

Audio Introductions for Contemporary Theatre

Maya Van Puymbroeck – Toneelhuis

Hanne Roofthoof – University of Antwerp

What is an Audio Introduction

Audio Description

- Mixed with the original soundtrack
- Current action
- Short and 'objective'
- Limited in time and tempo

Audio Introduction

- Live/ recorded before the start of the performance/ film/...
- General information
- Framework
- More adjustment to the performance
- 'Free' timing, tempo, style

Contemporary Theatre and its needs for Audio Introductions

- Focus on dramaturgical style
- Room for the special nature of theatre
- Separated from the storyline
- Experience over understanding

Accessibility for B/VIP at Toneelhuis

- Sunday afternoon performances are made accessible, ca 6 performances/year
- Successful initiative

- External network
VeBeS
Inter
promotion

- Internal network
promotion
communication
internal cooperation

Toneelhuis: practical information

- Mailing for broad audience
- Audio Introduction: pre-recorded (online, entrance hall)
- Gathering at 2 p.m.: Inter volunteers
- Audio Introduction: live
- (touch tour)
- Audio description
- Feedback



© Kioni Papadopoulos



© Kioni Papadopoulos



© Kioni Papadopoulos



© Kioni Papadopoulos



© Kioni Papadopoulos



© Kioni Papadopoulos

Pre recorded AI

Advantages

- Focus on style, movements, patterns
- Expectations
- Less pressure to follow an AD
- Practical information
- Optional and extra
- Promoting the performance

Disadvantages

- Timing creation process
- Separate from AD
- Does not cover all interaction

Pre recorded AI: content selection

1. Intro
 - what is an AI and what is it not
 - main audience
 - reference to other information
2. Performance
 - director/genre/...
3. Guidance
 - opening image
 - overall style
 - structure
 - in various order: tendency for costume design, tendency for set design, acting style, (physical) relation between actors, sounds, humor, ...
4. Closing
 - performance with of without AD (and when)
 - practical information

Live AI

Advantages

- Social event
- Technical test headset
- Meeting the describers
- Voice recognition
- Unique, fun event
- Describer can alter AI to AD

Disadvantages

- Distraction
- A lot of information in a short amount of time
- Creates a long day (2pm-5pm)

Live AI: content selection

- Storyline, credits (based on the playbill)
- Actors introduce themselves
- Set and costume
- Short summary before the start of the performance

Autonomous AI

- Visitors with low vision
- Visitors on a weeknight
- Narrative/ textual performances
- Performances too complex to describe

Vergeef ons (May We Be Forgiven)

Guy Cassiers



Bezonken rood
(Sunken Red)

Guy Cassiers



© Pan Sok

Risjaar Drei

Olympique
Dramatique



© Kurt Van der Elst

© kurt van der elst | www.kvde.be

Oorlog en Terpentijn (War and Turpentine)

Jan Lauwers



Challenges

- How can an actor introduce himself?
- How to reach a broad audience?
- How to optimal combine multiple services?
- What is the impact of AI for its users?