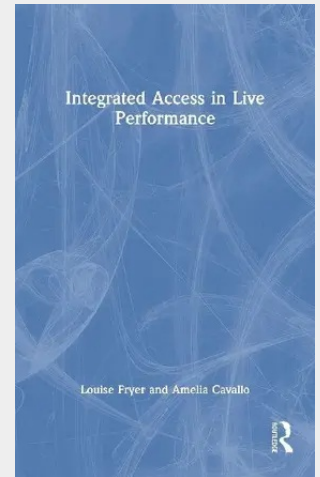


Integrated Access in Live Performance

Twelve per cent of UK theatregoers have a disability. This compares with 18% of the UK's adult population. Directors can help build audiences as diverse as the population at large by making their art accessible to all. Live performances are increasingly being made accessible to people with sensory impairments not only to satisfy equality laws and the requirements of funding bodies, but also in the interest of diversity and as a catalyst for creativity. But how do you ensure you don't throw out the access baby with the artistic bathwater? This book draws on the results of the Integrated Access Inquiry: Is It Working? A qualitative study with 20 theatremakers from around the UK, it was commissioned by Extant Theatre – the UK's leading company of blind and visually impaired people, and combines feedback from disabled audiences with advice from the creative teams who have experimented with integrating access. It discusses the challenges and opportunities of working with disabled actors and building in audience access even before rehearsals begin. It offers strategies, case studies and a step-by-step guide to help creative people integrate access into their live performance for the benefit of all.

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