am Tuesday 11th April. We will hold interviews during w/c 11th April with a view to appoint and for the project to start immediately.

Proposals should at a minimum include a summary of your experience, links to examples of relevant work, and proposed timeline.

If you have any questions, please contact Stagertext's Head of Advocacy and Research, Liz Hilder: liz@stagertext.org