

Auditory Technology at the Movies

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AccuNotes newsletter result:

Open rate	Read/Click thru rate
Patients - 27.20%	Patients - 18.23%

Have you given up on going to movie theaters because you can't understand what they are saying?

No matter the time of year, it seems like the next big blockbuster is hitting theaters every weekend! [Hearing loss](#) should not be a reason to deprive yourself the experience of high definition bombardments, explosions, armrest-clenching car chases and death-defying stunts in the theater. Many theater complexes have made great strides to ensure that the [20 percent](#) of the U.S. population that is hearing impaired will be accommodated. From assistive listening devices to three-dimensional closed caption glasses, here are some forms of auditory technology at the movies that will enhance your cinema experience.

Assistive listening devices

These forms of auditory technology were the first to be installed in theaters throughout the country. Helping hearing impaired customers enjoy their theater experience, assistive listening devices are always improving to allow hard of hearing patrons to enjoy the movie. Practically all major theaters have the necessary equipment for assistive listening devices that will transmit the audio of the film through either FM transmitters or infrared broadcast emitters. You will need to ask a ticket seller or another employee to provide you with a device before your viewing. You may be required to leave your driver's license as a deposit, but it won't cost you anything if you give back the device after the movie.

Subtitle glasses

Subtitle glasses are a simple and efficient way to providing captioning for those with hearing loss that won't distract other non-hearing-impaired attendees. A partnership between Sony Entertainment and Regal Cinemas lead to the production of these helpful devices, which work a bit like the specialized glasses worn during a 3-D film. The subtitle glasses produce 3-D subtitles just for you. The glasses are large enough to fit over prescription glasses.

Rear-window captioning

This brand-new technology for hearing impaired patrons is only available at participating AMC theaters right now. Rear-window captioning is a great way for hearing impaired individuals to receive the captioning they need without distracting the rest of the audience with subtitles. The theater provides hearing loss patrons with a flat panel that can rest in a cup holder and reflects captioned letters on a separate projector. This way, hearing impaired customers get subtitles displayed just for them. While only one movie theater chain currently offers this type of technology, its popularity has signaled that more theater companies could begin implementing rear-window captioning into their theaters.

Cell phone apps

Ringing phones and glaring screens have long made cell phones public enemy No. 1 in the movie going experience. While most theaters urge customers to turn off their cellular devices, using your smartphone can help enjoy the theater while viewing movies through a variety of [smart phone applications](#), such as [Captionfish](#). These [apps](#) can assist users by syncing your phone with the captioning of the movie, finding theaters within your region that provide the best auditory-friendly equipment and even streaming captioned movie trailers, so you can see what you are getting yourself into before spending money on a trip to the theater. Of course, always be sure to keep your phone on silent and try to have your settings adjusted prior to the movie starting.

Taking advantage of these offers

You should always call ahead of time to make sure that the theater you are going to can accommodate your condition. If a theater informs you that assistive listening devices are not available, they are in violation of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), and you should inform their management of this infraction. If you plan on using your smartphone to sync captioning or stream audio through a headset, it's probably best to inform the theater employees that you intend to use your phone only for hearing purposes during the movie. If you have noticed that your hearing isn't as good as it used to be while watching movies in the theater, it's probably time to schedule a screening with your local AccuQuest [audiologist](#) or hearing health care professional to see if you are experiencing symptoms of hearing loss.