

Slow Italian, Fast Learning

Ep.421: 'Songs in Sign Language' reimagines Disney musical moments in ASL

Italian	English
<p>Per molte persone, la magia di un film d'animazione è uno dei primi ricordi che rimangono impressi nella memoria.</p> <p>Ma cosa succede quando quella magia non è accessibile a tutti?</p> <p>Dopo quattro anni di lavoro, la Disney Animation ha pubblicato tre sequenze musicali animate tratte dagli amati film *Encanto*, *Frozen 2* e *Moana 2* nella lingua dei segni americana.</p> <p>A dare vita a questa visione è stato il regista Hyrum Osmond, che ha collaborato con il Deaf West Theatre in California, che coinvolge artisti e pubblico nella cultura dei non udenti attraverso il potere della lingua dei segni.</p> <p>Il direttore artistico del Deaf West, DJ Kurs, ha dichiarato che questo progetto sfida il pregiudizio secondo cui le persone non udenti e la musica non vanno d'accordo: ecco Kurs doppiato da un interprete:</p> <p>"Deaf people have been singing since day one. And since the beginning of filmmaking, there have been deaf people signing on camera, dancing while signing, telling stories, singing songs and now thanks to captions and high powered earphones and assisted technology, deaf people are more into music now than ever."</p> <p>Per Osmond, «Songs in Sign Language» è un progetto profondamente personale.</p> <p>"So this project, this was something I had floating around back of my head for a while."</p>	<p>For many people, the magic of an animated movie is one of the earliest memories that stays with you.</p> <p>But what happens when that magic isn't accessible to everyone?</p> <p>After four years in the making, Disney Animation has released three animated musical sequences from beloved films Encanto, Frozen 2 and Moana 2 in American Sign Language.</p> <p>Bringing this vision to life was director Hyrum Osmond, who partnered with Deaf West Theatre in California, which engages artists and audiences with Deaf culture through the power of sign.</p> <p>Deaf West's artistic director, DJ Kurs, says this project challenges the misconception that Deaf people and music don't mix- here's Mr Kurs voiced over by an interpreter:</p> <p>"Deaf people have been singing since day one. And since the beginning of filmmaking, there have been deaf people signing on camera, dancing while signing, telling stories, singing songs and now thanks to captions and high powered earphones and assisted technology, deaf people are more into music now than ever."</p> <p>For Mr Osmond, Songs in Sign Language is a deeply personal project.</p> <p>"So this project, this was something I had floating around back of my head for a while."</p>



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L'iniziativa "Songs in Sign Language" viene accolta con entusiasmo dalle comunità di non udenti di tutto il mondo, poiché queste animazioni contribuiscono al lavoro decennale degli attivisti volto a normalizzare la lingua dei segni come parte integrante della comunicazione quotidiana.

In una dichiarazione rilasciata a SBS News, l'amministratrice delegata di Deaf Australia, Shirley Liu, ha affermato che quando la lingua dei segni è integrata direttamente in contenuti ampiamente diffusi, ciò contribuisce a normalizzarne la presenza e a riconoscerla come una lingua legittima e a pieno titolo, piuttosto che come un ripensamento o un'aggiunta.

Sebbene le animazioni utilizzino la lingua dei segni americana, lei trova incoraggiante, da una prospettiva australiana, vedere un'azienda globale che riflette attivamente su come rendere le proprie piattaforme di animazione più inclusive e accessibili.

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Songs in Sign Language is being celebrated by Deaf communities around the world, as these animations contribute to decades-long work of advocates to normalise sign as part of everyday communication.

In a statement to SBS News, the CEO of Deaf Australia, Shirley Liu, said that when sign language is embedded directly into widely distributed content, it helps normalise its presence and recognises it as a legitimate and integral language, rather than an afterthought or add-on.

Although the animations use American Sign Language, she finds it encouraging from an Australian perspective to see a global corporation actively considering how to make its animation platforms more inclusive and accessible.

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Nella sua dichiarazione, Liu ha poi aggiunto di ritenere importante che contenuti simili vengano realizzati qui in Australia, ma ha riconosciuto che, sebbene iniziative come questa possano migliorare l'accessibilità per il pubblico sordo, l'impatto dipende dalla portata e dalla struttura di ciascun progetto.

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Per Osmond questo progetto costituisce un importante precedente, poiché per molte persone non si tratta semplicemente di guardare un film, ma di vivere insieme la magia.

Ciò ci ricorda che l'inclusione non riguarda solo l'accessibilità, ma anche il sentirsi visti e compresi.

"I actually feel that it's just going to open up other possibilities that maybe haven't been thought of yet. And I mean, even in just creating this project, working through this, different ideas come, different solutions. I think what was done is art. The signs that were created, the choreography that DJ and his crew created, it's less about signing specific words, it's more about the emotion and the feeling of those moments."

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The statement by Ms Liu went on to say that she believes in the importance of seeing similar content created here in Australia, but acknowledges that while initiatives like this can improve accessibility for Deaf audiences, the impact depends on the scope and design of each project.

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Mr Osmond recognises that this project sets an important precedent, as for many people, this isn't just about watching a movie, it's about experiencing the magic together.

It's a reminder that inclusion isn't just about access; it's about being seen and understood.

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Report by Alyssa Chandler for SBS News.

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