

Llais y Llywydd: Martyn Geraint

Y cerddor, cyflwynydd ac actor Martyn Geraint yw Llywydd y Dydd, dydd Iau yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd, Pen—bont ar Ogwr, Taf ac Elái 2017.

Ganed Martyn yn Wdig, ger Abergwaun gan symud i fyw i Bontypridd tra'n blentyn. Mynychodd Ysgol Gynradd Pont-Sion-Norton ac Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen lle bu'n ddisgybl, prif ddisgybl ac yn ddiweddarach, yn riant a llywodraethwr.

Wedi'r coleg aeth Martyn i fyd teledu gan weithio fel cyflwynydd ar raglenni fel *Pen a Chynffon*, cyn dod yn adnabyddus fel cyflwynydd *Slot Meithrin* ac yna *Planed Plant Bach* ar S4C am 15 mlynedd. Yn ystod y cyfnod yma bu iddo ysgrifennu a pherfformio degau o ganeuon gwreiddiol ar gyfer plant bach. Aeth ymlaen i gyflwyno *Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol* am 3 blynedd, tra hefyd yn datblygu ei ddiddordeb ym myd y Pantomeim! Bellach mae Panto blynyddol Cwmni Martyn Geraint yn rhan annatod o raglen Nadoligaidd theatrau Cymru.

Mae Martyn yn dad i 3 o blant 'mawr' ac yn briod â Bethan ers 30 mlynedd. Mae'n athro Ysgol Sul yn nghapel Coedpenmaen ac mae'n dal i fyw ym Mhontypridd.

Beth yw eich atgof cyntaf/hoff atgof o'r Urdd?

Mae gen i lawer o atgofion melys iawn o'r Urdd, ond fy atgof cynta yw rhwystredigaeth fel plentyn ifanc gan fod dim cystadlaethau i blant dan 8 bryd hynny!

Disgrifiwch y profiad o gystadlu yn yr Eisteddfod i berson o'r gofod

Mae cystadlu ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod yn gyfuniad o gyffro a'r ysfa i deithio i blaned arall. Mae'r aros tu cefn i'r llwyfan fel disgwyl i'r roced danio...Yna'r daith hir i ganol y llwyfan - sydd wastad yn bellach na mae rhywun yn cofio - fel teithio o un seren i'r llall. Mae cofio'r darn fel cofio'r cod sydd angen i lawnsio'r roced adre - os mae rhywun yn anghofio, rhaid trio eto - os na ddaw yn ôl, mae'r daith ar ben! Rhaid cofio gwenu [fel arfer] wrth i'r camerâu agosáu - sy'n atgoffa rhywun o gynhadledd y wasg cyn cychwyn taith i'r gofod - mae'r Paparazzi ymhobman. Ac mae'r teimlad o ryddhad ar ôl gorffen fel glanio'n ddiogel yn ôl ar eich planed eich hun. Yr unig beth sydd ar ôl yw disgwyl i glywed os ydy'r daith wedi bod yn llwyddiannus. Ond hyd yn oed os taw methiant oedd y cwbl mae'r profiad o fod yn rhan o'r prosiect yn werthfawr tu hwnt a'r rhyfeddodau arall-fydol gwelwyd ar y daith yn fyth-gofiadwy!

Yw'r profiad o gystadlu wedi bod o fudd yn eich bywyd proffesiynol?

Dwi'n teimlo fod y profiad ges i wrth gystadlu a pherfformio ar lwyfannau wedi bod yn werthfawr tu hwnt ac o fudd mawr imi yn fy ngyrfa. Roedd y teithio blynyddol i'r De a'r Gogledd, a gorfod addasu i amgylchfyd newydd bob tro, er nad oeddwn i'n ymwybodol o hynny ar y pryd - hefyd yn ffordd dda o ddod i nabod ardaloedd arbennig o Gymru, ac wedi rhoi'r hyder imi deimlo fy mod i'n medru perfformio sioe unrhywle. Dwi wedi perfformio mewn sawl lleoliad "diddorol" dros y blynyddoedd a dwi dal yn mwynhau pasio'r lleoliadau yna yn rhinwedd fy swydd hyd heddiw.

Pa gystadleuaeth newydd hoffech ei weld yn rhan o'r Eisteddfod?

Fel diddanwr plant, licen i weld cystadleuaeth sy'n annog pobl ifanc i ddiddanu plant yn y Gymraeg - pwy a wyr, falle darganfyddwn ni Martyn Geraint newydd!

Beth, yn eich barn chi, yw'r peth gorau am yr Urdd?

I mi, y peth gorau am yr Urdd yw'r profiadau mae plant a phobl ifanc Cymru yn medru elwa ohonynt. Rhwng perfformio ar lwyfan, cystadlu mewn cystadlaethau chwaraeon, aros yn y gwersylloedd, teithio i wledydd pell, joio yn y Jambori a chwrdd â ffrindiau newydd ledled Cymru - mae gennym rhywbeth arbennig yma! Oes, mae angen ymdrech ychwanegol gan y plant, rhieni ac athrawon - ond y profiadau yma fydd yn para gyda'r plant am byth. A'r profiadau yma fydd yn rhoi'r hyder i bobl ifanc Cymru i roi eu stamp unigryw nhw ar y wlad ac ar y byd.

President of the Day: Martyn Geraint

The musician, presenter and actor Martyn Geraint is President of the Day for Thursday at the Urdd National Eisteddfod, Bridgend Taff-Ely 2017.

Martyn was born in Goodwick, near Fishguard moving to live to Pontypridd as a child. He attended Ysgol Gynradd Pont-Sion-Norton and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen where he was a pupil, head-pupil and later parent and governor.

After college Martyn went to work in television as a presenter for programmes such as *Pen a Chynffon*, before becoming well-known as the presenter of *Slot Meithrin* and then *Planed Plant Bach* on S4C for 15 years. During this time, he also wrote and performed lots of original songs for young children. He went on to present *Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol* for 3 years, while also developing his interest in all things Pantomime! Cwmni Martyn Geraint's annual Panto is now an integral part of the Christmas programme at Welsh theatres.

Martyn has 3 grown up children, and has been married to Bethan for 30 years. He is the Sunday School teacher at Coedpenmaen chapel and still lives in Pontypridd.

What is your first / favourite memory of the Urdd?

I have many very sweet memories of the Urdd, but my first memory is feeling frustration as a young child that there were no competitions for under 8s at the time! Later came the pride of hitting the drum on stage at the '73 Urdd Eisteddfod at 'home' in the park in Pontypridd, singing translations of 'Long Haired Lover from Liverpool' and 'Power to all our friends' in a concert at the Pavilion. I tasted success at the '76 Eisteddfod in Porthaethwy with the Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen Boys Party, and got 3rd with Judith Roberts in the Cerdd Dant duet. The Boys Party also won at the Barry Eisteddfod in '77.

Describe the experience of competing in the Urdd Eisteddfod to an alien

Competing on the Eisteddfod stage is a combination of excitement and the desire to travel to another planet. Waiting back stage is like waiting for the rocket to fire. Then the long journey to the centre stage – which is always further than you remember – is like journeying from one star to another. Remembering the piece is like remembering the code needed to launch the rocket to get home – if you forget, you must try again – and if you can't remember it, the journey is over! You must remember to smile (usually) as the cameras come near – which reminds one of a press conference before embarking on a space journey – the Paparazzi are everywhere. Then the feeling of relief after finishing is like landing safely back on your planet. The only thing left is to wait to hear if the journey was a success. But even if it was all a failure the experience of being part of the project is extremely valuable and the wondrous things seen along the way are unforgettable!

Has the experience of competing been of benefit in your career?

I feel that the experiences I've had competing and performing on stage have been invaluable and have benefitted me greatly in my career. The annual travelling to the South and North, and having to adapt to a new environment each time, was a great way of getting to know various regions of Wales, even though I didn't know that at the time, and it gave me the confidence to feel like I could perform a show anywhere. I have performed in many an 'interesting' location over the years, and I still enjoy passing these places as part of my job today.

What, in your view, is the best thing about the Urdd?

For me, the best thing about the Urdd is the experiences that Welsh children and young people can benefit from. From performing on stage to competing in sports competitions, staying in centres, travelling to foreign lands, enjoying a Jamboree and meeting new friends across Wales – we have something special here! Yes, some extra effort must be put in by children, parents and teachers – but these experiences will stay with the children forever. And it is these experiences that will give the young people of Wales the confidence to put their own unique stamp on this country and the world.