



PEMBROKESHIRE WELCOMES THE BEST IN AMATEUR THEATRE

In July, the best amateur theatre will be heading to Milford Haven in beautiful Pembrokeshire for weekend of great theatre entertainment in the [British Final of One Act Plays](#).

A great weekend is planned, highlights include a script-in-hand performance of the winning play in the Geoffrey Whitworth Competition, a Civic Reception and a after-show party, all taking place in the rather brilliant Torch Theatre in the heart of Pembrokeshire.



The journey to the British Final is long and hard for the groups that have battled their way through various rounds to represent their country. We asked each of the national organisations to give us a summary of their one act festival seasons:

NORTHERN IRELAND: We were the first of the home nations to decide its entry for the British Finals. Back in November the regional festivals were held in a variety of venues mainly in the greater Belfast area. Our festival is organised by Bangor and Ards which takes place in Northern Ireland's only privately owned theatre in Newtownards.

Following the application of a points system the top three plays go forward to the Northern Ireland Finals. These are held at a different venue each year and are hosted by a member of the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals. The 2012 final was held back in January in the Alley Arts Centre Strabane, a venue new to one act festivals and our adjudicator Scott Marshall.

Despite the lack of history of one act festivals, a good audience enjoyed the three plays. The first play of the evening was *The Browning Version* by Terence Rattigan performed by the Holywood Players. They were followed by The Clarence Players who last represented Northern Ireland at the 2009 Finals in Enniskillen. Their production was *The Droitwich Discovery* by Nick Warburton. This was followed by the final play presented by the Belvoir Players *The Trees They Grow So High* by Tony Powell.

Scott gave a full and detailed adjudication of all three plays and surprised everyone in his final announcement that despite not liking the play at all he did enjoy what the company had done with it. The Northern Ireland title went to The Clarence Players.

The company, who are celebrating 80 years in existence, are delighted to be representing Northern Ireland. About twenty members and supporters have already booked and are looking forward to a wonderful weekend of drama in Wales.

Alan Marshall, Chairman – Association of Ulster Drama Festivals

ENGLAND: This year's festival season has been a very varied and eclectic one starting in February with the first of the 31 Preliminary Round Festivals, progressing through the Quarter and Semi Finals to conclude at the English Final, this year held at The Swan Theatre, Worcester.



Ferdinand and Miranda in Total Arts Community Theatre's production of 'The Tempest'.

To say that it has been a roller coaster of a ride would be an understatement many participants and organisers will agree. We had of course the added excitement of working with the RSC. This meant that at the English Final we were looking for an English representative to go forward to the British Final of One-Act Plays and also a representative to go forward and represent the competitive drama scene at the RSC's Swan Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon. One of the positives that appear to be coming from the RSC's involvement is that we were blessed with teams with more than two characters which has been the general trend over the last few years.

We have been considering whether or not to run the English Final over two days, this year we had little choice and decided to have four sessions over the Saturday and Sunday. From the feedback we have received we have put the 'festive' back into the forefront of the event and the two workshops run by Jacquie Crago from the RSC certainly went down well.

The AETF English Final winner and our representative at the British Final is Total Arts Community Theatre from Tamworth in Staffordshire with their production of 'The Tempest', and our representative at the RSC Open Stages event is Studio Theatre from Salisbury with their production of 'Hamlet'.

Roger Cunningham, Treasurer – All England Theatre Festival

SCOTLAND: The Scottish Community Drama Association operates a variety of different Festivals throughout the country including Full Length Plays which are locally adjudicated, Non-Competitive events and its National One Act Festival which is the most widely supported.

There are three main stages beginning with the District Rounds where all entrants must participate with the leading teams progressing to Divisional level and finally two representatives gaining places in the Scottish Final.

This season there were 141 entries in total, a slight decrease on the previous year with 31 in Eastern, 45 in Western, 31 in Highland and finally 34 in Northern Divisions.

Running in tandem with the Open Festival programme is the Youth event featuring 46 youth groups in 2012. This has its own Divisional Finals and a Scottish Final which was held recently in Stranraer.

There is also an annual Playwriting Competition – The Scott Salver – for original plays entered in the Festival which totalled 18 entries this year.

The District Rounds were staged at 20 centres around Scotland with most of the assessors being members of the Scottish Association of Speech and Drama Adjudicators but this season welcomed Tony Rushforth, Russell Whiteley and Jill Colby – GODA members from South of the Border.

Our Scottish Final was staged at Macrobart on the attractive campus of Stirling University provided by Stirling Management Centre and quiz nights, buffet suppers and Civic Receptions to keep members occupied. The adjudicator was experienced teacher and director Marie O'Sullivan.



Winners of the Scottish Final, Kirkton Players on the set of their production of 'In the Blinking of an Eye' (Photo: Tony Flisch)

Talented teams from Thurso, Killin, Birnam, Kirkcaldy, Carnoustie, Carluke, Kilwinning and Dingwall presented a variety of productions by playwrights ranging from Ann Marie di Mambro to Alan Bennett and the audiences experienced three nights of great entertainment with comedy the keynote of most productions.

Proud winners of the Wheatley Tassie this year were Kirkton Players presenting *In the Blinking of an Eye* by Jeremy Hylton Davies in which two fine actresses together with a creative director and stage designer bring great humour and pathos to this moving piece of writing. We wish the group every success for their appearance at Milford Haven.

Stephen Lambert – Scottish Community Drama Association

WALES: Every year, plans take shape for the grand tour of Wales visiting the seven Area Festivals which make up the Wales One Act Regional rounds. This year, we had the good fortune to employ an adjudicator new to DAW, Jennifer Scott-Reid.

Firstly, we headed to the Glamorgan Festival, Swansea. The programme included plays produced by The Unknown OUTcasts who performed the DAW publication 'Future Shock' by Richard Stockwell. The Unknown Theatre Company with *Sorry Wrong Number* by Lucille Fletcher; The Players' Theatre with another piece of new writing, *Watch Over Me* by Ross Burgess, Cardiff Players with *Money Makes You Happy* by Francis Beckett.

Our next Area Festival was Conwy, held at the Conwy Civic Hall. We were treated to inspiring Youth groups and new work devised or written by the groups themselves. Festival favourite Jean McConnell was represented by a production of *Day Trippers* by St Paul's Players, and Colwyn Abbey Players entertained us with Pembrokeshire playwright Derek Webb's play, *Calling Time*.

The Anglesey Drama Festival welcomed us next, to Holyhead where Loose Cannons performed another piece of new writing *Day of Days* by Allan Williams.

Next, we headed to Montgomeryshire for the festival in Berriew. A lovely village set in the rolling hills of mid-Wales. DAW member groups Llanymynech ADS performed the female version of 'Wit's End' by local writer Neil Rhodes (a script we will soon publish); Guilsfield ADS entered two productions 'Cato's Daughters' by Margaret Wood and 'Gentlemen and Players' by Gwent playwright Vic Mills, also published by DAW.

From there, we headed to the Clwyd, where, even though it was only a one night festival, the two plays; Harold Pinter's *'One for the Road'* by Grove Park Theatre and *'The Witches of Macbeth'* performed and adapted by Phoenix Theatre Company showed the huge potential of the area.

The next part of the journey took us to South East Wales for the Gwent Area Festival. All of the productions on the Friday evening were new pieces. *'Poor Yorick'* by Phil Mansell - Newport Playgoers; *'In the Spirit of Things'* by Steven Quantick - Playgoers New Generation and *'Biscuits'* by Graham J Evans. Saturday saw a production of *'Father's Day'* by Allan Williams and *'Bottom's Dream'* by Alan Poole.

The final Area Festival was hosted by the Pembrokeshire Drama Association and was held at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven. New 'Tabs' Players with *'Cliff's Edge'* by Paul Beard, Cardigan Theatre with *'Two Women and a Chair'* by Michael Olsen and Clarbston Road Players with another of local playwright Derek Webb's plays, *'Losing It'*. On Saturday, the second plays entered by both Cardigan Theatre and Clarbston Road Players were performed: DAW Individual member Frank Gibbons' *'Dance Story'* and Derek Webb's *'CCTV'* concluded the evening's entertainment.

As you can see, an adjudicator shows great commitment and a stamina rarely repeated when he or she agrees to adjudicate the Wales Area Rounds. We thank Jennifer and all the participating groups throughout the areas for quality theatre which never failed to entertain.

Teresa Hennessy – Drama Association of Wales

As reported in our last edition of this e-newsletter, the six plays which progressed to the 2012 Wales Final were: The Unknown OUTcasts with *'Future Shock'*, Blackwood Little Theatre with *'Godfather Death'*, The Players' Theatre with *'Watch Over Me'*, Loose Cannons with *'Day of Days'*, Phoenix Theatre Company with *'The Witches of Macbeth'* and a second entry from Blackwood Little Theatre with *'Biscuits'*.

Our finalists gave it their all at the Congress Theatre over a great festival weekend that included a rehearsed reading of DAW Playwriting Competition award winner *'Triptych'* by Edwin Preece and some great entertainment from musical star Peter Karrie!

From these six fine entries and after some difficult deliberation, our adjudicator Ben Humphrey (GoDA) selected Blackwood Little Theatre's production of *'Biscuits'* as the winning production.

The full details of all of the awards presented at the Wales Final can be found on the [DAW website](http://www.dramawales.org.uk).



Blackwood Little Theatre DAW Chair Sarah Hanley (photo: Geoff Lake)

There's still time to book for the British Final of One Act Plays; just visit our [website](http://www.dramawales.org.uk) for the full details. Alternatively, contact the office on 029 2045 2200. We look forward to welcoming the groups representing the four home nations and, of course their supporters to the Torch Theatre in Milford Haven next month.

Croeso pawb – Welcome all!

DRAMA ASSOCIATION OF WALES ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2012

The following prizes were awarded to the winners of the 2012 Drama Association of Wales One Act Playwriting Competition at the Wales One Act Final at The Congress Theatre, Cwmbran 8th June 2012.

The adjudicators awarded prizes to the following plays:

BEST PLAY IN THE OPEN SECTION

Mum's the Word by Susan J Bevan from Cambridge

BEST PLAY FOR A YOUTH CAST 16-25 YEARS

Triptych by Edwin Preece from St Albans

BEST WELSH LANGUAGE PLAY

Porth y Gwyll by Gareth Evans-Jones from Anglesey

BEST PLAY BY A WALES BASED PLAYWRIGHT

A Nice Drink by Jude Garner from the Vale of Glamorgan

Winners of the first three categories will receive a DAW Prizewinners medal, a cheque for £250 each and DAW will publish the three plays; the Best Play from a Wales Based Writer will receive a bursary to a Tŷ Newydd theatre writing course.

The 2012 competition inspired 197 entries, which were received from all over the UK, the Shetland Islands, the Isle of Man, Republic of Ireland, France, Spain, Switzerland, Albania, The Netherlands, Germany, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and as usual, the standard of entries was extremely high.

DRAMA FESTIVALS CONFERENCE 2012

Kettering Conference Centre and Lighthouse Theatre.

The Drama Festivals Conference is a chance to reflect on your own practice, find out what's new in theatres and festivals and catch up with friends and colleagues.

Friday 14 September

A welcome reception will be followed by a visit to the Royal & Derngate Theatres, Northampton for pre-theatre drinks followed by a performance of the exciting new drama, *Bully Boy* by Sandy Toksvig.

Saturday 15 September

Welcome to the Conference

Who's Who and What's What in the Drama Festivals Movement: a brief "State of the Nation" address from the main bodies involved in drama festivals' organisation, including AETF, NDFA, SCDA, DAW, AUDF and GoDA.

Headline Speakers during the day will include:

Gene David Kirk, Artistic Director of the Jermyn Street Theatre

Amanda Smith, Editorial Director at Samuel French
Neil Simpson of Emica Consulting

Rebecca Storey, Senior Press Officer at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

Ashley Heath, Festival Director of the Harold Jolliffe Play Festival, Swindon

Grand Theatre Quiz (with a twist) and a bottle of bubbly prize).

Tea & Coffee available all day plus a buffet lunch served at around 1pm.

Opportunities for networking, sharing great ideas and good old fashioned gossip.

The conference closes at around 4.30pm followed by a Post-show Supper at the Telford lodge Pub and Restaurant.

Full conference information (inc accommodation information) and booking details available on the [Conference Booking Form](#).

TRAINING

DAW will be running two theatre workshops in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire at the end of July. [ACTING SKILLS](#) will take place on Saturday 28th July and [ENHANCING FESTIVAL PRODUCTIONS](#) will be held on Sunday 29th July. Both workshops will be led by Ben Humphrey GoDA.

[Acting Skills](#) will cover many aspects of performing including tips and "tricks of the trade" for performers which can be applied to all forms of acting: stage, screen and radio. It will also include a section on avoiding the pitfalls often seen made by performers, particularly in festivals.

[Enhancing Festival Productions](#) will appeal to anyone who has entered, or is considering entering, a drama festival. Although the content will be relevant to any theatre production.

The workshop will advise on the many aspects you will need to get right in order to achieve success in your production - especially under competitive festival conditions. It will include:

- the selection of plays
- set design
- directing
- production
- and advice on how to develop your creative teamwork

Cost per workshop: DAW Individual Members £20
Non-members £30

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS

5 places for £125 (£25 per person)

10 places for £225 (£22.50 per person)

Full detail and how to book on the [DAW website](#).

DAW THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL

There's still time to book your place on the 2012 DAW [Theatre Summer School](#), with a choice of two fantastic courses. Full Board places are available at a very competitive £550 and Tuition Only places start at just £310! Great value for those who can travel daily to the course venue in South East Wales.

There's even a **10% discount** if you book more than one place.

[Theatre Mezze](#) – an introduction and exploration of a number of theatre disciplines including: Devising, acting, vocal-work, mask-work, physical theatre and text study

[Approaching Shakespeare with the RSC](#) – You will work with three RSC practitioners throughout the week. First Victoria Williams will cover voice work and text, then Anna Morrissey from the RSC movement team will work with you on physicalising the text and finally, director Helen Leblque will work on putting together scenes.

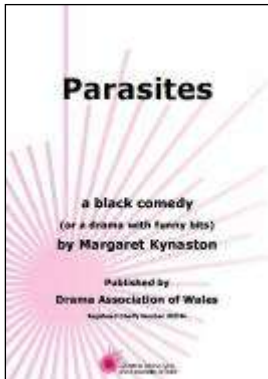
For more information and booking details, visit the website or contact Gary at gary@dramawales.org.uk or on 029 2045 2200 for the full details.

WHAT'S ON

DAW Group members: if you would like your latest productions and events promoted on the DAW website, just submit the details on the [Event Sheet](#) and send it in to teresa@dramawales.org.uk

FROM DAW PUBLICATIONS

PARASITES by Margaret Kynaston



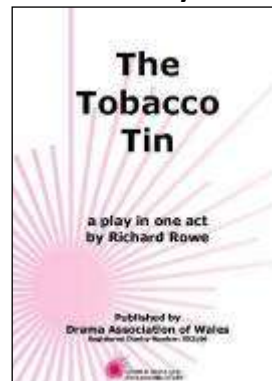
Set in a small café, it's nearly Christmas and the Café owner, Bernie's mother-in-law has just died. It seems fairly straightforward but why is the Coroner's Office involved? Why is their regular customer Greta calling herself by another name and what has the sinister policeman Mick got on Bernie?

Winner of the 2006 DAW Crawshay Cup Competition for Best Original Script.

Black Comedy. Cast: M3 F3 £4.50 Performance Fee: £38.00

Both titles are available for purchase and performance immediately

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.

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.

Play. Cast: M4 F3 £5.00 Performance Fee: £38.00

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LIBRARY REVIEWS compiled by Teresa Hennessy

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SIGN OF THE TIMES by Tim Firth

Frank is an aspiring spy novelist and Head of Installations at Forshaw's, a commercial lettering factory. Alan is his reluctant teenage trainee, more interested in listening to music and designing album artwork for his band "Lizard" than Frank's beloved bracketing systems. As they attempt to install the company name in giant letters on the side of its building, it soon becomes clear that the letters are supposed to read "For Sale" instead of "Forshaw's" – the company in relocating and Frank will be out of a job.

Comedy. Cast: M2

Publisher: Samuel French Ltd

WE ARE THREE SISTERS by Blake Morrison

Against the backdrop of a windswept northern village, three remarkable young women live their lives brightly. In *We are Three Sisters*, poet, playwright and novelist Blake Morrison cleverly elides the lives of Chekov's *Three Sisters*. With a touch of poetic license, he shows us the overwhelming humanity, charged emotions and brooding unease which characterise both households.

Play. Cast: M5 F5

Publisher: Nick Hern Books

VOICES by Ian Hornby

Melanie arrives home from hospital in bandages after a car accident in which she was badly injured. Her plastic surgeon husband has done an amazing repair job to her facial injuries, but nobody can heal the mental anguish. Soon she begins to hear the haunting and menacing voices of two teenagers who were killed in the accident, and her marriage and job – indeed her very sanity – are threatened.

Thriller. Cast: M4 F5

Publisher: New Theatre Publications

BLUE MURDER by Peter Nichols

Subtitled 'a play or two', *Blue Murder* opens with *Foreign Bodies*, where Swinging London meets bourgeois Shrewsbury and the drinks are laced with cyanide. As the son of the household struggles to write his first play, a murder story is offered to him on a plate. The second half, *A Game of Soldiers*, is a Whitehall farce taking place in St James's Palace. The same dramatist has brought his complete play to be censored but the Lord Chamberlain's Men have a few shameful secrets of their own to hide, including a priapic guardsman.

Farce. Cast: M11 F4

Publisher: Methuen Drama

ONE ACT – SETS

TRIPTYCH by Edwin Preece

A famous painter, Benedict St. John spots Isabel reading in a café and paints *Girl Sipping Tea*. The picture is an enormous success and soon Isabel is more than just his muse. But Benedict is restless and has seen Dan posing by a swimming pool to get the attention of an attractive girl, and Trevor entertaining tourists in Covent Garden. Benedict immortalises them all on canvas but when he decides that they should meet in real life, they don't discover why until much later. *Winner of Best Youth Play in DAW's Playwriting Competition 2012.*

Youth Play. Cast: M2 F1

Publisher: Drama Association of Wales

Mum's the Word by Susan J Bevan

Sisters Jane and Sophie are hitting forty. Jane is happily settled with two teenagers and a third child on the way; Sophie, though, has shunned motherhood in favour of a career after their mother walked out on them as children. When Sophie's biological clock strikes twelve, she goes in search of the mother she has never since seen. The subsequent train of events unravels the stories of three generations of mothers in her family in a way she could never have imagined. *Winner of Best Play in the Open category of DAW's Playwriting Competition 2012.*

Female only play. Cast: F3

Publisher: Drama Association of Wales

AS WE FORGIVE THOSE by Andrew Smith

When Sophie's teenage sister Alex turns up at her flat one evening after an absence of four years, Sophie's suspicions are roused. Why is she there? Where has she been? And how does she know so much about Sophie's life? Then, when Sophie's flatmate Jen arrives home, she recognizes Alex from the previous evening – as the person who mugged her.

Drama. Cast: F3

Publisher: Samuel French Ltd

PORTH Y GWYLL gan Gareth Evans-Jones

Beth yw'r enaid? Beth yw ei berthynas gyda'r corff? A yw ffawd wedi pennu trywydd ein bywyd? Dyma'r math o gwestiynau yr ymdrinir â hwy yn y ddrama ddamcaniaethol *Porth y Gwyll*.

Yn y ddrama mae Enaid ar fin croesi'r rhiniog i'r Byd a chael ei uno gyda'i gorff ond cyn iddo allu gwneud hynny mae'n rhaid iddo geisio deall y gweledigaethau y cafodd yn ystod y naw mis diwethaf. Digwydd y sgwrsio a'r dadlau rhwng Enaid, Cydwybod a Chwant ynglŷn â'r gweledigaethau ym Mhorth y Gwyll. Wrth i'r ddrama fynd rhagddi caiff gwirionedd ei ddatgelu na fydd modd ei newid. Ynteu a fydd?

Cymraeg. Cymeriadau: 5

Cyhoeddwy: Cymdeithas Ddrama Cymru



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