

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION: SOUND DESIGNER – ‘BALLOON GIRL’ SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

JOB TITLE:	Sound Designer
PROJECT:	<i>Balloon Girl/ Cardiff Great Exhibition 2026</i>
NUMBER OF DAYS:	7.5
FEE:	£200 per day
START DATE:	Immediate Start



OVERVIEW:

2026 marks 130 years since Cardiff hosted the extraordinary—but largely forgotten—**Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition of 1896**, a grand celebration of Victorian innovation that attracted over a million visitors. Inspired by this historical event, the **Cardiff Great Exhibition 2026 Schools Programme** invites young people to rediscover a forgotten chapter of their city’s story, imagine bold new futures and share their visions through art, storytelling and creative technology.

At the heart of the project sits *Balloon Girl*, a new theatrical production by **Hannah McPake** (Tilting at Windmills Productions), in partnership with **Sherman Theatre**. The production will act as a creative catalyst for an ambitious scheme, engaging young people during the transition from primary to secondary school—in a playful and imaginative journey through Cardiff’s history, present and possible futures. Mirroring the sense of transformation and opportunity central to the Cardiff Exhibition of 1896.

By blending immersive history with imaginative futures, the project will empower pupils to become **storytellers, innovators and custodians of Cardiff’s legacy**.

Balloon Girl Schools Outreach Programme is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

OVERVIEW OF ROLE:

We are seeking a Sound Designer to support the creation of audio content across the *Balloon Girl Schools Outreach Programme*.

This role will contribute to shaping the sonic world of the project across both

workshop delivery and the creative outputs generated with young people. The project is currently in the early stages of development, and the Sound Designer will work closely with the creative team to develop and realise audio elements.

The role may include:

- Designing and producing audio elements for the initial workshop in June/July (e.g. atmospheric sound, narrative cues, interactive elements)
- Recording interviews or spoken content with young people as part of the programme's future-focused workshop in November
- Editing and shaping audio into creative outputs (e.g. audio stories, sound pieces or installation work)
- Collaborating with the creative team to support storytelling, accessibility and engagement

MAIN PURPOSE OF ROLE:

- Collaborate with the Lead Facilitator and creative team to create original sound design and audio content for workshop delivery
- Record high-quality audio in school and workshop settings
- Edit and mix audio into clear, engaging and accessible formats
- Support the development of participant-generated content
- Prepare audio for use across workshops, exhibitions and digital platforms
- Work in line with safeguarding, consent and ethical guidelines when recording young people

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

ESSENTIAL

- Experience in sound design, audio production or sound art
- Ability to create narrative-driven audio experiences
- Experience in recording and editing spoken word/interviews
- The ability to work collaboratively as part of a team and independently
- A commitment to equal opportunities and cultural diversity

DESIRABLE

- Experience of working in education, participatory arts or community settings
- Experience creating sound for theatre, immersive experiences or interactive work

- Interest in storytelling and heritage
- Knowledge of safeguarding practices when working with young people
- Ability to work bilingually (Welsh/English)

TO APPLY:

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please email gwen.morris@shermantheatre.co.uk explaining why you are interested in the role and how your experience would be relevant to the project.

Closing Date: 5 June 2026

You can also use this address if you have questions or would like to talk to someone informally about the role.

We want our team to reflect the communities we serve across South Wales. We therefore particularly welcome applicants from diverse ethnic communities and D/deaf and disabled communities, who are currently underrepresented within the sector.

Please note that, in line with our environmental policy, we are only handling applications electronically.