



FAQ for Patrons

What is the DTS-CSS Cinema Subtitling System and what does it have to do with movie captioning?

The DTS-CSS Cinema Subtitling System is a way for cinemas to provide captioned and audio described showings of movies for deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind and visually impaired audiences. The system also has the ability to provide alternate language subtitles.

How does the DTS-CSS Cinema Subtitling System work?

The DTS-CSS provides two vital access solutions for deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences: First, is captioning. In the past, cinemas had to wait until "hard" captioned prints were available. Hard captions are captions that are etched or over-layed onto the film. These special prints have historically been produced in limited numbers.

With the DTS-CSS system, the captions are projected onto the screen, which enables the cinema to use a standard release print for captioned shows. Projectionists no longer have to rebuild or re-platter a hard captioned print for access showings. With the DTS-CSS system, the theatre operator can simply insert the appropriate CD-ROM disc (which includes the caption information) and turn the system on.

The second solution, audio description, has been developed for blind and visually impaired audiences. The audio description is received on infrared headphones and does not disturb other moviegoers. The way it works is by having a narrator describe the scene and action that takes place between the gaps in dialogue. Characters are described, visual jokes explained, and body language outlined in the narrative.

My local theatre already shows captioned prints. Why do they need the DTS-CSS system?

Captioned prints are just that – prints with captions permanently etched onto them, so they typically are not used for general audience showings. With the DTS-CSS, regular release prints can be used for open-captioned showings, at any scheduled time the theatre operator may choose. The only thing a projectionist needs to do is turn on the system, insert the disc, and the subtitles appear on command.

How are the captions and audio descriptions delivered?

Captions and audio description are delivered exactly the same way as the DTS Digital Sound audio track – on CD-ROMs. The data is loaded into the player, which then synchronizes it with the timecode on the film. Just as the soundtrack is completely linked to the film through DTS timecode, so too are the captions and audio description. The discs containing the captions are linked by a serial number to an individual print, just as the DTS soundtrack discs are. Therefore, there is no way you can play the wrong disc.

How can I get DTS-CSS captions and descriptions at my local theatre?

To help spread the word about captioning and audio description in your area, speak to your local theatre manager and let them know about the DTS-CSS system. You can also refer them to the DTS website for more information at www.dtsonline.com.

What is the difference between DTS-CSS open captions and the Rear Window® Captioning System?

While both the DTS-CSS open captions and the Rear Window Captioning System closed captions are played back using the DTS-CSS Cinema Subtitling System, the DTS-CSS open captions are projected onto the screen – visible to the entire audience. Rear Window closed captions are fed to an LED display on the rear wall of the theatre and patrons use portable reflectors at their seats to view the captions. Therefore, only those patrons wishing to view the captions through the use of the reflector can see them.

Do I need to use any special equipment to see the DTS-CSS captions?

No. DTS-CSS captions are open and visible to the entire audience. Patrons do not have to use any special equipment to view the captions and can sit anywhere in a theatre to read the text.

Where can I get additional information about DTS-CSS?

For more information about DTS-CSS, accessible theatres, and upcoming accessible releases, visit the DTS website at www.dtsonline.com.