

The Everyman

Audio-Described Performance and Touch Tour Information Sheet

What are touch tour and audio description?

- Audio description and the touch tour are access features for our blind and low-vision audience.
- **Touch tour**
The touch tour takes place an hour before the show, when our blind and low-vision audience is invited onto the stage. The describer facilitates them to walk the space and to handle a selection of props and costumes. Sometimes, they are joined by members of the cast and crew. The touch tour is a brilliant experience for this audience and provides equality of access.
- **Audio description introduction**
This is a spoken programme and is shared before the show. It includes a description of the cast, their physical characteristics and costumes. The set and the lighting design are also described. The describer reads out the credits, naming the creative team.
- **Audio description for live theatre** is a running commentary on the visual elements of a performance that are important, but not obvious from the dialogue or sound design. The describer is watching the show and narrating, like a commentator at a sports match.
The describer sits in the Tech Box and delivers this narration live, through a mic. It is received by the audience through a receiver and earpiece, which the theatre supply in advance of the show.
The aim is for our audience to experience the whole story with all of the people in and at the show.
- For example, in a Panto, when the villain sneaks up behind the hero, we know that the audience will begin to shout "He/She's behind you!". What is important is that the audience with visual impairments are in on this joke too. The describer will tell them that someone is creeping about, so that when the audience chime in, they can join in the fun.
- The Everyman is for Everyone.