

GALWAD

UNBOXED
CREATIVITY IN THE UK

PRESS RELEASE

Under strict embargo until 10am Tuesday 26 July 2022

GALWAD: A STORY FROM OUR FUTURE

GROUNDBREAKING LIVE DRAMA - CREATED, FILMED AND
SET IN WALES - TO BE BROADCAST ON SKY ARTS

26 September - 2 October 2022
ONLINE, ON TV, LIVE FROM WALES



Image: Aisha-May Hunte and Alexandria Riley in GALWAD. Photography: Warren Orchard and Mo Hassan. Art Direction: Peter&Paul

Further publicity images can be found [here](#)

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Sky Arts is today announced as the broadcast partner to present ***GALWAD: A STORY FROM OUR FUTURE***, a human story of contemporary Wales that offers a glimpse into the future and asks what would happen if the future tried to contact us.

The story will unfold in real-time on digital and broadcast platforms, blending live performance and TV drama, to form a new kind of cultural event, from **26 September to 2 October 2022**.

GALWAD, commissioned by **Creative Wales** as part of **UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK**, brings together a 200-strong team of Wales' boldest creative talent to tell a story through live streaming and live broadcast from **Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Ffestiniog**.

Among the acting talent announced today for *GALWAD* are **Alexandria Riley, Matthew Aubrey, Nitin Ganatra and Rhodri Meilir**.

From 26 September, audiences can follow the story on social media and TV as it moves between Wales today and thirty years into the future, with unannounced interventions on S4C and by following on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok.

The story culminates in a four-hour broadcast on Sky Arts (free to view) offering the chance to catch-up on the week's events in Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Ffestiniog before the final live broadcast from Blaenau Ffestiniog and a 60-minute drama set in the future.

September 26 2022 - an electrical storm crackles dramatically over Wales. The unthinkable happens - time cracks, the future makes contact and messages start appearing.

Efa, a 16 year-old girl in Swansea, however, claims that more than just messages have made it through. Her 46 year-old mind from 2052 is now in her 16 year-old body today - that she is a visitor from our future.... As she tries to find a way to explain to her friends what has happened, fragments from 2052 appear suddenly, randomly, on the airwaves, on phone messages, on television channels. She journeys across Wales, looking for answers and wrestling with how much she should tell. What would you say? Would anyone believe you? This happens live, in real-time across a week as Efa heads to the epicentre of the storm desperate to return home.

In 2052, 16 year-old Efa finds herself in her own 46 year-old body. The world is changed, completely and irrevocably. She is terrified. She just wants to return. To see her Nan again. Around her, others are discovering long lost connections to the past, to loved ones and old events and they are considering what they should do and say. A second storm is coming, one that could see everything reversed, time is running out and Efa needs to get back.

GALWAD began with a 'world-building' process led by **Alex McDowell** (*Minority Report*) with 120 people from across Wales. It is inspired by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which puts the future of young people at the heart of policy decisions and invites audiences

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to explore the moral dilemmas and possibilities of a future impacted by a 1.8 degree rise in global temperatures and widespread social change.

GALWAD is a major pan-Wales collaboration across film, digital, theatre and sustainability sectors led by National Theatre Wales with Frân Wen; the Centre for Alternative Technology; Disability Arts Cymru; Clwstwr; Ffilm Cymru and Sugar Creative and Mad as Birds TV production company.

The creative team for *GALWAD* have been advised by the **Centre for Alternative Technology** - experts in climate change and migration, **Disability Arts Cymru**, **Deaf Talent Collective** and many other Wales-based partners on building the future world.

Creative Director for *GALWAD*, Claire Doherty leads a team of established and emerging Welsh talent, including writer **Owen Sheers** with a 16-strong writing team; theatre director **Gethin Evans**; choreographer **Anthony Matsena**; writer and dramaturg **Kaite O'Reilly**; composer **Dyfan Jones** with musicians **Lemfreck**, **Dunja Botic** and **Greta Isaac**; and artist **Marc Rees** working with designer **Edith Morris**.

Claire Doherty, Creative Director, GALWAD, said:

“Now more than ever we need new and unexpected stories of the future. GALWAD represents the next generation of storytelling and storytellers from Wales. It is a creative and collective act of the imagination which builds on Wales’ rich history of site-specific performance and brings that roaring into the digital and streaming age. GALWAD is as much a story of how we might respond if we glimpsed our future, as it is a vivid imagining of life in 2052.”

The *GALWAD* TV drama, produced by Wales-based production company **Mad as Birds**, broadcasts on Sunday 2 October on Sky Arts. Casting includes **Alexandria Riley** and **Aisha-May Hunte** who both play the part of the central character, Efa. Alexandria is best known for her roles in *The Pembrokeshire Murders*, *The End of the F**king World* and *In My Skin*. Aisha-May Hunte has appeared in *His Dark Materials*, *Enid A Lucy* and *The Left Behind*.

They are joined by **Matthew Aubrey** (*Birdsong*, *War Horse* and *Black Mirror*) and **Nitin Ganatra** (*EastEnders*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*). Other cast members in the 2052 cast include **Andria Doherty** (*It's a Sin*), **Nadeem Islam**, **Rhoda Montemayor**, **Jenna Preece** and **Boo Golding**.

The young cast, who join Aisha-May Hunte to perform *GALWAD LIVE* throughout the week from 26 September includes **Ciaran O'Brien**, **Ifan Coyle**, **Gabin Kongolo**, **Meg Lewis** and **Londiwe Mthembu**. **Rhodri Meilir** (*In My Skin* and *Craith/Hidden*) will undertake a key role in the live broadcast from Blaenau Ffestiniog on Sunday 2 October.

Dawn Bowden, Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, said:

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“We are looking forward to an exciting celebration of creativity, based on co-creating, and involving diverse communities right across Wales.

“The work of GALWAD champions the Well-being of Future Generations Act, our creative talent and will showcase Wales on an international stage. We are seeing how it is investing in the creative and technology sectors, creating opportunities for under-represented talent and supporting the creative industries as we emerge from the pandemic with investment and job opportunities. I’m delighted that GALWAD, which will be broadcast on Sky Arts includes Welsh talent and produced by Wales-based companies. We look forward to seeing the end result in September.”

GALWAD is one of ten ground-breaking major events that form UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, a UK-wide celebration of creativity bringing together science, technology, engineering, arts and maths until the end of October.

Lord Parkinson, Arts Minister, said:

“GALWAD will engage audiences in innovative ways, showcase some of the brilliant artistic talent in Wales, and create opportunities for young people to forge careers in the UK’s booming creative industries.

“I’m delighted that Sky Arts will help to bring it to audiences across the whole country as part of Unboxed: Creativity in the UK.”

Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer, UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK, said:

“GALWAD is a thrilling mix of unfettered imagination, ideas and technology that come together in an extraordinary piece of live and broadcast storytelling for those inside and outside of Wales to enjoy. And, like other UNBOXED projects, it has brought opportunities for young people in Wales to develop the skills needed to build careers in the creative industries.”

A diversity of lived experience is embedded into the devising and performance which is presented in English, Welsh and British Sign Language.

Sign up to follow GALWAD here: <https://mailchi.mp/collective/galwad>

<https://www.galwad.cymru>

Instagram: @galwad22 Twitter: @GALWAD2022 Facebook: @galwad

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Notes to Editors

Biographies for Cast and the Creative Team available on request.

For the full GALWAD team, visit www.galwad.cymru/team

GALWAD is produced by Collective Cymru, a pan-Wales partnership led by National Theatre Wales including Centre of Alternative Technology, Clwstwr, Disability Arts Cymru, Ffilm Cymru, Frân Wen and Sugar Creative. Community partners currently include Cell B, Citizens Cymru, Ethnic Minorities Youth Support Team (EYST) and Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust and a creative company of writers, artists, performers, designers, filmmakers, and musicians. For more information, visit www.galwad.cymru

The team behind *GALWAD* brings together an extraordinary range of talents. Led by Creative Director Claire Doherty, the team includes Lead Choreographer Anthony Matsena and Deaf Choreographer Louise Stern; a 16-strong writing team including Owen Sheers, Kaite O'Reilly, Emily Burnett, Jamie Jones, Hanna Jarman, Marvin Thompson, Darragh Mortell and Ciaran Fitzgerald; LIVE Director Gethin Evans and Director of Photography, Bani Mendy; TV drama director Eric Styles and Director of Photography Tom Hines; Director of Sound and Music, Dyfan Jones and musicians Lemfreck, Dunja Botic and Greta Isaac; and Lead Artist Marc Rees working with Edith Morris and Elanor Higgins.

Casting includes Aisha-May Hunte and Alexandria Riley and who play the main character Efa in 2022 and 2052 respectively. They are joined by Matthew Aubrey, Andria Doherty, Nitin Ganatra, Boo Golding, Nadeem Islam, Rhodri Meilir, Rhoda Montemayor, and Jenna Preece and with further casting to be announced.

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.

Our organisation continually invests in developing infrastructure and creative businesses, whilst building on continued success, identifying opportunities and actively promoting diversity and equality across the industry.

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We are passionate about supporting home-grown talent and attracting international creative projects to Wales. In doing so, we are strengthening the industry in the long term and creating exciting opportunities for future generations.

Follow @CreativeWales and visit www.creative.wales.

UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is a celebration of creativity taking place across the UK in 2022, designed to reach millions and bring people together. It features free large-scale events, installations and globally accessible digital experiences in the UK's most ambitious showcase of creative collaboration. Produced by some of the brightest minds in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths, UNBOXED features ten major multi-site and digital creative projects that share new ideas and possibilities for the future.

Events and activities take place from 1 March to 2 October 2022 – from the Outer Hebrides to Luton and from Omagh to Swansea, and across traditional and online media. UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK is funded and supported by the four governments of the UK and is commissioned and delivered in partnership with Creative Wales, Belfast City Council and EventScotland

UNBOXED events in Wales include: [Dreamachine](#) (Cardiff 12 May – 18 June), [Green Space Dark Skies](#) (across Wales, May to September 2022), [StoryTrails](#) (10-11 August in Swansea, 13-14 August in Newport) and, commissioned by Creative Wales, [GALWAD](#): A story from our future (Blaenau Ffestiniog, Swansea and Merthyr Tydfil, 26 September-2 October).

About Sky Arts

Sky Arts exists to bring more art to more people across the UK. In 2020, with the creative industries under serious threat, we threw open our doors to make the channel free for everyone to watch. We've redoubled our mission to increase access to the arts and we're committed to getting everyone involved as the industry recovers. The fact is, we need the arts now like never before, and Sky Arts brings them straight to your living room.

We have something for everyone, championing creative talent by showcasing the best in music, theatre, dance, literature, opera and visual art. From Glyndebourne to Grime and Cézanne to The Style Council, we've got your passions covered. Millions of viewers tune in to hit returning series such as Portrait Artist of the Year, Urban Myths and British cultural institution The South Bank Show, but our acclaimed new programmes might take you anywhere from Pinter's house with Danny Dyer to a Scottish road trip with Samuel Johnson.

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Sky Arts is the headline sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK and we work with cultural partners across the country including the English

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National Opera, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Creative UK and Coventry City of Culture to name but a few.

You can watch Sky Arts for free on Freeview channel 11 and Freesat channel 147. If you've got Sky or a Now TV entertainment pass, you can also watch over 2,000 hours of shows exclusively on demand.

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