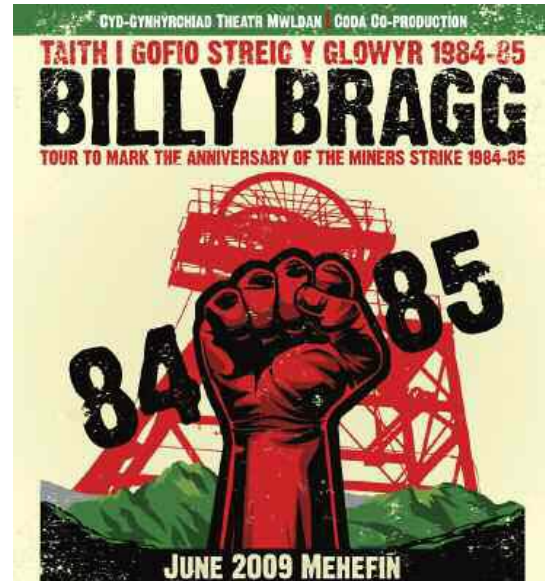


18 May 2009
PRESS RELEASE

BILLY BRAGG

Patrick Jones
The Alex Dingley Band
8pm, 14 June 2009

The tour is a co-production between
Big Pit National Coal Museum, Theatr
Mwldan, Cardigan, and Coda Agency



Twenty five years on, Billy Bragg has undertaken a special eight day solo tour of Wales to remember the Miner's Strike and its legacy for communities across Wales. Billy Bragg will perform at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Sunday 14th June at 8pm.

Ex-punk, ex-soldier, ex-member of the Labour Party, Billy Bragg rose from working class origins in the 1980s to become one of the UK's foremost pop and protest signers and left-wing icons. It was Margaret Thatcher who propelled the Bard of Barking into action: Bragg's defining political moment came with the Miner's Strike of 1984-5, when the Conservative Government proposed colliery closures with crippling implications for the communities and livelihoods in Britain's industrial heartlands. During the Strike Bragg became a fixture at political rallies and benefits with his powerful pro-union songs including *Which Side Are You On*, *There is Power In A Union* and the EP title track *Between the Wars*.

Peerless entertainer, fearless campaigner, much-loved maverick and idiosyncratic icon of leftfield pop, this unique man continues to prove that music has something to say about political causes. Bragg states that this tour is 'not intended as a celebration of the Miner's Strike, but as an act of witness to commemorate the struggle of the Welsh people to defend their communities'. "Although I will be singing some of the old songs," Bragg says, "it will not be an evening for nostalgia. Against the backdrop of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, this tour will be rooted firmly in the here and now, evoking memories of the Strike to remind people that we have not always meekly accepted cutbacks and redundancies. There is a culture of progressive resistance in Wales, something that has sadly been lost in England, and although it may not burn as fiercely as it once did, it still has the power to inspire. My hope it that, in our commemoration of the Miner's Strike, we will blow on the embers of this tradition."

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is also delighted to welcome poet Patrick Jones, who will join Billy Bragg on his tour of Wales. Patrick's new album *Tongues For A Stammering Time* features collaborations with Billy Bragg, James Dean Bradfield, Nicky Wire, Beverley Humphries, Stacey Blythe, Matyn Joseph, Amy Wadge and others.

Billy Bragg will also be joined by support act 'The Alex Dingley Band', from Carmarthen. They have been described as 'jagged folktronic rock' and 'Ramshackle country pop'. The band strives to strip away the plastic perfection of many modern records and to leave bare the bones of songs. They are an antidote to overproduced, generic, cynical music. The sounds on their debut album 'I Lost My Honey In The Grass' includes blenders, Hoovers and other utensils. The band has been selected by the National Museum of Wales following their work with the Museum on a musical interpretation of the Museum's collections.

This tour is a groundbreaking co-production project between Coda Agency, Big Pit National Coal Museum, and Theatr Mwldan, Cardigan. Dilwyn Davies, Director of Theatr Mwldan, said "It's fantastic for Wales that Billy Bragg has chosen to tour venues right across the country to mark such a momentous event in Welsh history."

Tickets for this production are £17 (£16) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.