

Theatre captions - what are they and who are Stagertext?

Back in 2000, three friends with varying types of deafness and a shared love of theatre, set out to change the world of access to the arts for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing audiences. They did this by bringing theatre captions to the UK. But what are theatre captions?

You may be familiar with using subtitles on your TV, phone or even at the cinema, but what about in theatres?

Theatre captions are often displayed on a unit near the stage. They show the audience the script in time with the performance and include additional information like character names and descriptions of music or sounds. Theatre captions are delivered in real time by a highly skilled captioner. The captioner times and adjust the text as the performance unfolds, offering the caption user a seamless experience, because let's face it, nobody loves a poorly timed punchline or plot twist. What made those three friends bring theatre captions to the UK?

After seeing a captioned theatre performance produced by an American company visiting London, Peter Pullan, Merfyn Williams and Geoff Brown experienced a glimpse of what accessibility looked like and they wanted to share the experience with deaf audiences across the country.

Stagertext's founder, Peter Pullan explains how he felt before life with captions; 'Theatre



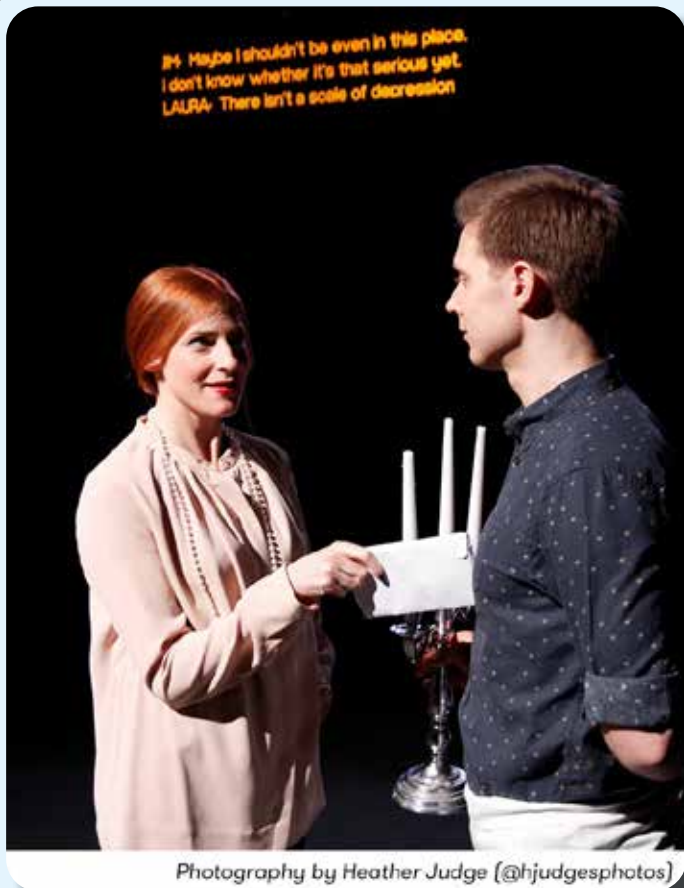
An Ideal Husband at Abbey Theatre, Dublin. Photo: Kenneth O'Halloran

is about being involved in the development of the characters and being emotionally and intellectually attached. I felt deprived of this great experience until captioned performances came along'.

The friends imported technology from the United States, hired their first captioner, and around a kitchen table they began work on what would become the birth of the theatre captioning in the UK, and the founding of the charity Stagertext. On 15 November 2000, the UK's very first captioned performance was held, The Royal Shakespeare Company's *Duchess of Malfi*, performed at The Barbican Centre in London.

Hala Hashem was in the audience at Stagertext's very first performance and has continued to go to captioned theatre ever since. She tells us about her first experience of captions at The Barbican, back in 2000.

'I remember being excited when I first saw the captioning unit, it was a wonderful



feeling. Looking back, I was really moved by it, because for the first time I was able to understand everything being said on stage, including the characters' names, sound

effects, etc.'

Stagetext Now

Fast forward more than twenty years from that first performance and Stagetext now captions between 320 and 350 shows a year. In addition to theatre captions, they now run digital subtitling and live subtitling services for the arts. They also train arts professionals and organisations, helping them to create better access to their work and their venues, including museums, heritage sites and so much more.

At the forefront of everything Stagetext do is advocating for better access to the arts for deaf audiences across the UK. Stagetext was created by deaf people and continues to be deaf-led, making sure their deaf staff members, trustees, volunteers, and users inform all their work.

If you want to find out more information about Stagetext and their captioned shows, go to: www.stagetext.org. New shows and events for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing audiences are added to their what's on page every week.

Manufacturer's News

From Cochlear

NEW! The Cochlear™ Nucleus® 8 Sound Processor Experience smaller, smarter, and better

Whatever stage of life you're in – starting school or starting a family, moving out or travelling, working or thinking about retirement – your sound processor should help you hear your best.

The good news is that Cochlear is continually innovating its sound processors to make it easier for you to hear clearly and participate in the activities you love, whether you received your hearing implant recently, or decades ago. That's why we're excited to introduce the Cochlear™ Nucleus® 8 Sound Processor. Smaller, smarter, and better connected, the Nucleus 8 Sound Processor opens up a world of new possibilities.^{1-4^}



Smaller than your current device

The world's smallest and lightest sound processor is designed to be more comfortable than your current device.¹ The Nucleus 8 is 32% smaller and 34% lighter than the Nucleus 6, or 15% smaller

and 13% lighter than the Nucleus 7.

Smarter hearing technology

From the office to the cafe or sports field, feel confident that you are hearing your best with a sound processor that senses changes in the listening environment and automatically adjusts to provide clearer sound.^{2-5^}

Focus on what's important

When you want to focus on face-to-face conversations and cut out the noise, our improved ForwardFocus technology is designed to provide additional hearing support in noisy environments.^{6,+}

New ways to connect

Experience the proven benefits of streaming audio directly to your sound processor – compatible Apple and Android™ devices are just the start.^{7-10,*} Ready for next-generation Bluetooth® LE Audio technology[¥], the Nucleus 8 will bring sound to you – in more places and from more devices than ever before.

Peace of mind

Splash-proof and dust-proof, with the highest

available water-resistance rating (IP 68) in a sound processor, you can do more of what you love.^{11,#} Control your sound processor using the Nucleus Smart App: adjust your hearing settings, set listening goals and help locate a misplaced sound processor.

Colour options to match your style

The Nucleus 8 is available in 6 colours and comes with new personalisation covers for even more colour and design options.

You can find more information about the Nucleus 8 Sound Processor at www.cochlear.com/nucleus8.

We understand you may be excited to learn more about Bluetooth LE Audio. Here is a link to a technical article on Bluetooth's own website: <https://www.bluetooth.com/learn-about-bluetooth/recent-enhancements/le-audio/>

Watch out for more news from Cochlear once this new technology is available, and we will provide full details on what this means for wearers of Nucleus 8 sound processors.



Disclaimers and references

^ Compared to previous generation Nucleus 7 and Nucleus 6 Sound Processors.

± Compared to the Nucleus 7 Sound Processor with ForwardFocus on.

¥ When the technology becomes available for the Cochlear Nucleus 8 Sound Processor, a firmware update to your sound processor will allow you to connect to Bluetooth LE Audio compatible devices.

*The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor is compatible with Apple and Android devices. For compatibility information and devices visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility

+ForwardFocus is a clinician-enabled feature that can be user controlled or automated.

The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor is dust and water resistant to level of IP68 of the International Standard IEC60529. The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor with Aqua+ is dust and water resistant to level of IP68 of the International Standard IEC60529. The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor with Aqua+ can be continuously submerged under water to a depth of up to 3 metres for up to 2 hours.

1. Cochlear Limited. D1190805 Processor Size Comparison. 2022, May.

2. Mauger SJ, Warren C, Knight M, Goorevich M, Nel E. Clinical evaluation of the Nucleus 6 cochlear implant system: performance improvements with SmartSound iQ. International Journal of Audiology. 2014, Aug; 53(8): 564-576. [Sponsored by Cochlear]

3. Mauger S, Jones M, Nel E, Del Dot J. Clinical outcomes with the Kanso™ off-the-ear

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5. Cochlear Limited. D1864200 SCAN-X Design Description.

6. Cochlear Limited. D1964109 Clinical Investigation Report CLTD5804 – Feb 2022.

7. Cochlear Limited. D1631375 Nucleus 8 Sound Processor Product Definition.

8. Wolfe J, et al. Evaluation of a wireless audio streaming accessory to improve mobile telephone performance of cochlear implant users. International Journal of Audiology. 2016;55(2):75-82.

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10 Warren C, Nel E, and Boyd P. Controlled comparative clinical trial of hearing benefit outcomes for users of the Cochlear™ Nucleus® 7 Sound Processor with mobile connectivity. Cochlear Implants International (2019 Feb); 20(3)

11. Cochlear Limited. D1980144 CP1110 IEC60529 IP68 Certificate & Test Report. 2022, May

New audio streaming from Amazon Fire TV devices for Cochlear™ hearing implant users

Our passion for progress drives us to continually innovate to anticipate your/your child's hearing needs in the future. This means identifying the best possible partnerships to deliver new and better ways to help you live your life. That's why Cochlear and Amazon have collaborated to offer recipients more accessibility options and a new way to stream audio from movies, your favourite shows, and live sports directly to a compatible sound processor*.

According to Amazon research, improving TV sound quality was one of the most requested features among hearing device users¹. So, you can now direct-stream audio privately through select Amazon Fire TV devices+ #.

Cochlear has made it possible to direct stream from Fire TV devices to Cochlear™ Nucleus® 8, Nucleus 7, Nucleus Kanso® 2, and Baha® 6 Max sound processors. Fire TV devices include Fire TV Cube (2nd Gen), Fire TV Cube (3rd Gen), Fire TV Omni Series and Amazon Fire TV Omni QLED Series.

This is the first time that an Amazon device can stream directly to a hearing implant sound processor without the need for a smartphone or accessory through Audio Streaming for Hearing Aids (ASHA) technology.



You can read more here www.amazon.com/accessibility

A subscription may be required.

* For information regarding the compatibility of Cochlear's Sound Processors with Amazon devices, visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility

+ For more information on Amazon ASHA enabled devices please visit: [Accessibility Features for Fire TV - Amazon Customer Service](#)

¹. Amazon Fire TV Blog. Fire TV launches hearing aid pairing. Available at <https://amazonfiretv.blog/fire-tvlaunches-hearing-aid-pairing-423d56625683> [last accessed December 2022].

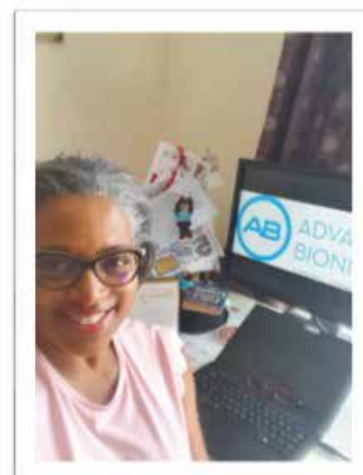
From Advanced Bionics

Introducing the Advanced Bionics UK & Ireland Support and Community Team

At Advanced Bionics we are passionate about providing service and support to anyone going through the cochlear implant journey. To be able to fully commit to supporting adults and families, Advanced Bionics UK & Ireland have instituted a dedicated Support and Community team. The Support and Community team are available to talk to anyone wanting advice on technology, accessories, features, or listening practice resources.

We are available for direct one-to-one accessible meetings for support throughout

your hearing journey - from when you are first starting to think about cochlear implants all the way through to when you are an established cochlear implant wearer and advocate. The one-to-one meetings can be either virtual or in-person at a time and place to suit you. The Support and Community team also run regular virtual group events with various relevant topics. Topics range from technology updates to accessing support. Look out for dates and registration details in on our events page: www.advancedbionics.com/uk-events

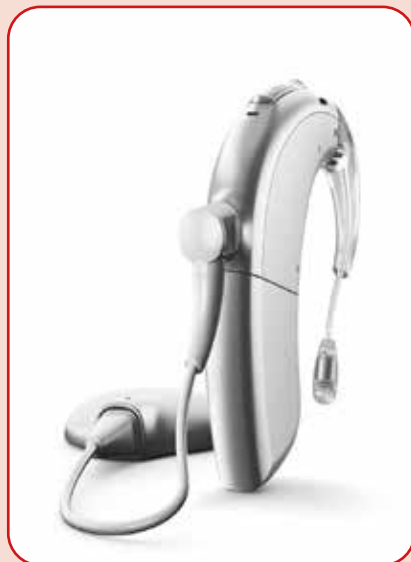


To find out more information about the Support and Community team, the latest group events, or to book a one-to-one session, email hear-uk@advancedbionics.com or visit www.advancedbionics.com/CWS121

We are here to support you and your families

Need support with your new Marvel CI sound processor?

Have you recently been fitted with the latest Advanced Bionics Marvel CI sound processor, Naída™ CI M? Do you need support with your new sound processor?



Visit our new online channel 'Step Into HearingSuccess' today www.gotostage.com/channel/hearingsuccess and you will find a wide range of videos to support you and your family. The latest video series include:

1. Introducing AutoSound OST™ 3.0
2. Bluetooth Overview and Top Tips for Success
3. How to Set Up Bluetooth
4. How to use the AB Remote App
5. Waterproof Solution – The M Waterproof Battery
6. Which Marvel CI Accessory Should I Choose?
7. Installing RogerSelect iN Licences

Don't forget if you need any additional support, you can always book one-to-one meeting online at:

www.advancedbionics.com/CWS121

Naída CI M is a part of an innovative, advanced cochlear implant system that delivers a brilliant hearing experience. This means powerful sound and excellent hearing in any environment, along with flexibility and durability that allows you to meet all of life's adventures head-on.

Naída CI M offers a wide variety of features designed to improve hearing across all listening situations using AutoSense OS™ 3.0 operating system and direct streaming from a multitude of devices. Rest assured—every aspect of the system is designed to be seamlessly operated, providing you the ultimate ease of use.

If you would like more information on our latest sound processor Naída CI M, please visit www.advancedbionics.com or email hear-uk@advancedbionics.com

From MED-EL



Meet the Mentor



Hearpeers New Webinar Series

During 2023 we will be holding a series of monthly webinars which will introduce our Hearpeers Mentors, who are all implant users or parents and family members of implant users. You will find out more about them, learn about their hearing journey and their achievements.

Are you considering a hearing implant?

Is your child or someone close to you considering a hearing implant?

Are you, your child or someone close to you newly implanted and would like to get hints and tips on getting the most out of your audio processor?

For more information on our webinar series please visit our website:
www.tinyurl.com/medel-events

How Meludia Helps Cochlear Implant Recipients Enjoy Music

Music training helps you get the most out of your cochlear implant, and we're not just talking about music enjoyment. Music training can help you understand conversations in noisy environments, increase your listening skills, and even tune into emotions. But how can you get started with it?

Let us introduce you to Meludia. This online platform makes music training accessible to you, no matter where you are in the world.

Meludia: Music Training Made Fun

Fun, playful, and interactive—that's Meludia. Look at the star-like interface to see what we mean. It guides you step-by-step through different skill branches, like melody or rhythm. In total there are over 600 different exercises, which you can complete at a pace that suits you.



Tailored to Cochlear Implant Users

One of the great things about Meludia is that it's accessible to everyone. It doesn't matter how old you are, or what kind of musical background you have. There are levels ranging from "discovery" to "expert".

Meludia is suitable for all hearing implant users, but especially cochlear implant users. The platform has been thoroughly tested to make sure that the exercises are suitable for all cochlear implant recipients, regardless of when you got your CI, or how severe your hearing loss is.

More Than Music

The platform is built to meet all kinds of musical goals, whether you want to finetune your piano skills, or just get back to enjoying your favourite pop song. But its benefits go beyond music. Studies show that by using music training tools like Meludia you can build your overall listening skills. It can help improve your listening attention, understanding of speech, and verbal memory.

Free Access to Meludia for myMED-EL Users

Want to try Meludia for yourself? We're offering 12 months of free access to Meludia through your myMED-EL account. * Sign up at <https://web.meludia.com/en/login/medel/sso/login>

Don't have a myMED-EL account yet? No problem! It's free, sign up here <https://my.medel.com/>

** This offer is only available from October 6, 2022, to October 5, 2023. Offer may not be valid in all countries due to local laws and restrictions.*

Cochlear Implant numbers

Each year the British Cochlear Implant Group collects data for the cochlear implant centre co-ordinators about the number of people receiving cochlear implants in the UK.

The figures for the year ending 31st March 2022 showed that there were 1308 new recipients of cochlear implants of which 868 were adults and 440 were children. This shows the figures have almost returned to the pre-Covid levels which were 1623 new recipients for the year ending 31st March 2020.

David Baguley 1961-2022

We are sad to record the passing of David Baguley. He was an outstanding audiologist and internationally respected for his work on tinnitus habilitation. However, he also had a significant input to the world of hearing implants.

In David's memory there are several articles on tinnitus in the current number of 'ENT & Audiology News' Vol.32 No.1. An interesting article 'Current perspectives of tinnitus and its management' by Don J McFerran, Marc Fagelson and Gerhard Andersson sums the situation up. They say that psychological therapies such as acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) are the most proven methods of treatment. Drug and other treatments are still without scientific evidence of their efficacy but 'there is now a more structured and collaborative research network trying to solve the puzzle.'

MRI and Cochlear Implants

A new patient information sheet for people with cochlear implants who have been sent for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) has been published. It goes through the procedures that a cochlear implant user awaiting an MRI can expect.

It emphasises that it is important for CI users to tell their implant centre that they are having a scan and to tell the doctor who refers them for a MRI scan that they have a cochlear implant. It also lists the possible risks and complications which happen rarely or only occasionally.

The information sheet which has been approved by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine can be seen on the British Cochlear Implant Group website: <https://www.bci.org.uk/mri-scanning-patients/>



From the Editor

I do not usually write messages in the newsletter but as this will be the last NCIUA newsletter I will edit I am making an exception for this number. I started out at the inception of the Association in 1998 as Hon. Secretary and for the next ten years or so helped Lord Ashley along with the other members of the Executive Committee to set up and run the Association. It was very rewarding working with Jack who had so much energy and enthusiasm for all we did. We used to have our committee meetings in the House of Lords! When Lord Ashley retired as Chairman towards the end of his life Nigel Williams took over as Chairman and I volunteered to edit the newsletter.

I am now standing down as Newsletter Editor and trustee of NCIUA. A new editor is now urgently needed so please think about volunteering for this position. Indeed, I think, some of the other officers feel that they have also served their term so, if you have time and energy, do come forward and volunteer your services. The Association needs new trustees and new ideas to take it forward to help and support CI users and prospective users and represent them at a national level.

Alison Heath

DIARY DATES

The AGM and Summer Meeting 2023

This meeting will be held on Saturday 17th June 2023 in London at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Society Building, 8 All Saints Road, London N1 9RL.

Further details will be sent to members and will be available on our website: www.nciua.org.uk/event/nciua-2023-summer-meeting/



National Cochlear Implant Users Association

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Disclaimer

Whilst the Association uses its best endeavours to provide accurate information on the subject of cochlear implants it does not provide medical advice or make recommendations with regard to any particular implant or equipment and no article in this newsletter should be construed as doing so.

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