

21 February 2012
[Accessibility help](#)
[Text only](#)

NORTH WEST WALES

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)



- [BBC Local](#)
- [North West Wales](#)
- [Things to do](#)
- [People & Places](#)
- [Nature & Outdoors](#)
- [History](#)
- [Religion & Ethics](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Music](#)
- [TV & Radio](#)

Local BBC Sites

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Travel](#)

Neighbouring Sites

- [Mid Wales](#)
- [North East Wales](#)

Related BBC Sites

- [Wales](#)
- [Cymru](#)
- [Gogledd Orllewin](#)

Theatre memories

Last updated: 25 November 2008

The curtain fell on the stage at Theatr Gwynedd, Bangor, for the final time in October 2008. Theatre director Dafydd Thomas shares his memories - and we'd like to hear yours.



My first job here was as head of house in 1977, then deputy manager and finally theatre director, so I've been here for years. I was actually here during the first ever performance on January 1, 1975, Pwyll Gwyllt, and I hope to be here for the last ever show on October 18.

We'll be finishing with a production by Showzone, a company who give children from Objective One areas the chance to perform. They've made great use of our facilities, as have local school pupils, and I think they'll greatly miss us when we're closed.

The school halls round here just aren't the same; there's nothing to beat having the experience of performing on a real theatre stage, but absolutely no provision has been made for this and so groups like Showzone will be back to practising in their chapel vestry.

The people of Bangor will definitely suffer until the new arts centre is built, but that won't be for another four years at the very least.

The best of the Welsh acting establishment have performed at Theatr Gwynedd - John Ogwen, Jo Roberts, Maureen Rhys and Dewi Humphreys. David Jason also came here early in his career to appear in a play called Charlie's Aunt.

Our own production company, Cwmni Theatr Gwynedd, was created in 1986 and I recall their first production, O Law i Law, which went down to great reviews. They also did a stage version of the TV show C'mon Midffild which was brilliant - it's always great to see a theatre full of people laughing.



Unfortunately, they decided to separate the theatre from the production company in 2003, which put an end to Cwmni Theatr Gwynedd.

A number of comedians have been here over the years - Jack Dee, Jeremy Hardy - and we've had singers like Rick

Wakeman and Ralph McTell.



more from this section

- [Student life](#)
- [History](#)
- [In pictures](#)
- [Outdoors & activities](#)
- [Hall of fame](#)
- [Multi-cultural life](#)
- [Vaynol Estate](#)
- [Ask a local](#)
- [I love Bangor](#)
- [Weird tales](#)
- [Train information](#)

living in bangor

- [Local public services](#)
- [Useful links](#)
- [Have your say](#)
- [Local healthcare explained](#)

Weather for Bangor

	Sunday max 16°C min 7°C		Monday max 13°C min 6°C
--	--------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------

interact

Tell us about a web page
Found a web page we should know about? Send us the details.

Email A Friend

related bbc.co.uk links

- [Petition opposes theatre closure](#)
- [Carpenter's long career](#)
- [Performing arts index](#)

related www links

- [Theatr Gwynedd](#)
- [Theatres Online](#)

more from North West Wales

Food & Drink



Full of flavour
Is your favourite local produce or recipe in our guide?

In Pictures



Slideshows
Our A-Z takes in everything from aerial views to zoos.

The university have made good use of us too, putting on musicals like Joseph, Oliver! and Fiddler on the Roof.

Theatr Gwynedd isn't a very big place. There were plans to build a second stage and practice rooms, but the funding ran out. So our backstage area is so small the technicians have often had to bring sets in from a van in the car park because there just isn't the space to store them. But our backstage staff do have a reputation of being the most professional and versatile in Wales.

Many actors have told me how much they love performing at Theatr Gwynedd because you're that much closer to the audience of 350. The acoustics are good and the actors are on a great eyeline with those watching.

Not everything has gone smoothly though. We once had a leak in the roof - I'm sure the audience had no idea there were lots of buckets backstage to catch the water!

And many performers have been late because of the trains and had to run on stage at the last minute. But we've only cancelled shows once, during the strikes of the 1970s when we didn't have any electricity to go on.

It's been fun working here. The fact that so many of the core staff have been here for years speaks volumes. It will be very sad when we close for the last time, especially as there's nothing to replace us. *Dafydd Thomas*

[View some photos of past productions.](#)

your comments

Kevin Myers, Cardiff

As a member of the University-based amdram group SODA I was lucky enough to perform in a professional theatre for the first time in Theatr Gwynedd, and what a thrill it was. I went on to appear on that stage many more times, and even went on to direct two shows there. Wonderful memories, making the demise of Theatr Gwynedd a sad day indeed for me and for countless others.

Wed Oct 15 11:33:12 2008

Melfyn, Llandudno Junction

When I was a student I worked at Theatr Gwynedd for a year as an usher/interval ice cream seller and therefore got to see lots of productions and films for free. My personal highlight was a summer production of Educating Rita with Robert "High Hopes" Blythe and Jacquetta May, despite having to sit through it many times. I also enjoyed Hwyl a Fflag's "Newid Aelwyd", but please don't make me sit through Robert De Niro's film "The Mission" ever again!

Thu Oct 2 16:13:11 2008

Sam Roberts from Wales

Don't close the theatre down as it been there since the 70s and it's the only good thing about Bangor. Many people's careers have started there.

Hall of Fame



Public life

Meet heroes and historic figures raised in the region.

LLEOL I MI

Gogledd Orllewin



Tai Hanesyddol

O blastai crand i ffermydd gwledig, camwch dros drothwy rhai o dai mwyaf

hanesyddol yr ardal

Fri Sep 26 15:33:08 2008

Robert Roberts

Theatr Gwynedd is a significant performance space at the heart of Bangor University life. Why close it down?

Fri Sep 26 15:32:06 2008

Evaviv, Tywyn

Great article, but what a pity it has to close! My daughter, who is a professional actress, singer and dancer, was sorry to hear this, having performed there in the early 90s in Little Shop of Horrors and would love to attend a Gala Night if they have planned to have one. Best wishes to all at Theatre Gwynedd.

Fri Sep 26 09:02:42 2008

Kath, BBC web team

Memorable performances at Theatr Gwynedd for me have included George Melly, Ted Hughes, Rich Hall, and Mid Wales Opera who got me interested in opera for the first time.

Wed Sep 24 14:41:10 2008

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)

Remembering Theatr Gwynedd

Last updated: 25 September 2008

Stage manager Dylan Rowlands has been very busy with his camera over the years. Do you remember any of these dramatic moments on Theatr Gwynedd's stage?



- [BBC Local](#)
- [North West Wales](#)
- [Things to do](#)
- [People & Places](#)
- [Nature & Outdoors](#)
- [History](#)
- [Religion & Ethics](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Music](#)
- [TV & Radio](#)

Local BBC Sites

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Travel](#)

Neighbouring Sites

- [Mid Wales](#)
- [North East Wales](#)

Related BBC Sites

- [Wales](#)
- [Cymru](#)
- [Gogledd Orllewin](#)



Catherine Aran, Mici Plwm and Yoland Williams in Gelli Geirios

1 2 3 4 5

[More Theatr Gwynedd memories.](#)



more from this section

- [Student life](#)
- [History](#)
- [In pictures](#)
- [Outdoors & activities](#)
- [Hall of fame](#)
- [Multi-cultural life](#)
- [Vaynol Estate](#)
- [Ask a local](#)
- [I love Bangor](#)
- [Weird tales](#)
- [Train information](#)

living in bangor

- [Local public services](#)
- [Useful links](#)
- [Have your say](#)
- [Local healthcare explained](#)

Weather for Bangor



Sunday
max 16°C
min 7°C



Monday
max 13°C
min 6°C

interact

Tell us about a web page

Found a web page we should know about? Send us the details.

[Email A Friend](#)

more from North West Wales

Useful links



Let us guide you
The web at a glance for Gwynedd, Conwy and Anglesey.

History



The Romans
Find out what the empire-building legions got up to.

Nature



Going wild
Get under the skin of Snowdonia wildlife and habitats.

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)

Remembering Theatr Gwynedd

Last updated: 25 September 2008

Stage manager Dylan Rowlands has been very busy with his camera over the years. Do you remember any of these dramatic moments on Theatr Gwynedd's stage?



- BBC Local
- North West Wales
- Things to do
- People & Places
- Nature & Outdoors
- History
- Religion & Ethics
- Arts & Culture
- Music
- TV & Radio

Local BBC Sites

- News
- Sport
- Weather
- Travel

Neighbouring Sites

- Mid Wales
- North East Wales

Related BBC Sites

- Wales
- Cymru
- Gogledd Orllewin



J O Roberts in Fiddler on the Roof

1 2 3 4 5

[More Theatr Gwynedd memories.](#)



more from this section

- Student life
- History
- In pictures
- Outdoors & activities
- Hall of fame
- Multi-cultural life
- Vaynol Estate
- Ask a local
- I love Bangor
- Weird tales
- Train information

living in bangor

- Local public services
- Useful links
- Have your say
- Local healthcare explained

Weather for Bangor



Sunday
max 16°C
min 7°C



Monday
max 13°C
min 6°C

interact

Tell us about a web page

Found a web page we should know about? Send us the details.

[Email A Friend](#)

more from North West Wales

Useful links



Let us guide you

The web at a glance for Gwynedd, Conwy and Anglesey.

History



The Romans

Find out what the empire-building legions got up to.

Nature



Going wild

Get under the skin of Snowdonia wildlife and habitats.

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)

Remembering Theatr Gwynedd

Last updated: 25 September 2008

Stage manager Dylan Rowlands has been very busy with his camera over the years. Do you remember any of these dramatic moments on Theatr Gwynedd's stage?



- BBC Local
- North West Wales
- Things to do
- People & Places
- Nature & Outdoors
- History
- Religion & Ethics
- Arts & Culture
- Music
- TV & Radio

Local BBC Sites

- News
- Sport
- Weather
- Travel

Neighbouring Sites

- Mid Wales
- North East Wales

Related BBC Sites

- Wales
- Cymru
- Gogledd Orllewin



Siân Wheldon and Llion Williams in Y Cylch Sialc

1 2 3 4 5

[More Theatr Gwynedd memories.](#)



more from this section

- Student life
- History
- In pictures
- Outdoors & activities
- Hall of fame
- Multi-cultural life
- Vaynol Estate
- Ask a local
- I love Bangor
- Weird tales
- Train information

living in bangor

- Local public services
- Useful links
- Have your say
- Local healthcare explained

Weather for Bangor



Sunday
max 16°C
min 7°C



Monday
max 13°C
min 6°C

interact

Tell us about a web page

Found a web page we should know about? Send us the details.

[Email A Friend](#)

more from North West Wales

Useful links



Let us guide you

The web at a glance for Gwynedd, Conwy and Anglesey.

History



The Romans

Find out what the empire-building legions got up to.

Nature



Going wild

Get under the skin of Snowdonia wildlife and habitats.

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)

Remembering Theatr Gwynedd

Last updated: 25 September 2008

Stage manager Dylan Rowlands has been very busy with his camera over the years. Do you remember any of these dramatic moments on Theatr Gwynedd's stage?



- BBC Local
- North West Wales
- Things to do
- People & Places
- Nature & Outdoors
- History
- Religion & Ethics
- Arts & Culture
- Music
- TV & Radio

Local BBC Sites

- News
- Sport
- Weather
- Travel

Neighbouring Sites

- Mid Wales
- North East Wales

Related BBC Sites

- Wales
- Cymru
- Gogledd Orllewin



Maldwyn John and Pierce Jones in Ddoe yn ôl

1 2 3 4 5

More Theatr Gwynedd memories.



more from this section

- Student life
- History
- In pictures
- Outdoors & activities
- Hall of fame
- Multi-cultural life
- Vaynol Estate
- Ask a local
- I love Bangor
- Weird tales
- Train information

living in bangor

- Local public services
- Useful links
- Have your say
- Local healthcare explained

Weather for Bangor



Sunday
max 16°C
min 7°C



Monday
max 13°C
min 6°C

interact

Tell us about a web page

Found a web page we should know about? Send us the details.

[Email A Friend](#)

more from North West Wales

Useful links



Let us guide you

The web at a glance for Gwynedd, Conwy and Anglesey.

History



The Romans

Find out what the empire-building legions got up to.

Nature



Going wild

Get under the skin of Snowdonia wildlife and habitats.

[BBC Homepage](#)
[Wales Home](#)

Remembering Theatr Gwynedd

Last updated: 25 September 2008

Stage manager Dylan Rowlands has been very busy with his camera over the years. Do you remember any of these dramatic moments on Theatr Gwynedd's stage?



- BBC Local
- North West Wales
- Things to do
- People & Places
- Nature & Outdoors
- History
- Religion & Ethics
- Arts & Culture
- Music
- TV & Radio

Local BBC Sites

- News
- Sport
- Weather
- Travel

Neighbouring Sites

- Mid Wales
- North East Wales

Related BBC Sites

- Wales
- Cymru
- Gogledd Orllewin



Glyn 'Pensarn' Williams in the Sycas

1 2 3 4 5

[More Theatr Gwynedd memories.](#)



more from this section

- Student life
- History
- In pictures
- Outdoors & activities
- Hall of fame
- Multi-cultural life
- Vaynol Estate
- Ask a local
- I love Bangor
- Weird tales
- Train information

living in bangor

- Local public services
- Useful links
- Have your say
- Local healthcare explained

Weather for Bangor



Sunday
max 16°C
min 7°C



Monday
max 13°C
min 6°C

interact

Tell us about a web page

Found a web page we should know about? Send us the details.

[Email A Friend](#)

more from North West Wales

Useful links



Let us guide you

The web at a glance for Gwynedd, Conwy and Anglesey.

History



The Romans

Find out what the empire-building legions got up to.

Nature



Going wild

Get under the skin of Snowdonia wildlife and habitats.

Archive Terms of Use

This document is made available for archival or reference purposes and should only be used for private (non-commercial) purposes. These pages may contain materials or content which do not belong to the BBC and in particular materials or content which belong to members of the public whose identities may or may not be known. Whilst the BBC had the necessary rights, permissions and clearances to include and publish them as part of the former 'Where I Live' BBC website, the BBC may not have the right to allow users to use, copy or exploit them or to distribute them to others. No such usage is permitted and the BBC cannot process requests for permission to do so. For more information about deleted or discontinued web pages on the BBC, go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/help/web/mothballing/>