

ABERGAVENNY EISTEDDFOD Y FENNI 2005 - post event

Hundreds of parents and children spent a scorching day at King Henry VIII School on Saturday at the annual Abergavenny Eisteddfod. For many, it was the culmination of months of preparation and days of preliminary competitions in the week leading up to the eisteddfod itself.

The day was a mix of Welsh, English and international culture, from singing, reciting and traditional folk dancing to instrumental music, including the hypnotic jazz group "Africano" from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw - a highlight of the afternoon's performances.

As Sir Trefor Morris, President of the morning session commented, "You can feel the Welsh culture coming through, but you're catering for everybody - it's a great event."

The adjudicators gave four special Eisteddfod prizes in the morning: Best Recitation to Katie Carter; Best Singer to Ffion Newcombe; Best Instrumentalist to saxophonist Christopher Williamson and Best Dance to Us Against The Music.

Best pianist of the morning, awarded the Ted Waller piano prize, was Bethan Machado.

The four best performers of the afternoon were invited to perform on the stage of the Borough Theatre in the evening. The adjudicators awarded this special accolade to: Gareth Robinson, on the trombone; jazz pianist Elis Reed; singer Hannah Parry-Jones and Isaac Pritchard, for a speech by Shylock from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.

Adjudicators for the day were: Ann Smith, vocal and classical music; Stuart Corbett, jazz music; Anne Walters and Medwen Hewitt, recitation and Chantal Williams, dance. Mrs Bronwen Green and Mrs Val Burch were the conductors and piano teacher Judith Pendrous the official accompanist. Mr Gareth Barker, head teacher of King Henry VIII School, was the President for the afternoon.

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Ceri Thomas 01873 850379 ceri-thomas@lineone.net