

Wales Final Festival History page – 2006

Dates	Venue	Adjudicator
2-3 June 2006	Clwyd Theatr Cymru, Mold	Chris Moore GoDA

Finalists	Play	Playwright	Company	Director
Montgomeryshire	Visitor from Forest Hills	Neil Simon	Guilsfield ADS	
Montgomeryshire	Parasites	Margaret Kynaston	Llanymynech ADS	
Clwyd	Mediocrity	Anton Robert Kruger	Phoenix Theatre Company	Richard Jones
Pembrokeshire	The Edge	Steve Carley	New Tabernacle Players	
Gwent	Speaking Part	Vic Mills	Blackwood Little Theatre	
Glamorgan	The Real Inspector Hound	Tom Stoppard	Orbit Theatre Company	

Awards	Play	Recipient
Maynard Cup	Mediocrity	Phoenix Theatre Company
Elf Oil	Speaking Part	Vic Mills, Blackwood Little Theatre
Berneleigh	Visitor from Forest Hills	Guilsfield ADS
Crawshay Cup	Parasites	Margaret Kynaston

Notes on the festival	
Date added	16/10/2015
By whom	Leon Searle

Notes**WALES FINAL 2006, first appeared in DAWN Summer 2006**

All packed and Mold bound, the DAW staff set off on the evening of the first day of June looking forward to seeing this year's six qualifying teams from the regional festivals compete at the Wales Final Festival of One-Act Plays.

On day one of the festival the DAW staff arrived at Clwyd Theatr Cymru and was met by Clwyd Community Theatre Association's Festival Organiser Andrew Shone. Andrew was the picture of calm despite that day's scheduled tech runs and also the fact that he was overseeing the get-in for a production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on the main stage of the venue. We sneaked a look and I can report that the pirate ship was impressive indeed. The CCTA were hosting this year's festival on behalf of DAW and Andrew in particular undertook the lion's share of the work involved in organising this event – much of which is never seen by those attending the festival. The negotiating with Clwyd Theatr Cymru and the festival hotel, putting the programme together, getting all the relevant information from the participating groups and of course, chasing up the local pots of money in order to fund the event.

Friday night opened with Guilsfield ADS presenting their production of act three from Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite – Visitor from Forest Hills*. Next up was Llanymynech ADS with a production of a new play entitled *Parasites* penned by one of the players, Margaret Kynaston and to close the evening we had local team Phoenix Theatre Company with the absurd play *Mediocrity* by Anton Robert Krueger.

Before adjudicator Chris Moore GoDA gave us her adjudications of that night's performances DAW's Teresa Hennessy was introduced to announce the winners of the 2006 DAW Playwriting Competition. One of the prize-winners Derek Routledge was present to collect his award having travelled from Cardiff to be there.

Chris then gave her adjudications. She was impressed with the sets of both Guilsfield and Llanymynech's productions and expressed how pleased she had been to see that such detailed sets had been erected under festival conditions. She commented that the pace of Llanymynech and Phoenix's plays had been good and highlighted that the relationships between characters had been well realised in all productions so far.

To open the Saturday performances, we had Wales Final regulars the New Tabernacle Players with *The Edge* by Steve Carley followed by another new piece of writing called *Speaking Part* from Blackwood Little Theatre scripted by their resident playwright Vic Mills. And to close Cardiff based, Orbit Theatre Company presented Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*.

In her adjudications Chris said that she had loved the over the top acting from Orbit and commented on their highly developed understanding of theatrical communication. She also appreciated the use of a split stage and clever use of lighting to create different moods from the New Tabernacle Players and added that the expertise of

Blackwood Little Theatre was obvious in their creation of a highly effective dramatic piece.

Chris then retired to a small room backstage where she looked carefully at her marking and pondered who would receive the Festival's awards.

In her summing up of the festival Chris Moore congratulated all groups on their participation in what had been a high quality Wales Final but reminded us of a prudent point. Other groups competing at the British Festival pass through more rounds to get there so will have received more criticism and pointers from adjudicators and had more opportunity to hone their productions. Any group fortunate enough to represent Wales at the British should bear this in mind. She asked that future entrants in the regional rounds remember this even when entering the festival at a local level.

Celebrations, commiserations and the usual dissection of the festival, productions and adjudications went on until the early hours back at the festival hotel which also happened to be the venue for a party celebrating the Civil Ceremony between two women which had taken place earlier that day. One of my lasting memories of this year's Wales Final will be the look of mischievous joy on the face of Orbit Theatre's David Colvin in the middle of the lesbian conga line from the Civil Ceremony celebrations as it passed me in the corridor to the booming sounds of Tony Christie's *Amarillo*.

Overall, the festival was a very enjoyable weekend and there was a good-natured healthy festival atmosphere throughout the weekend. This in spite of one or two problems with the hotel and several people developing eyestrain from squinting in the dark of the auditorium while following the script during one of the performances. A brighter person than myself could have made a bob or two selling stopwatches and copies of a certain script that night – but we'd better say no more about that.

So, congratulations are extended to Phoenix Theatre Company who will, by now, be travelling up to Perth in order to represent Wales at the British Final. Our best wishes go with them. It's been quite some time since a Welsh group brought home the coveted Howard de Walden Ewer from the British – here's hoping that 2006 will be the year.