

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write as a visually impaired adult lamenting the great lack of audio description for almost all forms of entertainment in New South Wales.

There is a very good service at two live drama venues, but The Sydney Theatre Company is costly while the Ensemble is more reasonable.

Theatre and television are virtually non-existent - except for token films at the Sydney Film Festival and a screening last December for the International Day of Disability.

Very few commercial DVD's are available.

To compound the lack of audio description, finding out about what is available looks like a very closely guarded secret.

These factors certainly put me at a disadvantage when I try to pursue the normal avenues of entertainment available to able bodied people..

In these enlightened days of accessibility for all, surely it is not too much to ask that the visually impaired be given the same opportunities as others.

I note that the services provided in overseas countries are far superior to Australia.

I am intrigued to understand why theatres are so slow on the uptake of audio description when all it involves is supplying a headset service when the description is already on the soundtrack - this service would improve my enjoyment and also benefit those around me who complain when my husband tries to quietly explain the "silent bits".

I ask you to bring entertainment for the visually impaired into the 21st century.

Coral Arnold