

Head of Events

Jodie Amos



Employer: WaterBear The College of Music **Primary**

School: Gurnard Primary

Secondary School: Cowes High School

Where do you live and work now? I live and work in Brighton.

Was there an experience you had at school that made you want to go into the area of work you are in now?

I was always super interested in my music lessons and loved being able to help organise things at school. I was keen on taking part in any extracurricular activities as they were usually music/performance based. I feel that my music lessons were my main inspiration! Outside of school, working as an Artist Liaison for the IOW festival was a big inspiration for me.

What are the main roles and responsibilities of your job?

Booking live events, working with major festivals, scheduling events, working with bands & artists.

Could you briefly share a bit about your career journey? (What did you study? How did you end up where you are today?)

After school, I studied at Platform One for my BA (Hons) and my Masters Degree. It was there that I developed numerous skills that helped me work within the live music industry. I also played the main stage at the Bestival and Isle of Wight Festival during my time studying. Once I had completed my MA, I worked as an Artist Liaison at Isle of Wight Festival and Eklectika. After that, I got a job as a Tour Manager for 'Made on the Road' where I organised and ran a European tour. After doing this, I volunteered to help run the 'Underground Music Tour' which WaterBear was running in London, Ireland, Scotland and Sheffield. This is where I met my now bosses and doing this got me in a good position to apply for an official job with them. During my time at WaterBear, I started off by being the personal assistant to the founder, Bruce Dickinson, which then elevated me to become Head of Events for the college.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love every part of organising events. I also really enjoy working with bands and artists, in addition to working with festivals such as ArcTanGent and The Great Escape.

What is the hardest thing about your job?

Like with any event, you must prepare as much as possible, however there is always the 10% of events that you cannot control, which comes down to what happens on the day. This can be hard to deal with as things can be out of your control or totally unexpected. It's down to how you deal with these incidents that counts. This can be challenging (and it is also sometimes tricky to organise other people!)

What skills or attributes do you believe have been crucial to your success in your career?

High level of organisation, good time keeping and overall people skills. You must always be a nice person as that goes such a long way.

If you could give advice to someone aspiring to have a job like you, what would it be?

Put yourself out there to be in with a chance of meeting the right people. And believe in your abilities! There have been a number of career worthy 'jobs' that i've worked but not been paid for, or had to fund myself and this can be really challenging, but i have worked a part time job since i was 15 and saved my money which luckily helped me out with getting further within my career and putting myself forward for these opportunities. Try to always be nice, you never know who you're going to meet and what connections they may have.

What do you think was a benefit about growing up on the Isle of Wight?

Growing up on the Isle of Wight definitely had its positives for me. I was able to focus on practising my instruments as I was brought up in a very quiet village. I was also able to study for my BA and MA degrees whilst living at home and being able to save my student loan (after paying a bit of rent!). As a musician, having access to the Isle of Wight festival was also a huge benefit to living on the island. Not all musicians get such easy access to a major festival like this.

What was the most difficult thing about growing up on the Isle of Wight?

For me, the majority of the opportunities I have had were all working off of the island. This can be difficult with your network being mostly islanders and not having places to stay on the mainland to enable you to be there for the opportunities happening. However, it is always possible for you to get these opportunities if you keep putting yourself out there and being enthusiastic and reliable.

What do you want to do next?

to continue my progression with my current job whilst also looking into other festival work.

How can we connect with your work?

https://www.instagram.com/waterbear_the_college_of_music/

Personal instagram -

<https://www.instagram.com/jodieamoss/>

