

Department of  
**Theatre, Film & Television Studies**  
**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**





Design: Simon Banham with Quarantine

## Introduction

Most businesses and organisations tend to think of Universities as academic institutions divorced from the industrial landscape. We do, of course, pride ourselves on the quality of the teaching, learning and research within our Department - but we are also aware of the increasing role of universities as centres of creativity and innovation which can work in partnership with industry for mutual benefit.



As one of the largest university departments of our kind in the UK, we are keen to work closely with industry partners and to exchange both knowledge and expertise. For us, industry means the cultural and creative industries – theatre and the performing arts, film and video production, television and radio broadcasting, online activity, and arts and media policy. The Department has a range of facilities, resources and expertise

in these areas, including theatre-making, scenography, acting and voice training, stage and television studio directing, video and audio editing, camera-work and broadcasting regulation.

You can read more about our work in this document but we also want to hear from you. If you work in the creative industries in Wales – for a public or private company, a not-for-profit organisation, a public corporation or institution – or if you're an individual entrepreneur, please get in touch. Our aim is to forge closer links between the Department and the business community, and to increase innovation and understanding in our field. We look forward to working with you in creative partnership.

**2008 Research Assessment Exercise**  
Department of Theatre, Film & Television Studies  
Aberystwyth University

- 30% of research "world-leading" (4\*)
- 30% of research "internationally excellent" (3\*)
- 20% of research "internationally significant" (2\*)


**Professor Adrian Kear**  
Head of Department

## Our Mission



The Department of Theatre Film and Television Studies (TFTS) has a key role in Wales and the wider world to educate and inspire individuals who go on to excel within the Creative Industries. The Department aims to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of its students and stakeholders, whilst recognising the context - the social and industrial landscape – in which our students will find employment and our staff contribute their research and expertise.

TFTS therefore seeks to engage with external partners to ensure the continued resonance of our practices within cultural and creative industries and the broader social context.

A photograph of a person on a stage at night, performing a light painting. The person is holding a light source, creating a glowing, wavy line of light that extends across the stage floor. The background is dark, and the stage floor is illuminated by the light painting.

The Department is committed to conducting leading edge research and providing innovative courses across the range of our disciplines through both the Welsh and English languages. We pride ourselves on nurturing and developing the scholars and industry leaders of the future. We maintain that there should be no barriers to the fruitful interplay between academia and industry: the one should enrich the other, and we are keen to develop ways in which this can be achieved through learning, research and partnership work. Our mission is to foster the exchange of knowledge and innovation at a local, national and international level.

We work to provide our graduates with the skills necessary for employment in a globalised knowledge economy. We are aware that they are global citizens who benefit from an understanding of different practices in theatre, film and television and who need to negotiate the digital, multi-platform world in which they will live and work. The profile and prestige of the Department rests on the achievements of its staff in teaching and research; but it also rests with the achievements and quality of its graduates. Our mission is to maintain and nurture our reputation as an international centre of academic excellence and to share our knowledge and understanding with the cultural and creative industries.



*Design: Simon Banham with Quarantine*

## Facilities

The Department offers a range of professional facilities and resources, including:

- three fully-equipped theatre spaces, seating approximately 100 people each, including the Castle Theatre which is scheduled for a major refurbishment and redevelopment project.
- a new digital media suite designed specifically for work in digital production and editing.
- three rehearsal studios, each with sprung floors and technical facilities.
- a state-of-the-art studio dedicated to performance research and experimental theatre practice.
- an HD digital television studio and gallery.
- 36 digital and HD editing suites and over 40 industry standard HD and digital cameras.
- digital sound studio with advanced multi-track digital recording and editing facilities, ISDN line with dual codec.
- Centre for Performance Research Resource Centre - a unique set of collections of books and audio-visual materials on world theatre and performance.
- lecture theatres with integrated screening facilities.
- close proximity to and partnership with the National Library of Wales, one of the four



*Aberystwyth University is a partner in Skillset Media Academy Wales*

- copyright deposit Libraries of the UK, including the specialist National Sound and Screen Archive.
- further facilities are available through our partnership with major independent television production company Boomerang+ Plc; the Aberystwyth Arts

Centre; and Theatr Arad Goch, an Aberystwyth-based theatre organisation which has benefited from substantial recent investment. The BBC's Mid Wales offices and studios are also housed within the Department.



## Knowledge Transfer, CPD and other projects

### Knowledge Transfer

There are various forms of knowledge transfer activity. The most common perhaps are 'spin-outs' where an independent company is set up by a university department or where a company makes commercial use of academic research. Within the arts, there is a vast body of knowledge which can be of use in a knowledge transfer context, demonstrating the value of research through wider dissemination and application.



In 2008, for example, the Department formed a three-year strategic partnership with the Boomerang+ media production group. As

partners, we share and exchange knowledge and expertise. The aim is to develop innovations in multi-platform broadcasting and to help the company grow. We also compete for new funding in research which is relevant both to our academic staff and to the company.

An example of the benefits of this working in partnership is our successful bid for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership Award. The funding of £82,585, from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Welsh Assembly Government through the KTP scheme, is for a project to investigate 7-11 year old children's television viewing preferences and multi-platform media practices with the aim of creating a model for the production and delivery of children's television programming. The project is supervised by an executive producer at Boomerang+ and Dr. Merris Griffiths at TFTS. The work builds upon research conducted by Dr. Griffiths into children's viewing preferences and provides strategic and financial benefit to the company.

The Department is looking to develop other knowledge transfer projects in all its research areas. There are many ways in which TFTS can combine expertise with external companies and organisations in order to assist in developing either their businesses or other activities in the creative and cultural industries. Partnership opportunities range from research into aspects of European broadcasting policy within the Mercator Institute for Media, Languages and Culture to the investigation of particular acting traditions or directing styles using the extensive archive of the Centre for Performance Research.

Different forms of Knowledge Transfer grants are available from the UK Research Councils:

- **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships** are usually long-term, formal partnerships.
- **Knowledge Transfer Fellowships** allow academic staff to work with outside companies.
- **Knowledge Transfer Catalysts** are similar to Fellowships but are aimed at smaller organisations.

All schemes provide financial and collaborative opportunities for both parties. Further information about the Department's research is available on our website [www.aber.ac.uk/tfts](http://www.aber.ac.uk/tfts) or you can contact us to discuss how we can work together.

### Continuing Professional Development, Project and Contract work

The Department is developing a Continuing Professional Development programme aimed at people working in the creative and cultural industries. In August 2009, we were awarded (in partnership with other Universities who are members of the Wales Skillset Screen Academy and Media Academy) a substantial grant from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCW) to develop a series of industry-related courses. These are aimed specifically at helping the creative industries sector through the economic downturn and are awarded under the Council's Economic Support Initiative. The work is a further development of our Skillset Media Academy Partner status and the project is marketed as Skillset Academy+.

The Department has also tendered successfully for external contract work and is seeking to develop more industry links of this nature. Areas of interest include technical theatre skills, acting and directing, television editing and directing, and aspects of arts and broadcasting policy and regulation. Here are some examples of our external work:

#### Film Production

In 2009, lecturer John Burgan was commissioned to produce a short film on a zero carbon future for the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth. The film was given its first screening at the Smithsonian in Washington in June 2009 as part of the Wales Smithsonian Cymru season.

#### Audience Research



In 2008, Professor Martin Barker completed a project on audience research for the British Board of Film and Video Classification titled "Sexual Violence in Contemporary Cinema", looking at a range of films which have raised

difficulties of classification. In 2009 this collaboration was developed further through an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award with the BBFC.



Arts & Humanities Research Council

#### Broadcasting Regulation

Lecturer, Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones leads the Broadcasting Compliance Research and Monitoring Unit which, in co-operation with the Thomson Foundation and the National Library of Wales, monitors the daily output of S4C for potential breaches of broadcasting regulations. The monitoring contract is awarded by S4C as part of an open tendering process.



#### Voice Training

TFTS teaching fellow, Joan Mills is known as one of the leading voice tutors in the UK. She has 20 years experience as Director of the International Festival of the Voice and has acted as a voice consultant for a number of organisations.

### Collaborative Doctoral Awards

The Department is also interested in working with companies to bid for AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards for PhD projects where the research will be of benefit to an external organisation. Existing collaborations include co-supervisions with the BBFC, The National Theatre of Wales, and the National Library of Wales.

We welcome enquiries from private companies, public corporations and institutions, theatre companies, not-for-profit organisations and individuals who wish to explore the possibility of working with us.

### Conferences and Events

Every year, the Department organises a range of conferences and events which bring together representatives from industry, academia and the public sector.

#### 2009

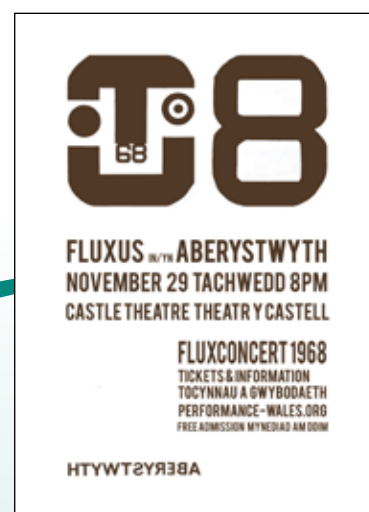
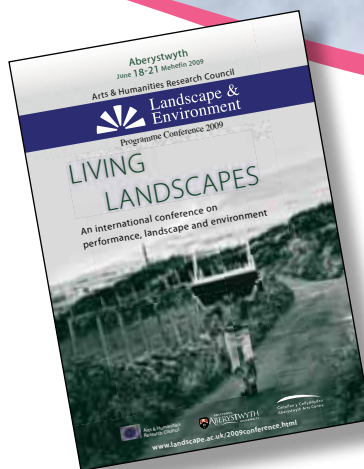
- AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme Conference 'Living Landscapes': An international conference on performance, landscape and environment, 18-21 June 2009.
- Media History / IAMHIST Conference 'Social Fears and Moral Panics', 8- 11 July 2009.
- *Making and Thinking: Performance and Philosophy as Participation*, symposium organised by the Performance Studies International (PSI) performance and philosophy working group, 31 January 2009.
- Association of Courses in Theatre Design (ACTD) Conference, 'Ethics, Employability and Economics: Teaching Theatre Design in the 21st Century', 2-4 July 2009.



- Giving Voice International Festival, 'Harmonic Accord: Encounters Through Song', 18-26 April 2009 (CPR).
- *Howard Barker's Art of the Theatre* 10-12 July 2009.

#### 2008

- *Aberystwyth in Flux 1968-2008: Restaging the Fluxconcert by and for Fluxus*, 29 November 2008.
- *Brith Gof Archive Project: Between Memory and Archive*, 6 December 2008.
- Cyfrwng 2008 Conference: 'New Platforms', 1-2 May 2008.
- *Ed Thomas Symposium*.
- Giving Voice International Festival: 'Breath, Inspiration, Voice', 27 March-1 April 2008 (CPR).
- National Theatre Symposium: 'Who needs a National Theatre?' 5 October 2008.



### Other Departmental Websites

[www.performance-wales.org](http://www.performance-wales.org)

A research project devoted to uncovering and archiving the history of Performance Art in Wales.

[www.ynyffram.org](http://www.ynyffram.org)

A teaching resource for Welsh-medium film and television degree schemes, focusing on Welsh feature films.

## Spinouts, Spin-ins and Partnerships

Companies can choose to 'spin-in' and create a long-term partnership with the Department if there is a strong correlation between their business activities and our research expertise. Our own graduates are also encouraged to create spin-out companies which again have a close relationship with the Department. These are some of our spin-in and spin-out partners:

### In the Dark Productions

TFTS graduates Stuart Kershaw and Samantha Fazakerley set up the company in 2003. Their feature-length documentary films have won a number of film festival awards. The company has developed a specialist niche in filming extreme sport events, including La Mondial's record-breaking Atlantic crossing in 2008.

T: +44 (0)845 8388 458  
E: info@inthedarkproductions.co.uk  
W: www.inthedarkproductions.net



FFAB is a film, television and new media company which was set up in 2003 by one of our graduates, Phil Moran. The company has won awards for its short films including *11 Missed Calls* which won the Best Director and Best Film awards at the 2009 DIY Film Festival in Los Angeles.

FFAB:UK, The Cambria, Marine Terrace,  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AZ

T: +44 (0)845 226 9404  
E: info@ffab.co.uk  
W: www.ffab.co.uk



A television and video production group producing documentaries for broadcast and videos for businesses and organisations. Clients include S4C, ITV Wales, BBC Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, The Institute of Welsh Affairs, ELWa, Powys Dance and Horticulture Network Wales. In 2009, the company relocated to one of the Creative Units

designed by Heatherwick Studios on the Aberystwyth Arts Centre campus and pioneered a subscription arts website, Culture Colony.

Creative Unit 08, Aberystwyth Arts Centre,  
Aberystwyth University, SY23 3DE

T: +44 (0)1654 761361  
E: pete@pixelfoundry.co.uk  
W: www.pixelfoundry.co.uk / www.culturecolony.com

Silverspoon Films produce videos for businesses and organisations for



use in promotional and advertising work, recruitment and training, education and information, conferences and events. Clients include the Welsh Assembly Government and the Institute of Welsh Affairs. As part of its spin-in package, the company moved into one of the Creative Units on the Aberystwyth Arts Centre campus in 2009.

Creative Unit 09, Aberystwyth Arts Centre,  
Aberystwyth University, SY23 3 DY

T: +44 (0) 800 520 0946  
E: info@silverspoonfilms.co.uk  
W: www.silverspoonfilms.co.uk



FILM 15 Productions Ltd, a partner organisation, specialises in the research, development and delivery of film-related activities for young people in Mid Wales. Since it was set up in 2005, the organisation has worked with more than 300 young people to produce almost 50 films. FILM 15 has been able to take advantage of the Department's studio facilities for productions.

FILM 15 Productions, Brynawel, Plas Llwyn Owen Estate, LLanbrynmair,  
Powys, SY19 7BE.

T: +44 (0) 1650 521615  
E: em@emmamacey.co.uk  
W: www.film15.org.uk

## blaengar

Blaengar is a not for profit arts organisation set up by a small group of emerging artists with the aim to run events and exhibitions for Contemporary inter-disciplinary artists in Mid Wales. They work in performance, installation, sculpture, new media primarily within the landscape of Mid Wales. Blaengar has a core of two artists and a performance group called 'WhiteRope' based in Cardiff and Aberystwyth.

E: [mail@alicebriggs.co.uk](mailto:mail@alicebriggs.co.uk)  
 W: <http://www.blaengar.org/page2.htm>

### Aberystwyth University Spinout Officer



The University has a dedicated Spinout Manager who can offer practical and financial advice. Spinouts and spin-ins can also be assisted through a mentoring scheme.

T: +44 (0) 1970 622203  
 E: [awo@aber.ac.uk](mailto:awo@aber.ac.uk)  
 W: [www.aber.ac.uk/meansbusiness](http://www.aber.ac.uk/meansbusiness)

### Aberystwyth Arts Centre Creative Business Units

Some of our spinouts enjoy the benefits of being based at the new Thomas Heatherwick designed Creative Business Units at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre.



## Departmental Research Partners

The Department is home to two internationally-recognised research organisations – the Centre for Performance Research and the Mercator Institute for Media, Languages and Culture.

### The Centre for Performance Research



The Centre for Performance Research (CPR) was set up in 1988 to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of theatre in its broadest sense. Its programmes of work combine cultural co-operation, collaboration and exchange practical training, education and research, performance,

production and promotion, documentation and publishing, information and resource.

[www.thecpr.org.uk](http://www.thecpr.org.uk)

### The Mercator Institute for Media, Languages and Culture

The Mercator Institute for Media, Languages and Culture was set



up to gather, store, analyse and distribute information through a documentation and information network for regional and minority languages in the European Union. It leads a number

of European networks and projects funded by the European Commission and arts organisations throughout Europe (including the Arts Council of Wales, the Arts Council of England, and the British Council). Its partners include academic institutions, SMEs and public institutions in over 30 countries.

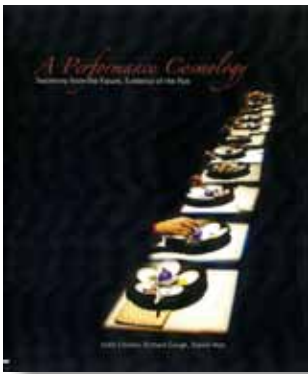
[www.aber.ac.uk/mercator](http://www.aber.ac.uk/mercator)



## Expertise and Media Consultancy

With more than 60 members of staff, the Department of Theatre Film and Television Studies can offer a wide range of expertise on a variety of subjects. A full list of staff and their research interests is available on our website but here's a taste of the experience and knowledge available within the Department.

### Performance Research



**Prof Adrian Kear:**  
Performance ethics; critical theory, philosophy and psychoanalysis; avant-garde European theatre.

**Prof Richard Gough:**  
Performance research; theatre anthropology; comparative dramaturgy; directing practice.

**Prof Mike Pearson:**  
Performance theory and practice; dramaturgy; interdisciplinary research in archaeology, geography and folklore.

**Simon Banham:**  
Contemporary scenography; opera design; devised performance.

**Richard Downing:**  
Contemporary design in performance; computer aided scenography; directing practice.

**Jill Greenhalgh:**  
Contemporary women's theatre and performance; devised performance.

**Dr Heike Roms:**  
Contemporary performance practice; postdramatic theatre; archiving performance; theatre and performance in Wales.

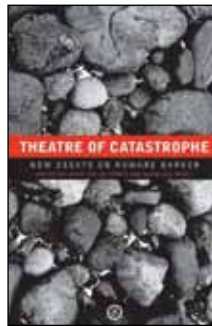
**Dr Sabine Sörgel:**  
Postcolonial theatre and performance; contemporary dance and dance theatre; theatre and ritual; identity and performance.

**Dr Carl Lavery:**  
Landscape and performance; contemporary French theatre; theatre and the political; walking as performance.

**Dr Andrew Filmer:**  
Place and performance; theatre architecture; backstage space; improvisation.



### Drama and Theatre Research

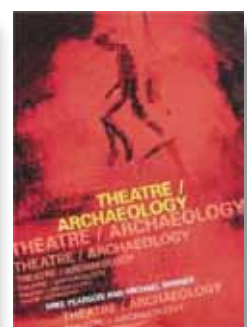
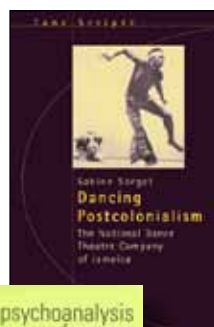
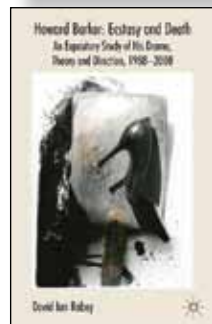


**Prof David Ian Rabey:**  
Contemporary British and Irish drama, theatre and society.

**Dr Alison Forsyth:**  
Adaptations of ancient drama; hermeneutics of performance and text; documentary drama.

**Dr Stephen Greer:**  
Queer theory, gay and lesbian theatre, applied theatre, interactive and collaborative performance, improvisation.

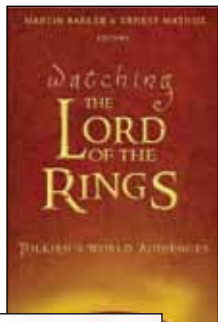
**Dr Karoline Gritzner:**  
Contemporary British drama; critical theory, aesthetics, psychoanalysis and theatre.



## Film and Television Research

### Prof Martin Barker:

Media audience research; censorship and public controversies over film and other media; media adaptations and transformations; contemporary Hollywood.



### Prof Tom O'Malley:

Media history, regulation and policy; media in Wales.

### John Borgan:

Memory; creative use of archive; doc-fiction crossover and the essay film.

### Dr Daniel Chandler:

Gay representation on screen; visual semiotics of gender; semiotics of advertising; online gender identities.

### Dr Glen Creeber:

Television drama and online developments.

### Dr Kate Egan:

British cinema; the horror film; genre study; film censorship; film history; audience and reception studies; memory and nostalgia; fan culture.

### Dr Merris Griffiths:

Children and the media; media literacy; media representations of children and childhood.

### Dr Jamie Medhurst:

Broadcasting history and policy; documentary film history; British cinema, television and national identity.

### Dr Paul Newland:

British Cinema; representations of London in literature and on film (especially the East End); British avant-garde filmmakers and visual artists.

### Richard O'Sullivan:

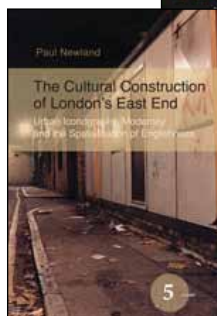
Video works exploring the textures of landscape and the meanings of place; the medium of video, visual perception and cultural understanding.

### Dr Jamie Sexton:

Alternative and experimental film; television and related media; British film and television history; digital media.

### Dr Sarah Thomas:

Film History; Classical Hollywood Cinema; screen actors: performance, labour and stardom; American radio history and style - 1930-1950.



## Welsh Theatre and Media Research

### Prof Elan Closs Stephens:

Broadcasting and arts policy in Wales; film and television analysis; theatre in Wales.

### Margaret Ames:

Community dance; dance therapy; devised performance.

### Dr Anwen Jones:

European theatre; theatre in Ireland; Welsh language theatre.

### Elin Haf Jones:

Minority language media in Europe; regulation and broadcasting policy in regard to stateless nations and linguistic minorities in the EU.

### Dr Roger Owen:

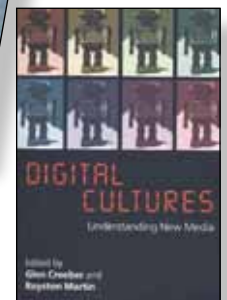
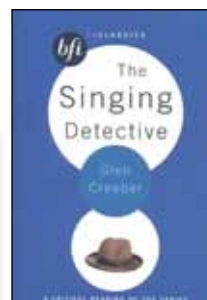
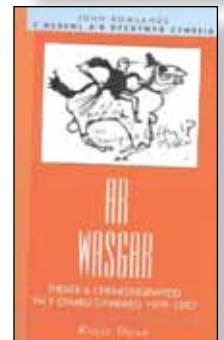
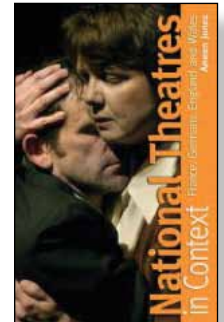
Contemporary Welsh theatre and performance; Welsh theatre history.

### Dr Dafydd Sills-Jones:

Welsh media; media history; documentary theory and production.

### Dr Kate Woodward:

The Welsh Film Board; early films of S4C; Welsh cinema in the 1960's.



## Our Advisory Board

The Department has an Advisory Board of leading industry professionals in theatre, film and television. The Board meets twice a year to enhance the Department's awareness of the contemporary world of the creative industries, whilst also providing valuable contacts and advice.

### External members

<b>Ms Sioned William</b> (Chair)	Producer, Former ITV network Head of Comedy
<b>Mr Janek Alexander</b>	Director, Chapter Arts Centre
<b>Mr Tim Baker</b>	Director, Theatr Clwyd
<b>Ms Sue Balsom</b>	Managing Director, Francis Balsom Associates
<b>Mr Peter Edwards</b>	Chair of Film Agency for Wales
<b>Mr Huw Eurig Davies</b>	Managing Director of Boomerang+ plc
<b>Dr Kevin Higgins</b>	Director, British Council Wales
<b>Mr R. Arwel Jones</b>	Director of Public Services, NLW
<b>Mr Keith Jones</b>	Head of Welsh Language Programming and New Media, BBC Wales
<b>Mr Michael McCarthy</b>	Director, Music Theatre Wales
<b>Mr Mark Reid</b>	Head of Education, British Film Institute
<b>Dr Ceri Sherlock</b>	Commissioning Editor, Arts, BBC Wales
<b>Mr Jeremy Turner</b>	Director, Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch
<b>Ms Jacqui Weatherburn</b>	Vice-Principal, Coleg Ceredigion

### Departmental members

<b>Prof Adrian Kear</b>	Head of Department
<b>Prof Mike Pearson</b>	Director of Research
<b>Prof Elan Closs Stephens</b>	Director of Enterprise and Knowledge Transfer
<b>Dr Jamie Medhurst</b>	Director of Learning and Teaching
<b>Dr Kate Woodward</b>	Academic Champion of Enterprise
<b>Ms Kathleen Williams</b>	Departmental Manager



## General Details:

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E: [ekj@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ekj@aber.ac.uk)

If you require complimentary tickets for any Departmental productions or screenings please contact Mr Nick Strong, [nbs@aber.ac.uk](mailto:nbs@aber.ac.uk)