

Deaf Consultancy

If you would prefer to watch this in BSL, click below:



In order to make your theatre and performance experience accessible for Deaf audiences, you will need a Deaf consultant to work with you.

It is imperative that your Deaf consultant is a Deaf person. It is also important that you consider representation, lived experience and skill set.

Deaf consultancy offers a variety of support in a range of contexts, depending upon what is needed. For example, a Deaf

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consultant might work on R&D, performances and during rehearsals.

Deaf consultants can work across a range of genres – from traditional texts such as Shakespeare to more modern pieces, poetry, or improvisation.

Deaf consultants offer support and advice on making theatre spaces and performances accessible, whether that be in BSL or providing captions, making performances more gestural and more visual.

A Deaf consultant is highly recommended for visual or gestural performances with little dialogue, as it is often assumed that these shows are automatically accessible.

To get the most out of your consultancy, it is worth being clear about what services you need from your Deaf consultant before you meet. For example:

-Asking for feedback on the font, size and speed of standard format captions or on creative captions. Consultants will advise

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on how to capture sound effects other than narration or dialogue, such as music, off stage noises and atmospherics.

-Sightlines for Deaf audiences.

-Advice and feedback on blocking performers and performance BSL interpreters.

(For advice on how British Sign Language (BSL) is used by performers or BSL Interpreters, you will need a BSL consultant. Please see our BSL consultancy service document for more information.)

Deaf consultants can offer you advice on building Deaf audiences by providing a culturally appropriate journey for Deaf people. This includes targeted marketing tips, guidance on booking tickets, ushering, Deaf awareness training for staff and reserved seating.

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It can be difficult to know when to bring in a Deaf consultant. Taking Flight can work with you and your timeline to make best use of our service. Our expert Deaf consultants are passionate and keen to answer your questions and will tailor their advice, to help you provide the best experience for your Deaf audience.

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