

Accessibility Checklist for Theaters:

Serving Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Audiences

Making your performances and events accessible is more than technology – it's a commitment to inclusion.

Verbit, the leading voice AI transcription and captioning platform, helps theaters of all sizes turn spoken audio and video into accessible and actionable text. Powered by AI and enhanced by human expertise, our captioning, transcription, audio description and translation solutions ensure your content is inclusive, engaging and compliant with accessibility regulations. This checklist can help guide your journey toward full inclusion for everyone in your audience. Use it to identify areas for improvement and connect with us when you're ready to enhance accessibility.

Audio & Visual Clarity

- ▶ Ensure a well-functioning sound system with clear amplification
- ▶ Use wireless or lapel microphones for all performers and speakers (including guests or narrators)
- ▶ Reduce background noise during performances where possible
- ▶ Provide good lighting and clear sightlines to the stage and actors

Communication Accessibility

- ▶ Offer live captioning during performances (on-screen and/or via mobile devices)
- ▶ Consider providing ASL interpretation for live events when possible
- ▶ Provide captioned recordings of performances and other events online
- ▶ Display lyrics, dialogue or narration in real-time with large, readable fonts
- ▶ Train ushers and front-of-house staff to communicate respectfully with deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons

Technology & Tools

- ▶ Install or ensure strong Wi-Fi connectivity in your venue or streaming area
- ▶ Use a supported audio encoder, such as vMix, OBS or Kiloview, to send clean audio to your captioning provider
- ▶ Provide a dedicated audio feed or output from your soundboard for optimal captioning input
- ▶ Use Verbit or another provider to generate a static RTMP link for recurring live captioning
- ▶ Offer QR codes or links that patrons can scan to view captions on their mobile devices
- ▶ Make sure your livestreaming platform supports caption overlays or external caption links
- ▶ Customize caption display settings (font size, color, background) for visibility and clarity
- ▶ Set up easy access to bookings and scheduling tools for regular performances and events

Planning & Communication

- ▶ Ask patrons about accessibility needs during ticket purchases or event registrations
- ▶ Send prep materials (scripts, character names, key themes) to your caption provider ahead of time to improve accuracy
- ▶ Clearly communicate that accessibility services are available (in programs, on your website, in pre-show announcements)
- ▶ Make sure captions can be easily turned on/off depending on the segment (e.g., performance vs. intermission)

Community & Inclusion

- ▶ Invite deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons to share feedback on what works and where improvements can be made
- ▶ Offer inclusive social events or talkbacks that are accessible
- ▶ Consider accessibility in special performances, galas, premieres and seasonal shows
- ▶ Celebrate accessibility milestones and use them as opportunities to educate and build community

Need a Hand with Accessibility?

Whether you're just getting started or ready to take the next step, **we're here to help.**

From choosing the right tools to setting up captions and engaging your audience, our team can guide you every step of the way.

Let's talk about how we can support your accessibility journey.

[Get started today and learn more at verbit.ai](#)