



FESTIVAL CONGRESS

Association of Independent Festivals: 2016 Festival Congress Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd November, Cardiff

The Association of Independent Festivals (AIF) is looking to recruit enthusiastic and friendly volunteers for the 2016 Festival Congress, to be held in Cardiff in November. Launched in 2014, the Festival Congress is AIF's annual flagship event – a two day conference and celebration of the independent festival industry. The conference will take place at the Wales Millennium Centre and will feature industry guest speakers over the two days, exploring the key issues facing the sector with a progressive agenda and format.

SPEAKERS CONFIRMED SO FAR...

John Giddings (Isle of Wight Festival / Solo Agency), **Lee Denny** (Leefest), **Simon Parkes** (Brixton Academy Founder), **Sammy Andrews** (Strategic advisor to music industry & director of entertainment intelligence), **Zac Fox** (Kilimanjaro Live / NOWIE), **Tim Burgess** (The Charlatans), **Freddie Fellowes** (Secret Garden Party), **Jon Drape** (Ground Control), **Ben Robinson** (Kendal Calling/Blue Dot), **John Empson** (Eden Sessions/Wilderness), **Professor Fiona Measham** (The Loop), **Superintendent Justin Bibby** (North Cumbria Police), **Emma Brunjes** (EBP), **Steve Rolles** (Transform).

EVENING CELEBRATION AND CONGRESS AWARDS

The legendary Congress party and awards takes place at The Depot, with street food and 'Purple Rave' tribute to Prince from Rob da Bank and Tayo 3000, and a DJ set from Tim Burgess. Awards categories include 'New Festival on the block', 'Mind blowing spectacle', 'Festival live act of the year' and 'Smart marketing'. Special guest DJ's will also feature.

More information on the event can be found here: <http://aiforg.com/festivalcongress>

VOLUNTEERING AT FESTIVAL CONGRESS

This is a great opportunity to get involved in an industry event, which focuses on creative and practical aspects of the festival industry, as well as an excellent learning and networking opportunity.

Festival Congress Volunteers will be the face of the event, helping to give the best delegate experience possible by working with the small Festival Congress Team, Venue Staff, and other Congress Volunteers to maintain a well-organised, friendly and professional event. Volunteers will be able to attend conference sessions when not on shift. Excellent communication and people skills, a positive and proactive attitude, and an interest in the arts or event management are all desirable attributes.

VOLUNTEER ROLES AT THE 2016 FESTIVAL CONGRESS:

Stewarding / Assisting with conference sessions

The primary role of the Volunteer Steward will be to welcome delegates, making them feel at home, and to assist with any general queries they might have. This includes assisting delegates with conference directions, answering questions about sessions, and reporting any issues to the event management team. Stewards will also assist with seating the delegates, and with the Q & A element of the conference sessions, and take care of the Exhibitors area.

Stage Management & Awards/Celebration set-up

Stage Management and Celebration set-up volunteers will assist the Event Producer & team in ensuring the setting up of the venue for the evening celebrations. Managing the stage and venue entrance, and assist with communications between the events team, speakers and technical crew. These roles could also suit those looking for production / technical experience, as we will need a small team of volunteers to help the team from House of Bestival (www.houseofbestival.net) set up their 'Day of The Dead' themed décor.

Speaker Liaison & Green Room

Volunteers working as part of the Speaker Liaison & Green Room team will help to look after speakers appearing at the Congress, checking they have all they need, stocking supplies and liaising with the Event Management team.

Box Office & Registration

The Box Office & Welcome team will work closely with the Event Management team by managing the two day registration desk, delegate/speaker arrivals, assist with delegate pass activation, and with any general queries. They will need to be alert and astute as this is the first port of call for the delegates and speakers.

Technical/Production

Our production company, Basslines (<http://www.basslineproductions.co.uk>) are also looking for volunteers who are interested in working in Sound & Lighting. These volunteers would gain valuable experience setting up the conference & awards value, and would shadow the Technical Production team – setting up technical equipment, running the conference, running the awards (lighting, sound, DJ etc).

For further information & an application form, please contact the Event Producer,
Fionna Allan - fionna.allan@gmail.com /07981 366 536
Deadline for applying is Mon 10th October.

The Festival Congress is supported by the Major Events Unit of Welsh Government alongside various industry supporters and commercial partners.

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