



SHOW ACCESSIBILITY

October 2024

MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
COMEDY
FESTIVAL
COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU

In an Auslan accessible show, a dedicated Auslan interpreter attends the show to provide Australian sign language translation for the duration of the performance. Usually, they will position themselves next to the performer or to one side of the stage. Auslan interpretation makes your show accessible to a wider audience.

Much like yourself as an artist, interpreters also have a dedicated audience. It's important to know who they are, as some people will choose a show based on who is interpreting, because they might like their specific style or methods.

You can source your own interpreter, or use one of our recommendations:

Kirri Dangerfield

E: dangerwoman01@gmail.com

M: 0402 629 235

AUSLAN Stage Left

W: auslanstageleft.com.au

E: info@auslanstageleft.com.au

M: 0423 933 361 / 0403 227 978

Expression Australia

W: expression.com.au

E: interpreting@expression.com.au

M: 0423 933 361 / 0403 227 978

To prepare for an Auslan interpreted performance, make sure there is room for the interpreter on stage, and confirm which side is best. Ensure that hard of hearing audience members will be able to see the interpreter. Your venue's technical team could adjust the lighting so the interpreter is lit sufficiently, so be sure to chat to them in advance.

It's considered good practice to perform the show as usual, perhaps introducing the interpreter at the start, but avoiding the temptation to refer to them throughout the show. Ask your interpreter if they have any preferences around this.

The interpreters may have feedback about how your show will translate to a hard of hearing audience. More breaks might be needed between jokes and at the end of long sentences to allow the interpreter to catch up. Your interpreters may want to see your show or script, or they may want to chat through ideas prior to interpreting it, so allow time for this.

EXTENDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUR SHOW

LIVE CAPTIONING

If your show includes a large amount of audio-visual content, or you want your performance to be accessible to punters who don't speak Auslan, we recommend live captioning.

There are a number of options for live captioning depending on your style of show. Captioning may need additional technical equipment such as tablets or tv screens, so please consider those in your budgeting.

If you are looking to caption your show then begin by talking to your venue and a live captioning provider. We recommend:

AI-Media

W: ai-media.tv

P: 02 8870 7700

SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

- For recorded shows or online promo videos, adding subtitles and closed captions is an easy way to open your content to a larger audience, including those who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or speak other languages.
- Video hosting websites are the easiest way to add subtitles and captions to your videos. See the [Captioning YouTube and Vimeo Fact Sheet](#) to find out how to create subtitles or closed captions on YouTube and Vimeo.



EXTENDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUR SHOW

RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Relaxed Performances welcome audiences who need a more relaxed sensory environment. Audiences can expect less intense stage lighting and sound, access to a de-stress break area, house lights staying on, and a relaxed attitude to noise and movement from the audience. Sometimes audiences are provided with a guide to what is likely to happen on stage.

There are many audiences that benefit from a Relaxed Performance, including but not limited to Neurodivergent people (including those who experience sensory processing differences such as Autism and ADHD), those with learning disabilities, dementia, or anxiety, as well as those who have experienced trauma.

The creation of a relaxed performance requires buy-in from performers, technical team and venue staff to make show adjustments and provide information for your audience.

Industry consultants are invaluable if you have never produced a relaxed performance before. We recommend getting in contact with:

A_Tistic

W: a-tistic.com.au



HOW WE CAN HELP

If you are engaging an interpreter, planning a relaxed performance, or live captioning your show, we would love to know. Melbourne International Comedy Festival has pages dedicated to Access on our website, as well as other features that help ticket buyers easily search and identify accessible shows. Advertising your show's accessibility is important so the community can get behind the laughter.

Email registration@comedyfestival.com.au with the following details and don't forget add accessible show dates into the Details tab of your Festival registration:

SHOW NAME:

VENUE:

TIME:

DATE IT WILL BE INTERPRETED/CAPTIONED/RELAXED:

Do you want more information?

We welcome and encourage performers in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival community to make their show accessible to a wide audience and aim for this process to be as easy as possible.

If you would like assistance in setting up more accessible shows, please contact the Festival office on 03 9245 3700 or email registration@comedyfestival.com.au.

