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Erthygl i'r Wasg **Press Release**

Y Sŵn 'yn atgoffa pobl am yr aberth' a wnaed i sefydlu S4C

Mae ffilm **Y Sŵn** wedi creu cryn fwrlwm dros yr wythnosau diwethaf wrth dynnu pobl at ei gilydd a llenwi seddi sinemâu ar hyd a lled Cymru - a thu hwnt.

Mae'r ffilm fentrus, egnïol sydd wedi'i hysgrifennu gan Roger Williams a'i chyfarwyddo gan Lee Haven Jones yn adrodd hanes un o ddigwyddiadau pwysig hanes Cymru yn yr ugeinfed ganrif, sef safiad Gwynfor Evans dros sefydlu sianel deledu Gymraeg a'i fygythiad i ymprydio hyd farwolaeth i sicrhau hynny.

Yn ogystal â derbyn llu o adolygiadau disglair, mae'r ffilm wedi sbarduno sgyrsiau am ddylanwad protestio, dyfodol darlledu yng Nghymru a thynged yr iaith Gymraeg.

Bydd cyfle arall i'w gwylio ar y sianel sy'n ganolog i'w stori wrth i S4C ei darlledu ar **nos Sul 9 Ebrill** am **9.00**.

Wedi'i gosod yn 1979 a throad yr 1980au, mae **Y Sŵn** yn ffilm gyfnod sydd wedi'i hysbrydoli gan y digwyddiadau ag arweiniodd at sefydliad S4C. Mae llywodraeth Margaret Thatcher newydd ddod i rym gyda maniffesto oedd yn rhoi addewid y byddai'n sefydlu sianel deledu Gymraeg ei hiaith. Wedi ychydig fisoedd wrth y llyw, fe aeth yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref, William Whitelaw yn ôl ar ei air gan sbarduno protestiadau drwy Gymru. Wrth galon y stori mae safiad eithafol y Pleidiwr, yr heddychwr a'r cenedlaetholwr Gwynfor Evans – a oedd newydd golli ei sedd i'r Blaid Lafur yn etholiad 1979 – i fygwth llwgu i farwolaeth pe na bai'r llywodraeth yn newid ei meddwl.

Mae'r stori'n canolbwyntio ar dair carfan - gweision sifil yn y Swyddfa Gymreig, cenedlaetholwyr Cymreig ac aelodau o lywodraeth gyntaf Margaret Thatcher, ac mae'r golygfeydd dramatig yn plethu gyda chlipiau archif o eitemau newyddion, protestiadau a chyfweliadau o'r cyfnod.

Ymysg y cast sy'n dod a'r cwbl yn fyw mae amryw o wynebau sy'n hen gyfarwydd a bod ar y sgrin – Rhodri Evan (Gwynfor Evans), Eiry Thomas (Rhiannon, gwraig Gwynfor), Mark Lewis Jones (Willie Whitelaw), Rhodri Meilir (Nicholas Edwards, dirprwy arweinydd y Ceidwadwyr o dan Margaret Thatcher), Arwel Gruffydd (y Ceidwadwr Wyn Roberts), Dafydd Emyr (y Llafurwr Cledwyn Hughes), Sion Eifion (Dafydd Elis-Thomas), Richard Elfyn (Syr Goronwy Daniels), a Sian Reese-Williams (Margaret Thatcher).

Wrth i'r stori blethu ffaith a ffuglen, gwelwn Ceri Samuel - menyw ifanc sy'n danbaid dros ei Chymreictod sydd newydd gychwyn gwaith yn y Swyddfa Gymreig. Cawn ddilyn Ceri a'i chydweithwyr wrth iddynt ddod i delerau â phenderfyniad Whitelaw ac wrth iddynt ymateb i'r protestiadau ddaeth yn sgil y newyddion. Yn chwarae rhan Ceri mae Lily Beau - cantores sydd wedi mentro i dir actio'n weddol ddiweddar.

"Mae **Y Sŵn** yn ffilm liwgar, hiraethus a gwleidyddol" meddai Lily. "O'dd gen i addysg eitha' syml o'r hyn oedd wedi digwydd, ond doedd hi ddim tan i mi neud y ffilm nes i mi weld faint o angerdd oedd y tu ôl i'r ymgyrch, a bod pobl rili wedi brwydro dros yr iaith Gymraeg. Rwyt ti'n ei chymryd yn ganiataol weithiau, oherwydd mae'n dod o'r ysgol nawr. Mae'r ffaith fod pobl wedi gwir frwydro dros yr hyn roedden nhw'n ei gredu yn ysbrydoliaeth lwyr."

Y syniad o adrodd pennod o hanes sy'n weddol anghyfarwydd i lawer o Gymry ifanc heddiw oedd y sbardun i Roger Williams, awdur y ddrama:

"Dwi'n mwynhau gwylio dramâu gan bobl fel James Graham – ma fe'n gwneud dramâu hanes gwleidyddol yn benodol, ond mae ei waith e'n ymwneud â phobl go iawn a digwyddiadau go iawn sy' 'di digwydd yn eitha' diweddar. A dwi 'di meddwl ers sbel pam bod ni ddim yn mynd ar ôl yr hanesion yna.

"Roedd S4C yn dathlu ei phen-blwydd yn 40, a dyma fi â diddordeb yn fwy na dim byd arall ynglŷn â'r penderfyniadau a gafodd eu gwneud yn San Steffan. Fel Cymro Cymraeg ro'n i'n ymwybodol o stori Gwynfor a Chymdeithas yr Iaith, ond ddim yn gwybod pam bod y Llywodraeth wedi bod mor gyndyn i roi sianel deledu, felly dyna lle ddechreuodd y daith i fi'n greadigol.

"Mae'n ddiddorol bod cymaint o bobl o dan yr oedran o 45 erbyn hyn ddim yn ymwybodol o'r stori, neu ddim yn gwybod llawer amdani, felly mae'n bwysig bod ni'n atgoffa pobl am yr aberth a wnaethpwyd, yn enwedig dwi'n meddwl aberth yr aelodau ifanc o Gymdeithas yr Iaith o'dd wedi bod yn brwydro ers dros ddegawd i sicrhau sianel deledu Gymraeg.

"Mae'r stori'n un sydd ddim wedi cael digon o sylw dros y blynyddoedd. Felly dod a'r stori i gynulleidfa newydd a hefyd gwneud iddyn nhw sylweddoli fod pobl wedi brwydro dros y sianel - i beidio cymryd yr hyn nathon nhw ennill yn ganiataol, a hefyd, gwneud i bobl feddwl am y Gymraeg, ble ry'n ni heddiw, beth yw natur y sianel sydd gyda ni, y gwasanaeth, y platfformau sydd gyda ni yn y Gymraeg, y ffordd mae'r sianel yn cael ei hariannu.

Y Sŵn
Dydd Sul, 9 Ebrill 9.00 S4C
Isdeitlau Cymraeg a Saesneg
Ar alw: S4C Clic; BBC iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill
Cynhyrchiad Swnllyd ar gyfer S4C mewn cydweithrediad â Joio

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Y Sŵn film 'reminds people of the sacrifice' made to establish S4C

The film **Y Sŵn** has created a stir over the past few weeks by drawing people together and filling cinema seats all over Wales - and beyond.

The punky, energetic film written by Roger Williams and directed by Lee Haven Jones tells the story of one of the most important events in the history of Wales in the twentieth century, namely Gwynfor Evans' stand for the establishment of a Welsh language television channel and his threat to go on hunger strike to ensure that.

As well as receiving many glowing reviews, the film has sparked conversations about the influence of protest, the future of broadcasting in Wales and the Welsh language.

There will be another opportunity to watch the film on the channel that's central to its story as it broadcasts on S4C on Sunday 9 April at 9.00.

Set in 1979 and the turn of the 1980s, Y Sŵn is a feature film inspired by the events that led to the establishment of S4C, the world's only Welsh language television channel. Margaret Thatcher's first government was swept to power with a manifesto that included a promise to establish a dedicated Welsh language television channel, only for the Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, to renege on the promise and spark a wave of civil disobedience across Wales.

A key opposition figure was Gwynfor Evans, the leader of Plaid Cymru who vowed to starve himself to death unless the government kept its promise and established the long-awaited channel.

The story focuses on three factions - civil servants in the Welsh Office, Welsh nationalists and members of Margaret Thatcher's first government, and the dramatic scenes are interwoven with archive clips of original news items, protests and interviews from that period.

Among the cast that brings the story to life are several familiar faces to the screen - Rhodri Evan (Gwynfor Evans), Eiry Thomas (Rhiannon, Gwynfor's wife), Mark Lewis Jones (Willie Whitelaw), Rhodri Meilir (Nicholas Edwards, deputy leader of the Conservatives under Margaret Thatcher), Arwel Gruffydd (Conservative Wyn Roberts), Dafydd Emyr (Labourer Cledwyn Hughes), Sion Eifion (Dafydd Elis-Thomas), Richard Elfyn (Sir Goronwy Daniels), and Sian Reese-Williams (Margaret Thatcher).

As the story interweaves fact and fiction, we see Ceri Samuel - a young woman who is passionate about her Welsh identity who has just started work at the Welsh Office. We follow Ceri and her colleagues as they come to terms with Whitelaw's decision and as they respond to

the protests triggered by the news. Playing the role of Ceri is Lily Beau - the singer who has recently ventured into acting.

"Y Sŵn is a colourful, nostalgic and political film" says Lily. "I had a fairly basic knowledge of what had happened, but it wasn't until I made the film that I saw how much passion there was behind the campaign, and the extent people fought for the Welsh language. You take the language for granted sometimes, because it comes from school now. The fact that people really fought for what they believed in is an absolute inspiration."

The idea of telling a slice of history that is relatively unfamiliar to many young Welsh today was the trigger for author Roger Williams:

"I enjoy watching dramas by people like James Graham - he specifically makes political history dramas, but his work is about real people and real events that happened quite recently. I've been thinking for a while, why don't we go after those stories?

"S4C was about to celebrate its 40th birthday, and I was interested more than anything else regarding the decisions that were made in Westminster. As a Welsh speaking Welshman I was aware of the story of Gwynfor Evans and Cymdeithas yr Iaith, but didn't know why the Government had been so reluctant to provide a television channel - so that's where the journey began for me creatively.

"It's interesting that so many people under the age of 45 are unaware of the story, or don't know much about it, so it is important that we remind people of the sacrifice that was made, especially the sacrifice made by the young members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith who fought for over a decade to secure a Welsh language television channel.

The story is one that hasn't received enough attention over the years. So I wanted to bring it to a new audience and make them realise that people have fought for the channel and not to take what they gained for granted. I also wanted to make people think about the Welsh language, where we are today, the nature of the channel we have, the service, the platforms we have in Welsh, the way the channel is funded."

Y Sŵn
Sunday,9 April, 9.00 S4C
English and Welsh subtitles
On demand: S4C Clic; BBC iPlayer and other platforms
A Swnllyd production for S4C in association with Joio