

Listen EVERYWHERE

Listen EVERYWHERE helps student participate in musical.



[Fremont High School](#) in Plain City, Utah, has a robust performing arts department. Their 2022 production of Anastasia included 170 students in the cast, crew, and orchestra.



CHALLENGE

Fremont High School Senior Hayden Reeve liked performing in high school musical theater productions but hadn't had much opportunity to participate fully with his hearing loss. Hayden has a cochlear implant and utilizes an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, but that wasn't enough to help him keep track of lines, songs, and other stage cues. For previous productions at other schools, Hayden resigned to signing one musical piece because it was too difficult to keep up with everything happening on and off the stage.



SOLUTION

Enter Paco Aguilar, a rep at [Pro Tech Marketing](#) and former Broadway sound engineer. Paco's son attended Fremont High School. That's where Ashley Patterson and Aubrey Obray, two of the high school's performing arts department teachers, met Paco and recruited his services to help manage the sound for the show.

Paco recommended trying the Listen EVERYWHERE assistive listening system to assist Hayden in participating more fully in the production. He set up a two-channel Listen EVERYWHERE server backstage and connected the mic source. Hayden downloaded the free Listen EVERYWHERE app to his smartphone to access the streamed audio.



“ Before I came to Fremont High School, I really couldn't hear music that well. It wasn't easy to provide ASL to the musical numbers at my other school because I couldn't hear the words over the music. With Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Obray, and Paco's help, I've been so happy to be able to participate more and feel included in the production. ”

Hayden Reeve
Student, **Fremont High School**



In early rehearsals, the mic source was usually the director or whoever was leading the rehearsal and giving students direction. As the show's opening date approached, the mic source was then connected to the main characters so Hayden could follow along and get his stage cues. Talented costume designer, Margo Maw, came up with the idea to sew a pocket in the chest of a t-shirt (which Hayden wore under his costumes), and they used a mic belt to secure his phone in his t-shirt pocket. The neck loop plugs into Hayden's phone and sits around his neck under his costume to transmit sound to his cochlear implant.



RESULT

Hayden could hear well enough that he performed multiple parts (comrade, peasant, Russian person, reporter, and member of the Secret Royal Guard) in the technical production. He also signed in ASL for the group songs. Thanks to being connected to the Listen EVERYWHERE assistive listening system, Hayden could hear what was happening throughout the musical, letting him fully participate and add his talents to the production.

The school even hosted a "hard of hearing and deaf" performance with an ASL interpreter. Hayden invited his deaf community, family, and friends and had his own cheering section that night.

Fremont High School and especially his teachers, Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Obray, were delighted to include Hayden in the production and loved how well Hayden communicated what he needed to be a part of the school's performance of Anastasia.

Hayden commented, "Before I came to Fremont High School, I really couldn't hear music that well. It wasn't easy to provide ASL to the musical numbers at my other school because I couldn't hear the words over the music. With Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Obray, and Paco's help, I've been so happy to be able to participate more and feel included in the production."

Mrs. Obray commented, "Hayden was a great sport and willing to be the guinea pig as we worked through what worked best for him. He would take notes during rehearsals and send them to me so we could tweak what was working for him and figure out how to provide the best experience for him."

Hayden sent a message to his teacher, which they read aloud to the cast and crew:

To my dearest, wonderful Anastasia musical cast, Ever since I transferred to Fremont High School, I was nervous about how I would be able to interact and socialize with people. But as I continued with the musical, I felt like I belonged to Fremont High as you guys welcomed me, and I'm very grateful for this amazing opportunity and cast. Other musicals were hard for me. Here you made it easy and fun for me. I felt more joy and love here. This is my senior year, and you guys made it special. I love interacting with you guys and learning new things. It made me feel included because I could get help with communication and dealing with issues like feeling like I didn't belong.



PRODUCTS USED

- (1) [LW-100P-02](#) Listen EVERYWHERE 2 Channel Server
- (1) [LA-438](#) Advanced Neck Loop

Because everyone deserves the same great experience.



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