



# Recomposing the Past: The Challenges of Rebuilding Lost Performance Spaces

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# Some brief caveats...

My project doesn't actually start until next week...

...I got my funding just following getting my first permanent post...

...and I've never really considered what I do to be 'design research'...

But...

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... I certainly can talk about the trials and tribulations of preparing a grant proposal ...

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... and the project is, in many ways, design research

# Space, Place, Sound and Memory: Immersive Experiences of the Past

A quick introduction to the project

Performance  
as  
experience...



ST FAGANS: NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM / DARREN BRITTON



But this experience is lost  
to history the moment it  
happens

# Historically informed performance...

...may capture a sense of the sound of the past...

...but stops short of giving a sense of presence or participation





## A performance of a fifteenth-century Mass Cycle...

...the flickering of candle light, and the  
acoustic properties  
magnificence of a plaster sculpture,  
transformed to living stone by the play  
of light, linking sound and image...



Perhaps we can capture the  
sound...

...but can we capture the experience?

The  
challenges  
of using  
original  
locations

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Often geographically isolated

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Sometimes challenging  
performance spaces

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Often offer poor accessibility for  
those with mobility issues

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Often changed over time

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Sometimes no-longer extant

How do we bridge the gap  
between the present and the  
past?

Immersive technologies

# The Project Team

So, what are we  
actually doing...?





# St Cecilia's Hall



Linlithgow Palace

# The Challenges

Timescales

Stakeholder management

IP

Thinking ahead in terms of budget forecasting

# Timescales

- Getting everyone on board
- Getting letters of support etc.
- Getting new-hires in place
- Buying equipment
- Conference proposals etc.

# Stakeholder management

- Managing expectations
- Making sure that everyone is fully aware of costs and benefits
- Keeping everyone feeling that they are getting something worthwhile



# IP

- Dealing with issues of IP and external organisations
- Managing the requirements for open access and the requirements for marketability

## Thinking ahead for budget forecasting

- Having a good idea of what equipment needs buying
- Knowing what we already have
- Knowing what might be required by staff you are yet to hire
- Knowing what conferences you may need to attend

# Any advice?

1

Don't be afraid to target calls that you might not normally have considered

2

Exploit priority areas where you can

3

Adapt your project to fit the call