



Dance Director

Job Specification for Voluntary Post

About the opportunity on offer:

Shrewsbury Folk Festival is looking to immediately recruit a creative and well-organised person to manage the popular Dance Festival programme during the four-day camping festival in Shrewsbury in August. Over the course of the festival 5,000 campers, day visitors and artists' families will engage with the dance programme in some form or other.

The dance programme is integral to the success which the festival has enjoyed over the years; many festivalgoers return year on year with expectations of a highly entertaining, diverse and a fun programme. It is both a challenging and rewarding aspect of the main festival.

The volunteer appointment will manage and maintain the Dance Marquee programme. The Dance Director is responsible for creating the entire artistic programme including themes and activities; to book and contract with artists; to liaise with other Festival Directors for the purpose of complimentary planning and timetabling; plan, make pre-festival preparation including information for the festival website and programme.

Shrewsbury Folk Festival will provide a bespoke budget for the Dance Festival element; general expenses and support are available as needed. It is expected that all Dance' Festival personnel will camp during the festival weekend.

Are You Someone Special?

Previous Dance Directors have been larger than life, hardworking creative people. If the following describes you in some way, then please get in touch:-

- Well organised, good communicator, good at working to deadlines
- Knowledge of UK ceilidh dance bands
- Artistically motivated and inclusive in approach
- Experience of leading community/participation art programmes
- Happy to work as part of the volunteer management team
- Team leads with integrity, openness and equitably
- Empathy for the "folk scene"; a regular arts festival goer (that's any festival not just Shrewsbury Folk Festival)

What We Need!

We have a framework for the wider festival into which different activities have found their place and have knitted well together; this includes the children's festival Pandemonium!, youth

programme Refolkus; dance tent and morris teams on and off site; town centre parade; on-site folk buskers; and the three main stages plus the Village stage.

It is imperative to the visitor offer that we maintain this balanced programme so our visitors can plan their festival weekend and all runs smoothly. While maintaining the festival framework, we do not simply wish to do it this way because we always do it this way, we want our new Dance Director to bring some wonderful new ideas to our party.

As a member of the organising committee you will be required to keep in close touch with the festival office and other committee members and, if possible, attend committee meetings held monthly in Shrewsbury. Whilst on-site, as organisers we accept a proactive responsibility for the safety of our visitors and an understanding to make their festival weekend as much fun as possible.

Dance Director: Outline Festival Preparation Timetable

October November December	Book bands, callers & shows. There is no specific budget but negotiating a good price is always a must. Please check if you are unsure.
January February	Please pass on details for contracts i.e. band name, fee, date/s booked, email address and telephone number to sandra@shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk Performance times for contract will be 'TBC at a later date'. All contracts will be emailed to artists/callers/tutors so an email address must be supplied.
December January February	<u>Copy for website.</u> A 100 word (approximately) biography for each band/show plus a high quality image (at least 300dpi) will be required for our website.
March April	Traditionally there are Morris 'displays' in the ceilidhs. This may not be necessary for a short, two hour ceilidh. Please liaise with the Morris Dance Director.
April May	Dance tent and sound check timetabling – spread sheet will be provided
May	<u>Technical Requirements.</u> Any suggestions or changes to technical requirements for the dance tent need to be given before end of May – they can't be considered in June/July/August.
May	Please liaise with the Morris Dance Director regarding workshops held in the dance tent.

If you would like to be considered for the post/s please email your application to
sandra@shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

Send us about 250 words why you would be fantastic as our new Dance Director. You can supply links to websites or projects that you have been involved with. Kindly do not send attachments as this fills up the in-box far too much! **Deadline for us to receive applications is 30 September, it's our intention is to appoint as soon as possible after that.**