

CAPTIONING

In an ongoing commitment to accessibility, Sundance Film Festival requires all titles accepted to the Festival to submit Closed Caption (CC) files for Online screenings and CC and Open Caption (OC) versions of your DCP for in-person screenings. This supports individuals who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and/or non-native language speakers.

Closed Caption (CC) - Closed Captions are visible to patrons that choose to see them when the movie is playing. For online screenings a viewer selects to see them via a button on the user interface. In-person, at the movie theater, the patron requests a caption viewing device which will display film dialogue and sound elements on a small OLED screen on a bendable support arm that sits directly in the patron's field of view.

Open Caption (OC) - Open Captions refer to content that has the captions showing during the screening for anyone watching. Text appears on screen with the image in which it will be visible for all viewers in the audience.

Subtitles for the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SDH) - Subtitles are common in non-English speaking films where text appears on screen with the image; there are a few different types of subtitles. The most frequently used types are known as: SDH, non-SDH (typically referred to as just "subtitles"), and forced narrative. While non-SDH subtitles translate the film's native language into alternate language, SDH does the same but includes sound effects, background sounds, speaker distinction or music.

Captions vs. Subtitles: Captions (OC/CC) and non-SDH (or "subtitles") are often interchangeable, however, both are not exactly the same. Captions are the best avenue to make your film accessible, because it captures non-speech elements, and identifies speakers through the dialogues. This is considered equitable and accessible for all communities including d/Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and/or non-native language speakers. This accessible feature is often useful for hearing viewers, as well. If spoken language translation is the priority, SDH offers the best of both worlds including subtitle language translation as well as captioned sound effects in one delivery.

CC vs. OC: The type of captioning offered on a film impacts the patrons' film screening experience and overall access. For example, many patrons find the caption viewing devices (on which CC is viewed) bulky and worry about technical difficulties with the device mid-screening. OC offers a universal screening experience for all patrons regardless of communication preference. While CC is still technically accessible, and a valuable consideration by the filmmaker, it is important to note that this decision creates varied film & theater-going experiences. CC therefore impacts the overall equity of the screening. OC screenings are the preferred style of the d/Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and non-native language speakers in that it supports universal design. A good practice is to offer both OC & CC and allow the theater to use their discretion on which to screen.

What can you expect at Sundance Festival Screenings?

In Person Screenings - 1 OC screening; CC for remaining screenings

Virtual Screenings - CC toggle for all films

Live Streamed & Virtual Events - Auto Captioning

Resources:

- ["How to Caption Your Movie"](#) - video of key aspects to captioning.
- [Artist Christine Sun Kim Rewrites Closed Captions](#)
- [The Ultimate Guide to Closed Captioning](#)
- [SDH vs. CC: What's the Difference?](#)
- Captioning Services
 - [Rev](#) - Sundance Film Festival Sponsor: please reach out via this [link](#).
 - [Point.360](#) - Sundance Film Festival Supporter
 - [ASLCaptions](#)
 - [Video Caption Corporation](#)
 - [VITAC](#)