



## **Respeaking at Live Events – Audience Members Needed**

### **The Project**

Respeaking is the process of using speech recognition software to create live subtitles. It's often used to subtitle TV programmes like the news and sports shows, but it isn't used as widely in live events at the moment. I am researching how respeaking can best be used to subtitle live events, including Q&A sessions, museum walking tours, music events, presentations and conferences...

Last summer, I sent out a detailed questionnaire to find out more about how the deaf and hard of hearing audience access television through live subtitles and to learn what their priorities would be when live subtitles created through respeaking are used at events. I have also run focus groups with speakers of English as an additional language to find out whether they can also benefit from subtitles at live events, since once displayed, the subtitles are available for the whole audience to use.

Respeakers and venues provide a key role within this service and their needs must also be met. I have worked closely with them to find out about the challenges that events may pose and how these can be met.

All of this culminated in a training programme in July, designed to enable speakers to transfer their skills to the live event setting. We are now running a series of research events to test out respeaking in this new setting and that is where I need your help. We need audience members to participate in the events and provide feedback on the access that was provided.

I'm hoping that one of those audience members may be you!

### **What are the different events?**

The events have been designed to pose challenges to the respeakers and explore what needs to be done to ensure that respeaking provides good quality access for the audience. They cover a range of scenarios, including single and multiple speakers, Q&A, walking tours and seated events, presentations, visual aids, music and performance. This time round, they are all in the London and Surrey area, but a second series will follow in the new year at various locations around the UK.

#### **Arts/Theatre Presentation**

Walton on Thames

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Evening

#### **Quick Fix Theatre – Performance & Presentation, Q&A**

Walton on Thames

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Evening

#### **Film Event**

BFI St Stephen Street

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, Afternoon

#### **Walking Tour**

Wellcome Collection

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Evening

### **What does being an audience member involve?**

Being an audience member means coming along and watching or taking part in the research event as if it were a 'real' event. Since it is a research event, we are testing different aspects of subtitling and the event will be split into two or three sections. At the end of each, there will be a short questionnaire and the event will be followed by short interviews to explore how you were able to access and engage in the event.

The event itself will last approximately 1½ hours and you'll be at the venue for another hour after that to enjoy the refreshments and take part in the interviews. Group interviews will last approximately 20 minutes and there will also be some shorter individual interviews.

### **How will you decide who can take part?**

There will be 20-30 people in the audience at each event. I need a certain number of audience members from each of the following categories, so if large numbers of people volunteer, that will help me decide who to invite.

- Deaf (BSL)
- deaf
- Hard of hearing
- Speakers of English as an additional language

I will give priority to people who can attend all or most of the events, but it may be possible to attend only one event. If there are additional places, it may be possible to invite friends or family members to some of the events. Please let me know if you would like to do this.

### **What happens after the events?**

I will review all the audience feedback and analyse the quality of the subtitles at each event. The findings will be used to plan the second round of respeaking training which will take place at the start of 2018, which will be followed by a second series of events. You will also be invited to take part in the second series of events, but you do not have to.

### **How can I register to be an audience member?**

Please email me at [Mooresz1@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:Mooresz1@roehampton.ac.uk) with the information at the end of this letter.

You are also very welcome to email me with any questions you have about the events or about the research project as a whole.

In the meantime, I hope you have a lovely summer and I hope to see you soon at one of the events.

Best wishes,

Zoe

*If you would like to be an audience member, please complete the questions below and send them to Zoe as soon as you can:*

[Moorez1@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:Moorez1@roehampton.ac.uk)

Zoe Moores

Department of Media, Culture and Language, Roehampton University, Roehampton Lane  
SW15 5PU

Name:

Are you:

Deaf BSL / deaf / Hard of hearing / Other (please specify)

What is your native language?

Do you require a BSL interpreter for the interview? Yes/No

Please list any additional access requirements you may have:

Please list any special dietary requirements you may have:

Which events are you hoping to attend?

<b>Arts/Theatre Presentation</b> Walton on Thames Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September, Evening	Yes	No	Maybe
<b>Quick Fix Theatre – Performance &amp; Presentation, Q&amp;A</b> Walton on Thames Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October, Evening	Yes	No	Maybe
<b>Film Event</b> BFI St Stephen Street Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October, Afternoon	Yes	No	Maybe
<b>Walking Tour</b> Wellcome Collection Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November, Evening	Yes	No	Maybe

If you are thinking of bringing a friend/family member, please let me know which event(s) this would be for.