

**Levels of access for blind and visually impaired audiences**

***DIY Options:***

**Self-description**

Suitable for: stand-up, storytelling or 1-person shows that don’t have any set.

Time commitment: Low.

Process: The artist would carry out a brief self-description as part of their introduction at the start of each show, describing their physical appearance and costume or clothing.

**Pre-recorded audio introduction**

Suitable for: low- or no-budget shows.

Time commitment: 1-2 hours.

Process: The artist or company would write & record a 10-15 minute audio introduction describing the visual elements of the show including set, costumes and visual language (eg movement styles, set pieces). This could be made available online and/or emailed out to customers to listen to in advance of the performance, plus a QR code available at the door on the day. An example audio introduction is available [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oc2NVmSNMKY).

***Other Options:***

**Live audio introduction and touch tour (Post-Enhance)**

Suitable for: all types of show.

Time commitment: 2 x half-days’ training plus up to 8 hours communication and administration.

Process: Working with Extant’s visually impaired facilitators to create a live audio introduction and touch tour for visually impaired audiences, delivered by a company member (eg. Actors, SM, Producer or Director). Training includes intro to visual impairment awareness. Touch tour usually takes place 1 hour pre-show and lasts 30 minutes. Once created, “Enhanced” show can then be carried out at any/all performances including touring, dependent on company and venue availability.

**Integrated/Creative Audio Description (Pre-Enhance)**

Suitable for: shows that are able to start integrating access at creation stage.

Time commitment: 5 days, usually spread over the creation process. Sufficient time needs to be considered when working with integrated access to ensure that it is fully embedded in the process and final production from start to finish.

Process: A visually impaired facilitator works with creative team to tailor creative ways to integrate & embed visual impairment access ideas (audio description or other aesthetic access) into the production process, design or script, starting from early-stage conversations about production themes and discussing examples of previous integrated access. The facilitator would feedback at R&D or early rehearsal stage on developing ideas and then attend a final sharing which takes place usually just before the production opens.

For either type of “Enhance” access, please contact [admin@extant.org.uk](mailto:admin@extant.org.uk) for more information, including costings, or visit [www.extant.org.uk](http://www.extant.org.uk)

**Audio Description via headset**

Suitable for: all types of show.

Time commitment: Up to 1-2 hours’ communication and administration.

Process: Trained audio describer either watches recording of the show, attends dress rehearsal or a show performance in order to write the audio description script. They perform a live audio description speaking into a microphone, which visually impaired audience members listen to via headsets.

Information about ways to provide audio description at Edinburgh Fringe, including free-to-borrow equipment, is available [here](https://www.edfringe.com/take-part/artists/organise-a-show/make-your-show-accessible/audio-description/).