

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Language Committee

Date of meeting: 15/3/2024

Title: Theatr Felinfach's Annual Report 2023-2024

Purpose of the report: Report on the activity of Theatr Felinfach 2023-2024

Background:

Theatr Felinfach – Our Work:

Theatr Felinfach hosts and develops thousands of arts opportunities every year. We use informal education methods along with the disciplines of drama, dance, film and technical theatre. We develop opportunities and experiences that promote creativity, skills, knowledge and understanding of the culture and arts of Wales and the world.

Although four years have passed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the lockdowns is still evident in a number of areas, including the arts. Since 2022, Theatr Felinfach's Artistic Team has seen the impact of the pandemic on individuals and groups of participants. Among children and young people, we see that a lack of confidence is evident in many, and we also see that the lack of experience of working in a group, face to face has had an impact on participants as well. Participating in theatre and arts disciplines develops personal confidence, physical confidence to move in a space / on a stage, confidence to use one's voice and to contribute ideas – from our experience, there is work to be done with our partners, schools and organisations to restore and build confidence. Despite the challenges, it has been an exciting time as demand for our participation work has increased.

Some of the highlights of 2023-24:

- Developed 3 projects under the banner of '*Gorwel a Gwreiddiau*' (Horizon and Roots) – which included the development of a multi-media performance by 2 cohorts of young people who usually struggle to engage with activities, and *Pasio Fflam Pont Llanio* film, an inter-generational project with individuals and Ysgol Henry Richard.
- Led Dance Lessons as part of the provision of the new curriculum at Ysgol Bro Pedr.
- Increased our ALN provision by working with 4 additional learning needs centres Canolfan y Môr, Canolfan y Bont, Penglais Hearing Resources Centre and Penglais Learning Support Centre – a film premiere of their work was held as a culmination of the project with the support and collaboration of Ceredigion County Council's ALN Team.
- Devised and staged a production for neurodiverse young people in partnership with Canolfan y Môr – '*Cestyll a Dreigiau*' (Castles and Dragons).
- Ran a full range of participatory activities for various ages: *Tic Toc*, *Symud a Sŵn*, *Hwyl a Hamdden*, *Ysgol Berfformio* (Performing School) and Aeron Valley Drama Club, as well as our own productions – e.g. Cwmni Actorion Felinfach's Christmas Pantomime.

- Established and started an Expressive Arts pilot project with Ciliau Parc, Dihewyd and Felinfach schools, as part of the preparations for merging as Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron.
- Extended our projects with and for home-educated children and young people with some elements completed in collaboration with Ceredigion County Council's Inclusion Team.
- Planned an Expressive Arts pilot project with the schools in the Aeron Valley in preparation for merging as a district school.
- Hosted the Little Mill, Cardi-gân and Aeron Gardening Club projects.
- Supported other services' projects e.g. hosting The ABC of Opera with the Music Service. Held participation sessions at Language Fairs under the banner of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).
- Developed 2 original performances with members of the Performing School, including a site-specific production at Longwood Woodland.
- Worked with Theatr Arad Goch to host an international performance, as part of the Opening Doors Festival 2024.
- 3 staff have completed an Introduction to BSL course.
- Hosted and supported 14 YFC clubs at the Ceredigion YFC Drama Festival.
- Theatr Felinfach's Pantomime was part of the Welsh Lives programme on ITV.

Arts Council of Wales:

A Revenue Portfolio Investment Review was held in March 23 and decisions on the new Arts Council of Wales portfolio were announced in September. Theatr Felinfach retained its status within the portfolio with the same level of investment. However, the Arts Council of Wales have reviewed their funding proposal with a 2.5% reduction per grant.

Theatr Felinfach Resource Development:

Presentations were made to Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales on the vision for improving Theatr Felinfach's resources by investing in a new building. A further meeting will be held on 5/3/24 with representation from Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales.

Staffing:

5 full-time staff members: Sound Technician / Stage Manager, Senior Creative Officer, Marketing and Front of House Coordinator, Caretaker / Groundsman.

3 part-time staff: Costume Department Coordinator, 2 x Creative Officers (maternity leave)

Positions not filled: Lighting / Digital Technician, Business / Marketing Officer, Culture Officer

Recommendation(s):

Accept the report as a record of Theatr Felinfach's activity and its aim to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture through arts participation programmes.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

None

Contact Name:

Dwynwen Lloyd Llywelyn

Designation:

Head of Theatr Felinfach and Felinfach Campus

Date:

22/2/24

Acronyms:

ALN – Additional Learning Need

WESP – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

BSL – British Sign Language

YFC – Young Farmers Club