



Media Release  
16<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
For immediate release

## **New Film *Gwledd* Brings Welsh Language Back to Cinema Screens for the First Time in Three Years**

*Gwledd (The Feast)*, a carnivorously chilling Welsh language horror film, will be released exclusively in cinemas on August 19<sup>th</sup>, via Picturehouse Entertainment. This will be the first Welsh language feature to screen to cinema audiences since the release of Welsh music documentary, *Anorac* in 2019.

Set in mid-Wales, the film was driven by Welsh talent. Written by Roger Williams and directed by Lee Haven-Jones, it features prominent Welsh actors Nia Roberts and Julian Lewis Jones, as well as rising talents Steffan Cennydd and Annes Elwy.

Elwy plays Cadi - a mysterious young woman that takes a job as a waitress for a wealthy family in the remote Welsh countryside, on the eve of an important dinner party. As the night progresses, she soon begins to challenge the family's beliefs, unravelling the illusion they've created with slow and terrifying consequences.

The release is significant for Wales, introducing Welsh language to new audiences globally whilst also meeting local demand from Welsh people, to watch stories in their native tongue. Traditionally, dual versions of a film have been requested in English. Solely in Welsh, *Gwledd* paves a steady path for new ways of working. This not only honours the Welsh language but holds the door open for further films to be made. A new collaboration between S4C and Creative Wales will see one million annually invested in to Welsh language film, supporting the Senedd's commitment to develop one million Welsh speakers by 2050 and signaling positive change for Welsh language filmmaking.

### **Roger Williams, writer of *Gwledd* explains:**

*"If we were to be quite bold about telling our stories on this big, big, screen, we could start to build the kind of culture where it's not unusual to see Welsh language film in cinemas..."*

The film's release is supported by Film Hub Wales' Made in Wales (MIW) strand, which celebrates films with Welsh connections, building greater awareness of stories from real Welsh communities and helping to shape our cultural identity.

### **Radha Patel, Made in Wales Officer at Film Hub Wales explains:**

*"Welsh films help to shape the culture of Wales. The stories we tell on screen can have global reach – changing the way the world sees our country. It's exciting to have a Welsh-language feature coming to local cinemas and communities again but this shouldn't be an anomaly. Wales is home to a diverse nation of storytellers and Welsh audiences deserve to see more films representing their language, country and culture. We know that *Gwledd* can inspire new talent to make the films they want to see."*

Through MIW, cinemas can screen a special interview with Roger Williams and Annes Elwy, along with a creative essay by freelancer writer and researcher Rosie Couch, which explores the political and environmental context of the film. FHW and Picturehouse have also worked together to ensure

that Welsh cinemas will have access to Welsh-language posters, trailers, audio description and hard of hearing captions for Welsh-speaking d/Deaf and Disabled viewers.

Gwledd received funding from the national development agency, Ffilm Cymru Wales. Gwledd was produced through Ffilm Cymru Wales' Cinematic initiative which is supported by S4C and the BFI (using funds from the National Lottery) & Melville Media in association with Fields Park.

### **Kimberely Warner, Head of Production at Ffilm Cymru Wales explains why the release is significant:**

*"We're so proud to have supported this unique film through our scheme for debut feature films 'Cinematic' and for Roger and Lee to now be mentoring the next generation of Welsh language filmmakers through our 'Labordy' talent development scheme. It's been a promising year for Welsh language cinema all round with exciting festival premieres also soon to be announced for Ffilm Cymru films 'Jelly' (written and directed by Sam O'Rourke) and 'Nant' (written and directed by Tom-Chetwode Barton). Films like Gwledd, which are backed by strong sales agents and distributors, gaining international as well as national acclaim, help to pave the way for the full potential and diversity of Welsh language film to be realised".*

MIW offers year-round activities in partnership with Welsh exhibitors, including a [film catalogue](#) which hosts over 600 shorts and features with Welsh connections.

MIW is made possible thanks to direct support from Welsh Government via Creative Wales, along with support of the BFI Film Audience Network, awarding funds from the National Lottery. FAN offers support to exhibitors across the whole of the UK, to boost cultural programming and engage diverse audiences. Funds in Wales are administered by FHW via Chapter as the Film Hub Lead Organisation.

More than £30M is raised each week for good causes across the UK by the National Lottery.

### **Where to watch Gwledd:**

- [Chapter, Cardiff](#) (19<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September)
- [Cineworld \(Cardiff, Newport\)](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Aberystwyth Arts Centre](#) (19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August)
- [Cellb Cinema, Blaenau Ffestiniog](#) (19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August)
- [Galeri, Caernarfon](#) (18<sup>th</sup> August)
- [Pontio, Bangor](#) (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August)
- [Theatr Mwldan, Cardigan](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Neuadd Dwyfor, Gwynedd](#) (19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August)
- [Showcase, Nantgarw](#) (19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August)
- [Odeon \(Bridgend, Cardiff, Llanelli, Swansea, Wrexham\)](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Vue \(Cardiff, Carmarthen, Cwmbran, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhyl, Swansea\)](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Everyman, Cardiff](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Gwyn Hall, Neath](#) (19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August)
- [Reel Port Talbot](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Torch Theatre, Milford Haven](#) (28<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September)
- [Public Hall, Brynamman](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Wyeside Arts Centre, Builth Wells](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September)
- [Magic Lantern, Tywyn](#) (Exact dates TBC)
- [Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September)

*Dates subject to change, please keep an eye on the cinema's website for details on their upcoming film screenings.*

Audiences can keep up to date with news of the upcoming Welsh releases on the [Made in Wales section of Film Hub Wales' website](#), or by following @Filmhubwales on social media.

**-ENDS-**

The following assets are available:

- Film stills,
- Interview clips with Roger Williams and Annes Elwy,
- Social quote cards,
- Creative essay about Gwledd's political message.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

### **About Film Hub Wales**

Film Hub Wales (FHW) celebrates cinema. We support organisations that screen film, from film festivals, to societies and mixed arts centres. Working with over [315 Welsh exhibitors](#), we aim to bring the best British and international film to all audiences across Wales and the UK. Since Film Hub Wales set up in 2013, we've supported over 300 exciting cinema projects, reaching over 508,000 audience members.

We're part of a UK wide network of eight hubs funded by the British Film Institute (BFI) which form the [Film Audience Network](#) (FAN), with [Chapter](#) appointed as the 'Film Hub Lead Organisation' (FHLO) in Wales.

We are also proud to lead on the UK inclusive cinema strategy on behalf of BFI FAN.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)

### **About the BFI Film Audience Network**

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI's aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI FAN Film Hubs are:

- Film Hub Midlands is led by Broadway, Nottingham working in partnership with the Birmingham-based Flatpack,

- Film Hub North is led collectively by Showroom Workstation, Sheffield and HOME Manchester,
- Film Hub South East is led by the Independent Cinema Office,
- Film Hub South West is led by Watershed in Bristol,
- Film Hub Scotland is led by Glasgow Film Theatre,
- Film Hub Northern Ireland is led by Queen's University Belfast,
- Film Hub Wales is led by Chapter in Cardiff,
- Film Hub London is led by Film London.

[Website](#)

### **About the BFI**

We are a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image. Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Tim Richards.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

### **About Chapter**

Chapter is one of Europe's largest and most dynamic arts centres with cinemas, theatres, exhibition spaces, studios, a café, award-winning bars, over 60 cultural workspaces and more. Chapter has an international reputation for excellence, innovation and collaboration. It offers an ever-changing programme of the best performance, films and exhibitions from Wales and from around the world.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

### **About Creative Wales**

Creative Wales is a Welsh Government internal agency that supports the development of the fast-growing creative industry in Wales. We focus on developing and promoting growth across the Screen, Digital, Music and Publishing sectors, positioning Wales as one of the best places in the world for creative businesses to thrive.

[Website](#), [Twitter](#)