

Attendance on a Touch Tour

A touch tour is an opportunity for blind and partially sighted audience members to familiarise themselves with aspects of your production in advance of the audio described performance. This includes meeting members of the company to help distinguish between voices. These points will help you to make the most out of meeting your blind and partially sighted audience.

- If the describers don't introduce you, don't be afraid to introduce yourself to the blind or partially sighted audience member with
'Hello, my name is ... and I play ...'
- If you can come in costume or with a prop that you use in the show you can talk about that. People often like to handle objects and feel their weight. Tell people what the item is like. 'It's a really shabby old brown wool coat. Its pockets are torn and it's so long it almost drags on the floor when I walk.'
- Make sure you don't give away any of the plot – 'Of course, I die in the first act ...' 'I fall in love with Maurice, but he doesn't notice me.'
- If you're using an accent for your character, give a brief example, perhaps by quoting a line or two. It helps the audience to 'tune in' to your voice during the performance.
- Don't worry about saying things like 'It's nice to see you.' Just use your normal language.

- Don't hand someone something and say 'Can you guess what this is?' They may be able to, but if they can't, they may not have sufficient sight to check.
- If you're showing someone a prop or a piece of furniture, don't grab their hand and force it onto the object. Say, 'If you reach your hand up here you can feel ...' Allow them time to explore the item themselves.
- When you leave the audience member make sure you let them know you're going, or they might be left talking to empty air.
- If someone is accompanied by a guide dog, remember the dog is working and should not be petted or fed.
- Enjoy yourself! Actors tell us they thoroughly enjoy this contact with their audience, and the audience members appreciate your time.

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