



Monday, 25 May 2009

Eisteddfod President - Dewi Pws Morris

Who knows what will be in store at the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Cardiff Bay when the 2009 Eisteddfod President, **Dewi Pws Morris**, takes to the stage? Famous for his buffoonery, teasing and practical jokes at home and on stage, Dewi is also a well-known actor, singer, author, bard and TV presenter.

Born in Treboeth, Swansea, Dewi Pws has been a long standing supporter of the Urdd, as a keen member in his younger days: "I was never a member of Ysgol Lôn Las choir though, during my young years," explains Dewi, "as I can't really sing! I was however a member of the percussion band, and loved it!"

Later at Aelwyd Tabernacl, Morryston, Dewi enjoyed many different experiences, and recalls the Urdd activities as a backbone to his social life. He has fond memories and a hoard of amusing stories from the many summer holidays spent at both Urdd centres - Glan-Ilyn near Y Bala and Llangrannog, Ceredigion.

Aled Siôn, Urdd Gobaith Cymru's Eisteddfod Director said: "The Urdd Eisteddfod President is always a well-known person who has been involved with, and is aware of the Urdd's scope of activities. Dewi Pws Morris fits this role perfectly, and we are extremely pleased that he has agreed to take this honorary position at Cardiff Bay this year. He has a unique way with children and youngsters and is a great advocate for Urdd Gobaith Cymru. We look forward to seeing him officially opening the proceedings from the stage this morning."

Dewi began his career as a teacher at Splott, Cardiff, but two years later his acting interest developed into a full time role with *Cwmni Theatr Cymru* (Wales Company Theatre). He has appeared on numerous TV series on S4C, including his portrayal of Wayne Harris on the Welsh soap opera, *Pobol y Cwm*, *Hapus Dyrfa*, *Torri Gwynt*, the travel series *Byd Pws*, children's drama series *Rownd a Rownd* and most recently *Goffio* for S4C.

His accolades as a singer began in the early seventies, when he became a member of Welsh band *Tebot Piws*, and later the first Welsh super group *Edward H Dafis*. He is now a member of a Cardigan fun band, *Sesh Bach*.

His creative talents continue as an author and bard, with many titles to his name, including his autobiography *Theleri Thŵp*, *Hiwmor Pws*, *Fo a Fi (a hi)* plus children's books such as *Dewi*, *Dwpsi a'r Dreigie*.

He now lives in Tresaith, West Wales with his wife Rhiannon, is a member of the Welsh bardic team, *Crannog* and enjoys fishing, golf and holidays in his camper van.

Of his role at the Urdd National Eisteddfod Dewi Pws said: "It is a great honour to be the Urdd Eisteddfod President this year at Cardiff Bay, and I'm looking forward to enjoying the event with the thousands of youngsters who will be attending from across Wales. Youngsters keep me young at heart, and the Urdd itself continues to play a pivotal role in these children's upbringing. During my younger years at Morriston, the experiences I gained from Urdd activities continue with me to this day. Above all, I hope each and every child and young person who attends the Eisteddfod this week enjoys themselves – that's the most important lesson in my book!"

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Ends

- Urdd Gobaith Cymru is Wales' leading youth organisation.
- The Urdd has given children and young people exciting opportunities for over 80 years.
- The Urdd National Eisteddfod is one of the largest cultural youth festival in Europe.
- 40,000 young people will be competing in various competitions including recitation, choral singing, dance, arts and craft, composition and poetry.
- The Eisteddfod attracts over 100,000 visitors, 15,000 competitors and almost a million television viewers.
- Welsh stars such as Bryn Terfel, Ioan Gruffudd, Cerys Matthews, Aled Jones, Shân Cothi and Daniel Evans all gained valuable performing experience on the Urdd stage.
- The Eisteddfod offers wall to wall competitions between 11.00am - 5.00pm and evening competitions on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- The Eisteddfod will be held in the grounds of Llanerchaeron in Ceredigion in 2010 and in Swansea in 2011.