



Audio Description (AD) in the Australian Context

Presenters

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Background of AD in Australia

The aim of this presentation is to give an overview of how Access2Arts and DADAA has challenged the South Australian and Western Australian arts and disability sectors and the wider community into embracing Audio Description as an inclusive practice.

Geography of Australia



AD in Australia

- Started on a voluntary basis
- Ad-hoc service
- Currently practice is still hit and miss

AD in Adelaide

- the first organization in Australia to provide a professional AD service.
- pre-show notes, pre-show touch tour and large print and braille programs.
- a person who is vision impaired views the dry run and provides feedback.
- Links established with other arts organisations to provide AD

AD in Perth

- AD is in its infancy in Australia, particularly in Perth.
- Perth Theatre Trust venues in 2009.
- 2015:trialed AD in non-traditional performances and events in non-traditional spaces.
- 3 people to Access2Arts in Adelaide for a 5 day Audio Description training.
- Partnership with the Perth International Arts Festival.
- Disability led

Visual Awareness Training

Adelaide

- training to front of house staff including organizations which have tour guides.
- disability awareness, human guiding and basic audio description.

Perth

- Started 5 years ago training Tactile Tour guides from the Art Gallery of Western Australia.
- Now, to local government councils, museums as well as other arts organisations.

Best Practice

- Links with Vocaleyes in UK
- challenged the Western Australian and South Australian arts and disability sectors.
- working on strategies to standardise audio description.
- To establish a formal network of audio describers.

Where to from here?

Adelaide

- expanding the genre of shows.
- AD for people with Autism.

Perth

- trialing technology.
- researching 3D printing and digital accessibility .



Access2Arts

Making disability and art work



Vocaleyes etc

Thank you

