Digital Theatre+ Accessibility Roadmap

Version	1.1
Published	18 November 2026
Next review	February 2027
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Purpose and scope

This roadmap sets out the accessibility work planned and under way across Digital Theatre+: the web application at edu.digitaltheatreplus.com, the video player and PDF viewer, and the video, audio and written study materials delivered through them. Our aim is that every student and teacher can use the platform and its content, whatever their access needs; our target standard is WCAG 2.2 Level AA.

It is written for the institutions that license Digital Theatre+ and the accessibility and procurement teams who evaluate it, and should be read alongside our Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR, VPAT 2.5 International Edition, May 2026) and our accessibility statement.

Current conformance

Digital Theatre+ is partially compliant with WCAG 2.2 Level AA, and does not yet fully conform to WCAG 2.2 AA or WCAG 2.1 AA.

In October 2025 we commissioned TetraLogical, an external accessibility consultancy, to audit the platform against WCAG 2.2 Level AA. The May 2026 edition of our ACR records the position criterion by criterion, after the first round of fixes shipped in spring 2026: of the WCAG 2.2 Level A and AA criteria, 24 are supported, 27 partially supported, 3 not supported and 2 not applicable.

The three unsupported criteria all concern prerecorded media alternatives: our videos and audio content do not yet carry audio description (SC 1.2.3 and 1.2.5) or descriptive transcripts across all audio-only titles (SC 1.2.1).

For teams evaluating against WCAG 2.1 AA (including under ADA Title II), Section 508 or EN 301 549: WCAG 2.2 carries over every WCAG 2.1 Level A and AA criterion except 4.1.1 Parsing, which the W3C removed in 2.2 and now treats as always satisfied in 2.1. The ACR reports 4.1.1 as Not Applicable, so its findings can be read against those standards directly.

Known gaps

- Audio description: prerecorded video does not include audio description or a described media alternative. Blind and low-vision users cannot access visual-only information in productions and other video content. (SC 1.2.3, 1.2.5: Does Not Support.)
- Transcripts and media alternatives: most audio-only content has no descriptive transcript, and under 4% of video-only content lacks a media alternative. (SC 1.2.1: Does Not Support.)
- Captions: around 96% of videos that include spoken word have English closed captions; the remainder are older titles. Our publishing policy requires captions on any new video containing speech. (SC 1.2.2: Partially Supports.)
- PDF study materials: many older PDFs are untagged or image-only, with reading-order and text-alternative failures. These affect screen-reader users most. New PDFs and Word documents are required to be accessible at publication. (Multiple criteria in the ACR's Electronic Documents column.)
- Web application: audit findings are concentrated in focus order and visibility, keyboard operability, accessible names, roles and state, text alternatives, and reflow at small viewports. These affect keyboard and assistive-technology users. (27 criteria: Partially Supports.)

Progress to date

Platform fixes shipped between March and April 2026:

- back-to-top controls now move keyboard focus to the skip link, and collapsed menu items are no longer in the tab order
- visible focus indicators on components that previously marked focus by colour alone
- aria-current on selected navigation items, tablist roles, and removal of invalid selection states on card links
- corrected heading hierarchy and missing heading markup
- screen-reader announcements for dynamically updating content
- group labels on form controls
- support for reduced-motion preferences

The May 2026 ACR records the position after these fixes.

On the content side, two supplier pilots ran in the first half of 2026. Written-content remediation (26 PDFs, 722 pages) is complete and ran at around 360 pages a week. Audio description (18 videos) is in production. Captioning stood at around 96% of videos that include spoken word as of May 2026.

Remediation programme

Platform: web application and PDF viewer

The remaining audit findings, which include the audit's highest-priority items, are being fixed through our regular release cycle, ordered by severity and user impact. Each finding stays open in our tracker until it is fixed and verified with automated checks (axe, Lighthouse) and assistive-technology testing (VoiceOver), following the methodology in the ACR. The ACR is updated as fixes land.

Content: video, audio and written materials

Catalogue remediation runs as two streams, both starting in October 2026 and subject to final planning and investment approval. Written materials are scheduled to reach 100% by August 2028, and video and audio content by August 2031. Within each stream the highest-usage content is scheduled first, and supplier-remediated files are quality-checked by our content team before release.

Written materials: 1,001 documents (20,771 pages), all remediated by August 2028. Planned milestones: 25% of pages by April 2027, 50% by September 2027, 75% by March 2028, and 100% by August 2028.

Video and audio: 2,086 assets (82,784 minutes), covering all A/V, audio-only, and PD/webinars currently on site (with numbers increasing as new content is added), all remediated by August 2031. Throughput ramps up through 2027 as supplier turnaround and our review process settle. Planned milestones: 25% of minutes by April 2028, 50% by May 2029, and 75% by July 2030.

By the end of April 2027 the plan puts written remediation at about 28% of pages and video/audio at about 6% of minutes.

These dates are planning commitments. Each six-monthly review of this document reports progress against the milestones and revises the schedule where actual throughput differs from plan.

Accessible alternatives on request

Any user or institution can request an accessible alternative for a specific resource: an accessible PDF, large print, a transcript, or a described alternative for a video. Write to accessibility@digitaltheatreplus.com, naming the resource and the format needed. We respond within five working days with an assessment and an agreed plan and timescale; delivery time depends on the resource. Requested titles are also moved up the remediation queue.

Institutions preparing equally effective alternate access plans can build on the gap list above and this request channel. On request we will confirm a resource's remediation status and expected timing, and supply resource-level detail for a course list.

Governance and review

- Barriers reported to accessibility@digitaltheatreplus.com are triaged as defects and prioritised by user impact, not logged as feature requests.
- Accessibility testing is part of our release process. The ACR is updated as remediation lands; the current edition is May 2026.
- This roadmap is reviewed and republished at least every six months, and sooner when milestone status changes. The next review is February 2027.

Preparation of this document

This roadmap was prepared on 28 August 2026 and updated on 18 November 2026. It draws on the October 2025 TetraLogical audit, our remediation plan and trackers, and the May 2026 edition of the ACR.

References

Digital Theatre+ documents:

- Accessibility Conformance Report (VPAT 2.5, May 2026)
- Accessibility Statement
- WCAG conformance overview

Standards and regulations cited:

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2, W3C
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, W3C
- VPAT and the Accessibility Conformance Report, Information Technology Industry Council
- ADA Title II web accessibility rule, US Department of Justice
- Section 508, US General Services Administration
- EN 301 549: Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services, ETSI
- TetraLogical, the consultancy that carried out the October 2025 audit

Version history

Version	Date	Change
1.1	18 November 2026	Updated roadmap as of November 2026 to incorporate audio-only content into remediation scope (2,086 assets / 82,784 minutes covering A/V, audio-only, and PD/webinars).
1.0	28 August 2026	First publication.