



wales arts international
celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru



From Wales to Washington: Welsh Arts Critics' Exchange Programme

Announcement

A Visiting Arts programme run in partnership with Wales Arts International and British Council, and supported as part of Wales activities in Washington, DC by the Welsh Assembly Government

What Is It?

This exciting programme will bring together writers and journalists from Wales with their counterparts in Washington, DC. Designed to develop coverage and critical discussion of Welsh arts, the intensive workshops will develop participants' critical abilities and result in increased coverage and critical discussion in print, broadcast and new media of the arts in Wales. The starting point for this would be coverage of Welsh activity in Washington, DC.

The programme will also encompass bilingualism and provide new opportunities for international discussion on art forms in Wales, whilst developing relationships between the media in Wales and North America.

During the programme, time will be spent in both Wales and Washington, DC, with participants attending writing workshops, visiting galleries and attending a variety of performances. They will write reviews, discuss their work together and explore the role of the art critic. The course will be led by Linda Christmas, a former arts journalist and experienced teacher of journalism. Established arts critics on both sides of the Atlantic will tutor the workshops.

Alison MacAdam, a Washington, DC participant who attended the Arts Critics' Exchange Programme between Northern Ireland and Washington DC in 2007, benefited greatly from her experience on this course:

"I have heard of no other [exchange] programs for young and aspiring critics, and this course has given me the courage and tools to pursue criticism."

Programme Dates

The programme will involve two workshops, the first in Wales from 24 - 30 May 2009, and the second workshop taking place in Washington, DC from 23 – 29 June 2009.

Number of places

A minimum of three writers from Wales will be selected and partnered with three writers from North America. Selection will be made on the basis of a piece of critical writing submitted by applicants (for full details please see below).

Costs of programme

Placement costs will be covered by the programme organisers, and will include return international flights (between Washington, DC and the UK), accommodation, subsistence allowance and admission to all events that form part of the workshop.

Who Can Apply?

- The programme is looking for emerging writers and journalists based in Wales and North America who are interested in or involved in art criticism.
- Candidates must have a demonstrable interest in the art forms included in the programme which are literature, visual art, performing arts and film. The programme is about the spread of 'art criticism' rather than the criticism of a particular art form.
- The programme will be highly participatory and participants must come prepared to take part in a variety of events from interactive workshops and debates to site visits and review writing.
- Applicants must be able to commit to both sets of dates: 24 - 30 May 2009 in Wales; and the 23 – 29 June 2009 in Washington DC.

How to Apply

Interested individuals should download the application form from www.visitingarts.org.uk. Selection will be on the basis of a piece of critical writing submitted by the applicant, in addition to an account of why that piece of work was chosen to review. Applicants must also submit a CV/resume. Selection will be made by a panel including programme stakeholders and professional writers. Full details and an application form are available on the Visiting Arts website.

Applications should be sent to Sioned Hughes, Professional Development Manager at Visiting Arts (email:sioned.hughes@visitingarts.org.uk)

Deadline for Application

Applications must be received by 12 noon GMT 20 April 2009.

Further information:

Visiting Arts

Visiting Arts' purpose is to strengthen intercultural understanding through the arts.

We provide information and intelligence in order to strengthen intercultural dialogue and understanding; create opportunities for artists to explore new connections and cultures; expand the skills and knowledge of new and existing cultural players for a diverse and sustainable arts environment.

Among other things we produce and distribute our free monthly e-newsletter, help-sheets, targeted briefings and the latest advice through print, web and face to face meetings; establish and foster opportunities for ground-breaking artist exchanges, and contribute to some of the world's biggest and most innovative festivals; organise and run training programmes, in-country workshops, overseas country-visits, networking events, work placements, residencies and collaborations.

www.visitingarts.org.uk

Wales Arts International

Wales Arts International is a partnership between the Arts Council of Wales and British Council. We facilitate international work in the arts through collaborations, projects, networks and communication.

Wales Arts International's purpose is to place the arts and the contemporary culture of Wales on a world stage and to provide an international context to the arts in Wales.

Wales Arts International exists to provide an infrastructure that creates, promotes and delivers a programme of activities and projects that invest in and develop quality arts from Wales internationally.

Wales Arts International not only ensures that Welsh artistic and cultural output is appreciated by as wide an audience as possible, but also plays its part in the development of increased understanding between people in the UK and those in other countries through intercultural dialogue, artistic exchanges and collaborations.

www.wai.org.uk

British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and education opportunities. We work to foster the long-term co-operation needed for a safer and more connected world. By strengthening trust and understanding between countries and cultures we build respect and dialogue and generate opportunities for individuals to fulfil their potential. Our cultural relations work makes a practical difference to people's lives in the UK and worldwide.

www.britishcouncil.org

Wales activities in Washington

The Welsh Arts Critics' Exchange Programme is one of a number of different activities being organised by a range of partner organisations in and around Washington, DC over the coming months, as part of an exciting showcase of Wales. This builds on Wales' appearance as a featured nation at the 2009 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. During the festival, over 100 participants will represent Wales on an area the size of four football pitches on the National Mall in the heart of Washington, DC over the weeks straddling the 4th July holiday.

www.wales.com/smithsonian

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival is an annual, cultural festival run by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, a research and educational unit of the Smithsonian Institution. This year it takes place on June 24-28 and July 1-5 2009.

www.folklife.si.edu/index.html