

Welsh Stars Storm New York

Wales International Center, 4/4/2004

Presently appearing at the Lincoln Center are four Welsh stars in four productions: Bryn Terfel is Jokanaan in Richard Strauss's *Salome* at the Metropolitan Opera; Jason Howard plays Adam Brant in New York City Opera's *Mourning Becomes Electra* at the State Theater; Gwyn Hughes Jones recently opened as Ismaele in Verdi's *Nabucco* at the Metropolitan Opera and Geraint Wyn Davies plays Edmund in *King Lear* at the Vivian Beaumont Theater. Bryn Terfel is also in concert at Carnegie Hall on April 12th with Malcolm Martineau.

A tiny nation of under 3 million people, Wales has always produced an amazing number of world-class performing artists, particularly in the fields of opera, theater and film. This may be largely attributed to the Welsh Eisteddfodic tradition that encourages children in Wales to compete in the performing arts on a public stage from a very early age.

The Eisteddfod is a competitive literary and musical festival that can be traced back to 1176 when it is said that the first Eisteddfod was held under the auspices of Lord Rhys at his castle in Cardigan, Wales.

Lord Rhys would surely be proud to see the fruits of his early patronage on Broadway today.

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