

Wales Final Festival History page – 2008

Dates	Venue	Adjudicator
6-7 June 2008	Blackwood Miners Institute, Gwent	Paul Fowler GoDA

Finalists	Play	Playwright	Company	Director
Pembrokeshire	One Season's King	George MacEwan Green	New 'Tabs' Players	Sue Williams
Glamorgan	Watching the Magpies	Les Clarke	Telstars Theatre Company	Teri McCarthy
Gwent	Last Tango in Blackwood	David Tristram	Blackwood Little Theatre	Neil Maidman
Anglesey	Auto-da-Fé	Tennessee Williams	Castle Players ADS, Beaumaris	Matthew Jones
Clwyd	Lucy in the Sky	Tony Layton	Phoenix Theatre Company	Richard Jones
Montgomeryshire	A Dog's Life	Pam Valentine	Guilsfield ADS	

Awards	Play	Recipient
Maynard Cup	Last Tango in Blackwood	Blackwood Little Theatre
Elf Oil	Auto-da-Fé	Brian Jones, Castle Players ADS, Beaumaris
Berneigh	Last Tango in Blackwood	Blackwood Little Theatre
Crawshay Cup	Not awarded	
Bob McTurk Bursary		Helena Devereux, Mold Youth Works

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

Notes**WALES FINAL 2008 by Teresa Hennessy, first published in DAWN**

The first evening got off to a great start with a production of *One Season's King* by George MacEwan Green. Brought to us by the well-respected group from the Pembrokeshire Drama Association, New 'Tab' Players. Talented Sue Williams directed this piece with style, and the movement between the actors was clever and witty.

Next on were Telstars Theatre Company from Cardiff with a production of *Watching the Magpies* by Les Clarke. Readers and devotees of DAW Publications will immediately recognise the title and name of playwright. Les won the 2006 DAW Playwriting Competition with this lovely play and Telstars, directed by Teri McCarthy, did Les proud.

To end the first evening's programme, we had the pleasure of seeing Blackwood Little Theatre with David Tristram's play *Last Tango in Blackwood*. A lively play performed well and with pace; this script allows an accomplished cast to find a rhythm which at times works up to an absolutely frenetic speed!

At the end of the evening, the aforementioned Blackwood Little Theatre played host to all visitors at their own venue but a stone's throw away, where they provided a very welcome buffet for the weary travellers and emotionally exhausted teams. Sandra, Peta, Claire and the rest of the group did them proud. How they did this when also selling raffle tickets and programmes I'll never know, but the women of Blackwood are made of strong stuff, and we thank them for it!

The Castle Players ADS Beaumaris were first on the Saturday evening with a Tennessee Williams' play *Auto-da-Fé*. A stunning set with an impressive special effect was the directorial debut at the One Act Festival of Matthew Jones, a young director with a talent which will mature and develop over the years, and will, I'm sure, be a force to be reckoned with.

Phoenix Theatre Company from Clwyd Community Theatre Association treated us to *Lucy in the Sky* by Tony Layton. An absolute peach of a role for a leading actress, Helen Phillips led the all-female cast in this new play to the Welsh Festival with a performance that was both comedic and heart-breaking.

GUILDSFIELD AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY, their second consecutive appearance at a Wales Final, represented Montgomeryshire with, this year, *A Dog's Life* by Pam Valentine. Set in a re-homing centre, the costumes and set helped take the audience into the deceptively desperate situation of these poor dogs played sportingly by the actors of the company.

Of course, as in all festivals, not everyone agreed with the comments and decisions that adjudicator Paul Fowler made, but the weekend was thoroughly enjoyable. The teams brought many supporters who added to the

atmosphere and camaraderie that one finds in a festival. That's why we love them and that's why we will always look forward to that date in June when we have the chance to meet up with our old friends again to enjoy and celebrate amateur theatre of the highest standard.

This was the inaugural year for the Bob McTurk Bursary