

What is ACT 1 Access?

ACT 1 Access is a new software developed by members of the Blind and Deaf/Hard of Hearing community to revolutionize accessibility for theatre audiences.

Access Broadway partnered with Access Tech and IDC Digital to develop new software that has the capability to power both Captioning and Audio Descriptions for a theatrical production via a singular portal. The software makes it possible for audience members to access Closed Captioning and Audio Descriptions via their own smart devices, or devices provided by the venue.

Act 1 Access opens doors for the Blind and Deaf/Hard of Hearing communities, and it opens up theatrical productions to new audiences that have historically been marginalized by the theatre. The team behind Act 1 Access is also committed to stronger cultural competency and equity in its description of the actors on stage.



Access Broadway NY is a group of consultants, advocates and strategists that use combined experiences to create a thorough and clear map to accessibility for entertainment venues.
www.accessbroadwayny.com



Access Tech is a company that specializes in software development for accessibility in entertainment.
www.accesstech.net



IDC Digital is a bi-coastal post-production facility bridging cultural gaps with the art of storytelling and connecting global citizens through localization, distribution and accessibility.
www.idcdigital.com

What is ACT 1 Access?

ACT 1 Access launched its first pilot program for Broadway accessibility in December 2022 at [Into the Woods at the St. James Theater](#).



That pilot program included members of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Low Vision and Neurodivergent communities, in partnership with The Harriet Tubman Effect's Accessible Ticketing program.

What makes ACT 1 Access so amazing?

- Captioning and Audio Description are sent smart devices in your hand, and mirrored for a joint user experience.
- Captioning and Audio Description can be prompted by a single operator in real time. Access Broadway NY employs people who are Blind, Hard of Hearing, Deaf and Low Vision for the operator role.
- The Captioning and Audio Description scripts can be edited at any time to reflect changes to the show and/or casting, making accessibility in the theater an evolving process.
- Members of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Low Vision community are no longer limited to attending special "Accessible Performances" on prescribed dates.

What is ACT 1 Access?



Act 1 Access is currently raising seed funds to underwrite the fourth pilot and proof of concept during 10 weeks of the Into the Woods Tour. In partnership with Harriet Tubman Effect, the software developers are building partnerships with theater owners and producers for future usage of the software in regional and Broadway houses.

2023 Seed Funding Goal

\$4,000

Development of Closed Captioning script with Access Broadway consultants and input into software with Access Tech.

\$10,000

Development and recording of Audio Descriptions in partnership with IDC Digital.

\$15,000 (6 Months)

Licensing Fee for technology and software developed by Access Tech to be utilized in theaters.

\$5,000

Purchase of audience tablets and ThinkPad technology for in-theater operation.

In each city, the presenter and producing entity are splitting the operator and audience management costs associated with the software. The current fundraising effort has been launched to cover the start up costs borne by Access Broadway NY, Access Tech and IDC Digital. The Harriet Tubman Effect community has begun crowdsourcing via [GoFundMe](#) for these efforts.