

Translation of Parri's People Daily Post Welsh National Press Article

'Gwenfair yn credu mewn bachu ar ei chyfle'

'Gwenfair believes in grabbing her opportunity'

It's a long way from The Ogwen Valley to Singapore, and it fringes on being a different world, but it's a journey that Gwenfair Vaughan ventured upon full of confidence. Actually, confidence and the determination to succeed is an inherent trait in the actress from Gerlan who has since settled in Cardiff. But settling is questionable indeed, as she admits to spending the majority of her time on the road between one theatre and another and one country and another.

"One has to accept that the life of an actor is a Nomadic one, although I start a new acting job full of anticipation and excitement, sometimes one becomes tired of packing and un-packing from one day to the next" she says.

"It's not always fun living in various hotels and I sometimes yearn to be at home. However, when I've been at home for a period of time I get itchy feet and can't wait to go on my travels again. It seems that the ideal life would be to alternate a month at home and a month traveling!"

She has traveled extensively over the last three years, as Arad Goch's production of Taliesin, where Gwenfair played Ceridwen the female lead, has proved to be extremely popular in every corner of the world.

"Taliesin began as a Welsh language show to tour Wales, and as a result we were invited to take it to Denmark, where we also performed it in Welsh. However, as more people began to hear of us we decided to learn an English language version of the show."

We were fortunate enough to perform in the United States of America and Canada, and won the prestigious 'Waterford Audience Choice Award' for best family show at The Dublin International Theatre Festival last year."

An invitation to perform in a festival in Singapore was extended without the organizers even seeing the show. Apparently, they read a review praising the show, and subsequently we received financial assistance from The British Council to enable us to perform there."

Taliesin incorporates a variety of performance styles, both traditional and modern, and includes clog dancing and folk singing. It's amazing having the opportunity to present Welsh work in an International context, showing other countries what's created in Wales. We have a very sophisticated theatre industry considering how young the professional scene is here, and people delight at seeing our work."

At long last the Welsh image is in fashion, and the Welsh accent has since become as acceptable as the Irish and Scottish ones. We have to grab this opportunity! "

Presently Gwenfair Vaughan is to be seen on the small screen playing Megan, the daughter in 'Hafod Haid', (Barley Farm) in the comedy of the same name that has been plagued by some critics. But she's not bothered by any of it, and looks forward to filming the second series at the end of the month.

"The truth is that people have their own opinions and their tastes differ. If that were not true, we'd only need one type of program! If one tries to please everyone, pleasing no one shall be the result. Judging the reactions I've received, younger people like the series and occasionally complain that it's not wacky enough for their tastes. Taste can change from one generation to the next, I recall when I was a teenager how much I enjoyed 'Teulu'r Mans' despite the extensive criticism it received."

Gwenfair's began her television career as a host on the children's program 'Troi a Throi' (Turn and Turn), and her last dramatic role on the small screen was playing Hannah in 'Y Plamant Aur' (The Golden Pavement). The actress mentions that her approach to acting Hannah to that of Megan in 'Hafod Haidd' (Barley Farm) is worlds apart.

"Megan calls for a bigger style of acting; she's a larger than life character and over-does everything. Hannah on the other hand required the highest level of subtly possible, and as an actress in the 1930's Hannah was taught to speak RP English."

Gwenfair often ventures up the ghastly A470 road to visit her family in Gerlan, and mentions that she appreciates the area much more since she moved to live in the capital.

"I realize this is a cliché but it's true... When I lived in the heart of the mountains I barely noticed them. They were in my life on a daily basis, and although I often felt I should make more of an effort to explore them, it was always something I could leave until another time. I also have a tendency to do the same in Cardiff, there's so much to see here and it has a lot of potential. But they are also things that I can afford to leave until another time".