



Freelance Production Manager – b-side Festival 2026

Role Specification

About b-side

b-side is an **internationally recognised and locally loved arts organisation** based on the **Isle of Portland**. b-side delivers the annual **b-side Festival**, presenting ambitious, site-responsive contemporary art across Portland's distinctive landscape and public spaces.

b-side Festival 2026 will take place from **10–13 September 2026**, with artworks, events and activities across multiple sites on the Isle of Portland and surrounding areas.

Alongside the festival, b-side delivers a programme of **festival-related events and activities in the lead-up to September**, including artist research and development days and other public-facing activity on the island.

The Role

b-side is seeking an experienced **Freelance Production Manager** to lead on the planning and delivery of production for **b-side Festival 2026**.

The Production Manager will manage sites and locations, oversee artists' production requirements, coordinate technical delivery, and ensure all logistical, health and safety, and budgetary requirements are met. The role works closely with the Director, artists, technicians, suppliers, venue holders and local authorities.

The Production Manager is expected to be present during the festival period **and** at key pre-festival events and activities, including research and development days and other related events taking place on the Isle of Portland.

Key Responsibilities

Production & Site Management

- Book, secure permissions for, and manage all locations and sites for b-side Festival 2026 artworks, events and activities.
- Lead production management for each artwork, event and activity, including outdoor and site-specific scenarios.
- Understand artists' production requirements and translate these into practical delivery plans.

Technical & Operational Delivery

- Oversee all technical, installation and de-installation requirements.
- Manage relationships with additional festival team members, including technicians, carpenters and equipment hire suppliers.
- Ensure all production activity is delivered in line with agreed budgets and schedules.

Health, Safety & Compliance

- Complete risk assessments for all sites, artworks, events and activities.
- Produce and manage a comprehensive **Event Management Plan** for the festival.
- Organise and manage road traffic requirements for the **Portland Parade**, liaising with relevant authorities.

Stakeholder & Partner Liaison

- Liaise with artists, venue holders, landowners, local authorities and other stakeholders.
- Ensure all permissions, licenses and agreements are in place and aligned with the Event Management Plan.
- Maintain clear and timely communication to ensure all parties are informed and aligned.

Skills & Experience

Essential

- Proven experience as a Production Manager (or similar) for festivals, events, or site-specific arts projects.
- Understanding of outdoor, public-realm and non-traditional site production.
- Experience completing risk assessments and event management plans.
- Strong organisational and problem-solving skills.
- Confidence managing multiple sites, artists and suppliers.
- Strong communication and stakeholder management skills.

Desirable

- Experience working with artists and creative practitioners.
- Knowledge of licensing, traffic management and local authority processes.
- Familiarity with the Isle of Portland or comparable landscapes.

Contract, Fee & Time Commitment

- **Contract type:** Freelance
- **Day rate:** £200 per day
- **Total days:** 25 days

Indicative breakdown:

- Pre-festival preparation and related b-side activities (including R&D days and other island-based events): **15 days**
- Festival week incl. installation (10–13 September 2026): **7 days**
- Post-festival pack down and wash-up: **3 days**

Exact dates to be agreed, with work commencing from **April 2026**.

Recruitment Timeline

- **Deadline to apply:** Friday **6 March 2026**
- **Interviews:** Friday **13 March 2026**
- **Induction & role commencement:** From **April 2026**

How to Apply:

- Download the full brief below
- Send your application to rocca@b-side.org.uk with FREELANCE FESTIVAL PRODUCTION in the email subject line.

Need more info on b-side festival?

Take a look at our library of short films, you'll get a good idea of what we are about

<https://www.youtube.com/@b-sidefestival2094/featured>

Need to find out more?

Just pop an email to rocca@b-side.org.uk to arrange a time for an informal chat