



Media Release

April 23 2025

For immediate release

BAFTA Winning Welsh Archive Film 'Oed Yr Addewid' Returns to Cinemas

A new scan of *Oed Yr Addewid* (*Do Not Go Gentle*), a BAFTA winning, politically relevant Welsh language film from 2000 will be re-released in cinemas from March 2025.

From Welsh Director Emlyn Williams, *Oed yr Addewid* is set in 1997, as Britain reaches a political crossroads following 18 years of Conservative Government rule. The film stars Welsh acting giants, Stewart Jones, Arwel Gruffydd, Gwenno Elis Hodgkins and Gwyn Vaughan. The story follows William Davies, a widower, socialist and retired quarryman, who feels angry and bitter towards a government that has more or less forgotten him in his old age, so he puts a desperate and absurd plan into action. Twenty-five years since its release, the film's themes of social care, aging and the British state will resonate with audiences today.

Actor Arwel Gruffydd, who plays Alun in the film, reacted to news of the re-release:

"I am very pleased that the Screen and Sound Archive of The National Library of Wales and Film Hub Wales have worked together to create a new digital print of Oed yr Addewid. It was an immense privilege to play a central role in this film 25 years ago, and I have very fond memories of that period, not least of working so closely with the inimitable, late, great Stewart Jones."

The Screen and Sound Archive of the National Library of Wales and Film Hub Wales, part of the BFI Film Audience Network, have worked together to bring the Welsh classic back to the big screen, which launched at the Llynfi Valley Film Festival at Maesteg Town Hall in March.

The original 35mm film has been re-scanned to 2K quality by R3store Studios, then digitally restored by Gorilla Post Production and prepared for cinema screenings. With the support of Matchbox Cine, English and Welsh descriptive subtitles will also be added for the first time, making the film accessible to a wider audience.

Nia Edwards-Behi, Audiovisual Cataloguer at the Screen and Sound Archive of The National Library of Wales explains:

"We considered a number of films from the archive for this project. We chose Oed yr Addewid because it's an appealing film that's also still pertinent in terms of its themes and story. It's a fine example of an artistic response to the politics of its day, and being able to re-visit that response is so valuable. We're so fortunate to have an archive full of works like it, and really hope that we'll see more resources to ensure access to them."

Hana Lewis, Head of Film Hub Wales adds:

“We work regularly with cinemas and festivals in Wales to increase access to films from the archive’s expansive collection and as part of our [Made in Wales project](#), which celebrates films with Welsh connections. These stories are essential to Welsh on-screen culture, they offer insight into our history and communities, something we are arguably need more of when it comes to films about modern Wales. Unfortunately, there are many barriers that prevent these films being seen regularly, despite audience demand - whether that’s due to lapsed rights, resources to distribute these works effectively, or funds to digitise them and preserve quality. This is why this project is so important. The cost is prohibitive, so as a sector we need to ensure that access to these films is not lost and audiences have a chance to enjoy them for years to come.”

The film is available to cinemas to book for screenings in from late March onwards, with screening dates across Wales to be confirmed.

The project is supported by Film Hub Wales, which is part of the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN) made possible thanks to National Lottery funding, to ensure the greatest choice of cinema is available to everyone across the UK. Funds in Wales are administered by FHW via Chapter as the Film Hub Lead Organisation.

More than £30M is raised each week for good causes across the UK by the National Lottery.

– ENDS –

To access images, please copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<https://we.tl/t-RReVAV5xU9>

An editorial piece in response to the film’s themes of politics, social care, aging and family in connection to Welsh culture [is also available](#) by Diffwys Criafol

For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Confirmed Screenings

[Aberystwyth Arts Centre](#)

29 & 30 April 2025

[Theatr Gwaun](#)

11 May 2025

[Galeri Caernarfon](#)

13 & 14 May 2025 - TBC during [Cynnig Cymraeg Week](#)

Further screenings to be announced.

[About Oed Yr Addewid](#)

Director and writer: Emlyn Williams

Producer: Alun Ffred Jones

Editor: Willy Oswald

DoP: Jimmy Dibbling

Sound: Tim Walker

Cast: Stewart Jones, Gwenno Elis Hodgkins, Arwel Gruffydd, Gwyn Vaughan, Morfudd Hughes, John Ogwen, Marged Esli

Running time: 89 minutes

Language: Welsh

Certificate: 15

Synopsis: It's March 1997 and, following 18 years of Tory rule, Britain is reaching a political crossroads. William Davies, a widower and retired quarryman, has reached his own crossroads. Having been a socialist all his life, he feels angry and bitter towards a government that has more or less forgotten him in his old age.

After being persuaded by his children to buy his council house in the booming 80s, he notices that the government, which took so much advantage of property ten years earlier, expects him to sell his property now in order to pay for his care if he had to go to a residential home.

As William Davies walks from his house one morning, he puts a desperate and absurd plan into action that will one-up the system – so he thinks. But things go wrong as the old man realises that he has made a terrible mistake. As election day approaches, William Davies and his family learn a few truths - about each other, and about their true feelings about their home.

This is a film located in the north-west, which tackles the theme of home and, in particular, how different members of one family look at it.

About the Screen and Sound Archive of The National Library of Wales

The Screen and Sound Archive preserves, promotes and celebrates the sound and moving image heritage of Wales. The Archive is home to a comprehensive and unrivalled collection of films, television programmes, videos, sound and music recordings relating to Wales and the Welsh. The collection is multi-faceted, and encompasses every aspect of the culture and life of Wales and its people as chronicled by audio-visual media in sound, video, film and the latest digital formats.

[National Library of Wales website](#)

[Screen and Sound Archive website](#)

About Film Hub Wales

Film Hub Wales (FHW) celebrates cinema. We support organisations that screen film, from film festivals, to societies and mixed arts centres. Working with over [300 Welsh exhibitors](#), we aim to bring the best UK and international film to all audiences across Wales and the UK. Since Film Hub Wales set up in 2013, we've supported over 347 exciting cinema projects, reaching over 589,000 audience members.

We're part of a UK wide network of eight hubs which forms the British Film Institute (BFI) [Film Audience Network](#) (FAN), made possible thanks to National Lottery funding. Film Hub Wales is managed by [Chapter](#). We also lead Made in Wales, a project celebrating films with

Welsh connections, which is supported by Creative Wales. We were also proud to lead on the UK inclusive cinema strategy on behalf of BFI FAN 2017-23.

Film Hub Wales: [Website](#), [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
Made in Wales: [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [Made in Wales podcast](#), [YouTube](#), [Letterboxd](#).

About the BFI Film Audience Network

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI's aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country. FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI FAN Film Hubs are:

- Film Hub Midlands is led by Broadway, Nottingham working in partnership with the Birmingham-based Flatpack
- Film Hub North is led collectively by Showroom Workstation, Sheffield and HOME Manchester
- Film Hub South East is led by the Independent Cinema Office
- Film Hub South West is led by Watershed in Bristol
- Film Hub Scotland is led by Glasgow Film Theatre
- Film Hub Northern Ireland is led by Queen's University Belfast
- Film Hub Wales is led by Chapter in Cardiff
- Film Hub London is led by Film London

[Website](#)

About the BFI

We are a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image. Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Jay Hunt OBE.

[Website](#), [Facebook](#), [X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#)