

The WLCOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is intended to encourage and recognise a Welsh person who is mid-career and has already achieved rather more than their peers but will probably rise to greater heights in due course.

Llinos Neale was selected by the Court Nominations Group as a worthy recipient of this Award.

Being from the mountains of Snowdonia Llinos is a first language Welsh speaker She completed her secondary schooling at Porthmadog and then at Coleg Menai where she gained a distinction in the National Diploma in Drama, Theatre, and stage craft.

She moved to South Wales in 2007 enrolling at the University of South Wales Where she gained her BA degree in Bi-lingual Drama Theatre and Media.

Llinos has been working in Cardiff and South Wales since then. She was the Operations Manager at Pedal Power Cardiff working across their Bute Park and Cardiff Bay sites. She managed their volunteering program as well as the day-to-day running of the charity. Implementing membership management systems and ensuring the smooth running of internal operations.

She is also a board Trustee at Meter Caerphilly advising the board of Directors/ trustees with a focus on their business operations.

In 2017 Llinos started as a receptionist, at Welsh ICE (The Innovation Centre for Enterprise) She was promoted to community manager and then to CEO. Welsh ICE provides learning, support, and a welcoming home for school leavers, graduates, the unemployed, and anyone who wants to take their passion and turn it into a business. It has a thriving 700 strong face to face and online community.

It has been said that Llinos 'never stands still 'so it's no surprise that she now hopes to start an MA in Bilingual Drama, Theatre and Media with a strong leadership skills component. She has been offered a position as Operations Coordinator with National Theatre Wales where she will be supporting the innovative theatre company from an operations and business perspective.

Llinos comments that "I welcome the opportunity to get back to my passion for the arts whilst still incorporating all the skills and experience I have gained in leadership and management. I would like to progress further in the arts industry".

She adds "ICE have recognised my contribution and asked her to remain on the board as a Non-Exec Director to ensure the smooth transition to our new CEO Lesley Williams" (Lesley is here as Llinos guest this evening)

This means that Llinos is now on the board of trustees at both ICE and Menter Caerphilly as well her new full time work at the National Theatre Wales. It is no surprise that she was named one of Wales' Rising Stars of 2022 by @insiderwales.

Llinos Neale is a very worthy recipient of the WLCOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023