

Raleigh Little Theatre Has a New Loop!:

The Sutton Theatre at [Raleigh Little Theatre](#) (RLT) now has an audio loop. This is a major advance for people with hearing loss; it's one of the first theatres looped in North Carolina, so we do want to support them.



The August meeting of Hearing Loss Association of America - Wake Chapter (HLAA-Wake) was held at the RLT Sutton Theatre on 11 August. The meeting included speeches by Charles Phaneuf, RLT Executive Director, Julie Bishop, HLAA-NC, Steve Barber, HLAA-Wake, James Stowell, American Hearing Loop, and Cynthia Schafer, Au.D. followed by a preview of the new loop system and a social. At that meeting, some of the cast of [Spamalot](#) rehearsed a couple of scenes from the upcoming play so we can experience their looped theatre.

About 75 people attended the event, including several audiologists, and several people new to HLAA who have expressed an interest in HLAA-Wake chapter. All in all it was a huge success.

Here are some comments from those who attended:

- "The evening was really inspiring for me. I was delighted with the loop as well as the opportunity to talk with others with similar issues as mine. ... Joanne Pogue, new Wake member
- "It was an amazing event. I heard very well. The quality of the sound was excellent. I understood speech well. I've decided I want to attend some plays at the RLT because I could hear so well with the loop." Janet McGettrick, Past President of HLAA-Wake
- "I heard beautifully with the tcoil last night. What I love most is not having to use a receiver. I purchased 4 tickets for Spamalot!" ... Julie Bishop, President of HLAA-NC
- "The loop audio was great, but without the inconvenience of borrowed receivers and accesories." Steve Barber, President HLAA-Wake Chapter

After the meeting, Wake Chapter sponsored an ice cream social in the lobby. Several displays were available to explain to people more about telecoils and loops. Most people heard well with their telecoils, but others without telecoils could try hearing better with loop receivers and headphones. A few people attended who were new to hearing loss and were introduced to the advantages of telecoils and loops.

The Independent newspaper in Chapel Hill published a nice story about the event. Here's a [link](#) to that article.

The first play to use the new audio loop will be *Spamalot* from August 28 through September 13, 2015. Click on that link for more information and to buy tickets, which are on sale now. If you have missed going to plays because you couldn't hear well enough, then this may be your chance to enjoy live plays again.

If you have questions about HLAA, telecoils, or audio loops, please email [Steve Barber](#).

Congratulations to RLT for caring enough to provide an audio loop system to improve accessibility for people with hearing loss. RLT will be proudly displaying this symbol for all productions in the Sutton Theatre starting with *Spamalot*.



If you would like to buy tickets for the actual plays starting later in August, tickets are on sale now at <http://raleighlittletheatre.org/tickets/buy.html>, so if you want to get a good seat for a play in the looped Sutton Theatre, you can order on-line or call 919-821-3111  919-821-3111.