



## **CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES: Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What is a captioned performance?**

When the words of the script appear in two units placed at the side of the stage. People who are Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing can read the words and therefore enjoy the performance.

- **Is captioning like surtitling and TV subtitling?**

Yes. Some key differences though – captioning includes character names, offstage noises, sound effects and vocal effects. *See examples below.* The text 'rolls' up, appearing at the same time as the actors speak the lines.

- **Is captioning taking over from BSL interpreted performances?**

No. Sign Language interpreted performances are for Deaf people who use BSL. Captioned performances are appreciated by a wider group of people who have lost their hearing.

- **Who is captioning for?**

Captioned performances appeal to those who have lost their hearing or are slightly deaf as well as Deaf people. It benefits a lot of people who may struggle to follow all the dialogue but who don't see themselves as being deafened. It also helps people for whom English is not their first language, or where dialects are strong.

- **Do other theatres do Captioning?**

Yes. Theatres such as His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen, the Tron Glasgow, Dundee Rep and the Traverse Edinburgh. Captioning has proved popular in Scotland with over 12 companies using the equipment.

- **Where should people sit?**

People booking specially to due to the captioning should sit in full view of the stage and the units: an area where it is comfortable to look at both without feeling you are at a tennis match (moving head back and forth).

- **Do hearing people find the captions distracting?**

Maybe. Feedback received indicates that hearing people, on the whole, either find the captions useful (eg. if there are difficult accents in the play or if the language is archaic or unusual) or they are prepared to tolerate them, accepting that the captions are useful to deaf people and theatre should be for everyone.



- **How can I find out about more captioned performances?**

You can look at FST website – [www.scottishtheatre.org](http://www.scottishtheatre.org) where captioned performances are all listed. You can submit a request to join our monthly captioning e-newsletter.

- **Who can I talk to about captioned performances?**

If you have any questions – Ruth Ogston, Audience Development Consultant on 0131 220 6393 or [ruth@scottishtheatre.org](mailto:ruth@scottishtheatre.org). Alternatively, you can visit the STAGETEXT website, [www.stagetext.org](http://www.stagetext.org) (this was the company that started captioning in the UK and from whom FST has taken over in Scotland). Theatre staff will be collating feedback from all the audience members on the evening of the captioned performance. Please do let us know what you think.

*Examples of captioning text appearance:*

- \* Ensure that the text presented is verbatim.
- \* Describe sound effects and music.
- \* Describe vocal effects such as [BELCH] [LOUD YAWN] and features such as emphasis, volume, pitch and intonation.
- \* Indicate accents through labelling [IRISH] or phonetic representation of accent ["Did yow call, sir?"] when these are integral to the plot
- \* Indicate asides.
- \* Use appropriate punctuation for spoken as opposed to written texts.
- \* Use appropriate punctuation for indication of irony, sarcasm etc.
- \* Indicate verse, prose or song.
- \* Prevent premature disclosure of joke punchlines or plot points.
- \* Give the viewer a comfortable reading experience.
- \* Enable the viewer to experience the spirit, meaning and intent of the performance.