



Wales in Washington

(Provisional Program)

Wales will be the featured nation at the 43rd Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall from June 24-June 28 and July 1-5, 2009. This festival will be called Wales Smithsonian Cymru (WSC).

There will be eight main themed areas on the Mall: Wales in the World; Language and Literature; Industry, Heritage and Innovation; Building and Landscapes; Ecotourism and Pastimes; Home and Community; Along the Water; Music and Dance.

Wales will also hold many other exciting ancillary events in Washington DC to coincide with this festival. These events will be called Wales Washington Cymru (WWC).

Between the two festivals, there will be over 200 participants visiting from Wales representing film, music, theatre, tourism, the environment, visual arts, and business. All non-business events are open to the public and free of charge unless otherwise stated.

Updated information will be available at www.wales.com

Environment and Sustainability

Event: Convergence on Zero: Carbon, Climate & Energy presented by the Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales (WWC)

Date and Time: 25 June and 26 June, 10.00am-5.00pm

The Zero Carbon Transition Conference brings together leading thinkers from Wales to focus on the challenges set by the three big issues of our time: climate, energy and economics. The conference will make the case for rapid decarbonisation across all sectors and will explore the policies and technological tools we have at our disposal to make this transition happen.

Location: Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

Film Wales

All the following screening and events will be held at the Goethe-Institut, 812 7th St NW.

Event: Screening of Dal: Yma/Nawr (Still Here Now) (WWC)

Date & Time: 24 June, 8.00pm – 10:15pm

Featuring some of Wales brightest stars such as Sian Phillips, Ioan Gruffudd, Matthew Rhys and Rhys Ifans, Dal: Yma/Nawr takes viewers on a 2,000-year odyssey through the story of Welsh poetry. In Welsh with English subtitles, followed by a Q&A with Director Marc Evans.

Event: National Screen and Sound Archive Showcase (WWC)

Date and Time: 25 June, 7.30pm – 9:45pm

The films Dylan Thomas starring Richard Burton and the short film David will be introduced by Iestyn Hughes, Head of the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales at the National Library of Wales.

Event: Screening of Sleep Furiously (WWC)

Date and Time: 26 June, 8.00pm – 10:15pm

Set in a small farming community in rural Wales, where small scale agriculture is disappearing, Sleep Furiously is a poetic and profound journey into a world of endings and beginnings. Followed by Q&A with Director Gideon Koppel

Event: Screening of Abraham's Point (WWC)

Date and Time: 2 July, 7.00pm – 9:15pm

Comet Snape (Mackenzie Crook) steals a grandfather clock and sets off to bring it back to his dying father in Wales. Abraham's Point takes Comet on a journey of redemption from the dark streets of London back to the beautiful landscapes of Wales. Here in a shattering climax, we discover the dark secret that has haunted Comet for so long. Followed by Q&A with Director Wyndam Price.

Event: Screening of I Know You Know (WWC)

Date and Time: 3 July, 7.00pm – 9:15pm

Emmy-nominee Robert Carlyle (The Full Monty, Trainspotting) takes the lead role of Charlie in the coming of age drama, in which a boy relishes the excitement and challenge of his father's espionage work; until the 'spy game' turns real. Followed by Q&A with Director Justin Kerrigan.

Music

Wales is known as 'The Land of Song' and music and dance will feature prominently throughout the 2 weeks of celebrations. Performers will include the world-renowned Welsh National Opera (WNO), international harpist Catrin Finch, royal performer Iris Williams, and a number of bands and musicians featuring both traditional and contemporary music from Wales.

Event: Welsh National Opera Workshops: The Boy who went to the West Wind.

Date and Time: Workshop 1: 24 June 10.00am - 4.00pm with performance June 25 at 2:30pm

Workshop 2: 26 June, 10.00am - 4.00pm with performance June 27 11:30am

Fiona Harrison, a member of WNO Chorus, and three of the WNO wind players will work with the American Youth Chorus and the British School, to develop their skills at two workshop

followed by public performances of the WNO's classic project The Boy who went to the West Wind

Location: Workshop at British School (WWC) Performances at the Mall (WSC)

Event: Lift up your Voice workshops with the Welsh National Opera (WSC)

Date and Time: 25 June, 26 June and 27 June, 3.30pm-4.30pm

Three public singing workshops on the Mall, led by members of the chorus of the WNO and the Rehoboth Choir from Pennsylvania. Participants will then sing in an evening choral concert.

Open to all voices, turn up on the day.

Location: The National Mall

Event: Lift up your Voice Choral Concerts (WSC)

Date and Time: 25 June and 27 June, 4.00pm-5.00pm

The final "big sing" following the workshops (details above). Members of the Chorus and Orchestra of the WNO perform with Rehoboth Welsh Choir from Pennsylvania and participants in the daily Lift up your Voice workshops

Location: TBA

Event: Iris Williams, Welsh Lady of Song (WWC)

Date and Time: 27 June, 7.30pm

Iris Williams, born in Wales, has done 14 royal performances and performed in 19 countries. In America she has sang with Bob Hope, Rosemary Clooney, and Tony Bennett.

Tickets available at www.ResidentAssociates.org

Location: Rasmuson Theatre, National Museum of the American Indian

Tickets \$25 (on sale through Smithsonian Associates)

Event: Only Men Aloud! performance (WWC)

Date and Time: 2 July, evening event (TBC see www.wales.com/smithsonian)

The young contemporary entertainers and Welsh singing sensation Only Men Aloud! are winners of the BBC's Last Choir Standing competition. Last year they signed with Universal and their first album sold more than 500,000 copies. They bring passion and fresh life into the centuries-old Welsh tradition of male voice choirs and their eclectic performance will range from traditional Welsh choral music to Broadway hits.

Location: Main Stage, the National Mall

Event: Harpist Catrin Finch in concert with Colombian band Cimarron. (WWC)

Date and Time: 3 July evening event, (TBC see www.wales.com/smithsonian)

Known as the 'Queen of Harps,' international contemporary harpist Catrin Finch has performed extensively throughout the U.S.A., the Middle East, Asia and Europe. She has appeared with many of the world's top orchestras including the Boston Pops and the New York Philharmonic. Catrin will perform with Cimarron, the most accomplished 'llanera' group in Colombia, who have performed world-wide during a 20 year career. This will be a stunning collaboration and a celebration of the versatility of the harp with Welsh melodies being infused with a vibrant Latin identity.

Location: Main Stage, the National Mall

A new Folkways CD of Welsh music, produced by Ceri Rhys Matthews, will be available on the Mall

Theatre

Event: Welsh words – Theatre from Wales, presented by Sherman Cymru/Studio Theatre (WWC)

Date and Time: To be scheduled

Description: Sherman Cymru and The Studio Theatre, Washington DC's home for contemporary theatre, will be working together with performers from both Wales and Washington to give readings of six plays.

Location: The Studio Theatre, 1501 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Event: Solo performance of Dylan Thomas's Under Milk Wood with Guy Masterson (WWC)

Date and Time: 12 June, 6:45pm

Guy Masterson is internationally renowned for his unique performance of every one of the play's 69 colorful characters – male and female. Guy is the great-nephew of Richard Burton who took part in the first radio broadcast of the Under Milk Wood in 1954. The event will be introduced by Kate Burton, daughter of Richard Burton. Tickets \$40 available at www.ResidentAssociates.org

Location: Rasmuson Theatre, National Museum of the American Indian

Travel in Wales

Event: Discovering Wales with Andrew Evans (WWC)

Date and Time: 25 June, 6.45pm-8.45pm

An illustrated talk by travel writer Andrew Evans who will take you on a journey of discovery through magnificent green landscapes, ancient castles, slate-roof mill towns, and sleepy seaside villages.

Tickets at \$35 available at www.ResidentAssociates.org

Location: Ripley Centre, 1100 Jefferson Drive, S.W.

Event: It's Time for Tea with Welsh Chef Angela Gray (WWC)

Date and Time: 30 June and 1 July, 4.00pm

A Welsh-inspired traditional tea in the company of Angela Gray as she discusses Welsh food and customs.

Tickets \$95 available at www.ResidentAssociates.org

Location: British Embassy

Visual and Creative Arts

Event: The Welsh Table – an exhibition of contemporary studio ceramics from Ruthin Craft Centre (WWC)
Date and Time: 22 June – 21 September, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
An exhibition of ceramics by ten contemporary makers whose work builds on, and reinterprets, traditional Welsh styles of pottery, and showcases some of the best makers working in Wales today.
Location: Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive, S.W.

Event: Turner to Cezanne: Masterpieces from the Davies Collection (WWC)
Date and Time: 26 June, 6.30pm
A lecture by Michael Tooby of National Museum Wales followed by a panel discussion. The Davies Collection, from National Museum Wales, is an extraordinary group of 19th- and early 20th-century paintings collected by sisters Gwendoline and Margaret Davies between 1908 and 1923. Turner to Cézanne is an exhibition of 53 paintings from this remarkable collection. The exhibition will tour the US in 2009 to 2010 and will be at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington from Jan 30 - April 25 2010.
Location: Corcoran Gallery of Art

Business

Event: Multi-sector trade mission from Wales to Washington DC
Date: 21 June – 28 June
Over 50 companies are expected to participate in the trade mission which will include meetings and events in Defence and Aerospace, Creative Industries, and Life Sciences sectors. The activities will also include promotion of Ryder Cup Wales 2010. The event is being organised by International Business Wales and for further information please contact:
William Fraser - William.Fraser@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wales in Washington – Did you know?

- At least two of the Founding Fathers of Welsh extraction went on to become American Presidents – Thomas Jefferson, whose family originated in the foothills of Snowdonia, and James Monroe, whose mother, Lisa Jones, also came from Wales. Martha Washington, whose mother came from Anglesey, became the first First Lady, followed more recently, by Hillary Rodham Clinton, now Secretary of State, whose father 'came from a long line of Welsh Methodists' (Gail Sheehey, Hillary's Choice) and whose mother, Dorothy Howell, was a daughter of Welsh immigrants.
- One of the memorial stones on the Washington Monument in the nation's capital is inscribed with the Welsh words "Fy iaith, fy ngwlad, fy neghenedl, Wales – Cymru am byth." (My language, my land, my nation, Wales – Wales forever.)
- The steel roof structure of the White House was made in Pontardawe, Wales, in the late 19th century.
- On display in the Smithsonian Institution is a steel mill called the Tredegar Mill from Richmond, Virginia. It dates from the middle of the 19th century and was built by Welsh steelmen from Tredegar, Wales. The mill was at its most productive during the American Civil War, providing steel for the Confederate war effort. When the owners brought in unpaid black slave labor to boost production, Welsh steel workers laid down their tools in protest at the injustice to their fellow men.
- Goronwy Owen, one of the most influential Welsh poets of the 18th century, was teacher of the classics at William and Mary College, Virginia.