



WALES' INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL GWYL CHWEDLEUA RYNGWLADOL CYMRU

Call Out / Job Description for Year 1 Producers – Mycelium Storytelling Hub

Fee: £7,750 for 12 months (based on 58 days of funded time, work flexibly over that time)

Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival (BTB) is recruiting two Producers to develop programmes of storytelling activity which reach widely and deeply into communities, as part of a Mycelium Story Hub project supported by Arts Council Wales Connect & Flourish funding. Over 2 years, the Hub will support, champion, learn from and shape the work of 4 x Contemporary Cyfarwyddion, 4 Producers, 2 Associate Cyfarwyddion and 3 mini-festivals/events, bringing new stories to light.

The aim of the Mycelium Story Hub is to develop a storytelling ecosystem rooted in local communities that will connect to a larger ecosystem across Wales. The Hub is now inviting applications from storytellers and producers who are keen to initiate a range of activities rooted within their communities, connected to key strategies of diversifying and widening access to storytelling, developing more Welsh-medium opportunities within storytelling, and supporting the establishment of a healthy, sustainable and socially responsible storytelling network across Wales.

Background: In medieval Wales, the role of the “Cyfarwydd”, the old Welsh storytellers, captured and reflected what was happening in their communities, offering subtle guidance through the stories they told. Starting as an apprentice, the Cyfarwydd would have become a highly respected member of society, travelling and bringing news back to the courts, and reflecting the society of their time through their stories – so a networking figure in many ways. BTB is initiating four new **Contemporary Cyfarwydd** roles over the next two years as the centre of a growing, proactive and responsive Mycelium Network of Storytelling Connections across Wales, linking with producer(s) and organisational partners to increase the range and widen the diversity of engagement with storytelling. Each Cyfarwydd will fulfil the role of storyteller within a specific community, responding to community needs and

potential, fostering diverse cultural partnerships while also nurturing their own artistic growth – sharing initiatives and support across the network of posts and with a partnership HUB.

Producer Role Brief: BTB is keen to hear from potential producers with a range of experience and interest in storytelling. Maybe you are an experienced arts producer who has never worked with storytelling, maybe you are a storyteller who would like to develop skills in producing, maybe you are an arts producer who would like to produce events with storytelling at their heart, maybe you have strong relationships or partnerships in a particular community where there are stories waiting to be told and heard. The applications we receive will influence how the roles are delivered – you may be paired with a Cyfarwydd to work in partnership with them in a particular community, or you might develop a programme or project with opportunities for other storytellers and partners.

The Contemporary Cyfarwyddion and Producers who are part of the Mycelium Story Hub will be supported to develop a programme of storytelling activity, including storytelling performances and engagement, which reach more widely and deeply into the community in which their residencies are based. Some communities will be geographic, but we are also open to applications based on communities of interest. As part of your application, we will ask you to specify the communities you are most keen to work with – this could be:

- Community of interest (people linked by a shared interest/work)
- Communities of identity (shared culture or experience)
- Geographical Community (town/street/area)
- Communities of Circumstance (people knitted together by a shared experience)

We are especially keen to hear from practitioners who are interested in working through co-creative principles, working with or alongside people and communities to develop skills and showcase people's capabilities, prioritising the involvement and experience of young people and families, D/deaf and disabled people, Black, Asian and global majority people, the LGBTQIA+ community, Welsh speakers.

The aim of this work is to:

- enable more partners from a range of communities to connect creatively with storytelling
- enable more people to experience storytelling as a meaningful part of their daily lives
- enable more people to develop creativity and confidence in engaging with storytelling
- enable the expansion and deepening of your producing skills through the work you initiate and through your connections with others in the Hub.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Has experience of developing and delivering participatory arts activities with people from a variety of backgrounds
- Has an understanding of inclusive community development approach
- Has an understanding of a wide range of audiences/participants
- Has experience of developing effective working relationships with partners
- Has experience of fulfilling project outcomes managing multiple priorities and deadlines
- Has ability to problem solve
- Has good financial and administrative skills
- Has knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and child protection
- Has knowledge of health and safety regulations
- Has experience of monitoring and evaluating projects
- Has an imaginative, enthusiastic and flexible approach
- Has great communication skills and ability to inspire
- Is committed to equal opportunities and social justice
- Is able to represent Beyond the Border Wales' International Storytelling Festival at all levels

Desirable:

- Has knowledge of traditional oral storytelling culture
- Has existing creative networks within communities in Wales
- Experience negotiating partnerships and fundraising
- Capacity to work in Welsh language

Beyond the Border has particularly identified priority communities for the first phase of work as locating work in the Valleys and increasing Welsh Language storytelling, but we are also open to locating residencies in other priority areas based on applications we receive.

Fees: £7,750, for approximately 58 days –planned as a 12 month post, but this may be subject to negotiation depending on the context.

Evaluation: BTB will be appointing an independent evaluator to help document and evaluate the strengths and learning from this initiative, to help shape future opportunities. Contribution to evaluation will be a requirement for all postholders.

We warmly welcome applications from those who are significantly underrepresented in our sector, such as disabled people, Neurodivergent, Welsh speakers and individuals from LGBTQIA+, Black, Asian and Global Majority Communities.

We will offer support to people making applications. We will run an open session for people to find out more and can chat about the role. We will offer guaranteed interviews to Welsh speakers, and LGBTQIA+, Black, Asian and Global Majority, Disabled and Neurodivergent applicants.

Sept/Oct 2021: We are recruiting for a minimum of 2 posts, to run from January to December 2022.

To Apply:

Please send your CV with a short letter of application no longer than 2 sides of A4 outlining:

1. Your Relevant Skills and Experience
2. Details of communities you are particularly keen to be based within – whether community of interest, identity, geography or circumstance.
3. The priorities you would be interested in exploring through a residency, in relation to both community activities and your own development
4. Tell us why the role is of interest to you

We also welcome video applications.

Please send you application to info@beyondtheborder.com by **Friday 29 October** at 5pm

We will be holding an online webinar to share information about the roles and answer questions on **Friday 29 October** from 4.30pm. Book your free place for this webinar here: (EventBrite)

If you have any queries about the role and would like to discuss these before making an application, please send your queries to info@beyondtheborder.com

