



Module 3

Unit 9: Audio introductions

Core video transcript

Module 3

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Transcript

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Hello. I'm Louise Fryer, from Utopian Voices. In this ADLAB PRO video I will explain what you need to know about audio introductions for live events. This is Unit 9 in Module 3

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An audio introduction (AI) is “a continuous piece of prose, spoken by a single voice or a combination of voices lasting between 5 and 15 minutes.” It is hosted on the theatre or AD Provider’s website as a document or an audio file.

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An AI creates a framework by which to understand the piece. It gives detailed descriptions of the set, costumes and characters, background information from the printed programme and It prepares the user for the AD by providing a fuller description of certain elements than is possible during the show itself.

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For live events give pre-show information and pre-visit information.

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Pre-show information supports the AD.

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Pre-visit information supports the visit to the venue by PSL.

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Venue information might include very basic things such as the address, post code and telephone number, public transport links, information about accessible toilets and refreshment facilities. Include the Access information such as guide dog policy – can you take your dog into the auditorium? Is assistance available, where to collect your headset

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- PVI ordered following the logic of a visit:
- From how to get to the venue via what to expect when you arrive (physical details) and what to do where to pick up your AD headset)

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For the Pre-show information create the world of the piece
Where & when it happens. How many dancers/actors? What do they look like?
How do they move? Tell us about the Designer/director's vision (visual style).

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Descriptive information about characters and costumes is more easily remembered if it's threaded through a loose telling of the plot especially if characters are associated with particular locations. e

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Start with the big picture, then move from the general to the specific

There is a cast of 30, of whom 8 are named characters.

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Things to Consider

Do you start with the set or the characters? How do you order the characters?

- By order of importance?
- By order of appearance?

Give a more detailed description of more important characters Do you include “surprise” characters? Be guided by the printed programme.

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Include what each scene looks like – aim to convey a general impression rather than itemise every detail.

How is the set changed? by stage hands, members of the cast, “automatically” or is it all in the audience’s imagination?

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The AI is written to support the AD it is important to maintain consistent terminology for people and places.

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It is common for a description of a live event to be delivered by two describers. The AI is written collaboratively by both. Often a third person perhaps an editor feeds back on the AI, ideally someone who has not seen the show.

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The Pre-show information should last a maximum of 15 minutes. A shortened version is given live immediately before the show starts. The PVI – 3 minutes max – can be dropped in the live version.

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The abbreviated notes are given live for any PLS who didn't book in advance. They are a useful reminder for all AD users and can accommodate any last minute changes such as a cast replacement.

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This was a video about audio introductions unit 9 of module 3 with me LF. I hope you found it useful.

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