

Cross-cultural AD training for the performing arts: A Singapore Case Study

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Context of case study

- Singapore
 - “Asia-Lite”
 - Melting-pot – 4 cultures, languages, food, customs, festivals & religions
 - Western Democracy
 - Clean
 - Safe
 - Approach to Disability
 - Charity Model
 - Medical Model
 - Social Model

Context of case study

- Arts & Disability International Conference
- UNESCO Artist Talks
- True Colours Festival
 - Celebrating Artistes with Disability
 - Singers, musicians, acrobats, poets, buskers,
 - ballet dancers, wheelchair dancers, traditional & cultural dancers
 - (video link) <https://youtu.be/9qrITZxsXkQ>
- What did you notice?

Context of case study

- Singapore
 - Approach to Disability
 - Straits Times article
 - February 2018 - Access Arts Hub
 - <https://accessarts.sg/about-us>
 - Saturday 16th March – Disability Access Day

Context of case study

- Singapore Repertory Theatre
 - AD Training for Performing Arts
 - November 2018



Case Study: Social Expectations

- Access and Capacity
 - Taxi Drivers & Hotel Doormen
 - Retail workers
- AD Training Participant
 - Dependence / Independence
 - Sighted-Guide Training
 - Tracing arm of guide considered too intimate

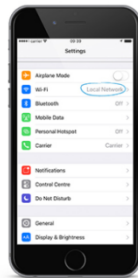
Case Study: Technology

- State-of-the-Art Technology
 - Sennheiser in-theatre smart phone App

The MobileConnect App



Download the app



Connect to the WiFi network



Start the app and adjust sound

After starting the app choose your desired channel. The "Personal Hearing Assistant" allows for a truly intuitive sound adjustment. Tweak spatial sounds or speech intelligibility simply by swiping your finger over the touchscreen.



<https://en-au.sennheiser.com/mobileconnect-smartphone-hearing-system-app>

Case Study: Physical Barriers

- But no lift to access Dress Circle or Box Seats
- And patrons with mobility issues need to be seated at aisles



Case Study: End-user Involvement

- Blind/vision-impaired end-user included in AD training
 - To understand AD process & constraints
 - To advocate for AD service within the blind/vision-impaired community
 - To advocate for AD service with statutory boards and policy makers
 - To provide constructive feedback
 - To shape the AD service end-users receive

Case Study: Conundrums

- (Unseen) Cultural Confusion
 - Challenges of co-presenting training with both sighted and blind/vision-impaired trainers
 - Challenge of training both sighted and blind/vision-impaired trainees
- Producers / Directors / Funders
 - Request/Insist upon involvement in shaping AD service
 - Wanting creative oversight to ensure Audio Describers do not 'interpret' and/or alter the production

Thank You

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