TRIGGER



Calling people with sewing machine skills!
We're looking for a team of people who are confident using a sewing machine to help bring a new, large-scale, community-made Lioness to life at Portsmouth Guildhall this January. The 19m Lioness will be made from community-made flags and will mark the close of a year of Portsmouth100 celebrations with three days of storytelling, collective making, live performance, light and sound.

About the project

Award-winning artists Trigger will transform Portsmouth Guildhall into a working colour loft, inspired by the Portsmouth women who cut, stitched and assembled the sails, flags, pennants and signals used by the Navy in the 1800s.

At the centre of the 2026 Colour Loft will be a leaping Lioness, inspired by the lion on Portsmouth's city crest and is made from large, handcrafted flags created by people across Portsmouth. The installation will bring together individual stories, histories and perspectives; celebrating both the spirit of the women who worked in the historic colour lofts and the many people who make up the city today. Over the January weekend, participants will help bring the Lioness to life as new flags that make up her body are stitched, raised, and rigged during a free, three-day event at the Guildhall.

Read more about the project here: https://www.triggerstuff.co.uk/our-work/colour-loft

The project is created and produced by Trigger, the award-winning creatives behind awe-inspiring, participatory artworks such as The Hatchling – a flying dragon the size of a double-decker bus (Plymouth, Wakefield, Queen's Platinum Jubilee) - and PoliNations – an epic pop-up garden of magical proportions (Commonwealth Games 2022, Glastonbury Festival).

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The project is brought to live by a world class creative team and is conceived and directed by Trigger's Creative Director Angie Bual (The Hatchling / PoliNations), designed by Jean Chan (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, RSC, Bradford City of Culture), lighting design by Linbury Award-Winner Matt Daw (Lily Allen / Sigor Ros) and Production Management with Dock Street Events (Hull City of Culture / PoliNations).

Join Trigger's live sewing machine team

We're recruiting a team of people who are confident using a sewing machine to work alongside Trigger and community participants during the live event at Portsmouth Guildhall.

You'll help turn fabric pieces made by people of all ages visiting the Guildhall into the flags that form the Lioness. Your sewing skills will help bring together the contributions of local people to create the large-scale, collaborative artwork celebrating Portsmouth and its communities.

The sewing team will be required to:

- Confidently use a sewing machine to quilt together fabric triangles (Brother A16 Domestic sewing machines will be provided).
- Work alongside and support community participants in a busy, public-facing environment, creating a positive and welcoming experience.
- Assemble fabric sections accurately and efficiently in line with project construction methods and quality standards.
- Work collaboratively as part of a team, following guidance from the Creative Director and wider Production Team.
- Troubleshoot basic sewing machine and construction issues and identify practical solutions.
- Maintain a safe, organised and efficient workspace at all times.
- Demonstrate strong attention to detail, good communication skills and a positive, flexible approach to teamwork.
- Be available for some or all of the dates listed below.

Dates

- Friday 8 January: 2.30-8pm
- Saturday 9 January: 10.30am–5.30pm
- Sunday 10 January: 10.30am–5.30pm

Fee

£25+VAT (if applicable) per hour

How to apply

Please send a brief covering letter explaining your interest in the role and how you meet the requirements (max 1 A4) to sarah@triggerstuff.co.uk by 10am on Monday 16th November.

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Please include your availability over the 3 days. If you have access to a Heavy-Duty sewing machine, please let us know, although this is not essential. The sewers will work on a rota and have regular breaks.