

# Using technology to give access to live entertainment

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## Background to STAGETEXT:

- Founded in 2000 – 6 of its 9 Trustees are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing
- Provision and promotion of pre-prepared and live captioning at arts events
- Around 2,000 captioned theatre performances provided or supported across the UK since 2000
- Also developing technology to widen and improve the audience experience



## Why captioning?



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Aim is for the audience to leave the event talking about the event and not the access



## Options for events where the text can be pre-prepared:

Open captioning



Closed captioning



## Pros and cons:

### Open captioning

#### Pros

- Audience doesn't have to declare
- No change of focus between captions and stage
- Sociable activity

#### Cons

- Unit positioning crucial to experience

### Closed captioning

#### Pros

- Can be available at every performance

#### Cons

- Change of focus between device and stage is difficult
- Missing action on stage when reading text



## Options for events where the text has to be generated live:

Speech to Text/  
Palantype



Speech recognition



## Pros and cons:

### Speech to text

#### Pros

- High level of accuracy
- Words outputted one by one so minimal delay

#### Cons

- Scarcity of STTRs
- Costs of using STTRs for talks, which might be quite short

### Speech recognition

#### Pros

- Training can be completed quite quickly
- Low costs of equipment

#### Cons

- Accuracy versus delay



# Thank you

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