



Call Out / Job Description for Year 2 Producers – Mycelium Storytelling Hub

YEAR 2

Remuneration

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

Dates of the post

January 2023-January 2024

What is the Mycelium Story Hub?

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. What we mean by a storytelling ecosystem is a network of ongoing storytelling activities taking place across the country, supporting and enriching communities and providing regular work to storytellers. Our goal is to see oral storytelling as an art form grow and flourish across Wales and for storytellers and people who work with storytellers to thrive.

Currently, as part of Year 1 of our project, we have seven post holders in place that we are supporting to work in their communities across Wales. These people are storytellers (Cyfarwyddion) and Producers. Examples of their work are included later in this pack.

Our Hub is made up of various partners who want to support the development of storytelling as an art form across Wales. They support the Cyfarwyddion and the Producers in their roles. Currently, represented on the Hub are Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival, Citrus Arts, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, Menter Iaith Cymru and PeopleSpeakUp. Also supporting the project are Theatr Soar and Head4Arts.

The Hub meets regularly and is involved in recruiting new Cyfarwyddion and Producers for the project and supporting them in their roles.

The Hub's work is supported by Arts Council Wales Connect & Flourish funding.

What is the role of the Producer?

We are recruiting a Producer to develop a programme of storytelling activity which reaches widely and deeply into communities to support the ongoing development of the Hub and the work of our Contemporary Cyfarwyddion.

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 Hub 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.

Why do we need a Producer? We are 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 storytellers, 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.

You can find some examples of the work of the current Producers at the end of this recruitment pack.

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) e.g. working with Women's Refuges across Wales, or working within a healthcare setting.

- Communities of identity (shared culture or experience) e.g. working with South Asian communities.
- Geographical Community (town/street/area) e.g. working in Rhondda Cynon Taff.
- Communities of Circumstance (people knitted together by a shared experience) e.g. working with people who have experienced grief and loss.

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 for the Producer role

Essential:

- Experience of developing and delivering participatory arts activities with people from a variety of backgrounds
- An understanding of inclusive community development approach
- An understanding of a wide range of audiences/participants
- Experience of developing effective working relationships with partners
- Experience of fulfilling project outcomes managing multiple priorities and deadlines
- Ability to problem solve
- Good financial and administrative skills
- Knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and child protection
- Knowledge of health and safety regulations
- Experience of monitoring and evaluating projects
- Imaginative, enthusiastic and flexible approach
- Great communication skills and ability to inspire
- 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

Fees: £7,750, for approximately 58 days – planned as a 12 month post.

Evaluation: BTB has appointed 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 post holders.

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.

To Apply:

Please send your CV with a short letter of application 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. Why the role is of interest to you
5. What is it about the art form of oral storytelling that excites you?

We also welcome video applications.

Please send your application to recruitment@beyondtheborder.com by **Monday 10th October at 5pm.**

We will be holding two online webinars to share information about the project and the jobs available on these dates:

What is the Mycelium Hub and the jobs available? Including a Q&A with the BTB team. August 25th, 7-8pm, on Zoom.

How to be a storyteller, September 7th, 7-8.30pm, on Zoom.

If you have any questions about the role that you would like to discuss before sending your application, please email recruitment@beyondtheborder.com.

If you have any accessibility requests that we can put in place to support your application, please email us too.

Current Producers

Cathy Boyce (Neath Port Talbot/Merthyr/Rhondda Cynon Taff)

Cathy was born in Glynneath. After studying Fine Art and Independent Film Production at degree and postgraduate level she began her career working as an assistant director for film and television.

She joined the theatre programming department at Chapter Arts Centre in 2000 and for the next 20 years played a key role at the organisation, developing, programming and producing projects in theatre, music, dance and experimental performance including annual international live art festival Experimentica.

She currently works freelance as a Creative Producer working closely and collaboratively with independent artists and like-minded organisations.

Helping artists to make things happen is at the centre of all her work.

As part of her work for the Mycelium Story Hub, she has been researching new opportunities to bring storytelling to local communities across the South Wales Valleys, identifying funding pots, and supporting storytellers with funding bids to bring their work to the area. She has been working closely with Citrus Arts and our other Hub partners based in the Valleys.

Rhian Davies (Mid Wales)

With a background in History of Art and having worked with community centred art projects and organisations, Rhian is excited to be working and expanding a storytelling network in Mid Wales, listening to tales of new and old, in Welsh and in English and to create a programme of events and workshops to explore stories of the everyday, myths and folklore with people of all ages and levels of storytelling experience.

As part of her work, she has been identifying and applying for funding to bring storytelling into communities in mid Wales, as well as meeting storytellers based in the area and supporting them to grow the reach of their work. Over Summer 2022, she will be producing a number of storytelling events in North Powys, including an event with Credu Young Carers.

