

Making your theatre performance accessible for D/deaf and hard of hearing audiences



SOLAR BEAR

MARKETING YOUR PLAY



Tell people about it
and contact relevant
organisations

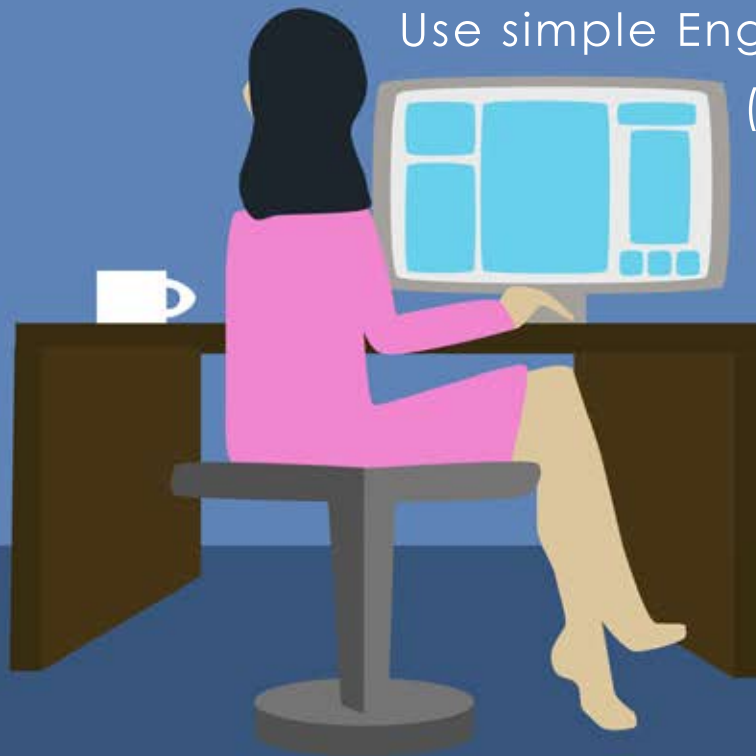


create a British Sign
Language video
(add closed captions
& voice over to increase
accessibility)



Tell people what type of
access to expect

Use simple English and fonts
(make it clear)



Make booking tickets easy, provide an access email
and offer a text booking service.



BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

THEATRE

Provide Deaf Awareness
Training for staff

HEARING LOOP
AVAILABLE HERE

Hearing loops can
enhance the theatre
experience

PRE-SHOW: meet the
director/representative with
the interpreter to discuss
characters names and plot



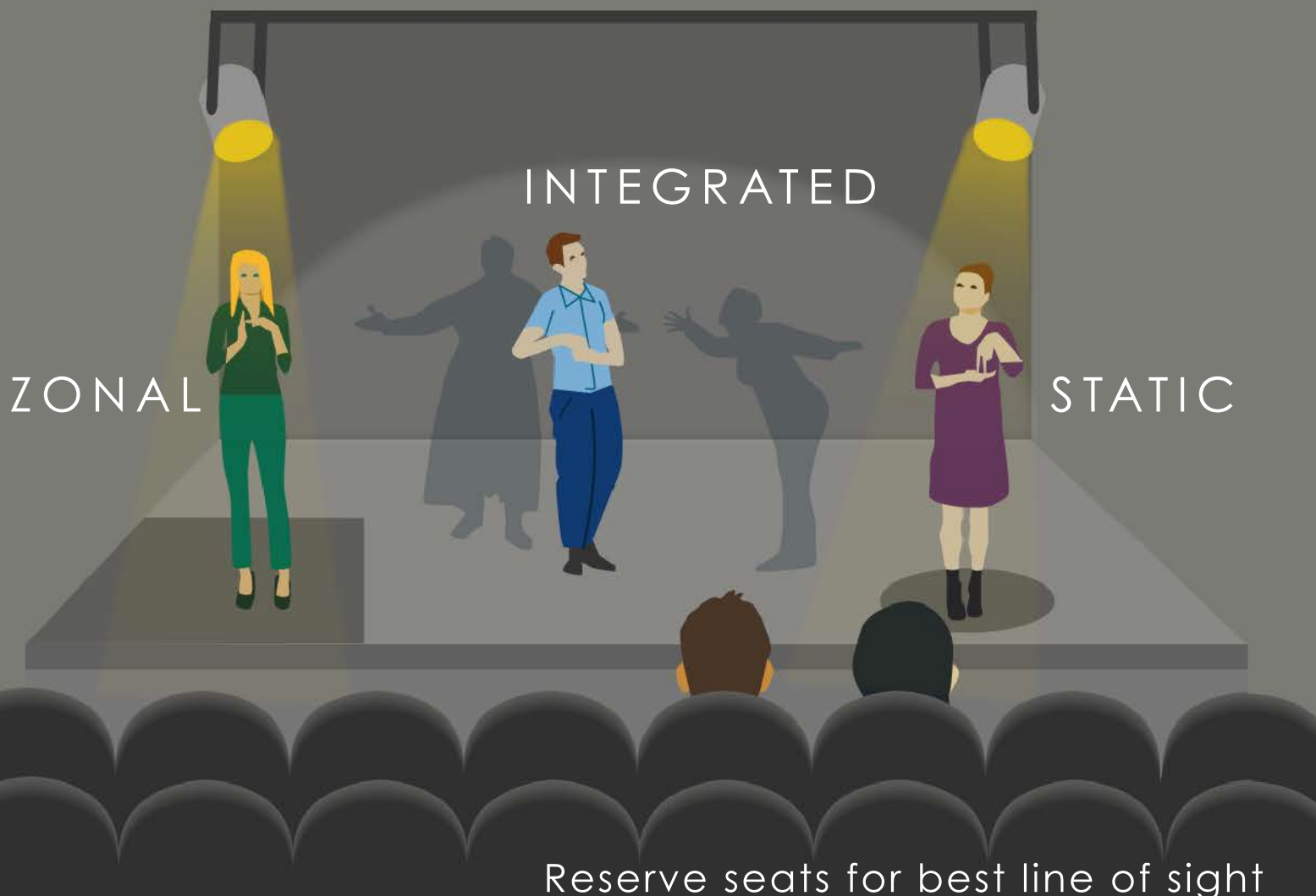
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

ZONAL: the interpreter can move in a defined area

INTEGRATED: the interpreter is on stage, often
'shadowing' the actors

STATIC: the interpreter remains static in one position
to the side of the stage

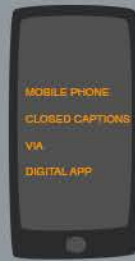
Keep a light on the interpreter at all times



WORKING WITH CLOSED CAPTIONS

MOBILE APPLICATIONS:

using a mobile phone application that allows the dialogue to be screened directly to a mobile phone or tablet



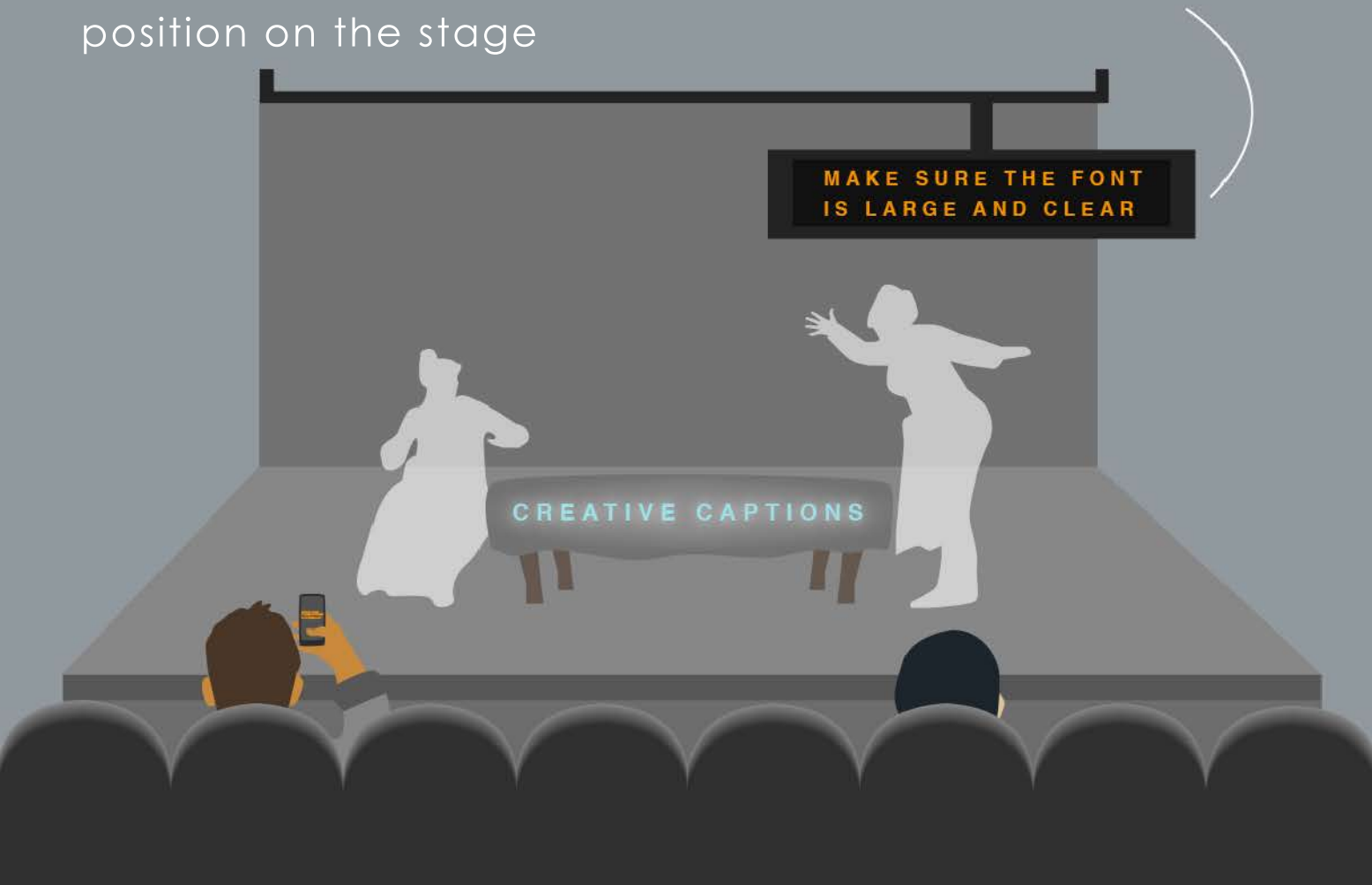
CREATIVE CAPTIONS:

use your imagination and project text onto a flat surface anywhere on the stage



FIXED CAPTIONS UNIT:

this fixed unit will be static and positioned in a clear position on the stage



Working with Sign Language Interpreters

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I contact any RSLI (Registered Sign Language Interpreter) to help with my production?

The RSLI badge denotes a membership of a register - but not every interpreter has the appropriate skill-set, to be a good theatre interpreter.

2. How do I contact and book a RSLI that has experience as a theatre/performance interpreter?

There is not one single “best” way to locate the right RSLI for your performance. However, a good place to start is to contact the organisations listed at the end of this document, local deaf theatre clubs or deaf performers with the relevant skills.

3. So how do I work with RSLIs?

There are some best practice rules to follow:

- Book the interpreter as far in advance as possible, aiming for a month before the interpreted performance.
- Send the interpreter the script, giving adequate preparation time.
- Invite the interpreter to the rehearsals, to watch and absorb the piece, ask questions, and consider what style of interpretation is appropriate.
- Please keep in mind that depending on the length and needs for the show you may need to book more than one RSLI.
- Consider including a RSLI from day one of your process.

INFORMATION

SOLAR BEAR is a theatre company dedicated to bringing access and opportunity to everyone in the arts. Please feel free to contact us, info@solarbear.org.uk or visit our website - www.solarbear.org.uk

Glossary

Deaf: Has many meanings; Deaf relates to the cultural community, deaf relates to someone who medically identifies with hearing loss. People who use Sign Language, have Cochlear Implants and wear hearing aids may all identify as D/deaf.

Hard of Hearing: relates to and refers to someone who doesn't hear well. This may be because they were born with a hearing loss or have lost some or all of their hearing.

British Sign Language [BSL]: a recognised minority language in the UK [2003] and an officially recognised language in Scotland [BSL Scotland Act 2015]. BSL is an organic, visual language with its own lexicon, syntax and regional variations.

Hearing Loop: a type of sound system used in public buildings to enhance personal hearing devices such as Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants, when switch to the 'T' [Telecoil] setting, using a magnetic, wireless signal.

Interpreter: Registered Sign Language Interpreters are fully qualified in BSL & English Interpretation and Translation. RSLIs are registered to national bodies that regulate communication and Language professionals who work with D/deaf and Deafblind people. Trainee Sign Language Interpreters [TSLIs] are qualified in BSL & English whilst still undergoing training in Interpretation and translation. Communication Support Workers [CSWs] are qualified to a specific level in BSL & English and should hold a CSW qualification.

Subtitles: Text of spoken/signed content that has been time-synchronised with the media/performance.

Closed Captions: Text that has been time-synchronised with the media/performance. Captions convey all spoken/signed content as well as relevant sound effects.

CONTACTS/LINKS

Caption Services

Stage Text:

<http://www.stagetext.org/>

Federation of
Scottish Theatre:

<http://www.scottishtheatre.org/>

Talking Birds
(mobile app - the Different Engine):

<http://www.talkingbirds.co.uk>

Interpreters

Theatre sign:

<http://www.theatresign.com/>

Scottish Association of Sign
Language

Interpreters:

www.sasli.co.uk/

Association of Sign Language
Interpreters:

<https://www.asli.org.uk/>

Alexander Communication:

<http://alexcom.org.uk>

Signed Culture

<https://www.signedculture.org.uk>

SOLAR BEAR

D/deaf Theatre Groups

Solar Bear:

www.solarbear.org.uk

Deafinitely:

<http://www.deafinitelytheatre.co.uk/>

Deaf and Hearing
Ensemble:

<http://www.thedeafandhearingensemble.com/>

Graeae:

www.graeae.org/

National Organisations

British Deaf Association:

www.bda.org.uk/

Action on hearing loss:

<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/>

Scottish Council on
Deafness:

www.scod.org.uk/

Please, feel free to contact us:

E: info@solarbear.org.uk

T: 01415488974

The Old Sheriff Court,
c/o Scottish Youth Theatre

105 Brunswick Street, Glasgow

G11TF