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Press Release

'Ffreshars' Aberystwyth launch party welcomes the new term with a bang

Ffreshars, (Freshers), Joanna Davies's first novel, was published by Gomer Press on August 29 2008 and is the Welsh Books Council's book of the month for September 2008.

Set between September 1991-August 1992, *Ffreshars* follows the misadventures of a group of young people beginning their first year as students in Aberystwyth University. We follow their sexual and social dilemmas from their first week in University until the end of the Summer term.

Ffreshars has already attracted considerable press and media interest due to its controversial subject matter. And now's your chance to meet the author and see what all the fuss has been about with a special launch event at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Monday, 6 October at 8pm. Joanna herself spent eight years as a student and post-graduate, studying at Aberystwyth University and was keen to hold a launch event in the town itself:

"I wanted to have a launch event in Aberystwyth too to introduce the book to the students", Joanna said. "The town is a character in itself in the book and it's great that Aberystwyth Arts Centre has been able to organise this exciting event for us".

The launch will be the first social event for the Aberystwyth Students' society, UMCA and all are welcome to attend. To take guests back to the era of the novel and as a rock band features heavily in the story, the music will be circa 1991-2 only, but the wine will be of a later vintage! There will be an opportunity to meet the author and to buy a signed copy of the book, courtesy of Aberystwyth University Bookshop.

The reviews are already coming in for the book. The Big Issue commented:

"Although it's a white-knuckle ride for the reader, the fact that there are dark consequences for the characters make this a compelling modern Welsh fable."

Whilst the BBC Wales Literature website commented:

"This won't be Joanna Davies's last novel and that's a good thing as she has a definite talent for seizing the reader and enchanting him or her into strange and unexpected places."

So Aberystwyth, watch out, the 'Ffreshars' night is coming to you soon!

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Notes for Editors:

For more information about the 'Ffreshars' event at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, please contact, Louise Amery on: 01970 622889 or email: lla@aber.ac.uk

For more information about *Ffreshars* and to buy a copy, please click on the website: www.ffreshars.co.uk or to receive copies for reviews or for competitions/cover and author jpegs, please contact: Nia Jenkins, Marketing Officer, Gomer on 01559 363090 nia@gomer.co.uk

The Author:

This is Joanna Davies's first novel and second book. Her first book, a biography of Welsh actors, 'Taff Pac' including interviews with Matthew Rhys, Ioan Gruffudd, Rhys Ifans, Michael Sheen, Jonathan Pryce and many more was published in 2000.

Joanna is 35 and lives in Cardiff. She was brought up in Gorslas, Carmarthenshire. She attended Maesyryfa Bilingual School, Cefneithin, before going to Aberystwyth University where she studied Creative Writing under Mihangel Morgan and John Rowlands. She then studied for an MPhil in Film and TV Comedy in Aberystwyth before working for ten years as a TV Producer for ITV1 Wales, S4C and BBC Wales where she wrote and produced several drama documentaries. She now works as Senior Press and Media Officer for the Arts Council of Wales.

To contact Joanna, please call: 07817 291 512 or email: ffreshars@yahoo.com

For more information about Gomer Press, please click on the website: www.gomer.co.uk/

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