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**Equal Access At Museums and Theater**

1. **Introduction**
2. **How many of you enjoy going out to museums and watching theater shows?!**
3. **Do you know how the deaf community can have access to the same level as hearing people?**
4. **There are many different way that deaf people can have equal access as hearing people can go to learn and enjoy theater.**
5. **Body**
6. **Museums providing access programs for the deaf community**
7. **Hearing tours is offered free for the hearing community but the deaf community has “ASL tours” with deaf museum guides and/or interpreters. Let me tell you the overview access program and the museum access programs looks like:**
   1. **There are deaf tour guides who dedicate their time gathering information and giving the tour in full ASL. \* (interpreters voice will be off when I will say a phrase the point of this is to give the audience a sense of ASL tours without voice interpreters) “The rug shown here is from the 16th century” Feel funny right when I told the interpreters to not use the voice. The point is that to give you an idea of no voice interpretation tours.**
   2. **Metropolitan Museum, Whitney Museum, Rubin Museum, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, and Intrepid Museum provides ASL tours either with or no voice interpretation.**
   3. **MoMa museum is an exception because this is a private tour. Now you get an exclusive look how the MoMa tour is like. The tours are offered bi-monthly with two amazing professional interpreters with a hearing tour guide. The museum is closed to the public only the deaf community can go in and get a good look at the artwork without the barriers.**
8. **Deaf shows and entertainment**
9. **Who loves theater? I do! Did you know that there are deaf actors out there involved with shows? There is a small deaf theater at 23rd street in Manhattan providing ASL shows with voice interpreters. Let me show you some of the deaf actors and (if Garrett is free to come in class and get the idea of his shows)**
10. **ASL Slam is a deaf show where deaf people can chat, have some drinks, and enjoy storytelling in ASL. Douglass Ridoff is the founder of ASL Slam and he wants the deaf community to come together and share stories.**
11. **Broadway shows**
12. **Love Broadway shows? I love Broadway shows but wait a minute what about equal access?! No problem on a selected performance there would be ASL interpreters who are very experienced. Don’t expect a lousy interpreter for Broadway shows because those are high class interpreters. I can enjoy shows and still get the concept of the play itself. The interpreters are wonderful with face expressions and “acting” out matching the characters.**
13. **Before September of 1980 deaf people who wants to watch shows would have to bring hearing friends to sit next to them. The hearing friends would “relay” the dialogues to the deaf friend. Annoying right? Because you want to see the action and missing out information what if your friend’s communication sucks because the music is so loud. Let me show you a short video of two interpreters who started the tradition of Broadway interpreting. Without them we won’t have equal access. Sadly the gentlemen in this video passed away in 2011 after a long battle of cancer. We “tip hats” to him for setting up. The partner is still interpreting shows.**
14. **Conclusion**
15. **Deaf people do have equal access and we have all the different accessibilities to expand our knowledge.**
16. **It doesn’t matter if you are hearing go to those wonderful ASL tours you will get the idea of the ASL tours. You will be surprised how great is ASL and enrich your knowledge too.**

**References**

**-Handson.org**

**-Various museum websites: Metropolitan, Whitney, Intrepid, Lower East Side Tenement, and TDF website.**