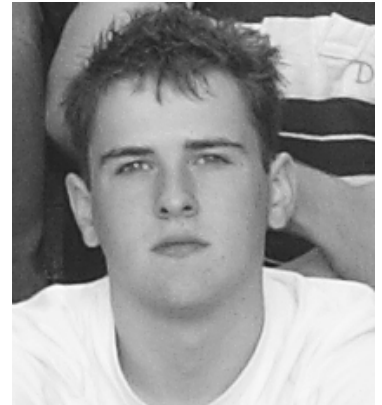


22 JUNE 2009
PRESS RELEASE

**ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE SUMMER SEASON MUSICAL:
THE KING AND I
23rd July to 29th August 2009**



This summer Aled Jones, a year twelve pupil at Penglais School, will return to Aberystwyth Arts Centre stage for his fourth summer show. This year's production is Rodgers & Hammerstein's timeless classic *The King & I*. Aled will be taking on the lead role of Prince Chulalongkorn, heir to the throne of Siam.

Aled has become a regular fixture at the Arts Centre, and has appeared as Fagin in the highly acclaimed *Oliver!*, as well as appearing in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story* and *My Fair Lady*. As a member of Aberystwyth Youth Theatre for several years Aled has also taken roles in *Roses of Eyam*, *Twelfth Night*, *Don't Forget to Write*, *King Lear*, *Back to the Eighties*, and played the part of Sweeney Todd in *The Sweeney Todd Shock and Roll Show* last autumn. Following the success of his appearance as Sinbad in this year's pantomime - *Sinbad the Sailor* - Aled will now take on his first lead role in a summer season show.

Based on the novel *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I* captured the hearts of millions with its charming story combined with some of the greatest songs from the golden age of musicals: famous numbers include Shall We Dance, I Whistle a Happy Tune, Hello Young Lovers and Getting to Know You. Aled will take on the role of Prince Chulalongkorn. The strong-minded and indomitable young prince is first in line to the throne. Within the splendour of the Royal Palace, the Prince and Anna's son Louis, played by Sam Ebenezer and Glyn James, grow to understand one another and learn about each other's cultures.

As well as appearing in local productions, Aled has worked with the National Youth Theatre of Wales and the Welsh National Opera Youth Group in Cardiff. Aled is currently working towards his gold LAMDA award. His upcoming role is the perfect opportunity to perform alongside accomplished professional actors and actresses.

The King and I will run at Aberystwyth Arts Centre from Thursday 23rd July to Saturday 29th August. Evening performances are from Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm with matinees on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm.

For individual ticket bookings, tickets for evening performances are £19.50 (£18.50) and for children £16; and for Matinees £17.50 (£16.50) and children £16. Family Tickets are available for matinee

performances at £55 to cover 2 adults and up to four children. All tickets are £15 for the Opening Night on Thursday 23 July! Bookings can be made by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

Notes to editors:

- A significant discount is available on tickets for groups of 8 or more. Bookings from 16 June and after are £16. It is possible to make group bookings in the Arts Centre's award winning cafe – for either a light meal or for a special Summer Strawberry Cream Tea.
- Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622889 email rst@aber.ac.uk
- Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.