



DAW PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH... RAY HOLMAN

BAFTA award winning costume designer was back in Cardiff for one night only.

BAFTA award winning costume designer **Ray Holman** whose recent work includes *BBC's Silk, Torchwood, Doctor Who, Law & Order* and *Sherlock* came to the **Kuku Club** in the **Park Plaza Hotel, Cardiff** on **Friday 3rd February**.

Ray brought along a range of costumes including; the 'Captain Jack' coat (*Torchwood*), the 'Pearl swimming costume' (*Torchwood*), along with a range of production shots from *Peak Practice, Band of Gold, Doctor Who* and *Law & Order UK*.



DAW's Teresa Hennessy talks to Ray at our first "An Evening with..." event.

It was a fascinating evening as Ray took us through how he originally joined college to become an actor, his apprenticeships, what advice he would have for an upcoming designer, what he has enjoyed about design and the process that is involved in costume. For example, did you know that Captain Jack had seven coats for *Torchwood*, different coats for running, the rain, standing...

Past credits include *Pobol Y Cwm, Band of Gold, Sea of Souls, Peak Practice, Rab C Nesbitt, Born and Bred, Law & Order* and *Torchwood*.

Ray graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 1984, since then he has gone onto work at the BBC, Granada, Carlton, Yorkshire Television and HTV.



Ray brought some examples of the work he has done in recent years

We thoroughly enjoyed this event and had some excellent feedback. We will be holding more events like this, so any suggestions on who you would like to see becoming involved let us know.

SUMMER SCHOOL '12!

We are in the final stages of pulling the 2012 DAW Theatre Summer School together and this year's courses are shaping up pretty well. The details are not quite finalised but here's what we have in place so you can block the dates off in your diary!

We'll be offering a choice of two courses:

APPROACHING SHAKESPEARE WITH THE RSC

A week of intensive workshops led by practitioners from the world-class *Royal Shakespeare Company*. Suitable for both beginners and the more experienced, this course will cover the language of Shakespeare and concentrate on bringing the text to life before exploring how one approaches staging a Shakespeare production.



THEATRE MEZZE



Ben Humphrey (GoDA) will lead you through a selection of subjects, introducing you to a range of theatre skills and techniques throughout the week and giving you the opportunity to explore a variety of theatre disciplines. A fun course suitable for novices and the more experienced who wish to broaden their knowledge and range of skills.

Venue: University of Wales, Newport - Caerleon Campus
Dates: 12th - 18th August 2012

Residential and day-student rates will be available. We'll also be offering an easier payment plan to spread the cost of the course.

Full details will be launched very shortly on our website www.dramawales.org.uk and will be featured in next month's E-newsletter.



Students at last year's Summer School in action.

Photo: James Ellis



DAW ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2012 by Teresa Hennessy

As all you good playwrights know, the closing date of the competition was 31st January 2012. We received 197 entries from not only the four home countries, but many more countries world-wide including Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Albania, Germany, France, the United States of America and Canada.

The decision of the adjudicating panel will be final and the result will be announced at the Wales One Act Final on Friday 8th June in the Congress Theatre, Cwmbarn. The Wales Final is held over two nights: Friday 8th and Saturday 9th but the results will be announced on the Friday evening. An email will be sent out the week following this festival if the playwrights are unable to join us. A big 'thank you' to everyone who entered this year.

We shall be launching the 2013 competition in the autumn so if you are not on our mailing list and would be interested in receiving an entry form, please go to our website www.dramawales.org.uk or contact me at my email address teresa@dramawales.org.uk and I'll be delighted to hear from you.

DAW Playwriting Competition winners recently published are:

- *Future Shock* by Richard Stockwell
- *Writer's Block* by Lauren Dunlop
- *Making the Grade* by Peter Hartley
- *At First Sight* by Barney Norris
- *Merch o Ers Talwm* by Manon Wyn Williams

To find out more about these plays, see our [catalogue](#) of publications.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

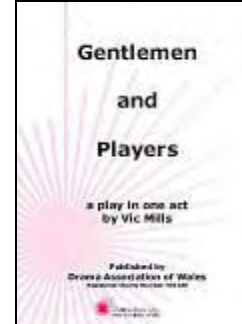
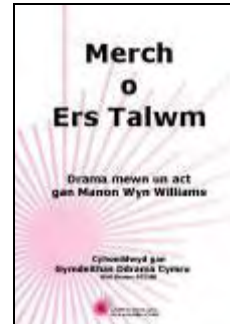
MARKS &
SPENCER

As you may know the Drama Association of Wales is no longer funded by the Arts Council of Wales, so we are on the look out for funding from elsewhere to keep this worthwhile organisation going. In order to apply for funding we need to show that the services we provide are valued by our members, we are launching an online questionnaire. Please take the time and fill the questionnaire out, [click here to do so](#). All individuals that fill in the questionnaire will be entered into a prize drawer for £50 of Marks and Spencer vouchers and £50 of DAW vouchers. The information that we will be extremely important to us – we need your help! You also have the opportunity to let us know if there is anything else you would like us to offer you.

If you would like to make a donation to the Drama Association of Wales online click [here](#).

NEW FROM DAW PUBLICATIONS

Two great new titles from DAW Publications.



MERCH O ERS TALWM gan Manon Wyn Williams

Ceir tri chymeriad yn y ddrama hon – Merch 1, Merch 2 a Merch 3. Y mae'r chymeriadau yn y ddrama yn siarad trwy gyfrwng monologau. Maent fel pe baent yn eistedd mewn ystafell aros yn disgwyl i weld cynghorydd. Trwy gydol y ddrama, mae'r tair yn olrhain profiadau dinistriol o'u gorffennol sy'n amlwg wedi effeithio'n fawr arnynt. Fodd bynnag, erbyn diwedd y ddrama, datguddir mai gwahanol agweddau a gwahanol gyfnodau ym mywyd un person a geir yma, ac nid tri chymeriad unigol.

Cast: F3 £4.50

Tâl Perfformiad: £38.00

GENTLEMEN AND PLAYERS by Vic Mills

Just when the Shakespeares were finally getting a coat of arms and becoming 'gentry' at last, William was performing in a play for Ben Jonson, in which a country family gains a coat of arms with the comic motto, 'Not Without Mustard'. This appears to be a jibe at the Shakespeare's motto of, 'Not without Justice'. In this hilarious comedy, Will takes his revenge on his best friend, Jonson. The play features an angry and troubled Will, a bemused and tormented Jonson and, with echoes of Hamlet, the touching appearance of the ghost of Will's father, John Shakespeare. This is robust, bawdy comedy, but there are levels of complex enjoyment – with many references to the works and life of the playwright for members of an audience who know and love Shakespeare – and a strong plot and comedy for those for whom all this is less familiar.

Cast: M3 £4.50

Performance Fee: £38.00

Both of these titles are available for purchase and performance immediately.

You can download a [full catalogue](#) of DAW publications



GETTING TO KNOW... MICHAEL SHEEN

We're all familiar with his work on stage and screen but we wanted to get to know a little more about our newest Patron. Here are his answers to our quick questions...

Where were you born / brought up?

Born in Newport, raised in Port Talbot

What was your earliest ambition?

To be a footballer

Do you have a motto in life?

Don't stand when you can sit, don't sit when you can lie down, don't lie down when you can be asleep.

Which contemporary actors do you admire?

Daniel Day Lewis, Judy Dench, Mark Rylance, Marion Cotillard, and too many others to name

Which broadcasting or theatre event made the biggest impression on you?

Watching a rehearsal room performance of THE CRUCIBLE by my youth theatre when I was 14. Literally, changed my life.

Which work of yours are you proudest of?

The Passion

Why do you think Wales is at the forefront of television drama at the minute?

I'm not sure that it is, but there are certainly some excellent quality TV programmes coming out of Wales at the moment and I hope it continues

Who in the media world has inspired you?

Kenneth Tynan

Does your own background enter into your work?

Constantly.

Over the last few years, what public event has influenced you the most?

Either the Sultan's Elephant, a large scale street performance that happened in London a few years ago or the Coalition government funding cuts of the last few years.

Which film would you never tire of seeing?

A Matter of Life and Death



David Niven and Kim Hunter in *A Matter of Life and Death*

What piece of music always sends a shiver up your spine?

Song to the Siren by Tim Buckley

What words or expressions do you most over-use?

I say "literally" too often and usually erroneously

What's your favourite one-liner or retort?

Most of them are too vulgar to write here, but of the ones that are, I like the famous Winston Churchill response to his drinking "I may be drunk, Miss, but in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly."

Which Welsh person in any aspect of public life (either living or from the past) do you most admire?

Aneurin Bevan



Aneurin Bevan: Deputy Leader of the Labour Party 1959 to his death in 1960, Member of Parliament representing Ebbw Vale for 31 years and most famous for spearheading the establishment of the National Health Service in post-war Britain in his role of Minister of Health.

What do you never leave home without?

My iPhone

What is on your bookshelf at the moment?

IQ84 by Murakami, a book of photographs of abandoned asylums, Daniel Clowe's new graphic novel "The Death Ray"

The most remarkable place you've visited?

Rome

Where do you live?

Los Angeles

What is the best and worst thing about where you live?

The best thing is that my daughter lives here, the worst thing is that most of my friends are in the UK

What are your impressions of Wales today?

A country still struggling to forge its own identity, to look to the future rather than be overburdened by the past, a place of enormous potential.

What is your favourite building in Wales?

The Wales Millennium Centre or the Penrhiwceiber Hall and Institute

What is your favourite restaurant in Wales?

The Cors Restaurant in Laugharne

What is your favourite television / radio programme?

This American Life on National Public Radio



DRAMA FESTIVALS CONFERENCE 2012

The Drama Festivals Conference is to be held for a second time at the Lighthouse Theatre and Conference Centre in Kettering, Northants, and DAW regional one act festival participants will get the chance to win a **free delegate place**.

The biannual event will take place on Saturday 15 September 2012, and by popular demand the weekend activities will include a theatre trip and celebratory concluding dinner.

The Drama Festivals Conference returns to the East Midlands following overwhelmingly positive feedback about the event from delegates who attended the highly successful conference in 2010.

Conference content will reflect the major events happening in the UK in 2012 and beyond - particularly the RSC Open Stages project highlighting the amateur theatre's celebration of Shakespeare and his legacy.

There will be keynote speakers, workshops, forums and networking sessions aimed at creating an event of interest to everyone involved in the drama festivals movement.

Guest speakers already booked include Rebecca Storey, Senior Press and PR Officer at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre; Gene David Kirk, award winning director of the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, who began his theatrical career in drama festivals; and Amanda Smith, editorial director of Samuel French. There will also be a special session on making the most of the publicity opportunities of social networking, and much more.

Delegate fees for the event, organised by the Guild of Drama Adjudicators on behalf of the drama festivals movement, have been frozen at £49.50 including refreshments and a buffet lunch.

To register your participation email the organiser Paul Fowler at paul@paul-fowler.co.uk.

A free delegate place will be offered to a selected team at each of the DAW's preliminary round festivals.

FESTIVAL REMINDER

Regional One Act Festivals

Adjudicator: Jennifer Scott-Reid GoDA (Assoc)

- Glamorgan: 15-17 March
- Conwy: 22-24 March
- Anglesey: 29-31 March
- Montgomeryshire: 13-14 April
- Clwyd: 19-21 April
- Gwent: 26-28 April
- Pembrokeshire: 4-5 May

Wales Final

Adjudicator: Ben Humphrey GoDA
Congress Theatre, Cwmbran. 8 + 9 June

British Final

Adjudicator: Ian Sarginson GoDA
Torch Theatre, Milford Haven. 6 + 7 July

WORKSHOPS REMINDER

We still have some places available on the following one-day workshops. Feedback has been excellent on those held so far.

Enhancing Festival Entries

- Conwy, 19 February
- Holyhead, 4 March
- Mold, 25 March
- Milford Haven, 1 April

Acting Skills

- ~~Conwy, 18 February~~ (FULLY BOOKED)
- Holyhead, 3 March
- Mold, 24 March
- Milford Haven, 31 March

Places are just £30 per person plus we are offering discounts to DAW Individual Members AND for group bookings of 5 or more places!

To book your places, contact Gary on 029 2045 2200, 07523 916 779, gary@dramawales.org.uk



LIBRARY REVIEWS compiled by Teresa Hennessy

FULL LENGTH - SETS

FALSE PRETENCES by Eric Chappell

Estate agent Kevin and his wife Valerie are to be subjected to an extended visit from her brother Victor, a none too successful con artist who has just been released from prison. Victor is delighted to hear that wealthy widow Lucy is also staying with them and it isn't long before he sets about charming her with a valuable diamond bracelet he's got on approval from the local jeweller's using the unwitting Kevin as surety. But when events don't go quite according to plan Victor is forced to improvise very rapidly, not least with the bullish rugby playing bank manager, Tank, and his fellow team mate, Tom, the local jeweller. And then a surprise visitor turns up in the form of soapy Simpson (not so much artist by appointment to Her Majesty but rather more detained at Her Majesty's pleasure).

Comedy. Cast: M5 F2

Publisher: Samuel French Ltd

FULL LENGTH – SINGLE COPIES – MIXED CAST

THE KITCHEN SINK by Tom Wells

Things aren't going to plan for one family in Withernsea, Yorkshire. Pieces are falling off Martin's milk float as quickly as he's losing customers and something's up with Kath's kitchen sink. Billy is pinning his hopes of a place at Art College on a revealing portrait of Dolly Parton, whilst Sophie's dreams of becoming a ju-jitsu teacher might be disappearing down the plughole. Amid the dreaming, the dramas and the dirty dishes, something has to give. But will it be Kath at the kitchen sink?

Drama. Cast: M3 F2

Publisher: Nick Hern Books

OUR NEW GIRL by Nancy Harris (includes the short play
LITTLE DOLLS)

Behind the shiny door of Hazel Robinson's immaculate London home, things aren't as good as they look. Her plastic surgeon husband, Richard, has embarked on his latest charitable mission to Haiti, leaving the heavily pregnant Hazel to cope with a failing business and a problem son. When a professional nanny arrives unannounced on her doorstep, Hazel finds her home under the shadow of a seemingly perfect stranger, and one who has an agenda of her own.

Psychological Drama. Cast: M3 F2

Publisher: Nick Hern Books

ONE ACT – SETS – MIXED CAST

THE TOBACCO TIN by Richard Rowe

Dai Jack and Arthur Williams have been the best of mates since childhood. Now pensioners, the pair find themselves seated on the same park bench they used to frequent as children. However, as their lives unfold, so do the memories that they both had with loved ones. With these stories there are some hidden truths; Arthur learns a great deal about his best friend and a secret that Dai kept nearly all of his adult life.

This play is a poignant look at friendship and how important it is. It is a comical, sad, heart-warming look at life and how sometimes the truth comes out in the most upsetting ways. *Published April 2012.*

Comedy/Drama. Cast: M2 F4

Publisher: Drama Association of Wales

ONE ACT – SINGLE COPIES

THE SOCIABLE PLOVER by Tim Whitnall

Nothing and nobody will stop Roy Tunt from spotting his wild birds and today, a stormy December morning on England's desolate east coast, he pursues a very special mission. With one more tick in his dog eared notebook, Roy will have recorded all 567 species on the British List. The prevailing conditions ideal and the time is perfect to welcome an elusive vagrant from the Asian Steppe, the rare and beautiful Sociable Plover.

Roy sequesters himself away in a bird spotters hide on a stretch of flooded marshland. With a packed lunch and a framed photograph of his ex-wife for company, he watches and waits. But might he, perhaps have other plans? And who is the tall, dark and handsome stranger battling his way through the flood waters towards him? All will be revealed – inside the hide.

Comedy Drama. Cast: M2 (Including additional voices)

Publisher: Samuel French Ltd

MUSICAL

THRILL ME: THE LEOPOLD AND LOEB STORY. Book, music
& lyrics by Stephen Dolginoff

Based on the true story of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, the two 19-year-olds who murdered 14 year old Bobby Franks in Chicago in 1924, *Thrill Me* focuses less on the murder itself than on the relationship between Leopold and Loeb. More than 30 years on, the older Nathan speaks at a parole board hearing, recalling the crime and the dynamics of his friendship with Richard, defined largely by their shared intelligence, their passion for Neitzschean philosophy, and their desire for the ultimate thrill.

Musical. Cast: M2

Publisher: Samuel French Ltd