

# Audio Description Association

## note pad

Items 243 – 246

March 2018

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### 243 ADA Workshop, Nottingham Royal Concert Hall, Tuesday 27 March 2018

A reminder that ADA's first workshop of 2018 takes place in Nottingham on 27 March and features two highly topical areas: the role of **technology** in delivering live audio description, and how **GDPR** (short for the General Data Protection Regulations which come into force in May) affects arts organisations. Mike Donoghue, Head of Lighting and Sound at Nottingham's Theatre Royal, covers current and new solutions in AD technology and Rhiannon Davies, Consultant with The Audience Agency, reviews the practical implications of GDPR, with plenty of opportunities for you to put your own questions to the two speakers. Below are the booking details:

**Venue** Nottingham Royal Concert Hall, Level 2 Suite  
Theatre Square, Nottingham NG1 5ND

**Date/Time** 27 March 2018, 2.15-4.45pm (doors open at 2.00pm)

**Cost** £25 (ADA members); £35 (non-members)  
Includes coffee on arrival and mid-afternoon

**Payment**

- **Cheques** to be made payable to Audio Description Association and sent to: ADA Treasurer, 5 Greenbanks, St Albans AL1 1JA
- For **bank transfers**, ADA's bank details can be obtained when booking
- **PayPal** payments to be sent to [accounts@audiodescription.co.uk](mailto:accounts@audiodescription.co.uk) and referenced: Nottingham Workshop 2018

Please note payments should be made in advance and are non-refundable unless the event is cancelled.

**Directions**     <https://trch.co.uk/your-visit/getting-here>

**Access**             Please contact Emily Malen, Workshop Organiser (details below) for advice on access requirements.

**Live Screening**     Thanks to the generosity of Nottingham Theatre Royal and Concert Hall, we are able to offer live screening of the workshop direct to a home/office computer. The offer is available to ADA members at a cost of £20 (payment details above). Login details will be supplied on receipt of payment.

**Bookings**           To book places/screenings, please email: [office@audiodescription.co.uk](mailto:office@audiodescription.co.uk)

**Enquiries**           For all other enquiries, please email Emily Malen, Workshop Organiser, at: [emily.malen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:emily.malen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) or phone: 0115 989 5609.

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#### 244    'The dangers of taking a blind friend to see Fifty Shades of Grey'

Thanks to Carolyn Smith, who describes for the RSC and Birmingham REP, for this link to a light-hearted look at audio description by journalist and audio description user, Selina Mills. Published in the Arts pages of The Spectator on 24 February 2018, Selina's article covers audio description in different contexts and finishes with a point which is increasingly being made – that "audio description is not just for blind people". Like various other tools created for disabled people, it has the potential to enhance everyone's experience, whether or not they are disabled.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2018/02/the-dangers-of-taking-a-blind-friend-to-see-fifty-shades-of-grey/>

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#### 245    Up 'n' Under tour features integrated audio description

Catch up with Fingersmiths' current tour of John Godber's **Up 'n' Under** to see audio description literally in action. In true Fingersmiths' style, this production of the classic rugby comedy marries British Sign Language and spoken English with the addition of integrated audio description and, for some performances, creative captioning.

We asked describer Willie Elliott how the audio description was integrated: was it dovetailed into the existing dialogue, or delivered by an onstage narrator, perhaps? Here is his reply:

“It’s a mix. I’m onstage all of the time, as a character or describing. The script itself is very descriptive. I’m also a sports commentator describing the match, most of which I’ve just lifted from very detailed stage directions. As the commentator I wear a headset throughout and describe quietly. In one scene I’m actually going from commentating to the whole audience, to describing quietly to VIPs at the same time, using two mics. Sounds complicated, but I think it works.”

For **Up ‘n’ Under** tour venues and dates, click on:



[www.fingersmiths.org.uk](http://www.fingersmiths.org.uk)

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## 246 American Council of the Blind Certification for Audio Describers



The American Council of the Blind (ACB) is calling for input into the design and implementation of a national training and certification process for audio describers, to reach ACB by 1 May 2018. The 4-page press release, with full details of ACB’s plans, is too long to include here so is being circulated with Note Pad as a separate attachment.

[www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org)

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