



## Integrating access into your house tour

house encourages all companies to consider how access can be incorporated into a touring production.

There are many simple and low cost ways of incorporating access into your show and tour.

Having added access features to your tour will help many venues engage with new audiences. There are a wide range of possibilities from integrating a BSL signer to any new initiatives you might wish to explore. Take some time and consider which option(s) might be appropriate for your company/show.

Here are some simple ideas to get you started:

- Provide the script to venues in advance- this allows hearing impaired audience members to familiarise themselves with the show ahead of time, and is a great resource for carers to help those with autism (who often don't react well to surprises) know what to expect
- Offer touch tours- this is an opportunity for blind or partially sighted audience members to have a tour of the stage prior to the show so that they can form a mental image of the set, props, etc
- Offer relaxed performances- this generally means the show is performed with some house lights on and the audience have permission to move around during the show and make some noise, while noise levels of the show may be reduced; this is often beneficial for children's shows as it makes them more accessible to families with babies
- Create a Visual Story for your production, which can be given to venues ahead of the performance. This allows audiences with autism, communication difficulties and English as a second language better prepare to experience your show
- Flag risk factors- be open and clear about whether your show contains loud noises or flashing lights, particularly strobe lighting, as these are risk factors for epilepsy
- Explain your age rating- be specific about whether this is due to language, sexual content, violence, etc and use as much detail as possible so that this information can be passed on to venues to share during the booking process
- Offer meet and greet introductions- for those who may struggle to differentiate between reality and fiction, it can help to meet the cast and understand that they are actors, and that what they are about to see is telling a story, not real life
- Make your website accessible- our top quick-fix tips to increase your website's accessibility are available to download in our resources section
- Make your print accessible- use a clear, easily legible font and create a large-text version of your programme for venues