

## DID YOU SEE IT?



The last twelve months have been very busy here behind the scenes at the Archive. Unit One in Llanbadarn was closed, and all the equipment, collections and staff relocated to the National Library; the new Technical Unit was completed, and the Drwm auditorium was opened for business; the website was redesigned and, on the preservation front, our acetate discs were transferred to new carriers; the painstaking task of restoring the first Welsh language talkie – **Y Chwarelwr** – began in earnest, and the programme to preserve our U-Matic tapes drew fresh breath.

The service to users also developed greatly. The redesigned website was used by nearly 48,000 individuals, generating 1.3 million hits, and our enquiry service handled some 1,200 questions. Over 100,000 additional catalogue records were made available on-line.

Approximately 10,000 people also saw some of our treasures at 71 events and screenings around Wales and beyond. However, millions more have seen gems from the collections thanks to footage incorporated in TV programmes.

The use of footage by TV and by exhibition venues has increased dramatically during the last two years, nearly doubling in 2004/05. The income generated is ploughed back into the work of the Archive, and is more and more important at a time when other income streams are stagnating.

So, even if you didn't get to one of our events, or manage to visit the Viewing Rooms in Aberystwyth, perhaps you saw us on TV programmes, such as (to name but a few) **Nation on Film**, **Hitler in Colour**, **In the Footsteps of Churchill**, **Trefor Only**, **Stori Sali Mali**, **Fishlock's Sea Stories**, **A – Y o Gymreictod**, **The Natural History of Britain and Europe**, **Dathlu'r Sioe**, **Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain**, **The Royal Welsh Century**, **Rhyfel y Cymry**, **Y Sioe Gelf** or **Wedi 7**.

Thanks, therefore, to the team at the Archive for working hard to make all this happen, and to all those who have over the years donated or deposited items, thereby making them available for so many others to learn from and enjoy.

Iestyn Hughes

"I have worked for over twenty years with the international archive community and I have seen the Welsh archive grow over the last few years to become the major, nationally recognized resource that it now is. That result is a tribute to those who have worked and are working in the Archive, whose dedication and respect for the materials they work with has helped the organization to blossom, both technically and in terms of its recognition within the archive community."

**Neil Brand – Composer, Writer, Silent Film Accompanist**

**Open: Monday–Friday, 10.00–17.00** \*The Archive requires at least 24 hours' notice if you wish to view or listen to items from the collection.

## NEW FACES

Recently, three new members of staff joined the Archive team.



**Name:** Catrin Siân Jenkins

**Post:** Administrative Assistant

**Background:** Living on a family farm near Furnace. Educated at Tal-y-bont Primary School, Penweddig Community Comprehensive School, and Coleg Ceredigion, where I studied Administration NVQ Level 3. My previous job was as Secretary in the Children's Book Department and the Editorial Department, Welsh Books Council.

**What appealed to you about working at the Archive?**

Working in a Welsh environment and dealing with films about Wales.



**Name:** Undeg Teleri Jones

**Post:** Access Management and Development Officer

**Background:** Originally from Llangwm in the county of Conwy, I gained a BA degree in Welsh and Literature of the Media from the University of Wales, Bangor, and a diploma in administration from Coleg Menai, Bangor. Over the past 10 years I have worked at the Celtica centre in Machynlleth, for the National Lottery Charities Board in Newtown and, most recently, as a member of the personal staff of the Chief Constable of North Wales Police in Colwyn Bay.

**What appealed to you about working at the Archive?** Being able to raise awareness about the film and sound collection by taking it out to various communities and holding events in the Drwm. The location of the Archive within the National Library in a glorious part of the country also appealed to me.



**Name:** Alison Lloyd Smith

**Post:** Cataloguer

**Background:** From Blaenau Ffestiniog. I was educated at the local schools before gaining a History degree from Trinity College, Carmarthen. I then took a Diploma Course for Postgraduates in Library Studies at the College of Librarianship Wales, Aberystwyth. Since then I've worked in various departments within the National Library.

**What appealed to you about working at the Archive?** The opportunity to work with sound collections appealed greatly since I'm very interested in oral history.

## DRWM HIGHLIGHTS



An evening with Dafydd Iwan

The DRWM is fast approaching its first birthday. Events hosted by the **National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales** attracted nearly 3,000 visitors to the DRWM over the past 12 months.

To mark this special event, and to coincide with the National Library of Wales exhibition entitled 'Encore!' which explores music in Wales, the Archive invited Dafydd Iwan, the Welsh musical entrepreneur, to the DRWM. To a full house, Dafydd, in conversation with Arwel 'Rocet' Jones, discussed his early musical beginnings on Y Dydd as well as the political grievances that led to the composing of many of his most popular songs. As well as divulging a few personal anecdotes, Dafydd even picked up his guitar to indulge us all with a few favourites including, of course, 'Yma o Hyd', to round up a very enjoyable evening.

## sound

### A SENSE OF PLACE

As we delve into the Archive's recent sound collection, we see many examples where a community or geographical area has influenced Welsh bands.

In the early 1980s the old quarry town of Bethesda was teeming with bands such as Chwarter i Un, Offspring, Proffwyd and Maffia Mr Huws. Maffia became the most popular of these, attracting followers from all over Wales. They even had a fan club in Lampeter, Ceredigion! Hefin Huws, the lead singer in the band's early days, was later replaced by Neil Williams. Despite line-up changes, brothers Siôn and Gwyn Jones remained the backbone of the band.

The launch of 'Pesda Roc' established Bethesda as a major festival location and attracted thousands to the town.

After the break-up of Maffia, various members continued their musical careers in bands such as Hefin Huws a'r Band, Jecsyn Ffeif, Celt, and Brodyr Jones.

Internationally renowned, the Super Furry Animals currently hold the title of being Bethesda's major musical export. Gruff Rhys, the lead singer, was himself a former member of two local bands (Machlud and Ffa Coffi Pawb) prior to the establishment of the Furrries.

The Furrries continue the ethos, established by Maffia Mr Huws, of respecting their local community. They regularly support local community projects by hosting concerts in venues ranging from the Nant Gwrtheyrn Welsh Language and Heritage Centre to the Menter Tabernacl project which strives to foster local musicians, as well as filling major arenas and even headlining a revival of Pesda Roc in 2003.

Dan Griffiths



### DAVE BERRY RETIRES

The Archive bids a fond farewell to Dave Berry, our Research Officer, who retired in March. Dave, a recent recipient of the Sian Phillips Award at the Cyfrwng Conference, was a film critic for the **South Wales Echo 1978–1994** and is the author of the Welsh film bible **Wales and Cinema: The first hundred years**. He is Associate Lecturer in Welsh Film History at the University of Wales Lampeter. Dave will be greatly missed.

### GRAND SLAM – ALL THE WAY

Wales was a euphoric nation on 19 March 2005. The red dragon roared at the Millennium Stadium and the Welsh rugby team emerged triumphant as Six Nations champions and Grand Slam winners.

The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales, as part of its remit to celebrate the film heritage of Wales, looked back with delight at a classic Welsh rugby comedy – **Grand Slam**.

A reunion screening, organized by the Archive, took place in April at Cardiff's UGC Cinema, as part of the Cyfrwng Conference. The **Grand Slam** panel included director John Hefin, actors Dewi 'Pws' Morris, Sharon Morgan and Siôn Probert, who all kept the gathered audience in stitches with reminiscences and tales of the cast's behind-the-scenes antics.

Written by Gwenlyn Parry, **Grand Slam** follows a group of Welsh rugby supporters on a trip to Paris, confident of witnessing an historic Grand Slam win by Wales in 1977, but neither the match nor the trip go exactly to plan.

Described by Brendon Williams of the **Wales on Sunday** as 'the most popular comedy Wales has ever produced', **Grand Slam** was deemed to be experimental and well ahead of its time. From an archival point of view, it is a great pity to learn that a number of scenes were edited out of the final cut at the last moment and subsequently lost.

Llinos Medi Jones

Thanks to: Peter Brittan; The National Library of Wales

## FILM

### EMLYN WILLIAMS

This year - on the centenary of his birth - the Archive will pay tribute in future Drwm screenings to the Welshman who perhaps made the most versatile contribution to the nation's screen history.

Emlyn Williams (1905–87), from Mostyn, Flintshire, was the biggest Welsh movie star in British films in the 30s and for much of the 40s. He played leads in a host of compelling thrillers (Friday the 13th, They Drive by Night) and topped UK fan magazine polls, while writing screenplays for musicals starring Evelyn Laye (Evensong) and the incomparable Jessie Matthews (Evergreen). His semi-autobiographical stage play *The Corn* is Green inspired two features (in 1946, with Bette Davis, and 1979, with Katharine Hepburn). Another theatre drama, *Night Must Fall*, was also filmed twice, with Robert Montgomery (1937) and Albert Finney (1964). This last work revealed Williams's fascination with the psycho-pathology of killing, which is also demonstrated in his book on the Moors Murderers, *Beyond Belief* (1967). Williams was highly adept as a screen villain, notably in *The Last Days of Dolwyn* (1949), his sole film as director, and he was even better as Joe Gowlan, the vicious social climber in *The Stars Look Down* (1939). The north Walian also wrote and performed in many stage plays, and riveted audiences with his celebrated one-man shows as Dickens and Dylan Thomas.

Dave Berry

## HIDDEN TREASURES

The voice of Evan Roberts



A very exciting 'find' was unveiled recently by curator Dafydd Pritchard. The only recording of the voice of Evan Roberts, the famous evangelist, was heard again, almost exactly a century since his oration was first captured on a wax.

The wax cylinder, donated by Mr Barrie Davies of Tredegar, was in a poor state, having broken into several pieces. However, thanks to Dr Michael Khanchalian, a dentist and specialist in the repair of wax cylinders living in Los Angeles, the pieces were painstakingly reassembled, and the voice copied onto CD. Following further work by the NSSAW and the British Library Sound Archive,

the cylinder took centre stage at the National Library's recent exhibition 'To Save a Poor Sinner'.

Dafydd was so inspired by the project that he produced a poem to mark the experience; entitled 'Evan Roberts a Fi mewn Stretch Limo', the work later won the poetry prize at the Feilte Filiochta festival.

The Archive regularly takes part in screenings and presentations at the invitation of groups and societies across Wales. Contact Undeg Jones on 01970 632535.

## AT YOUR SERVICE



**Name:** Dr Gwenno Ffrancon

**Post:** Film Lecturer, University of Wales Bangor

**Background:** A native of Blaen-plwyf, near Aberystwyth, I graduated from the University of Wales Aberystwyth and completed a doctorate on the images of Wales and its people on film.

**Why visit the Archive?**

I have used the Archive collection and resources extensively as part of my role as a lecturer. I borrow films such as the work of William Haggart and documentaries from the 1930s to show to the students. I continue to research Welsh film history and regularly visit the Archive for information and further guidance.

**How would you rate the services and facilities available?**

I have found the service extremely useful and the staff welcoming and happy to help. It is very useful that the Archive is part of the National Library of Wales since the manuscript collections and books are close to hand, making life easier for a researcher!

## EVENTS IN THE DRWM

04/07/05	2.00 pm	£2.50	E	The Proud Valley (Pen Tennyson, 1939, U)
12/07/05	7.30 pm	£3.50	E	Music and the Movies – Paul Shallcross Steamboat Bill Junior (Charles Riesner, 1928, U)
01/08/05	4.00 pm	£2.50	C/S	Crowning Ceremony: Eryri a'r Cyffiniau National Eisteddfod 2005 Tea and cake to follow
05/08/05	4.00 pm	£2.50	C/S	The Chairing of the Bard: Eryri a'r Cyffiniau National Eisteddfod 2005 Tea and cake to follow
11/08/05	2.00 pm			Children's Hour: Jerry the Tyke Under 12s Free Adults £3.00
E English			C/S	Welsh with simultaneous translation

The autumn/winter programme will be published soon. For more information, visit our website: [screenandsound.llgc.org.uk](http://screenandsound.llgc.org.uk)

The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales will be at the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod this year. Come and see us at the National Library stand.

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The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

Viewing and Listening Rooms:

open: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00