

2026 CASUAL FESTIVAL STAFF

Job Pack

Melbourne Fringe is seeking enthusiastic, hard-working and fun staff for a number of casual roles during the Festival period of 29 September - 18 October 2026. We have multiple positions available in the following areas:

- Front of House
- Box Office
- Bars
- Technical Stage Management
- General Production Crew

Please note some positions will be required to work during the bump-in and bump-out periods (14 September – 29 September and 19 – 24 October). A compulsory training day will take place between 6-9pm on either Monday 21 or Wednesday 23 September 2026, date to be confirmed. Most positions will work from the Festival Hubs at Trades Hall and Meat Market, with some locations around Melbourne also required.

This job pack contains detailed descriptions for each position.

About Melbourne Fringe

Melbourne Fringe democratises the arts. Our vision is cultural democracy – empowering anyone to realise their right to creative expression. We support the development and presentation of artworks by, with and for Melbourne’s people, running the annual Melbourne Fringe Festival, the year-round venue Common Rooms at Trades Hall, and a range of arts sector leadership programs. We believe that access to the arts and creative expression is a fundamental right of our citizenship and vital to a creative, cohesive, optimistic and empathetic society.

Since 1982, we have committed to open access platforms at the heart of our work, celebrating freedom of artistic expression and independence. By creating a safe space for the unsafe, we encourage risk-taking by artists and audiences.

We amplify voices from the margins and remove barriers to access and inclusion, maximising diversity and enabling participation regardless of experience, age, gender, race, sexuality, culture or ability. We particularly prioritise First Nations peoples and cultures, respectfully continuing a tradition of storytelling on these lands that has been central to culture since the beginning of time.

Our commitment to civic participation sees our work explore the intersection between art and citizenship by producing bold new public artworks that enable the active participation of non-artists. Our venue is a cultural enterprise, providing a year-round home for our activities and for our community to come together. Our sector development programs ensure the arts ecology is supported as we develop artists' skills and lead cultural conversations.

Organisational Culture

Melbourne Fringe is a forward-thinking, creative and inclusive organisation. Our thinking is out of the box, our work ethic is strong, and we don't let our limited resources stop us from making seemingly impossible things happen. We ensure that our workplace is characterised by big-picture thinking, optimism and playfulness. We strive for continual improvement in all aspects of our work.

We have a reputation as a caring, energetic, fast paced workplace that values our people, their mental health and what they have for lunch as key priorities. We believe that great work is made by people who enjoy what they do.

Our Commitment to Cultural Equity

We work on the lands of the Kulin Nation and we pay deep respects to the Elders of these lands. We acknowledge that there is a deep and rich history of storytelling and culture that has been occurring on these unceded lands for many thousands of years.

Melbourne Fringe has a deep commitment to cultural equity, and we strongly encourage applications from people who identify as First Nations, d/Deaf, Disabled, people of colour, transgender and gender-diverse people, and women. We are a safe place for LGBTQIA+ peoples, and we ensure Melbourne Fringe is a place which celebrate people's differences. We work hard to embed equity throughout our organisation, and we strive to create safe and positive working

environments for our team. We understand the need for flexible working opportunities, especially for people with caring responsibilities.

If using Airtable forms isn't accessible for you, please get in touch. We are keen to understand how to best accommodate your access needs. We can accept applications in a variety of formats, including text documents, video and audio files. We are also happy to work with you on other accessible application processes. We have a great team to support access, so please email access@melbournefringe.com.au to start a conversation. You can also call the Melbourne Fringe office by phone. The Melbourne Fringe phone number is (03) 9660 9600 (available Monday to Friday, 10am-6pm).

[You may contact us through the National Relay Service, and the link is available if you click on this sentence.](#) Alternatively, you could download Deaf-owned Relay Service [Convo](#).

We are open to your ideas around process. However, we cannot change the timeframes unfortunately – you'll still need to get your application in by Sunday 12 July 2026.

Application Process

To apply for any of these roles, please follow the links below explaining who you are, why you want to work at Melbourne Fringe and what makes you the best candidate for the role. Then attach your CV at the end and hit submit before 11.59 pm AEST, Sunday 12 July 2026.

New Applicants

<https://airtable.com/appez8zS4HINuG8BI/pagfvtkj8f7bOL6E2/form>

Returning Staff

<https://airtable.com/appez8zS4HINuG8BI/pagOhFwpORiwj7ze6/form>

Recruitment will be happening from the time of applications opening until 31 August 2026.

We will then conduct short interviews with potential candidates via Microsoft Teams. Please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements for the interview.

If you have any questions about this job pack, please contact us at info@melbournefringe.com.au. Alternatively, for all queries you are welcome to phone our office. The Melbourne Fringe phone number is (03) 9660 9600 and is available Monday to Friday, 10am-6pm.

About Position Descriptions

We will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the arts environment, and so this document is not intended to represent the roles performed in perpetuity but rather is intended to provide an overall view of the role.

Inherent Physical Requirements

The physical requirements of each position in this information pack vary. If you have any questions about the physical requirements for a specific role or questions about your access needs, please get in touch and our team will be able to assist.

Working with Children Check

Some employees may be required to undergo a Working with Children Check as a condition of employment with Melbourne Fringe. We will cover the cost of this check if it is required.

Front of House - Position Description

Location(s) Festival Hubs
Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton
Meat Market - 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

Curated Program
Various locations around Melbourne

Duration Festival Hubs
29 September – 18 October.
Up to 5 days per week.
Evening work required.

Curated Program
29 September – 18 October.
At least 4 shifts across this period.
Weekday, weekend and evening work required.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide a high level of service and support to patrons and performing companies, at all times.
- Ensure performances/sessions start on time and venues are cleared after each performance/session.
- Manage queues for various venues and sites to ensure effective crowd management.
- Set up venue prior to doors opening and assist with changeovers between shows.
- Open site prior to scheduled opening time, under direction of the site supervisor. Assist as required with signage, supply checks, and temporary wayfinding infrastructure.
- Maintain all front of house areas to a high professional standard for patrons, including coordinating cleaning of venues/sites, toilet cleanliness and supply checks, ensuring tidiness of artist flyers and posters.
- Train, coordinate and supervise Front of House volunteers, conduct nightly briefings, support and create a team approach to the Festival.

- Act as a warden in accordance with the Melbourne Fringe Risk Management plan.
- Report to senior Melbourne Fringe staff regarding access, cleaning, noise issues, incidents & venue operations.
- Act as a point of information for the general public, including wayfinding, giving information on Melbourne Fringe, and the programming as required.
- Troubleshoot any on-shift issues relating to noise complaints, cancelled/late sessions, weather, health and safety concerns, risks and hazards, signage, or venue/site aesthetics and functionality.
- Other duties as directed by the Senior Producer, Producer (Festival Hub), Producer (Curated Program), or other senior Melbourne Fringe staff.

Core Competencies

- Prior experience managing Front of House operations for theatre, events or festivals.
- Excellent customer service, people and communication skills.
- Strong problem-solving skills, initiative and ability to work autonomously.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team in a fast-paced environment.
- Ability to lead, motivate and train team members, and to maintain a welcoming and safe working environment for staff and volunteers.

Box Office Attendant - Position Description

Location(s)	<u>Festival Hubs</u> Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton Meat Market - 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
	<u>Melbourne Fringe Office</u> Trades Hall – 54 Victoria St, Carlton

Duration	29 September – 18 October Average 3-4 shifts per week. Weekday, weekend and evening work required.
-----------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Key Responsibilities

- Sell tickets and provide information and customer service at various Festival locations, as well as over the phone and by email.
- Provide a high level of service and support to patrons and performing companies at all times.
- Reconcile Box Office takings if required.
- Assist with ticketing administration, including contacting customers with regards to show changes and cancellations, data entry and answering customer queries as directed by senior Melbourne Fringe staff.
- Provide support within the Box Office team and contribute to a productive environment.
- Other duties as directed by the Ticketing Manager and Ticketing Coordinator or other senior Melbourne Fringe staff

Core Competencies

- Prior experience in ticketing for theatre, events or festivals, experience with Red61 desirable.
- Excellent customer service, people and communication skills.
- Strong problem-solving skills, initiative and ability to work autonomously.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team in a fast-paced environment.
- Ability to maintain a welcoming and safe working environment for staff and volunteers.

Box Office Supervisor - Position Description

Location(s) Festival Hub
Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton

Melbourne Fringe Office
Trades Hall – 54 Victoria St, Carlton

Duration 29 September – 18 October

This role is seasonal fixed term part-time contract and will be in the evenings Wednesday-Sunday for each week of the festival. The same person will be required to work this role for the duration of the festival.

Key Responsibilities

- Supervise the Box Office team working at the Festival Hub in person Box Office.
- Primary customer contact for in person box office.
- Sell tickets and provide information and customer service at various Festival locations, as well as over the phone and by email.
- Provide a high level of service and support to patrons and performing companies at all times.
- Reconcile Box Office takings if required.
- Assist with ticketing administration, including contacting customers with regards to show changes and cancellations, data entry and answering customer queries as directed by senior Melbourne Fringe staff.
- Provide support within the Box Office team and contribute to a productive environment.
- Other duties as directed by the Ticketing Manager and Ticketing Coordinator or other senior Melbourne Fringe staff.

Core Competencies

- Prior experience in ticketing for theatre, events or festivals, experience with Red61 desirable.
- Excellent customer service, people and communication skills.
- Strong problem-solving skills, initiative and ability to work autonomously.

- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team in a fast-paced environment.
- Ability to lead, motivate and train team members, and to maintain a welcoming and safe working environment for staff and volunteers.

Bar Team Member – Position Description

Location(s) Festival Hubs

Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton

Meat Market - 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

Duration 29 September – 19 October

3-5 shifts per week.

Evening & late nights (3am closes) required.

Some bump-in and bump-out shifts may be available 23

September - 30 September and 20 - 23 October.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepare alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for patrons
- Interact with customers, taking orders and serving drinks
- Assess bar customers' needs and preferences and make recommendations
- Ensure bar service areas are well-maintained, clean and tidy and free of glassware
- Ensure Responsible Service of Alcohol protocols are adhered to, including checking ID when necessary
- Help managers open and close the bar each night and set up and reset the venue for the next day
- Other duties as directed by the Venue Manager or other senior Melbourne Fringe staff

Core Competencies

- Basic drink making and serving skills with a current RSA certificate
- Excellent levels of customer service
- Able to work in a busy environment during peak service but be able to self-direct during quiet periods
- Resilience and ability to work effectively under pressure
- Professional & respectful communication manner with staff, artists and the general public.

Bar Team Member (Tipple Trolley) – Position Description

Location Festival Hub
Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton

Duration 29 September – 18 October
3-5 shifts per week.
Evening work required.

Summary

We are looking for a bartender with pizzazz to captain the Fringe Hub Tipple Trolley, taking the bar out to the audience with some added artistic flair. This is a bar service role that is perfect for those who love to charm customers and wishes they had an audience for their shower concerts.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepare alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for patrons
- Interact with customers, taking orders and serving drinks
- Assess bar customers' needs and preferences and make recommendations
- Ensure tipple trolley is well-maintained, clean, tidy and free of glassware
- Ensure Responsible Service of Alcohol protocols are adhered to, including checking ID when necessary
- Help managers open and close the bar each night and set up and reset the venue for the next day
- Other duties as directed by the Venue Operations Manager or other senior Melbourne Fringe staff

Core Competencies

- Basic drink making and serving skills with a current RSA certificate
- Excellent levels of customer service
- Able to work in a busy environment during peak service but be able to self-direct during quiet periods
- Resilience and ability to work effectively under pressure
- Sense of humour and artistic flair!
- Professional & respectful communication manner with staff, artists and the general public.

Bar Senior Team Member – Position Description

Location(s) Festival Hubs
Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton
Meat Market - 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne

Duration 29 September – 19 October
3-5 shifts per week.
Evening & late nights (3am closes) required.

Summary

We require some staff within the casual bar team to work at a more senior level for some of their shifts. The requirements of these roles will vary and include responsibilities in line with working as a bar manager or 2IC supporting the bar manager.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepare alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for patrons
- Interact with customers, taking orders and serving drinks
- Assess bar customers' needs and preferences and make recommendations
- Ensure bar service areas are well-maintained, clean and tidy and free of glassware
- Ensure Responsible Service of Alcohol protocols are adhered to, including checking ID when necessary
- Open and close the bar (including end of night reporting) and set up and reset the venue for the next day
- Supervise bar service and/or staff.
- Other duties as directed by the Venue Operations Manager or other senior Melbourne Fringe staff

Core Competencies

- Basic drink making and serving skills with a current RSA certificate
- Excellent levels of customer service
- Previous experience in a supervisory role
- Able to work in a busy environment during peak service but be able to self-direct during quiet periods

- Resilience and ability to work effectively under pressure
- Professional & respectful communication manner with staff, artists and the general public.

Technical Stage Manager – Position Description

Location(s) Festival Hubs
Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton
Meat Market - 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
Curated Program
Various locations around Melbourne

Duration 14 September – 24 October
6 days per week, during the Festival period 30 September - 18 October.
Evening work required

Key Responsibilities

- Attend shifts as assigned throughout the bump in, operations and bump out period.
- Facilitate the technical needs of events in the assigned performance space
- Be responsible for quick turnaround between shows, as well as assist with the set up and removal of props, lighting and sound requirements for each show (as required)
- Run scheduled technical rehearsals and assist in developing the plot and cues for each event in the performance space, in association with the artists.
- Assist in the set-up and operation of sound, lighting and any other audio-visual requirements for all events in the performance space
- Liaise with venue staff and show personnel to ensure shows run on time
- Direct turn arounds between shows, i.e. removal and setup of props, instruments and anything else required
- Be familiar with the safe working conditions and practices as detailed in the Area and Venue Warden Risk and Emergency Handbook and ensure these conditions are met in the assigned performance space.
- Prior to the first public performance, and between subsequent performances, check equipment to see that it is safe and operational as directed
- Assist in the load in, set-up, dismantle and load out of festival infrastructure

- Contribute to detailed reporting processes including show reports, incident reports, equipment maintenance/failure
- Undertake any other duties assigned by the Melbourne Fringe Production Manager, which might reasonably be deemed to be within the status of the job and appropriate to the post.

Core Competencies

- Experience in technical operation of basic sound, lighting, and AV systems, including programming cues, maintaining cue sheets, and accurately executing cues
- Experience in stage managing small scale theatrical shows
- Experience in theatrical mechanics
- Competency and problem-solving ability in lighting, sound and audio-visual systems
- Quick, creative thinking and problem solving and independent decision making
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and attention to detail
- Empathy with the goals and philosophy of Melbourne Fringe
- Professional & respectful communication manner with staff, artists and the general public.

Production Crew – Position Description

Location(s)	<u>Festival Hubs</u> Trades Hall - 54 Victoria St, Carlton Meat Market - 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne <u>Curated Program</u> Various locations around Melbourne
--------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Duration	14 September - 24 October Casual shifts (as required)
-----------------	----------------------------------------------------------

Key Responsibilities

- Attend shifts as assigned throughout the bump in, operations and bump out period.
- Be familiar with the safe working conditions and practices as detailed in the Area and Venue Warden Risk and Emergency Handbook and ensure these conditions are met in the assigned performance space.
- Attend toolbox talks & SWMS induction during bump in and bump out activities.
- When advised, wear steel cap shoes and other PPE.
- Maintain safe work zones onsite, coordinate with onsite suppliers.
- Assist in the load in, set-up, dismantle and load out of festival infrastructure
- Undertake any other duties assigned by the Melbourne Fringe Production Manager, which might reasonably be deemed to be within the status of the job and appropriate to the post.

Core Competencies

- Experience in site logistics and operations for events or festivals.
- Experience in theatrical mechanics
- Quick, creative thinking and problem solving and independent decision making
- Empathy with the goals and philosophy of Melbourne Fringe
- Professional & respectful communication manner with staff, artists and the general public.