

A overview on ADA's the Seminar/workshop on recorded audio description for Theatre's, museums, and galleries.



Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 14.00- 1630

Meeting Room, Theatres  
Trust, 22 Charing Cross Road  
London WC2H 0QL

This innovative and insightful workshop put the idea of pre-recorded audio description under the spotlight and highlighting 3 totally different projects already completed, with representatives of each discussing the processes involved and the feedback received as well as answering our questions along the way.

The afternoon was made up of 3 segments

### **Presentation 1: New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich**

Alison Clarke (Audio Describer)  
[alison@dramatic-results.com](mailto:alison@dramatic-results.com)

Ruth James (Audio Describer)  
[ruthie\\_sings@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthie_sings@hotmail.com)

David Phillips (Head of Production)  
[dphillips@wolseytheatre.co.uk](mailto:dphillips@wolseytheatre.co.uk)

### **Presentation 2: Accès Culture, Paris**

Layla Curmi (Production, FSL, Development)  
[production@accesculture.org](mailto:production@accesculture.org)

Priscillia Desbarres (Communication)  
[communication@accesculture.org](mailto:communication@accesculture.org)

### **Presentation 3: Science Museum, London**

Robin Davies (Blind/Visually Impaired Panel Representative)

Katie Gonzalez-Bell (Access and Inclusion Advisor)

[kgonzalezbell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kgonzalezbell@hotmail.co.uk)

The afternoon was very well attended from people all around the country and all of us were immersed in the subject matter.

It all began with a presentation led by David Philips – from the New Wolsey theatre discussing all the work they have done developing prerecord audio description for last years festive production enabling it to be available for every performance. Audio Describers Alison and Ruth chronicled the process of delivering this and the obstacles they over came in order for the prerecord to be effective.

This segment was incredibly insightful and engineered much discussion on the project, not to mention people's thinking of the way forward and the future.

Next up, something completely different, a fascinating overview of how audio description is delivered in France and how the system is set up over there including how perceptions are different.

Layla and Prescilla gave a detailed view of how audio description works in Paris and how pre recorded delivery plays a part in that and has always done so.

Finally from one extreme to another Katie who is an independent access and inclusion advisor talked in great length about a research project she had undertaken for the Science museum in London around making an entire exhibition totally accessible and inclusive for those blind and partially sighted and how they approached that including setting up a focus group that then influenced the shape the project would take and detailed how the use of a wish list spearheaded the need to utilise innovative technology for example a navigational app on a hand held device and the use of I beacons and working with vocal eyes to deliver audio description in a new and innovative manner. She brought along a blind participant from the focus group – Robin who discussed his experience and involvement. The interesting aspect what the fact it was not entirely a success and that they are still working to try and iron out and tweak problems they have encountered with the technology and software and this gives a broad picture of how difficult it can sometimes be to provide what people would like to see happen.

The three elements combined were a perfect example of work and achievement that has been accomplished in different areas and it was a groundbreaking and insightful afternoon for all that gave everyone in the room a lot to think about.