

### **BRITISH FINAL FESTIVAL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS 2016**

Drama Association of Wales is proud to be hosting The 83rd British Final Festival of One-Act Plays in the vibrant city of Cardiff ([www.visitcardiff.com](http://www.visitcardiff.com)) at the beautiful Sherman Theatre on 1 & 2 July, 2016.



This prestigious festival only comes to each country once every four years. The last time it was in Cardiff, it was won by Castaway from Aberystwyth who were awarded the winner's trophy, the Howard de Walden cup, for their production of *After Liverpool*.

The plays will commence each evening at 7pm with Wales & Northern Ireland on the Friday with Scotland and England on the Saturday. The adjudicator this year is Jan Palmer Sayer GoDA.

Tickets can be purchased from the Sherman Theatre Box Office on 029 2064 6900 or online at [www.shermancymru.co.uk](http://www.shermancymru.co.uk)

Buffet tickets can be booked through the festival hotel contact 029 2048 7111 please quote **#302739**

You can also be a sponsor of this event by visiting our [Virgin Money Giving page](#)



**The 83rd  
British Final  
Festival of  
One-Act Plays**

**Adjudicator:**  
**Jan Palmer Sayer GoDA**

**7.00pm  
1 & 2 July 2016**

**Sherman Theatre  
Senghenydd Road  
Cardiff CF24 4YE**

**Tickets: £15 per night  
Box Office: 029 2064 6900  
[www.shermancymru.co.uk](http://www.shermancymru.co.uk)**

**[www.dramawales.org.uk](http://www.dramawales.org.uk)  
#DramaFest16  
Registered Charity No. 502186**

 



May 2016



### WALES FINAL FESTIVAL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS 2016

Conwy Drama Association on behalf of the Drama Association of Wales, has the honour of presenting the 2016 Wales Final Festival of One-Act Plays.

Throughout early 2016 amateur groups from all over Wales have been competing to be one of the six highest scoring plays which will now compete over Friday and Saturday night for the right to represent Wales at the British Final Festival of One-Act Plays in July.

Adjudicated by Jennifer Scott-Reid GoDA these two evenings offer a unique opportunity to see a wide variety of productions from groups based the length and breadth of Wales.

The festival will be held at Theatr Colwyn, with the following plays;

#### **Friday 3rd June, 2016 7.00pm**

- The Unknown OUTcasts *Contractions*
- Telstars Theatre Company *Tryst*
- Blackwood Little Theatre *Suspension of Disbelief*

#### **Saturday 4th June, 2016 7.00pm**

- Phoenix Theatre Company *The Actor's Nightmare*
- The Unknown OUTcasts *Not Talking*
- Players' Theatre *A Night Out*

Tickets are £8 each per evening £14 for both nights, available from Theatr Colwyn, Colwyn Bay on 01492 577888 [www.theatrcolwyn.co.uk](http://www.theatrcolwyn.co.uk)

Cold buffet at the theatre on the Saturday night at a cost of £7.50 per person. Tickets must be booked by Thursday 26th May. To book post show buffet please contact [conwyoneact@gmail.com](mailto:conwyoneact@gmail.com)

Further information is available at [www.walesfinal.org.uk](http://www.walesfinal.org.uk)

### NDFA – GEORGE TAYLOR PLAYWRITING COMPETITION



The award is open to any piece of original theatre accepted by and performed at any NDFA festival between 1st July 2015 and 30th June 2016. The play, not the production, must be recommended by the Festival Organiser and by the Adjudicator. The play must be unpublished at the time of entry and have received fewer than five public performances.

It is worth noting that this award is now sponsored by Stagescripts, who will present a cheque for £250, together with the option for Stagescripts to publish the play.

Details & application form available from the [NDFA website](http://www.ndfa.org.uk)

### NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

#### CONWY

Colwyn Abbey Players present two one act comedies and quiz night. Tickets £5 at the door, please provide your own drinks and nibbles. 14th May, Glan Conwy Church House at 7.30 pm.

The Conwy One Act Festival was held on 14th to 16th April in the Church House, Glan Conwy. The festival was the only heat in North Wales this year and saw nine groups from all over North Wales competing over the three evenings. The winning play was *The Actor's Nightmare* performed by Phoenix Theatre Company.



Teri McCarthy - DAW Chair, Richard Jones - Director Phoenix Theatre Company & Adjudicator Christopher Baglin GoDA Associate

#### PEMBROKESHIRE

After the successful run of *"Inspector Drake & The Black Widow"* Coastland Players are delighted to announce that they were presented with the Pembrokeshire Drama Association cup for BEST PLAY at the recent Gala Dinner and Presentation Evening at the Vine Inn, Johnston, Haverfordwest.

The group also won the award for BEST ACTOR, which was awarded to Andy Rowlands from Herbrandston.

Entries are invited from all member groups of the PDA for any play performed in their own venue during the year. The same adjudicator attends each performance and

announces their decisions at the Gala Evening.

In the words of the Adjudicator, Mr Owain Roach, "The interaction between Inspector Drake and Sergeant Plodd was fantastic. They pulled off all of the sight gags as well as slapstick moments, never missing a beat.

Overall this was a modern day farce which had the entire audience in stitches.

Great work was done by a small cast, with every member being vital to the finished piece. "A hilarious but ridiculous performance."

Of the direction Mr Roach said "The piece was directed very well, taking exactly what was in the book and portraying the comedy brilliantly, with the timing of the comedy always spot on".

The adjudicator also praised the set, which he said "was finished to an outstanding quality." **Carol Strutt**

#### GLAMORGAN

The 2016 GDL Festival of One Act Plays was held in the Welfare Ystradgynlais between the 27th and 30th April 2016. This is the first time that this festival has been held in this lovely venue and our local Community Theatre Group, The Glantawe Theatre Company were delighted to be the host company.

As this was an event encompassing the best of community theatre in our region we decided it would be a fantastic chance for our Junior members to take part and join in the event.

To this end we entered three productions into the festival, an adult, teenager and junior production. It was with trepidation that we entered our little ones initially given the competitive nature of these festivals but it proved to be an inspired decision.

Our teenagers and junior members had a fantastic time performing their productions and the feedback we received from other companies regarding their behaviour and discipline was tremendous. As one of



the children said to me coming off the stage "wow that was awesome" and the smiles on their faces said it all.

To put the cap on a fantastic few days, a number of our teenagers and their director were nominated for acting and directing awards, and our little ones won the adjudicators award. Considering that both teams were the youngest in the festival and that our cast for *Dragon Trouble* averaged seven and a half years of age and none of whom had previously appeared on stage without an adult presence it was an amazing experience for them all.

We look forward to the 2017 festival and hope to enter again. **Anthony Evans, Glantawe Theatre Company**

Montgomeryshire has performers not scared to take on very real and topical issues and a very strong cohort of young farmers who will need to be watched for the future. Gwent has a thing for strong comedy and no bad thing as they handle it well. Conwy attracts a diverse selection from across North Wales who look can deal with the challenge of performing on such a small stage. And finally Glamorgan has some of the most creative directors and the bravest children I have seen in a long time.

All this means that the Welsh final will be one to watch and whichever team is victorious, they will be very much the first among equals and able to represent Wales with pride at Cardiff and the British final. Break a leg everyone.  
**Christopher Baglin GoDA Associate**

#### REGIONAL ROUNDS REVIEW

They say fortune favours the brave, well I have certainly seen evidence enough of that on my travels up and down the country, and I have been able to bask a little in the reflected glory myself. You see, I have been lucky enough to be chosen to adjudicate the Welsh rounds of the Festival of One Act Plays, and what a wonderful experience it has been.

This year's festival has been a cornucopia of delight for me with more variety than a Quality Street box (and like Quality Street I'm sure everyone has their own favourite). I have seen things that defy explanation, an alien intelligence that communicated through air guitar, and a world without unions; I watched the filming of *The Sound of Music*, the saucy fantasies of a middle aged couple and the touching end of a loving marriage; I have seen murder done and the mistreatment of the elderly, mercy in the heart of the Soviet autocracy and a young man lose his soul. I watched high farce and low art and all stops in between.

The sheer diversity has been remarkable, not only in subject matter but also in the companies involved, but they all came together with a single purpose in mind, to challenge themselves whilst entertaining poor undeserving us. They all gave of their best, sometimes in the face of great adversity and illness, and has left me with the following lasting impressions.

#### SCDA FINAL 2016



The Scottish Final was held at the Church Hill Theatre in Edinburgh, where the standard was very high. We saw eight plays over three nights, and there were several that could have taken their place comfortably in the British Final. I didn't envy the adjudicator Russell Whitely who had to make the choice. He did say the first three were very close, but the winner was the Studio Theatre Group from Aberdeen for their performance of *A Bench at the Edge* by Luigi Jannuzi. It was an excellent two-hander. Catch it in Cardiff if you can. There was a great variety of plays which made for a brilliant 3 nights of theatre, and has given me several ideas for future plays – always a bonus when you visit other festivals.

Off stage the event centred on the very friendly and noisy bar, where we were made welcome at the buffets after the plays. On the Friday evening there was a quiz. Sadly the Welsh Wizards did not cover themselves in glory. Hope the Wales play in the final will make a better job of beating the Scots than we did. **Sue Jones**

**SUMMER SCHOOL – THEATRE PICTURES**  
**AUGUST 2ND – 7TH 2016 AT BRONEIRION**



Our tutor for 2016 is Ian Sarginson, a well-known face on the Wales drama scene. Ian trained at Bretton Hall. His professional career has involved him in various aspects of theatre, though it is principally as a director that he finds the most satisfaction. His work has covered a wide spectrum of styles, from the Mystery Play Cycles of the mediaeval period to the classics of the later 20th century.

As an adjudicator Ian is a member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators (GoDA) and has a seat on GoDA's National Council. In 2012 he had the honour of adjudicating the British Final Festival and he will be fulfilling the same role in the Wales Final of 2017. Currently, he holds the post of Senior Moderator for GCSE Drama.

Ian says, **"A picture can be worth a thousand words...."**

The theme of this year's Summer School is "THEATRE PICTURES". We will focus on how the visual element of performance can be developed through the creation of physical images that illustrate significant moments in a text. Using the techniques of tableau and freeze-frame over a variety of texts, we will look to build detailed group images – the pictures which are the bones of a piece of theatre - both to enhance the rehearsal process and to tell the story in real visual depth.....and to have creative fun in doing so!



Accommodation and workshops will be at Broneirion Country House which is set in four acres of grounds and situated in a beautiful valley of the upper reaches of the River Severn. Its peaceful and picturesque location overlooks the village of Llandinam, in Mid Wales. The hospitality and food were brilliant last year, with the bar staying open as late as we wanted. We have the whole house, a DAW house party, and Ian plans that the last night's production will range over several areas, with one scene on the magnificent staircase. [www.broneirion.com](http://www.broneirion.com)

**DAW Individual Member £500**

**Non-Members £550**

(including all food and accommodation)

Places are limited, so please visit the [Summer School page](#) for our online booking form and terms & conditions

For more information, please contact Sue Jones at [vicechair@dramawales.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@dramawales.org.uk)

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### THE GATE ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



The Gate Arts Centre, Keppoch Street

Never been to The Gate before? We are a vibrant arts and community centre in the heart of Roath, offering a range of exciting events and activities for all ages. We are passionate about sharing the arts to enrich our local community and we look forward to welcoming you to The Gate! Our values include: promoting the arts, engaging in the community and developing individuals, whether that's through volunteer programmes or the Gateway Fund initiative.

We are proud to offer a platform for big name productions and upcoming performers to showcase their talent; bringing music, theatre, comedy and dance to your local community!

Why not pop down to our café bar for a drink, try out one of our many classes, watch a show in the theatre or view local artists' work in our gallery exhibition?

Take a look at our website at [www.thegate.org.uk](http://www.thegate.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out about our exciting summer 2016 programme bursting with events of all genres!



The Gate team are excited to introduce The Gateway Fund, a not-for-profit pilot program that **empowers creatives** through free exposure and **eliminates industry boundaries** using risk-free funding. The Fund operates using a recycled loan scheme that **ELIMINATES FINANCIAL RISK** by offering tailored loans which, if not recouped by ticket sales, are written off! Furthermore, thanks to our exclusive partnership with The Gate Arts and Community Centre, our participants have access to The Gate's performance spaces, knowledge of best practice and social networks.

To find out more, email [info@thegatewayfund.org.uk](mailto:info@thegatewayfund.org.uk) or visit our website [www.thegatewayfund.squarespace.com](http://www.thegatewayfund.squarespace.com)

#### Contact us:

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(Gate Arts)



(@thegatearts)

ARE YOU MALE?  
PHYSICALLY FIT?  
ARE YOU AGED  
18-41?

JOIN NATIONAL THEATRE  
WALES FOR A U.K.-WIDE ONE-  
OFF EVENT TAKING PLACE  
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PLAY A KEY PART IN AN EPIC  
PROJECT WHICH WILL MARK  
A DEFINING MOMENT IN OUR  
NATIONAL HISTORY.

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NATIONAL  
THEATRE WALES

National Theatre Wales are running an exciting project across Wales and we are looking for volunteer performers. The project will take place, in and around Swansea, Bangor and Aberystwyth.

Between now and Summer 2016 we will be running sessions in each location, in the summer the project will culminate with the participants marking a moment in national history. Participants don't need to have any experience at all of performing, they'll have the chance to work with other members of the community, learn about history and even get a bit fitter. In Wales there will be hundreds of participants involved alongside thousands

across the UK.

In order for the project to be successful, certain elements must remain confidential until participants have officially signed up. For example, our show [The Passion](#) with Michael Sheen and over 1,000 community members from Port Talbot. We asked participants to keep details secret in order to save the surprise, which made the final event magnificent.

Across the UK we have partners in Scotland and England. In Wales we are working with many partners, including local employers, sports associations, community groups and arts centres.

We are predominantly looking for men aged 18-41 who have a good level of physical fitness, but there are other opportunities to take part for people who don't fall into that category. We are also interested to hear from individuals under 18, or community groups working with young people who are interested in the project.

National Theatre Wales is a registered charity creating thrilling work rooted in Wales in the English language. You can find some more information about NTW [here](#) and the project is on our website [here](#).

If you have any membership news items you would like us to highlight on the website or in the next newsletter then please send articles & photos to [newsletter@dramawales.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@dramawales.org.uk)

The deadline for submissions for newsletter items will be **26th June 2016**

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

