

3rd of December, 2018

TO ALL COMMUNITY / TOWN COUNCILS OF DENBIGH

Dear Chair of the Community Council

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID FOR THEATR BARA CAWS
FOR THE 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR**

I am writing to you on behalf of Theatr Bara Caws to kindly ask the Community Council for financial assistance for the year 2018/19.

Bara Caws was established forty one years ago to meet the need for professional theatre **FOR** the Welsh community **IN** the Welsh community, and is by now the oldest professional community theatre working through the medium of Welsh. We continue to provide a unique service to our grass roots audiences, and are proud to be recognised as a mainstay of the Welsh theatrical landscape.

Our aim, as a community theatre is to continue with our service of presenting original, relevant work in the Welsh language to the widest possible cross-section of society. We offer theatrical experiences of the highest possible quality bringing entertainment and excitement, ingenuity and relevance to the very hearts of the communities of Wales. Therefore, our vision for the future is to continue with our work of enriching and challenging our communities, and also to contribute towards developing a new generation of creative practitioners and theatre makers, ensuring that the legacy continues.

The Company is based in Caernarfon, but as we tour the majority of our productions throughout the Country we are able to reach people who would no otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy theatrical experiences, including those who live in deprived and isolated communities.

Each year we aim to present a varied, diverse and accessible artistic programme which offers something to all. Public accountability is embedded in the Company's ethos, and according to the regular feedback and testimonies we receive, we can be confident that the work continues to engage and to entertain, and that the Company continues to go from strength to strength.

We are a registered charity, financed through grants, mainly from Arts Council of Wales, and the county authorities of Gwynedd, Môn and Conwy.

During the financial year Bara Caws celebrated a special anniversary as it was 40 years since the company was established. We presented a diverse programme of work aimed at paying homage to the work the Company has created over the years.

- **Brêcshit** - In May / June 2018 we toured a new club show throughout Wales - **Brêcshit** - which was co-written by the cast (Iwan Charles, Llŷr Evans, Gwenno Elis Hodgkins - experienced practitioners of the genre — with Manon Elis joining the Company for the first time). This method follows the original Bara Caws way of working. John Glyn Owen was appointed dramaturge and director. Once again we succeeded in offering a unique service to Welsh language audiences, touring to full houses throughout the country.
- **Gair o Gariad** - Following a successful pilot project held in 2017 we re-staged this charming piece in the National Eisteddfod Cardiff 2018, in association with the Eisteddfod and Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff. This was a unique project as audiences were invited to submit requests for songs beforehand, when they were buying their tickets, with each request woven into the body of the shows, resulting in unique performances every time. The response was phenomenal, and once again we played to full houses throughout the week.
- **Dwyn i Gof** - Our third production in the 2018 / 19 financial year was **Dwyn i Gof**, the last play the late Meic Povey sent to the Company. It was an enthralling, provoking piece blending comedy and tragedy together focusing on a highly relevant subject — dementia. The play toured Wales from 9 - 27 October, 2018, with most tickets sold out in all venues. We are thrilled that the full houses were a fitting tribute to one of our most versatile and successful dramatists.
- **Dygwyl y Meirw** - We supported Seren Ddu a Mwnci, Angela Roberts and Efa Dyfan's company, with their new puppet show, **Dygwyl y Meirw**. The show was a celebration of some of our lesser known legends, targeted at children between 4-12 years old. They toured to schools in Gwynedd, Môn, Conwy and Denbigh, to local community venues, and to Penrhyn Castle, the National Slate Museum in Llanberis and to the Pier, Porthaethwy.

Future Productions - 2019 / 20

- **7 Pechod Marwol** (working title) — We have given a young company, Cwmni Tebot, the opportunity to create a piece of work for Bara Caws, with the aim of supporting a new generation of theatre makers. They will be guided through the scripting process by the renowned author and dramatist, Aled Jones Williams. The show will tour between March 26 - April 13 2019 / 20.
- **Aberhenfelen** - the Urdd Project. During May 2018 we advertised for practitioners to take part in the production. As well as offering the opportunity to performers, young people who are interested in designing sets, costume, lighting, sound and marketing will also have an opportunity to take part in the scheme. Auditions / meetings were held in September 2018, then a rigorous schedule will be adhered to whilst working on the production. The finished show will be staged in July 2019, 2 performances in Galeri, Caernarfon and 2 in the Atrium, Cardiff.
- **Gair o Gariad** - in response to popular demand we aim to re-stage **Gair o Gariad** in the National Eisteddfod, Llanrwst.
- **Lleu Llaw Gyffes** - Between October 29 - November 16 we will tour **Lleu Llaw Gyffes** to theatre spaces throughout Wales. This is an iconoclastic piece about the loss of faith, the destruction of

myths and the everlasting possibility of human tenderness. An exciting, intriguing piece by one of our most controversial dramatists.

General Plans

We will continue to:

- Look at the possibility of presenting short pieces by new dramatists — without the pressure of a full-blown production — this is crucial to the sustainability of Welsh language theatre. (N.B.) When we secure new premises, showcasing work 'in development' will be a mainstay of the Company's vision for the future.
- Develop scripts by new and emerging playwrights, and offer opportunities for new actors to work with the Company.
- Look for opportunities to work in partnership with other companies / organisations — not professional theatre companies alone — but also with Language Initiatives, schools, colleges, community and social groups e.g. Merched y Wawr, amateur drama companies etc.
- Offer help, support and advice to all who ask.
- Prepare English language précis for all productions — this scheme is warmly welcomed by Welsh learners and non-Welsh speakers alike.
- Ensure that scripts are available for e.g. teachers / tutors, especially for exam / eisteddfod use.

Obtaining a new workplace

It's a priority to secure new premises for Bara Caws laying new foundations for the future. The process has been complex, mainly because of the dearth of potential buildings in Caernarfon. However, we have widened our search and are focussing our efforts on a site in Penygroes. We have already received confirmation from ACW regarding a Small Capital Grant to purchase the building, and are now awaiting Gwynedd Council's to the application submitted to them.

We ask you to look kindly upon our application for a grant this year, giving it your careful consideration, as your contribution would ensure that the unique service Bara Caws offers the communities of Gwynedd, Mon and Conwy will continue, thus promoting and investing in the arts, the culture and the Welsh language now and in the future.

On behalf of Bara Caws I would like to thank the Council for all the support we have received in the past.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Brown, on behalf of Bara Caws