



Dear All,

Here's our 2nd Newsletter and the Items are coming in thick and fast.

Since the last one I have had the pleasure of visiting 2 Festivals, Gwent and Anglesey and I must say, I've seen some very impressive plays. It's really quite exciting waiting to hear who's going to go through to the Wales Final. All results are on our web site, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) have a look

The next Festival is Glamorgan on 9, 10, 11th April followed by Conwy on 24+25th April and finally Montgomeryshire on 2nd May when the Wales Finalists will be announced. The pressure is really heating up.

I am sure Mike Kaiser will not have an easy task but I'm also sure he's enjoying every minute of every Festival.

Exciting news as well because, **SUMMER SCHOOL IS BACK**. A special Newsletter with all the details will be sent out next week but all I will say is, it is going to be a very special occasion with some very impressive tutors. **WATCH THIS SPACE**.

That's all from me for now. Don't forget Membership was due on 1<sup>st</sup> April so please expect your invoice. Membership this year will be £15.00 individual and £25.00 groups – please support us by renewing your membership and encourage others to join. We need you support during these very difficult financial times.

Best wishes,

Teri

### FESTIVAL DATES

#### **Regional One-Act Play Festivals 2015**

Glamorgan 9-11 April

Conwy 24-25 April

Montgomeryshire 2 May

Adjudicator: Mike Kaiser GoDA

#### **Wales Final - 5 & 6 June 2015**

The 2015 Wales Final will be hosted by the Glamorgan Drama League, and will be held at a venue at the very edge of the GDL's area: The Welfare in Ystradgynlais.

It is the home venue of GDL member group, the Glantawe Theatre Company.

Adjudicator: Jan Palmer Sayer GoDA

#### **British Final - 3 & 4 July 2015**

The Wilde Theatre, South Park Hill, Bracknell

Adjudicator: Paul Fowler GoDA

Further details are available from

[www.dramawales.org.uk](http://www.dramawales.org.uk)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)





### UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS



The Unknown Theatre Company has an exciting line-up of productions throughout the year.

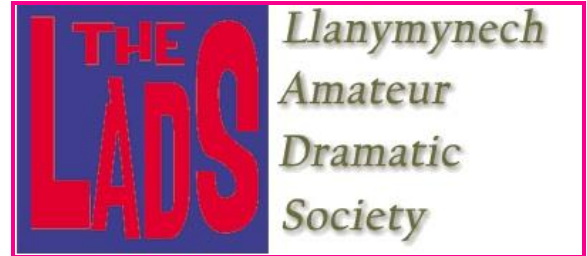
April 23rd-25th *Fiddler on the Roof* at Roath Church House 7.30 pm. Tickets £10/£8

In June a new musical *Wild* set outside a location around Adamsdown, Cardiff More details to follow. This will be a community project

July 23-26th *Iefel 1* St David's Hall as part of Welsh Proms '97 a new musical written by Scott Pryor and James Williams during the week of 28th July

*Cult* a new musical which we are taking to Edinburgh fringe festival and will be performing at RWCMD for one night only prior to the festival. It is a new musical about how young people get drawn into cults.

For the latest details please visit their website  
[www.unknowntheatre.co.uk](http://www.unknowntheatre.co.uk)



The Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society (The LADS) has just staged a production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, set in the 1950s, as part of the Open Stages project run by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The RSC has been working with and mentoring amateur companies to encourage the production of Shakespeare around the country. The LADS are one of only 86 companies taking part in the project nationwide. In February they invited Tom Jordan, stage combat expert, and Michael Corbidge voice and text expert from the RSC to run workshops on all the physical excitement and fun text in *The Shrew*.

This was the first Shakespeare production for many of the actors and they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with the RSC and learn new techniques. In June there will be a regional showcase of productions so the cast will perform an extract of the play on *The Swan* stage at Stratford.

All of the male actors in the group were very busy last year in productions commemorating WWI. For this reason, and because The LADS has many strong women actors, all but two of the parts were played by women. A full gallery of photos can be seen on The LADS website at  
[www.lads-online.co.uk](http://www.lads-online.co.uk)



### PINT-SIZED PLAYS 2015 WRITING COMPETITION

Now in its eighth year, the Pint-sized Plays Competition is now established as a leading competition for short 5-10 minute plays. Uniquely, the plays are performed in the actual bar areas of pubs in Pembrokeshire and literally do 'take theatre to the people'! Winners get to see their plays performed and considered for publication (the third volume of scripts is just about to be published) and many previous winners have gone on to great success as playwrights.



The rules are simple: each play should be able to be performed by two or three actors and be capable of being staged in the actual bar area of a pub, using only the furniture that is available and any props that the cast can carry. The six winning plays are produced in pubs during Tenby Festival Week, and entered (along with the four runners up) in the Script Slam where the overall winner is judged. All plays are also considered for publication in next volume of Pint-sized Plays and for production at the Brighton Fringe.

More info at [www.pint-sizedplays.org.uk](http://www.pint-sizedplays.org.uk)  
Closing date: May 31 2015

### AN EVENING WITH FRANK VICKERY



On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June Welsh playwright Frank Vickery will discuss his life and influences with DAW Vice Chair Gareth Gibbs. They have known each other for over 40 years and it promises to be an evening to remember.

Frank Vickery was born in 1951 in the Rhondda Valley, where he still lives and works as a playwright. He started writing whilst still in school and had his first major success at the age of twenty one when his first comedy *After I'm Gone* won the Howard De Waldon Trophy for the best one act play in Great Britain.

He is the author of thirty plays to date including the hugely successful Welsh musical *Amazing Grace* and the critically acclaimed comedy *Tonto Evans*.

This special evening event is a fund raiser to support the Drama Association of Wales.

Admission by ticket at £10.00 includes glass of wine and nibbles to be held at Splott Library, Cardiff.

Ticket information available from the office at [chair@dramawales.org.uk](mailto:chair@dramawales.org.uk)





**DRAMA FESTIVALS CONFERENCE 2015**

PIMP YOUR FESTIVAL  
(OR... GIVE IT A JOLLY GOOD MAKEOVER)

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2015



Is your festival in need of a good makeover? Or, at the very least, some fresh ideas? The state of this particular union is, frankly, mixed. Some festivals are struggling to get entries; others are struggling to get an audience, whilst some are positively thriving. Are there any magic wands out there? The focus for the 2015 Drama Festivals Conference is on success – how to achieve it, how to keep it and how to enjoy it.

The Drama Festivals Conference is going to be a weekend to remember with opportunities for networking, meeting other organisers (as well as GoDA adjudicators) and for bringing some new ideas home. Making the most of our change to a central London venue, there will be a theatre visit on the Saturday night to opt into as well as an informal dinner on the Sunday evening, so book the date in your diary now.

We have kept the cost of attending low at £65.00 per head for the conference day itself (obviously the theatre visit and dinner will be extra) but because it's nice to come along with a friend, we are offering two delegates (from the same organisation/festival) for the price of one if you book before the end of July. How's that for a bargain?

If you need an overnight stay, Travelodges in the area are currently offering rooms from approximately £70 per night and there is good availability at the present time. London Covent Garden is the nearest to the Phoenix Theatre, but all Central London Travelodges are, of course, only a tube ride away.

Throughout the year, I will continue to circulate information to national and festival organisations and adjudicators as plans for the conference firm up, but if you would like to be kept in the loop, please send me your details and I'll add you to the list. I'd also love to hear from any of you about festivals which are enjoying particular success or resurgence and whose organisers might be prepared to share their ideas. I already have a couple of these "in the bag" but, the more the merrier. In the meantime, watch this space – it's going to be an interesting one.

I hope to see you there.

Jan Palmer Sayer GoDA  
Conference Organiser  
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**TELSTARS - TAKE 2 by Angela Evelyn**



I became a member of Telstars Theatre Company back in 1981 shortly after meeting and becoming engaged to my husband Stanley Evelyn. The group were taking the play *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime* on a tour of Florida during the summer. As this was long in the planning, I wasn't able to go with them and I really missed him whilst he was away and so I thought, if this is the hobby that he enjoys then I need to be part of it too. In the beginning I just used to attend rehearsals and watch, and then I took on responsibility for costumes and props. In 1982 the multi-talented David Davies, took me under his wing and gave me my first role in *Pastiche* a one-act play by Nick Hall.

We entered the Glamorgan Drama League Festival of One-Act plays and even planned our honeymoon around the dates of the festival. We were thrilled to win and be put forward to the Wales Final. Though we didn't win this it was such a pleasure and privilege to be part of such a wonderful Festival.

We continued to be active members of Telstars for several years and took part in several Festivals until our family increased and our

priorities changed. We still kept in touch with the group and helped out from time to time.

A couple of years ago, as our children have fledged the nest and we were nearing retirement we decided to become active members of Telstars Theatre Company once again.

It had been my intention to have a gentle induction back into the fold, but I should have known better. Having taken a small part in a Murder Mystery last year, I was thrilled, though somewhat daunted at the prospect of playing Alice in the one-act play *Dear Diva* directed by Teri McCarthy which was going to be one of our entries for the Glamorgan Festival.



For me it was a massive challenge having not been in a Festival since 1997 and never having acted in a two-hander – but non-the-less, was very excited. I was also thrilled to be acting with Kay Baber, and very experienced and talented actress whom I have long admired.

Stanley also stepped up and agreed to direct Telstars' other Festival entry *Wits End*.



The festival was held in April last year in a fantastic little theatre at the Rhondda Campus of Coleg y Cymoedd in Llwynypia. Although the venue was in a most unlikely place 20 miles outside Cardiff, once we had attended the open day, it was quite straight forward to get there. The staff was very welcoming and the dressing rooms, the best I have ever seen.

It was good that all the groups were been given the opportunity to see the venue in advance of the performance as it gave us a feel for the theatre and what to expect.

The festival was blessed with 8 entries from 5 different companies, who performed over three evenings.

Each evening concluded with an interesting, enjoyable and constructive adjudication from Ian Sarginson GoDA.

My recollections of the Glamorgan Festivals over 30 years ago were of a great atmosphere, lots of camaraderie and support from all the competing groups. The 2014, Glamorgan One-Act Play Festival was no exception and I was personally touched to receive such kind comments on my performance from competitors in the other groups.

Being part of the winning team you may think that it is easy for me to say that it was a great festival. But in truth, I have often experienced being the 'bridesmaid' and not the 'bride'.

The real thing that makes the Glamorgan Festival of One-Act Plays so special is the coming together of likeminded people from across the County to share our wonderful hobby.

We all work hard throughout the year. We strive for professionalism and perfection and to please the eye and the mind of the adjudicator. We listen to the adjudicators comments, which of course is their personal opinion and we may agree or disagree. But this is our craft and this is how we learn by being together and sharing our talents and learning from others.



Well done to the volunteers who organise the Festival you are doing a great job. Long may it continue!

It was good to be back and I look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones at the 2015 Glamorgan Festival of One-Act Plays.

For more information about Telstars visit  
[www.telstarstheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.telstarstheatrecompany.co.uk)