

Deaf Awareness Training with Stagetext

Stagetext is a deaf-led charity, and we advocate for and provide text-based deaf access to arts and culture (like subtitles, but for theatre). We offer training to help venues and organisations to confidently communicate with customers who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

All our training is designed and delivered by Stagetext staff who have a wide range of lived experience of deafness including wearing hearing aids, cochlear implants, are hard of hearing or have BSL as their first language. They understand first-hand the impact of accessibility on their enjoyment of arts and culture venues. Although we are an arts and culture-based charity, we work with all venues and organisations across all sectors – whatever you need, we're on hand to support you.

Introduction to Deaf Awareness Training – 2 hours

The Introduction to Deaf Awareness training benefits anyone who wants to learn how to confidently communicate with people who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

We will cover:

- Why deaf awareness is important
- Statistics of deafness in the UK, terminology and different types of deafness
- Communication strategies for staff speaking to deaf customers
- Hints and tips on overcoming communication barriers
- Interactive BSL fingerspelling and lip-reading exercises
- An overview of text-based deaf access – theatre captioning, live subtitles and digital subtitles and how they are used

Deaf Awareness Training and Deaf Access Best Practice (one day)

A comprehensive session that helps you develop further deaf awareness and have a good understanding of deaf access. This training can be tailor-made to suit your venue and staff.

We will cover:

- Why deaf awareness is important
- Statistics of deafness in the UK, terminology and different types of deafness
- Communication strategies for staff speaking to deaf customers
- Hints and tips on overcoming communication barriers
- An understanding of what your venue already offers (i.e. hearing loops, transcripts, captions, live subtitled events)
- Introduction to different types of text based deaf access available (theatre captions, live subtitles, digital subtitles) and how they are used
- Easy wins for deaf access
- How to advertise your deaf access to your customers
- Best practice for your venue's front of house staff for deaf, deafened or hard of hearing customers

Deaf Access Digital Subtitle Training – 3 hours



This training focuses on the benefits of digital subtitles (such as for video, VR, creative and online – whether on social media, websites or as part of an exhibition) to reach a wider range of audiences online including people who are neurodivergent or for whom English is a second language. It also covers tips and guidance on best practice in deaf accessible subtitling.

We will cover:

- Introduction to Deaf Awareness
- Benefits of subtitles – both to deaf audiences and other audiences
- How subtitles are used by viewers and their impact on user engagement
- How to get support for subtitling within your organisation
- Best practice for implementing subtitling as a policy within your organisation
- Best practice for creating deaf accessible subtitling – formatting text, how to deal with sound effects, music, multiple speakers, singing and timing.

Deaf Access in a Cultural Setting for Drama School Students (one day)

Whether the students are performers or learning about the technical or design side of theatre, we work with drama school students to teach the importance of deaf access within a cultural setting.

Our training prepares your students for working in a professional theatre environment where a knowledge of accessibility will be an asset. This training involves a live demonstration from a professional captioner using a caption unit and gives students the opportunity to create and deliver a short excerpt of a captioned script.

We will cover:

- Why deaf awareness is important
- Statistics of deafness in the UK
- Terminology and different types of deafness including D/deaf, deafened and hard of hearing
- Benefits of theatre captions and subtitles – both to deaf audiences and other audiences
- Introduction to different types of theatre captions including creative captions
- Live demonstration of how captions work and the importance of caption unit placement on set
- Technical requirements and set up for captions in theatres
- Understanding the production process of including theatre captions for a performance
- How to approach set design to include captions
- Best practice for deaf access captions
- Budgeting for deaf access in production costs
- Live subtitles for events and using Speech-To-Text Reporters – how it works and what's involved.
- Digital subtitles – how they are used by viewers and their impact on user engagement
- Best practice and the need for quality captions and subtitles



Please note: If you would like to find out more about live subtitles in an arts and culture setting, we can also arrange for this to be demonstrated as part of a training package. This requires a Speech-To-Text Reporter and relevant equipment, and the cost will be reflected on booking.

Working with our sister charity [VocalEyes](#) we can also offer a joint Sensory Awareness Training Day. To find out more, get in touch.

The costs below are for in-person training for a group of up to 20 people (max). Please note that most of our training sessions are delivered in person, but they can also be done online with a larger group.

| Training | Duration | Cost |
|---|----------|----------------------------|
| Introduction to Deaf Awareness - in person | 2 hours | From £300 + expenses + VAT |
| Deaf Awareness Training and Deaf Access Best Practice – in person | 1 day | From £995 + expenses + VAT |
| Deaf Access Digital Subtitle Training - in person | 3 hours | From £600 + expenses + VAT |
| Deaf Access Digital Subtitle Training - online | 2 hours | From £450 + VAT |
| Deaf Access in a Cultural Setting for Drama School Students – in person | 1 day | From £995 + expenses + VAT |

Contact

If you'd like to find out more about our training offers, please get in touch: enquiries@stagetext.org.

Drop us a line today and we can start organising the training that will best benefit you. No question too silly! We're here to demystify all things deaf access.