

# BAFTA Raises Important Questions About Accessibility and Event Readiness

ATLANTA, GA, UNITED STATES, April 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In the wake of the global discussion surrounding the February 22, 2026 broadcast of the [BAFTA](#) Awards, the founder and executive director of SHOWAbility, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering performing artists with [disabilities](#), is encouraging continued dialogue around inclusion, preparedness, and shared responsibility in live, high-profile productions.

The incident—during which a racial slur was heard during the live broadcast—has generated international attention and prompted broader conversations about accessibility, cultural awareness, accommodations and event readiness.

According to Myrna Clayton, SHOWAbility's founder and an arts envoy cultural ambassador for the U.S. State Department, the situation presents an opportunity to examine how inclusion is implemented in complex, live environments.

"This moment invites reflection not only on what occurred, but also on how large-scale events can better prepare for a wide range of circumstances," she said. "Inclusion involves both visibility and thoughtful accommodative planning."

Public discussion has largely centered on the role of broadcasters, including the BBC, and event organizers. Clayton noted that large productions typically involve multiple stakeholders, including production teams, planners, and support personnel, all of whom contribute to the overall experience.

The incident also brought attention to the challenges of accommodating individuals with complex needs in live settings. Reports indicated that the individual involved may have been



Myrna Clayton, founder/executive director of SHOWAbility, is also an international jazz singer.

experiencing distress related to Tourette syndrome, highlighting the importance of appropriate preparation, support systems, and audience awareness.

“As someone who works at the intersection of race, disability, and the arts, I believe there is value in examining how preparation, awareness, and coordination can be strengthened across all levels of production,” Clayton said.

The situation has prompted several broader considerations for industry professionals, including:

- \* The role of advance planning and accommodations
- \* The development of contingency strategies for live broadcasts
- \* Real-time response protocols during unexpected moments
- \* Audience awareness and communication strategies

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When you bring inclusion into the spotlight, you must also bring preparation, compassion, and accountability with it.”

*Myrna Clayton*

Clayton emphasized that inclusion extends beyond representation to include the systems and structures that support individuals in public-facing environments.

With more than three decades of experience advocating for performing artists with disabilities, Clayton has worked to expand access and opportunity across the arts and

entertainment industries through SHOWAbility’s programs and initiatives.

“This is an opportunity for continued learning and improvement,” she said. “Thoughtful preparation, clear communication, and shared responsibility are all important elements of inclusive environments.”

As conversations continue, Clayton encourages leaders across media, entertainment, and public platforms to view the moment as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen inclusive practices.

“Moments like this can help inform future approaches,” she said. “Ongoing dialogue and collaboration are essential to building environments that are both inclusive and responsive.”



# SHOWAbility

*Everybody Deserves A Stage*

SHOWAbility is a human services organization that works to secure and showcase performing artists with disabilities

About SHOWAbility:

SHOWAbility is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering performing artists with disabilities by creating opportunities for visibility, accessibility, and professional growth in the arts, film, and entertainment industries. Through advocacy, programming, and partnerships, SHOWAbility works to break down barriers and elevate diverse talent across the disability spectrum.

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