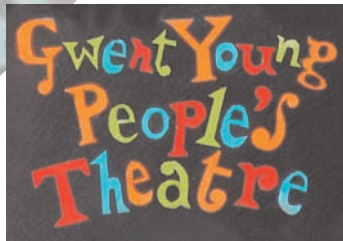




Gwent Young
People's
Theatre
50th
Anniversary



GWENT YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Artistic Director	Gary Meredith
Administrative Director	Julia Davies
Tutor/Directors	Stephen Badman
	Jain Boon
	John Clark
	Chris Durnall
	Lisa Harris
Tutor/Stage Management	George Davis-Stewart
Designer	Bettina Reeves



GWENT THEATRE

Artistic Director	Gary Meredith
Administrative Director	Julia Davies
Assistant Director	Jain Boon
Company Stage Manager	George Davis-Stewart
Designer	Georgina Miles
Education Officer	Paul Gibbins
Administrative Assistant	Chris Miller
Caretaker	Trevor Fallon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair	Mick Morden
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Directors

Jayne Davies, Denise Embrey, Sue Heathcote, Barbara Hetherington, Jenny Hood MBE, Brian Mawby, Jessica Morden, Stuart Neale, Hamish Sandison, Caroline Sheen, Llewellyn Smith, Paul Starling, Gregg Taylor,

Patrons

Rt Hon Neil Kinnock, Victor Spinetti

Cover Design - Clive Hicks-Jenkins

*Photographs by Jenny Barnes and other friends of the company.
Our thanks to you all.*

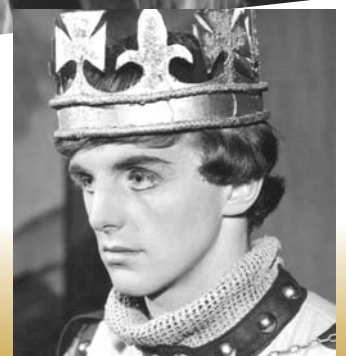


50 Years of **Peak Performance**

Gwent Young People's Theatre
1956 - 2006



Also Celebrating
Gwent Theatre at 30
1976 - 2006





A message from the Chairman of the Board of Gwent Theatre

Gwent Theatre Board would wish to take little credit for the extraordinary achievement celebrated in this brochure. We have overseen the activity of Gwent Young People's Theatre – as an integral part of Gwent Theatre – since 1976, but 50 years of thrilling productions are the product of the enthusiasm, foresight and love of theatre that Mel Thomas devoted to its beginning, and Gary Meredith, Julia Davies, Stephen Badman and a host of talented helpers have given so generously ever since.

The biographies of former members establish clearly that this has always been more than an engaging pastime for a Saturday. The interface with a working theatre has ensured that young people are exposed to professional standards, techniques, expectations, teamwork and camaraderie.

Good plays are life-changing – for the audience, but much more so for the participants. I believe many lives have been changed for the better in the last 50 years.

Mick Morden

From Councillor Alan Breeze

On behalf of Monmouthshire County Council, I send warmest congratulations to Gwent Young People's Theatre as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Members and Officers of Monmouthshire County Council are very pleased to be able to support the outstanding work done by the Gwent Young People's Theatre. It is recognised as a centre of excellence, presenting a wide variety of productions of a consistently high standard.

As a former schoolteacher, I appreciate the fact that, in addition to learning so many aspects of stagecraft, young people have the opportunity to build up their self-confidence, to forge lasting friendships and are encouraged to develop values such as teamwork and respect for others.

I extend grateful thanks to all involved in the Gwent Young People's Theatre for the excellence achieved over the past 50 years and I wish everyone continued success in the future.

County Councillor Alan Breeze
Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council



From Dr Brett Pugh

Gwent Young People's Theatre plays a leading role in developing the talents of young actors and those interested in theatre and drama throughout the area. Many have gone on to work very successfully as professionals in the worlds of theatre, film, radio, television, education and other careers. For many more it has helped to foster a lifelong love of acting and continued involvement in theatre and performing arts. For even more it has introduced them to the world of live theatre and opened the door to a lifetime of opportunities.



My grateful thanks and appreciation are extended to all involved with Gwent Young People's Theatre - to the tutors both past and present for their inspirational work and to all the young people, again both past and present, who have all contributed to making Gwent Young People's Theatre what it is today and what I am sure it will continue to be - a centre of excellence. Long may Gwent Young People's Theatre continue and develop its work with our young people in providing such valuable, worthwhile experiences and opportunities for future generations.

Dr Brett Pugh
Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning





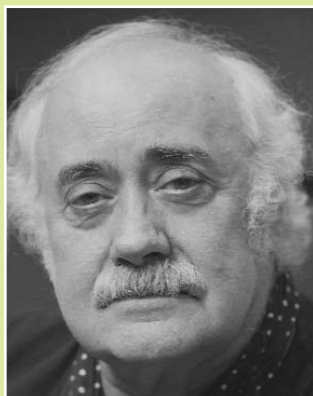
From Abergavenny Rotary Club

It is with great pleasure that Abergavenny Rotary Club is sponsoring this year's productions of Gwent Young People's Theatre and we welcome the opportunity to support this group of young people in this very special birthday year.

Gwent Young People's Theatre is a standard bearer for all the qualities that young people have to offer – energy, enthusiasm, creativity and ability. It was one of the first such theatre companies in the country and over the decades thousands of young people have been lucky enough to experience first-class training in theatre activities.

We look forward, with confidence and pride, to continued success with this year's programme and send our warmest wishes to everyone involved.

Clive Howells
President
Abergavenny Rotary Club



Victor Spinetti writes:

"To be invited to join the Board of Gwent Theatre in 1976 was a privilege and a delight. A delight because when I was a young person we had no young people's theatre - but if we had I would have hoped to get in.

Everything is a gateway to somewhere, but to have a gateway into the world of theatre would have been magical.

Now, here I am, going to see first class productions where I can see in the eyes of the young people their involvement, their imagination afire, their excitement, their asking of questions, their chatter. .

. . . in fact, it's exactly the same chatter as theatre audiences the world over at the end of performances they've just seen.

To bring all that home to us in Monmouthshire is what the Gwent Young People's Theatre and Gwent Theatre did and still does.

I am delighted to have been a bitpart player – long may you survive.

Victor Spinetti
Patron - Gwent Theatre

Personally speaking . . .

Clive Hicks-Jenkins
2006



I was 12, miserable and bullied at school when I found my way to Monmouthshire Young People's Theatre in Pontypool.

I arrived bewildered one dark night to find a room full of young people being marshalled in choral verse speaking. The sessions became the hub of my life and everything changed. Older students took me under their wings. They compiled reading lists and a classical music list to help open up the world to me. The redemptive power of the performing arts was my path out of what had felt like hell. The young people's theatre opened the doors - anything and everything was possible.

• Clive Hicks-Jenkins studied at the Italia Conti School, emerged as a choreographer and worked internationally until he devoted himself full-time to painting ten years ago. Since then he has had several solo exhibitions, his paintings and artist's books are in many public collections and he won the Gulbenkian Wales Art Prize in 1999 and Creative Wales Award 2002.

Clive designed the cover for this celebratory birthday brochure.



Melville Thomas

Spirit of Drama in Gwent

The founder of Gwent Young People's Theatre was Melville Thomas who had a passionate belief in the power of drama to fire children's imagination and inspire confidence that would last all their lives. He believed all young people should have the opportunity to experience theatre and the performing arts.

Born in Tonyrefail, Glamorgan, Mel left teacher training college at the outbreak of WW II. He saw action as a soldier in France and shortly after, aged just 20, he was taken prisoner and held in appalling conditions in PoW camps.

A keen poetry and drama student, Mel used his memory and knowledge to survive the camps. During the harsh Polish winters, he and like-minded prisoners, relieved their melancholy and despondency with simple drama productions.

On his return in 1945 he attended the Central School of Speech and Drama, London, and taught for some years before returning to Monmouthshire as a drama adviser. In 1956, he formed the Young People's Theatre at The Settlement in Pontypool with a group of children from Blackwood, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Caerleon and Newbridge.

He laid the important foundation that it would be free to ensure that all young people had equal opportunity – a philosophy that is maintained to this day by the Board of Gwent Theatre.

Their first production was a devised work called *We Are Not Here* which they took to London's Olympia. Larger productions followed with *Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1962, followed by *Henry V* two years later and *Maeterlinck's The Bluebird* in 1966.

The youth theatre moved to the Old Town School in Pontypool and then to Woodland Road Social Centre in Croesyceiliog before taking over the former grammar school in Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny, in 1971.



Two original members of the company, Julie Thomas (who was Mel's wife) and Neil Jones research the archives.

With financial support from the local authority and the help of many people – including the great politician Aneurin Bevan and TUC Leader Vic Feather - the charismatic Mel Thomas succeeded in developing the project further. Alongside Dorothy Adams-Jeremiah, music organiser, a music and drama library was established for schools to access costumes, musical instruments, scores and scripts.

Mel's ultimate ambition was to have a professional theatre company providing a free service for schools. He achieved this in 1976 when Gwent Theatre in Education was set up, funded by the local authority and the Arts Council of Wales.

After he retired in 1981, Mel was succeeded as Drama Adviser by Howard Moore under whose leadership the youth theatre continued to thrive until his retirement in 1986.

Mel became a board member of Gwent Theatre and lived to see both Gwent Theatre and Gwent Young People's Theatre flourish as a centre of excellence for drama productions.

After his death at the age of 74, the studio theatre at the Drama Centre in Abergavenny was refurbished with a Lottery Grant, opened by Glenys Kinnock MEP and named in his honour - the Melville Theatre.

GWENT YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Gwent Young People's Theatre is based at The Melville Theatre in Abergavenny.

Run by Gwent Theatre it is funded by Monmouthshire County Council, WEA South Wales, donations, sponsorship and fundraising.

The youth theatre is free to participants and we have an open door policy. There are no auditions so as to ensure that all young people – aged 10 to 20 - have the opportunity to take part irrespective of their social, ethnic, educational background or ability.



Cast of In Living Memory pictured at the Millennium Dome

The young people work as a team under the direction of professional theatre practitioners to create as near as possible the disciplines of a professional theatre company.

Classes, rehearsals and workshops are held throughout the year at the Melville Theatre with additional sessions during half terms and holidays and a two week residency in the summer.

The youth theatre has a reputation for consistently high standards of production and provides access for thousands of young people to participate in the performing arts. At least six productions are staged every year.

Freedom to Learn and Lead

GYPT directly involves all members of the company in the choice, style and direction of productions.

Every season the directors look at several works that could suit the demands and skills required of participants.

Texts are read, dissected, and discussed by students and tutors. As a result of this collaboration a programme of work is drawn up for students to take part in.

The variety is typified by this year's selection which can be seen on the Anniversary Year Productions page.



Members have opportunities to explore their talents by studying a wide range of theatrical styles and techniques embracing both performance and technical disciplines.

By doing so they develop skills for life - confidence, teamwork, commitment and a chance to share a common interest in the creation of drama.

They acquire a practical understanding of basic methods available to the performing arts including voice and movement, singing, stage combat, and behind-the-scenes work in stage management, design, sound, lighting and video. Where necessary extra tutors are hired to provide specialist training.

Students also devise and write their own material for performance, such as theatre for schools, story-telling and also write and present an annual review to raise funds.

Collaboration with the Workers Educational Association leads to senior students receiving accreditation from the National Open College Network. Last year 42 students received certificates for acting and theatre skills.

Many members have gone on to study at Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, London and Oxford Universities, Central School of Music & Drama, Dartington College of Arts, Guildford School of Acting, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, John Moore College in Liverpool, Mountview Theatre School, Rose Bruford College, RADA, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and St. Mary's College London.

After graduation former members have gone on to pursue careers in medicine, law, journalism, theatre, television, film, and teaching. Some, having completed their professional training at drama college, have returned to work for Gwent Theatre.



THE MELVILLE THEATRE AT THE DRAMA CENTRE



It was 1971 when the youth theatre moved to the old King Henry VIII Grammar School in Abergavenny. This building provided a base where there was space for administration, rehearsals, costume making and storage, workshop facilities for making scenery and props, a gymnasium and a school assembly hall.

This was the first time that all these facilities were housed under one roof and at last the youth theatre had a home. It was now possible to offer training in all aspects of theatre - lighting, sound, design, set and costume making as well as acting. Gradually the technical tutor and his team turned the school assembly hall into a performing space by using rostra to create a raked auditorium and begged and borrowed scaffolding and lighting to build a lighting rig and control box.



At this time there was no theatre in Abergavenny for small touring companies to perform and gradually the Drama Centre acted as a host venue putting on performances for the local community. This started in a small way with companies from South Wales trying out new plays in front of an audience to having a regular season of performances and activities subsidised through the Arts Council 'Night Out' Scheme. Mel Thomas invited parents of youth theatre members to set up 'Offstage' a voluntary organisation to support activities, sell tickets, run a bar and raise funds for the youth theatre.



In 1976 the Gwent Theatre was established to provide a professional theatre in education service for schools throughout Gwent and the Drama Centre became home to both companies working alongside each other. In addition to touring to schools Gwent Theatre presented performances for local schools in the Drama Centre and extended this to public performances of their work.

In 1981 the Abergavenny Film Society moved to the Drama Centre and has a regular season of films twice a month from September to April.

In the same year Mel Thomas retired and a celebration was held which was attended by past and present members of both companies, friends and parents.

Mel continued as a member of the Board of Gwent Theatre until his death in 1994. In 1998 the theatre was refurbished with a grant from the Arts Council of Wales Lottery Fund, opened by Glenys Kinnock and named the Melville Theatre.

The Melville Theatre now provides a focus for a whole range of theatrical and artistic activities for people in Abergavenny and the surrounding area. Regular programmes of plays, music, films and workshops are presented by Gwent Theatre, Gwent Young People's Theatre, innovative small scale professional theatre companies, Abergavenny Film Society and Danceblast. Community Education classes are run by Monmouthshire County Council. The building is fully accessible for people with disabilities. The theatre liaises closely with the Borough Theatre which provides a box office facility and promotes performances through their seasonal brochures.



*The Drama Centre, Abergavenny,
formerly King Henry VIII Grammar School.*

How the Curtain Nearly Came DOWN

Gwent Young People's Theatre is so woven into the web of the cultural life of the community that many will be surprised how modest were its early beginnings.

It has provided a safe and stimulating environment for thousands of young people to explore the performing arts and give expression to their creative drive.

But in 1996 a crisis emerged which was to threaten the existence of GYPT.

Funding was withdrawn under the re-organisation of local government.

In a gesture of goodwill, the outgoing Gwent County Council gave the youth theatre £5,000 as one of its final acts and with the assistance of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers, the company staged a memorable production of Henry V at Monmouth Castle.

This could easily have been the final production of the youth theatre.

However with the promise of funding from the new unitary authority of Monmouthshire County Council and the WEA, the Gwent Theatre company took over the management and running of the youth theatre, thus ensuring its continuation.

In 2000 the future of theatre in education was very much in the balance due to an Arts Council of Wales' strategy to reduce the number of companies in Wales. Gwent Theatre was one of the companies affected by these proposals. Objections were widespread from all parts of the community and attracted a huge campaign which successfully led to a change in this policy and a turn-around in the fortunes of theatre in education in Wales.

One of the positive things to come out of this painful experience was a clear demonstration across the country that there was massive support for the arts. Fortunately we now live in happier times with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Arts Council being committed to the future of the young people's theatre sector. The network of eight TIE companies in Wales now have a three year funding agreement which allows us to plan confidently for the future.



Caroline Sheen and Victor Spinetti sign petition at House of Commons



THE FUTURE

by Gary Meredith

There is no doubt in my mind that involvement with Gwent Young People's Theatre is a life changing experience.

Reading the hundreds of letters and emails from past and present students caused me to reflect on my own experience and the debt of gratitude that I owe Mel Thomas and the Young People's Theatre.

When I became a member in 1962 I never dreamt that after drama school an important part of my career as a professional actor and director would be the stewardship of the organisation that had done so much to encourage me to fulfil my dream of becoming an actor.

The value of the Young People's Theatre and the way it enriches people's lives is almost impossible to quantify - it's not an exercise in accountancy where one can draw up a balance sheet to demonstrate the company's worth. It is, rather, a means of satisfying a deeper almost spiritual need through the engagement of our intellect and emotions in an imaginative way that empowers the creative instincts that we all possess.

The theatre arts are necessities, not luxuries to be enjoyed by the privileged few but things to which everyone is entitled.

The team of highly skilled and dedicated professional theatre workers that run the Young People's Theatre today all share that view and are committed to ensuring that future generations of young people will have the opportunity to participate in the theatre arts.



2005 - GYPT actors in HTV broadcast of 'Kiddo'



Ed Mundy (2003-04) Drama Student

Now at Aberystwyth University following a year on the drama course at Stratford-upon-Avon. With GYPT took part in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Tales from Ovid* and says: "I took a great deal from GYPT, both theatrically and socially. I only wish that I had known about it sooner. . . . Steve and Gary were great directors and the workshop activities when not preparing for shows were really enjoyable."



Lucy Rivers, Actor, Composer, Musical Director

Lucy joined the young people's theatre aged 10 and remained with the company until she went to Exeter University. She completed a post-graduate course of study at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and since graduating is in great demand as an actor and musician appearing with companies such as the Sherman, Hijinx, Theatre Centre, No Fit State Circus, Gwent Theatre, Arcola and Unicorn Theatre.



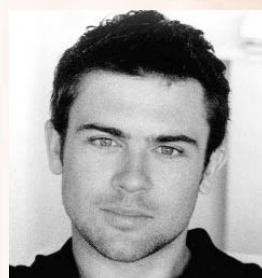
Ben Harris, Physics Student

Ben specialised in the technical side of GYPT and has gone on to take a Physics Degree at Imperial College, London. Ben has developed a keen interest in politics and ecology and was recently elected vice president of the Students' Union with responsibility for student education and welfare. Ben's term of office begins in July.



Liza Berry 1981 – 1985, English Lecturer at Utrecht University

"I remember being very impressed by Gary and Steve's big, booming voices. Also I think I rather fancied myself as an actress and liked the attention, just standing there and having people watch me. The atmosphere was special. I enjoyed being given a framework within which we, as a group, had to work and present the result. One embarrassing moment – I remember playing a 'concerned father' and shouting a lot. This, to me, was emotional acting! I now teach (Academic) English at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands. Without a doubt, what I like best is teaching beginners English and explaining words by acting them out and making them laugh. A Gwent Theatre influence? I would say so."



Owen Sheers, (1985-91) Poet

Owen Sheers was born in Fiji in 1974 and brought up in Abergavenny. His debut collection *The Blue Book* was short-listed for the Forward Prize Best First Collection and the 2001 Welsh Book of the Year Award. *The Dust Diaries*, a Zimbabwean travel narrative, was short-listed for the Royal Society of Literature's Ondaatje Prize and won the 2005 Welsh Book of the Year Award. In 2004 he was selected as one of the Poetry Book Society's Next Generation Poets. Seren published *Skirrid Hill* in October 2005, and his first novel *Resistance* will be published by Faber in Spring 2007.

Owen says: "Gwent Young People's Theatre was not only where I discovered and explored my love of theatre, but was also an environment where I was able to experience first hand the dramatic and emotional possibilities of well-written language. I have nothing but happy memories of my time there and of the plays we performed. I wish them all the best for the future."

Annual performances at Abergavenny Steam Rally



Lisa Diveney (1997-2001) Actress

Lisa was in *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Agamemnon*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (among others) and trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She is busy in theatre, TV, film and radio. Played Marie in *Woyzeck* both in Wales and Italy. Says: "The youth theatre is so important in an area where there is so little for young people. It is a positive outlet in which young adults can express themselves. I still miss it!"



Cari Barley (1997-2005). Student – Drama and English Literature

Took part in more than a dozen productions including *The Erpingham Camp* and *The Elephant Man*. "GYPT provides young people with a unique learning experience. I've never been part of a better drama group than this. I have been a member of the Welsh National Youth Theatre, the National Youth Theatre, the Welsh National Youth Opera and yet the majority of what I know about acting comes from my days as a GYPT member. It has given me the firmest foundation an actor could ever wish for." Cari is a member of two university drama companies and two companies in Norwich.



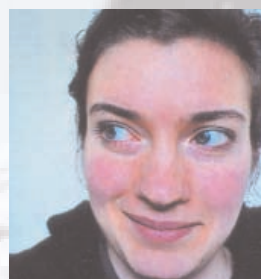
Alex Wrightson (1997-2001) Stockroom Manager

Graduate of Northampton University. "It was GYPT that gave me the motivation and enthusiasm to study drama to a higher level. GYPT's influence and my involvement in the two Greek plays *Oedipus* and *Agamemnon* gave me the knowledge and experience to write about the topic for my dissertation. I am considering a postgraduate course in drama and have plans to become either a lecturer or join a touring theatre company – or both. I hope GYPT continues for another 50 years to give the next generations the enjoyment and fun I got from my many happy years as a member of GYPT."



Lydia Morgan (1998-2004)

Took part in 16 productions including *The Golden Masque of Agamemnon*, *Silver Sword*, *Canterbury Tales* and *Arabian Nights* and worked with Gwent Theatre on a play about domestic violence for Newport Women's Forum. A VSO worker in the Himalayas and then Glasgow, Lydia is returning to University in Sussex to study Philosophy and Cultural Studies. Says: "The Youth Theatre meant an incredible amount to me – I was in it for most of my teenage years. The skills I learnt which gave me confidence and patience are extremely useful to everything I do."



Dilly Boase (1999-2003) Artist in Residence

Now aged 23 and a graduate with a BA First in Embroidery, Dilly is Artist in Residence in Friends' School, Saffron Walden, (Quaker boarding school). She is going travelling next year before embarking on an MA. "I hope the 50th birthday celebrations will go well."



Ryan Griffin (1999-2003) Sound Engineer

A graduate of Rose Bruford College this year, Ryan says: "The youth theatre was the very first step in my theatrical career. I arrived with the plan to join the actors but was immediately accosted by the technical department where I stayed until I left!" Productions included *Oedipus*, *In Living Memory* and *Arabian Nights*.

2004 - Welsh language production 'Ysbryd y Werin', National Eisteddfod, Newport



Richard Hopkins, (1990s) Senior Project Manager, Warwickshire County Council

"GYPT was important and taught me positives; it was always professional and always fun. It brought a group of us together and made us rely upon each other – basic teambuilding in a sense. Now married with three children we've bought a huge barn for complete renovation in France where we will hopefully move in about 18 months. We can semi-retire with a better lifestyle and pool and it's in the sun!"



Matthew Addis, Drama Student

Matthew is a student at the Mountview Theatre School. "It is difficult to condense the effect of four years with GYPT: it provided a fierce incubator for risk-free expression and growth of myself as a person and as an actor that I found nowhere else. Working with experienced professionals in dedicated facilities gave me the first elements of a craft, discipline and knowledge base which have proved invaluable. Even those friends from GYPT who chose not to make a career on the stage took from it a rare confidence, dynamism and resourcefulness they would not otherwise enjoy. My life would be lesser but for every one of those packed Saturdays and Thursday evenings."



Gareth Lloyd (1996-98) Actor

"Played Henry V – an experience that finalised my decision to become an actor. I learnt so much from Gary and Steve and continued to do so playing Macbeth, Valverde in Royal Hunt of the Sun and Macheath in The Threepenny Opera – a role I took up later with the National Youth Theatre. I don't think I would have got the role without the groundwork accomplished at GYPT." Pictured here as Harold in Three Women and a Piano Tuner, directed by Sam West. Currently shooting in BBC Series 'Torchwood'.



Matthew Woodyatt (1996-2000) Actor Musician

After major roles in GYPT productions, Matthew trained on the unique Actor Musicianship course at Rose Bruford College. He also worked for GYPT as a visiting tutor and resident composer/musical director 2001-04. Since graduating in 2003 he's worked extensively. He plays Fatty Arbuckle in John Doyle's Mack and Mabel (nominated for TMA Best Musical 2005) which transferred to London's West End following the 2006 national tour. He says: "GYPT has been an invaluable influence and means the world to me."



Rachel Boase (1997) MA (Eng.Lit) Writer

"From the start I always felt welcome - meeting everybody and feeling that here was a brilliant new world. As a student in Edinburgh I took part in several plays with the University Theatre Company and spent two summers at a Belgrade theatre. All the pleasure and fulfilment I get out of theatre goes back to my first day."



Jo Iles (1997-2000) Drama Student

Now studying at Exeter University, Jo took part in several shows including The Royal Hunt of the Sun, Oedipus, and In Living Memory. She says GYPT built her confidence and encouraged her interest in drama. "I remember feeling so shy when I started. The youth theatre meant socialising and making friends . . . I was so excited to go and then we wouldn't stop talking about it all week." Jo will be taking part in Adhoc Theatre's production of Moliere's The Miser at the Minack in Cornwall this summer.

2000 - 'In Living Memory' by Charles Way at the Millennium Dome, London



Lisa Harris (1994-2000)

Assistant theatre director, stage manager, workshop leader and drama tutor.

"I started with GYPT age 11. Theatre was a passion of mine and I experienced the importance of the rehearsal period before the big event. Accreditation for my developing skills helped my future studies and after university I became a volunteer with the current youth theatre. It seems in four years that GYPT has grown in its opportunities for young people. After directing Joe Orton's *The Erpingham Camp* I worked with Gwent Theatre and am pursuing my career with theatre in education in Wales and also with Theatr Ffynnon, a company for adults with learning difficulties."



Nia Lynn (1992-97) Jazz Singer/Songwriter

Graduate of Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Active on London Jazz scene (Ronnie Scott's, The 606 Jazz Club, Spice of Life, National Theatre etc) and featured in Ronnie Scott's magazine. Also in demand for Jazz Festivals and teaches at the Glamorgan and the Mediterranean Summer Schools and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Nia and her trio (with Gareth Lockrane and Ross Stanley) are working on an album of standard and original repertoire for release 2006.



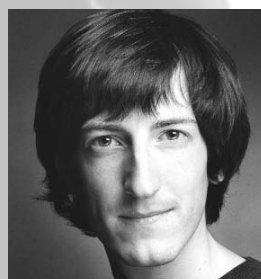
Debra Deakin, Actor & Teacher

Living in North Wales, Debra is a part-time teacher who then "runs away to be a mad actress". Her favourite role is Shirley Valentine. She has toured nationally with various shows including *A Christmas Carol*, *Snow White* and *The Wizard of Oz* and works with a murder mystery company both here and on the Orient Express.



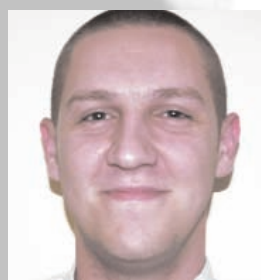
Will Tatam (1990s) Web development and IT

"I was with GYPT for eight years. Developed an interest in IT and website development and after working in Kingston moved to Premier IT as Internal Systems Manager and to found a Web Development team. For the last two years I also worked part time for The Pleasance as the assistant IT Manager for the Edinburgh Festival and with the Synergy Project who organise various music events in London."



Ben Addis (1994-99) Actor

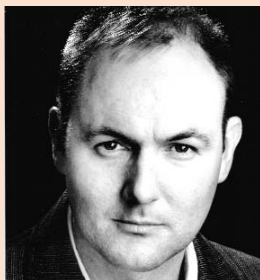
Exeter graduate who worked for a year before winning a place at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. "I truly appreciate the foundations given to me at GYPT. Breathing technique, spatial awareness and exploring many ideas about the voice and body with professional tutors was immensely helpful, regardless of the career I chose. The social side was also just as valuable . . . meeting, learning and performing with a huge variety of other teenagers..."



Alexander Ferris (1996-98) Freelance director, writer and workshop leader.

"GYPT gave real practical experience of performing in a professional and exciting environment. It was also the first opportunity to appreciate and really understand Shakespeare. I studied Drama at University and my experience at GYPT gave me far more grounding than any other experience (including A-level Theatre Studies). I am now a freelance director, writer and workshop leader." Was assistant director on *Sgript Cymru's Crossings*; directing and performing in *MEAT*, a new play by Owen Thomas which toured to the Hen & Chickens' Theatre in London and co-directed *Interiors*, a production for Sherman Youth Theatre.

GYPT actors in production of 'Knucklehead' broadcast on HTV

**Sean Carlsen (1986-88) Actor**

Trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Notable theatre work includes Gwent Theatre production and 2002-04 season at The Ludlow Festival in Michael Bogdanov's acclaimed *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Cymbeline* and *Twelfth Night*. National tours, Festivals and performances in most UK theatres plus television work including *Doctor Who Christmas Special*, 10 episodes of the BBC Choice comedy series *Taste Buddies* and also BBC 1 and S4C dramas. Films: *Darklands*, *Bad Company* and *Shine*.

**Chloe Mann (Merriman) (1990-95) Public Relations Consultant**

Graduated from university and works in PR in an award-winning London company. Chloe says: "The youth theatre was a wonderful place for a teenager who wanted to be surrounded by other like-minded teenagers and learn about drama. I met some fantastic people."

**Caroline Sheen (1990-94) Actress/Singer**

Caroline has appeared in many West End shows including *Mama Mia*, *Grease*, *Les Miserables*, a leading role in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at The National Theatre and a three-month run at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough with micro-musical *Spittin' Distance*. "I loved every moment I spent at the Drama Centre and learned a tremendous amount from their professional actors. I was encouraged in my career and gained enormously in self-confidence. This is the major contribution of GYPT to everyone who attends. Whatever they wish to do they are encouraged and supported and gain enormously in confidence in their attempt to achieve their ambitions."

**Eleri Lynn (1991-1995) Assistant Curator, Victoria & Albert Museum, London**

"GYPT provided an environment that was very different from home or even school. The tutors encouraged all of us and our ideas, and made us feel like a professional theatre company which, as well as being great fun, gave us a real sense of responsibility to each other and to the work we were doing. In my career today I feel the benefits. I have to give lectures frequently and I can still rely on the skills and confidence I developed at GYPT."

**Jenny Evans (1991-96) Broadcast and Print Journalist.**

"I lived for Saturdays at the Drama Centre. I didn't miss one week for five years. The workshops are the perfect support for young people during those crucial and intense formative adult years. When you are cringing with self-awareness you are encouraged to laugh at your mistakes. When you find school dull and constricting you have a place where you are loved, stretched, encouraged, tested, pushed to be your best. As an educational establishment, GYPT offers an unparalleled service and I will be the first to chain myself to the railings if it is ever threatened. I am now a producer for a foreign affairs documentary programme *Unreported World* (Channel 4) and work part-time as a reporting assistant at *The Guardian*."

**Zoe Nuttall (1991-1994) Actress**

Joined at 14 after seeing *The Crucible* at the Drama Centre. Forfeited a Saturday job to attend GYPT. "Had a fantastic few years and enjoyed every minute." Trained at Mountview Theatre School, London, won a scholarship in her 2nd year and graduated in 1997. Toured UK with the Quantum Theatre for Science and returned to Wales to work professionally for Gwent Theatre and also Action Transport Theatre. Other roles involve BBC TV Soap workshops and Gillian Spriggs, the young solicitor in *Emmerdale*.

GYPT have featured in BT National Connections at Theatr Clwyd



Daniel Morden (1980s) Professional storyteller

Took part in Alice in Wonderland, Midsummer Nights Dream, Caucasian Chalk Circle. As a storyteller since 1989, Daniel has told and collected folktales all over the world, from the Arctic to the Pacific and the Caribbean. He also writes for theatre, radio and television and has three books published. "GYPT gave me an enormous amount. Through it I encountered the work of Gwent Theatre. I discovered that it might be possible to stay in Wales and make my living telling the stories I wanted to tell. As a result I have made my home in Abergavenny and feel part of a local, vibrant, artistic community."



Carole-Anne Davies (1980s) Chief Executive, Design Commission for Wales

Brynmawr-born, Carole-Anne was Welsh Woman of the Year: Art & Media 2005. Former Director of CBAT: The Arts & Regeneration Agency, she has combined a career in art history and the visual arts with an interest in architecture and design and a knowledge of the built environment. Holds many positions including chair of MES:A International Performance Collective and member of the advisory panel for Bay Art gallery and studios.



Jessica Morden (1980-82) MP for Newport East

"My big brother Dan was a member so I joined because I wanted to follow him around. It was exciting being part of the productions and among some great performers. GYPT was a great experience. It knocked some shyness out of me which was probably a good preparation for politics!" Jessica became General Secretary of the Welsh Labour Party and was elected MP in 2005. She is a board member of Gwent Theatre.



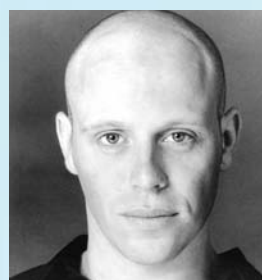
Jake (Steven) Taylor (1984-90) Principal, London School of Dramatic Art

Trained as an actor, worked in fundraising for international charities, went to Canada and returned to set up and run the London School of Dramatic Art in Kensington. "Being brought up only by my mother on the council estate in Abergavenny I had very little opportunity to express myself... GYPT was a turning point and gave me the confidence to have ambitious dreams for my future. I would be a different person today if it had not been for GYPT - not as ambitious, not as confident, not as educated, not as brave."



Adrienne O'Sullivan (1983-85) Actress

Career in Theatre, Radio and TV for 17 years ranging from Shakespeare to Holby City. Says GYPT was "a fantastic foundation course in theatre. To be taught by professional actors/directors was an incredible experience. It gave me the confidence to approach drama schools and know that I had the discipline needed to be a professional actress. I have always run workshops for young people and adults to develop their confidence and ability to communicate through the medium of theatre."



Zeph Gould (1985-88) Actor/Singer/Dancer

Trained at Guildford School of Music & Drama. Theatre (West End, Birmingham, UK tours); TV (Pobl-y-Cwm, Eastenders, Casualty); Concerts, Directing and Recording Credits (Jesus Christ Superstar 25th Anniversary Album and Sweet Charity, Abbey Road). Shows include Cats, Starlight Express, My Fair Lady, etc. Also dance and drama teaching.

GYPT took part in Llantilio Crossenny & Lower Machen Festivals



Stella Wells (1964-69) Former nurse now working for a charity.

Played in Henry V, Blue Bird, Amis and Amile, The Cloak and Salome. "The youth theatre fuelled my love of words and music; it gave me confidence and the friendship and guidance of many wonderful tutors and a great bunch of friends. I am sure that I wouldn't be the person I am today if I hadn't been a member. I am on the wrong side of 55 and after 30 years in nursing I am now working for a Civil Service Charity and I conduct Humanist funerals."



Terry Bedford (1968-72) Toy-maker

Spent 20 years in theatres including The Crucible, Sheffield, Theatr-y-Werin, Aberystwyth and the Congress Theatre, Cwmbran in the technical and later management areas. After seven years in various service industries he is now a self-employed toymaker, making and selling a range of wooden toys and games.



Jayne Davies (1968-71) Chief School Improvement Officer, Blaenau Gwent Council.

Trained as a drama teacher and taught Drama and English in several comprehensive schools. Says youth theatre "provided a wonderful opportunity for me to develop my interest and skills in drama and performing arts. It was undoubtedly the influence of the youth theatre, Mel Thomas and the tutors that made me decide to train as a drama teacher. I still maintain strong links with the youth theatre and support and promote the value of drama in schools." Jayne is a Board Member of Gwent Theatre.



Martyn Postle (1970-73) Director, Cambridge Healthcare & Biotech,

"I remember my times with great affection and am trying to recreate the same kind of atmosphere with our local theatre group where I am chairman," says Martyn who was John Procter in The Crucible, took part in The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew and was a mime/dancer in Past Three O'Clock commissioned by the BBC. He was also in the stage crew for the tour of Never See The Day about the Chartists – which included performances at the Westgate Hotel, Newport.



Lyz Jones (1973) Senior Counsellor, Caerphilly, and Community Development Manager for Voluntary Organisations.

"I was still in school, thirsting to be on the stage and GYPT gave me the opportunity. Among the many productions I was in, I remember The Lion in Winter because it made me feel very grown up. My involvement with theatre really helped my confidence (as a teenager I felt like a fish out of water in every other aspect of my life). Going to GYPT felt like going home and I loved it. One day I'm going to tread the boards again – it's still in my blood!"



Catrin Cribb (1976) Social Care Support Worker

"I have fond memories of Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs by David Halliwell in which I played Ann. There were only four of us in the cast so it was quite intense and a lot of fun. I left Abergavenny shortly after that, returning some 20 years later. I am working as a Support Worker with homeless people and I have applied to do a degree in Social Work this year, so I'm still learning!"

1956 - 'We Are Not Here' at the Children's Exhibition in London Olympia

**Jenny Hood MBE (1962-64) Retired Head of Careers**

Jenny was picked out of a school production at Croesyceiliog Grammar School to play in the first large-scale youth theatre's Midsummer Night's Dream. She went to Trent Park College which specialised in music, art and drama and became a teacher of English and Drama at Caerleon Secondary School. She was the school's Head of Drama for 20 years and subsequently Head of Careers. Won the Lifetime Teaching Award for Wales and is a member of the Board of Gwent Theatre.

**Michael Owen Morris (1962-64) Freelance TV Director**

Born in Hirwaun, raised in Abergavenny, Michael went from the youth theatre to Rose Bruford College and spent his early career with The Young Vic Theatre. He joined the BBC in 1973 and worked on a huge variety of programmes including Fall of Eagles, Softly, Softly, The Onedin Line and Survivors. In 1981 he became a director (Dr Who, Angels, Juliet Bravo) and went freelance in 1983. He directed Tenko, Campion and a long run of Casualty and is presently directing Eastenders. Says: "I thank MYPT for the launch it gave me into a life that has been rewarding and such fun that I cannot think of ever doing or wanting to do anything else. Go from strength to strength."

**Gary Meredith (1962-66) Artistic Director**

Born and brought up in Tredegar, Gary trained for the theatre at Rose Bruford College and has worked in most forms of theatre, TV, radio and film. He is a founder of Gwent Theatre and since 1976 has had a hand in devising, writing, directing and performing in nearly 200 productions. Television work includes That Uncertain Feeling, I Was Born in Rhymney, Bowen a'i Bartner and Knucklehead and he won critical acclaim for his performance as Tom Perry in Funny Boys for BBC Radio. He also teaches and directs for Gwent Young People's Theatre.

**Stephen Badman (1962-66) Teacher/Storyteller**

Born and brought up in Blaenavon, Stephen trained at Rose Bruford College. He was a founder member of Gwent Theatre in Education but left in 1977 to pursue a career in education. He now works as a storyteller and is currently translating the works of Danish folklorist, Evald Tang Christensen. He also teaches and directs for Gwent Young People's Theatre.

**Clive Hicks-Jenkins (1963-65) Painter**

Born and brought up in Newport and London, Clive worked internationally as a choreographer, stage-director and designer devoting himself full-time to painting 10 years ago. He lives and works in Wales, and won the Gulbenkian Welsh Art Prize in 1999 and an Arts Council of Wales Award in 2002. He says the young people's theatre gave him "knowledge, confidence, self-discipline and optimism" at a time when he felt most vulnerable. "It was as if an impenetrable cloud had lifted and I was on a hilltop marvelling at wonderful prospects all around."

**Paul Spinetti (1963-65) Company Chauffeur**

Paul worked at the Theatre Royal Stratford East in 1960's. Started a schools project at Manchester Library Theatre, worked in rep (Manchester and Birmingham) followed by Bristol Old Vic, Belfast Arts Theatre and various TV and commercials. Moved from acting to the music business, changed direction and became a company chauffeur. Lives in the Vale of Evesham with his family and enjoys playing music with local musicians.

Some Past members of Gwent Young People's Theatre



Julie Thomas (Brooks) (1956-61) Singer-Actress

From Abercarn and one of the original seven members of the Young People's Theatre, Julie appeared as a young soprano aged 12, with the cellist Jacqueline du Pre on BBC TV. A graduate of Guildhall School of Music and Drama, her early career included singing with the Joe Loss Orchestra, theatre seasons on the Dorset coast, professional pantomime, TV and radio. Julie and Mel Thomas with musician Jeanette Massocchi appeared all over Wales with their Good Companions theatre company. Julie is a soloist with Monmouth Ladies Choir and Pontllanfraith Church Choir.



Neil Jones (1956-61) Former entertainments/theatre manager and publican

Born in Waunllwyd near Ebbw Vale, Neil was one of the original seven children recruited by Mel Thomas for the Young People's Theatre. He was in the early production We are Not Here which went to the Olympia, London followed by The Princess and the Pea, The Player Queen and Noye's Fludde. Accepted by the Guildhall School of Music, Neil followed a career first as a Butlin's Redcoat and then as an entertainments manager in the UK and Spain as well as being in The Melody Four vocal group backing Frankie Vaughan.



Robert Page (1961-65) Actor

Extensive career both behind the scenes (stage manager, designer) and as an actor and director in Theatre in Education, commercial theatre, radio, film and TV. In Theatr Clwyd's An Enemy of the People, then The Importance of Being Ernest and Tom Stoppard's Arcadia at Northampton's Royal Theatre and Salisbury Playhouse followed by Terry Hands' acclaimed productions of The Crucible and One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest.



Ros Dalby (Thomas) (1962)

Took part in a number of the productions, the first being A Midsummer Night's Dream, then Amis and Amile and Henry V. Studied Drama and French and taught for some years. Performs with a number of amateur groups in central London and locally as well as cabaret style concerts and shows. Says the early drama training made all the difference to her social and personal life because "most of my friends I have made through drama or musicals and opera. It also helped in the jobs I have been in where I often have to make presentations and give talks. I cannot underestimate the difference doing drama in my youth has made to my life overall."



Julia Davies (1961), Theatre Administrator

Born in Crickhowell and brought up in Pontypool, Julia trained at Elmhurst and the Royal Ballet Schools and worked professionally as a dancer in theatre and television. She was appointed as a tutor for the youth theatre in 1966 and in addition to teaching undertook the administration of the youth theatre and acted as an assistant to the Drama Adviser. Julia was a founder member of Gwent Theatre and is currently Administrative Director of Gwent Theatre and GYPT.



Ken Caswell (1962-64) Theatre Director

Trained at the Rose Bruford College; career as an actor and singer playing hundreds of roles from Shakespeare to early operas. Theatre director for 20 years of plays and musicals all over the world. As an associate director for Cameron Mackintosh he directed 16 productions of Les Miserables worldwide and won the prestigious Heraldo Award for the Mexican production. He says the early training at GYPT gave him the confidence to pursue his professional career lasting 40 years. "It was a training of great integrity and provided me with many of the necessary techniques. Happily remembered days." Ken is a board member of Gwent Theatre.



GYPT PRODUCTIONS 1956-2006

The Invention
 We Are Not Here
 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 Henry V
 Twelfth Night
 The Bluebird
 Amise and Amile
 Salome and the Cloak
 The Farce of the Worthy Master Pierre Patelin
 Alice in Wonderland
 The Business of Good Government
 The Creation and the Fall
 One Way Pendulum
 Noah
 Fumed Oak
 The Twelve Pound Look
 Lunchtime Concert
 The Inhabitants
 Bear
 Peter and the Wolf
 Facade
 Fools
 Fancy Seeing You Then
 Separate Peace
 Look Back in Anger
 La Boutique Fantasque
 Night Must Fall
 The Lion in Winter
 The Hollow Crown
 Beauty and the Beast
 Three Queens of France
 Three Loves for Charlotte
 The Bear
 Amadeus
 Little Malcolm & His Struggle Against the Eunuchs
 Smoking is Bad for You
 The Proposal
 The House of Bernada Alba
 The Factory Children
 Ernie's Incredible Illucinations
 The Crucible
 Charlie & The Chocolate Factory
 The Diary of Adrian Mole
 Alcestis
 The Man in the Bowler Hat
 The Golden Pathway Annual
 Killed
 Dracula



Never See The Day
 Bread & Roses
 Constance & Louise
 The Rivals
 The Dumb Waiter
 The Winslow Boy
 The Miser
 Le Malade Imaginaire
 Diary of a Super Tramp
 Playgoers
 The Crimson Coconut
 A Victorian Evening – Dr. Jekyll & Mr Hyde
 Antigone
 Our Town
 Our Day Out
 The Snow Queen
 Daisy Pulls it Off
 The Father
 Candleford
 Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
 The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew
 Aesop's Fables
 One Way Pendulum
 Gaslight
 Miss Julie
 An Inspector Calls
 A Servant of Two Masters
 A Child's Christmas in Wales
 The Evacuees
 The Ultimate Fudge
 Animal Farm
 Macbeth
 The Threepenny Opera
 Royal Hunt of the Sun
 The Wind in the Willows
 Oedipus
 Caucasian Chalk Circle
 In Living Memory
 Wyrld Sisters
 More Grimm Tales
 The Nativity
 The Golden Masque of Agamemnon
 The Silver Sword
 The Canterbury Tales
 Hamlyn
 The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
 Was He Anyone?
 A Christmas Carol



Arabian Nights
 What The Butler Saw
 The Erpingham Camp
 Alice's Adventures Underground
 Tales From Ovid
 The Elephant Man
 O.U.T. Spells Out
 Oliver Twist
 Lark Rise
 Red Right Hand
 The Play of Kes
 Hiawatha
 Sweeney Todd
 Macbeth & The Rebels Plot
 Son of Man
 The Miller's Tale
 Gutter Tribe
 Gilgamesh
 The Wedding Feast

GYPT PROFESSIONAL TEAM 2006



John Clark



Jain Boon



Bettina Reeves



Lisa Harris



From left to right: Chris Durnall, George Davis-Stewart, Julia Davies, Stephen Badman, Gary Meredith

PAST & PRESENT STAFF 1956 - 2006

TUTORS/DIRECTORS Melville Thomas, Molly Wanklyn, Myra Silcox, Marcia Griffin, Jill Price, Patricia Flowers, Robert Page, Yvonne Hunt, Howard Moore, Julie Thomas, Gary Meredith, Julia Davies, Stephen Badman, Chris Durnall, John Clark Jain Boon, Lisa Harris, Alan Grice, Ken Caswell

DESIGN Lilian Rathmell, Marjorie Lee, Barbara Green, Arthur Jacob, Paul Bannister, Nigel Hook, Jane Couchman, David Howard, Earnest James, Malcolm Davies, Georgina Miles, Bettina Reeves, Kate Bohin, Caroline Roberts, Charlotte Neville, Rachel Shand

TECHNICAL Elphin Jones, Clive Lamb, John Rogers, Edwin Martin, George Davis-Stewart



Gwent Theatre 1976 - 2006

Gwent Young People's Theatre flourishes under the banner of Gwent Theatre.

This year Gwent Theatre celebrates its 30th birthday under the artistic and administrative direction of Gary Meredith and Julia Davies.

As a creative, diverse and inclusive company, Gwent Theatre has taken over 122 productions to young people, introducing them to the excitement of live theatre in their own environment.

Its reputation for high quality professional theatre in education for schools and communities brings invitations to take productions to other parts of Wales, attend international drama festivals and make guest presentations at national conferences.

Performances and workshop activities provide opportunities for young people to develop an appreciation of literature and the creative arts, provoke debate about current issues and inspire an interest in the world in which they live.

Gwent Theatre celebrates 30 years of uninterrupted Theatre in Education with a new play commissioned from Welsh poet and playwright Patrick Jones. **'Sing To Me'** will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the national anthem *Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.



As Caroline Sullivan wrote of Patrick's work *Everything Must Go* in *The Guardian*: "... striking enough for Welsh theatre what the *Manics* and *Catatonia* have done for its music ... the artistic equal of the rest of Britain."

Public Performances of **'Sing To Me'**

- November 16 at 7.30pm
The Muni Arts Centre, Pontypridd
- November 17 at 8.00pm
Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
- November 24 at 7.30pm
Blackwood Miners Institute
- December 1 at 7.30pm
Borough Theatre, Abergavenny

Further details from www.gwenttheatre.com

Over the years the company has increased access and extended tours to meet the demand for performances reaching 27,720 young people with 288 performances in the last year.

The company also commissions new writing, holds script development workshops, devises new work and works in partnership with other companies and organisations. A joint Welsh language production with Theatre Iolo and Spectacle Theatre tours annually.

The skills of the company are also in demand by organisations exploring social issues such as drugs and alcohol misuse and domestic abuse. The company has worked with organisations as varied as the BBC, National Children's Home, NSPCC and local authorities.

It offers individually designed workshops for schools, work experience placements for young people, youth access workshops, lighting hire, theatre tours and an advisory service for schools..

Gwent Theatre has a core team of six and employs professional actors, writers, musicians, designers and

The current production *'100 Million Footsteps'* by Diane Samuels can be seen at Llanover Hall, Cardiff on Wednesday June 28th. It ends the current tour of schools on July 21st.

Further details from www.gwenttheatre.com

MEMBERS 2006



GYPT JUNIORS 2006

Joceline Beaumont
Zoe Bradley
Eleanor Cotterill
Bethan Cox
Joseph Cox
Sammy-Joe Davies
Catherine Eeles
Sam Ellis
Eleanor Evans
Krishan Gandhi
Eleanor Haslegrave
Joseph Hassall
Lucille Harding
Sophie Hutchison
Matthew Indge
Izzy Jones
Rhian Jenkins
Aidan Jones
Ciaran Jones
Owen Jones
Alyn James
Kayleigh Lane
Eleanor Maddocks
Connor Millar
Jonathan Morgan
David Morgan
Katie-Morag Paton
Ella O'Connor
Bethan Turner
Jake Starling
Clemmie Starling
Tommy Sampson

Emily Townsend
Jade Tucker
Jack Wheatley
Bethan Werrett

GYPT SENIORS 2006

Megan Arnup
Cari Barley
Rhiannon Bramley
Matthew Butler
Louise Brown
Scarlett Brown
Harry Bowsher
Abigail Bowsher
Nicholas Bowsher
Stephanie Burton
Hannah Baker
Charmaine Cunningham
Mari Davies
Bria Dickenson
Jo Evans
Sophie Forbes-Nash
Alexander Gething
Cicely Giles
Laura Gumery
Emma Humphries
Bethan Haycock
Annie Harris
Geraint Howells
Thomas Jenkins
Leo Jofeh
Jenny Johnson
John Jones

Sarah James
Patrick Kerr
Emma Lewis
Lucy Maddocks
Leighton Martin
Sophie Morgan
Layla Peploe
Naomi Potts
Alison Price
Rosie Powell
Rebekah Prime
Calum Paton
Giselle Quarrington
Kenny Richard
Llyr Randles
Jamie Stokes
Nia Statham
Angharad Thomas
Robyn Taylor
Zac Thomas
Hywel Vaughan
Megan Vaughan
Bethan Witcomb
Charlotte Wolfenden
Rhiannon Wallace
Matthew Watkins
Sara Williams



ANNIVERSARY YEAR PRODUCTIONS

SWEENEY TODD *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*

by *C G Bond*

In this version of the old melodrama, Sweeney Todd returns to avenge his family and in so doing provides Mrs Lovett with unusual fillings for her pies! **Borough Theatre, Abergavenny. January 19, 20, 21.**

SON OF MAN

by *Dennis Potter*

Potter's superb play relating the life and passion of Christ, originally written for television is re-created for the stage and set in the year 1969. **The Melville Theatre, Abergavenny, March 2, 3, 4.**

MACBETH & THE REBELS PLOT

by *John O'Connor*

Shakespeare's tragedy is an enduring favourite with its Scotland-based story of plots against the king, equivocation and witchcraft. The play follows the fortunes of the King's Men in 1606.

The Melville Theatre, Abergavenny, March 9 and 10

GUTTER TRIBE

by *Louise Osborn*

A challenging new work by Welsh playwright Louise Osborn and specially commissioned by GYPT with funding from Arts Council Wales.

After 'the war' a group of itinerant children have to shape their own world from the debris of what went before... How will they survive; who will lead them; what rules will they create; and whose values and judgements will prevail?

July 6, 7, 8 The Melville Theatre, Abergavenny 7.30pm

GILGAMESH

by *Farhana Sheikh*

The undoubted masterpiece of ancient Iraq – and one of the great works of world literature – the Epic of Gilgamesh tells the story of the king and his heroic struggle against death.

A spectacular open air promenade production that takes the audience on an epic journey of discovery with actors, lifesize puppets, music, dance and ritual.

July 27 & 28 Abergavenny Castle 7.00pm

July 29 2.30pm

Following the matinee performance of Gilgamesh, there will be an evening of entertainment where current and past members can meet and celebrate with a live band and refreshments.

THE WEDDING FEAST

by *Arnold Wesker*

Freely adapted from An Unpleasant Predicament, a short story by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Major contemporary playwright, Sir Arnold kindly offered one of his plays to be produced as part of our anniversary year. He is a prolific writer whose plays have been translated into 17 languages and performed world-wide.

November 23, 24 and 25 The Melville Theatre 7.30pm

December 4 Weston Studio, Wales Millennium Centre 8.00pm

Ad Hoc Theatre present **THE MISER** by Moliere adapted by Miles Malleson.

June 30 at The Melville Theatre, Abergavenny, 7.30pm

This is a special benefit for GYPT.



Sponsors & Donors

Monmouthshire County Council

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

WEA South Wales

Arts Council of Wales Writers' Grant

Rt Hon Neil Kinnock and Glenys Kinnock MEP

Abergavenny Rotary Club

Abergavenny Town Council

Ad Hoc Theatre Company

MCC Young People's Partnership

Offstage

Dorrell & Oliver

Angel Hotel

The Bear Crickhowell

The Royal Hotel Usk

Gafney's

Caboodles

Natural Therapy Centre

Aston House Hairdressers

Dover & Co.

Waitrose plc

Stuart Neale

Ken Caswell

Julie Brooks

Stephanie Benavente

Clare Hammacott

Robyn Lyn-Evans

Michael McCarthy

Seann Alderking

Jeanette Massocchi

Wayne Beecham

Nia Lynn & The Bannau Trio

Tom Pearce

Katy Secombe

Matthew Woodyatt

Cwmbran Congress Youth Theatre

Gwent Theatre, The Drama Centre, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny NP7 5UD

Email gwenttie@uwclub.net Tel: 01873 853167 Fax: 01873 853910 www.gwenttheatre.com

BOX OFFICE 01873 850805



The company would like to thank the Arts Council of Wales, Monmouthshire County Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Workers Educational Association South Wales for their support.