

CHAPTER

 Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

PRESS PACK 2026

about

OYSTER IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RUPTURE, DREDGING WELSH MYTH THROUGH THE SILT OF THE ANTHROPOCENE. THE CAULDRON OF ANNWFN BUBBLES UP: SPITTING OUT QUEER MUTATIONS, COLLAPSING ECOLOGIES, HALF-FORMED WAYS OF BELONGING. BODIES COME APART. HANDS LEARN CARE IN THE WRECKAGE. BREATH CATCHES IN AN OLD ACCORDION; MEMORY LEAKS, SLIPS, HUMS. MYTH AND MATTER SCRAPE AGAINST EACH OTHER UNTIL THEY SPARK.

NO ANSWERS OFFERED. AN OPENING, A CRACK: A PORTAL WHERE GRIEF AND JOY KNOT TOGETHER, WHERE YOU UNMAKE YOURSELF IN ORDER TO BEGIN AGAIN, TOGETHER, RAW.

TITLE: OYSTER

// SHORT FILM AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECT

CO-CREATED BY: GWENBA, TESS WOOF

PRODUCED BY: ROBERT OROS

FEATURING: TESS WOOF, BETH GREENHALGH

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: GWENBA

PERFORMANCE DIRECTION AND SCORE: TESS WOOF

CINEMATOGRAPHY: KURT RIDDELL, GWENBA

COSTUME AND MAKE-UP: PETROS KOURTELLARIS

CERAMICS: JUDITH REES

LIGHTING AND GAFFER SUPPORT: CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE

SOUND DESIGN: TESS WOOF, GWENBA

POST-PRODUCTION AND DESIGN: GWENBA

MENTORSHIP AND DRAMATURGY: HEIKE ROMS,

SAM WILLIAMS, HOLLY DAVEY

FILMED AT: GINST POINT, CARMARTHENSHIRE, WALES

WITH SUPPORT FROM: CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE,

+ ARTS COUNCIL WALES

CO-CREATED BY:

gwenba

tess woof



✦ **TESS WOOLF** IS A PORTAL OPENER. [A][B] THEY HAVE BEEN MAKING WORK IN WALES MOST PREDOMINANTLY ALONGSIDE TACTILEBOSCH AND PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE SGOR. TESS IS OBSESSED WITH EXPLORING THE BLURRY LINES OF DISCIPLINES. THEIR PRACTICE IS ROOTED IN THE BODY—THEIR OWN AND OTHERS—AND WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN US. THEY ARE DEEPLY ENGAGED IN RESEARCHING THE MATERIALITY OF LANGUAGE, RELATIONALITY, AND SOUND SCORES, AND HOW THESE CAN BE EXPLORED TO CREATE MEDITATIVE, HYPNOTIC WAYS OF EXISTING IN SPACE—WAYS THAT FEEL NEW, OR NEWLY FOUND.

GWENBA IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST: DESIGNER, FILMMAKER, AND MYSTIC BASED IN CARDIFF EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF ECOLOGY AND CYBER-FOLKLORE STORYTELLING. HER PRACTICE ENTWINES SCIENTIFIC RE:TRANSLATIONS, ARCHIVAL RESEARCH, AND THE UNCONSCIOUS INTO MYTHIC, SHAPE-SHIFTING NARRATIVES. WORKING FLUIDLY ACROSS TEXT, MOVING IMAGE, SOUND, SCULPTURE, AND INSTALLATION: HER WORK GLITCHES BETWEEN HUMAN, NON-HUMAN, AND OTHER WORLDS.



OYSTER IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECT AND SHORT FILM REIMAGINING WELSH MYTHOLOGY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE ANTHROPOCENE. ROOTED IN THE CAULDRON OF ANNWFN FROM THE EARLY MEDIEVAL POEM PREIDDEU ANNWFN, THE WORK USES THIS SYMBOL OF CYCLICAL TRANSFORMATION TO EXPLORE QUEER IDENTITY, ECOLOGICAL COLLAPSE, AND THE URGENT INTERPLAY BETWEEN MYTHIC AND MATERIAL WORLDS.

A BODY IS TAKEN APART AND CAREFULLY PUT BACK TOGETHER THROUGH CHOOSING TO UN:LEARN. THE WORK IS CONCERNED WITH CARE,

AND THE DAILY MESS OF IT. IT MOVES FROM THE ACHE OF DISCONNECTION TOWARDS WAYS OF BELONGING—NOT AS

IT LEANS INTO LOVE: THE KIND THAT ASKS MORE THAN IT GIVES, THAT COMPLICATES, RUPTURES, AND SOMEHOW, STILL,

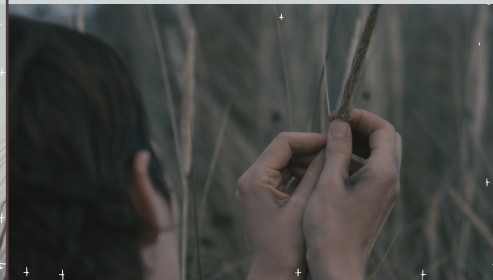
SYMPHONIC SLIPS.

OYSTER PRESSES AGAINST HETERONORMATIVE STRUCTURES OF LOVE AND LOSS, TENDERLY REFUSING RESOLUTION. IT'S ABOUT BELONGING DESPITE NOT FITTING IN, ABOUT SITTING WITH CONTRADICTION—ABOUT STAYING WITH THE DISCOMFORT, THE BEAUTY, THE FLICKERING POWER OF ALIENATION RE-INHABITED. IT OPENS A PORTAL WHERE MYTH AND MATTER MEET, WHERE ECOLOGICAL GRIEF AND QUEER JOY SHAPE-SHIFT INTO SOMETHING THAT CAN HOLD US, EVEN AS IT ASKS US TO UNMAKE AND REMAKE OURSELVES.



SOMETHING INHERITED, BUT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO MAKE AGAIN AND AGAIN, THROUGH GESTURE, THROUGH PROXIMITY, THROUGH THE GRIT OF SHOWING UP.

SUSTAINS. CONVERSATIONS THREAD THROUGH IT. A GRANDMOTHER'S ACCORDION BREATHE. MEMORY BLURS AND SECRETS GET DRESSED UP AND OFFERED AS



ammophila arenaria (m grass), atlantic salmon, ... 's sandpiper, ... c tellin, bar-tailed ... , bass (european seabass), ...
black-tailed godwit, blue mussel, brent goose, buff-breasted sandpiper, canada goose, cakile maritima (sea rocket), ... x arenaria (s ...
le, common gull, common limpet, co ... peri ... le, common scoter, common tern, ... rmorant, ... , cu ...
dunlin, eider, elymus arenarius (lyme grass), eryngium ... sea ... horbia paralias (sea spurge), european eel, fest ...
under, galium verum (lady's bedstraw), ganne ... ntianella uliginosa (dune gentian), golden plover, great black-backed gull, great ...
on, grey phalarope, grey plover, grey seal, halimione portulacoides (sea purslane), herring, herring gull, kestrel, kittiwake, ... , la ...
little auk, little egret, little tern, long-billed dowitcher, liparis loeselii (fen ...), manx shearwater, marsh harrier, merlin, mya ar ...
mytilus edulis (blue mussel), nucella lapillus (dog whelk), **oyster** ... , otter, petalophyllum ralfsii (petalwort), pied flycatcher, pin ...
ia maritima (common saltmarsh-grass), rabbit, ... sl ... (ensis spp.), red fescue, red- ... ed diver, redshank, ... plover, ri ...
gull, salicornia spp. (glassworts), sanderling, sand gaper, ... ch ... sea aster (tripolium pannonicum), sea lamprey, ...
short-eared owl, sole, spartina anglica (common cordgrass), spotted flycatcher, sprat, surf scoter, tawny ... hick-lipped grey ...
shad, velvet scoter, white ...
... ic tellin, bar-tailed ...
r, canada goose, cakile ma ...
scoter, common tern, corr ...
num (sea holly), ...
ella uliginosa (... gentia ...
e portulacoides (sea pursla ...
liparis loeselii (fen orchid), ...
stercatcher , otter, petaloph ...
s spp.), red fescue, red-thro ...
ern, sandeel, sea aster (tri ...
catcher, ... , surf scoter, ...
is shad. ammophila arenar ...
b ... it, ...
cockle, common gull, comr ...
dunlin, eider, elymus aren ...
under, galium verum (lady' ...
on, ... halarope, grey pl ...
little auk, little egret, little ...
mytilus edulis (blue musse ...
ia maritima (common ...
gull, salicornia spp. (glass ...
short-eared owl, sole, spartina ... (common cordgrass), spotted flycatcher, sprat, surf scoter, tawny owl, ... grey mi ...



... twaite shad, velvet scoter, ... white-rumped sandpiper, wigeon, wood warbler. ...



“ an anecdote

to the times



we live in

”

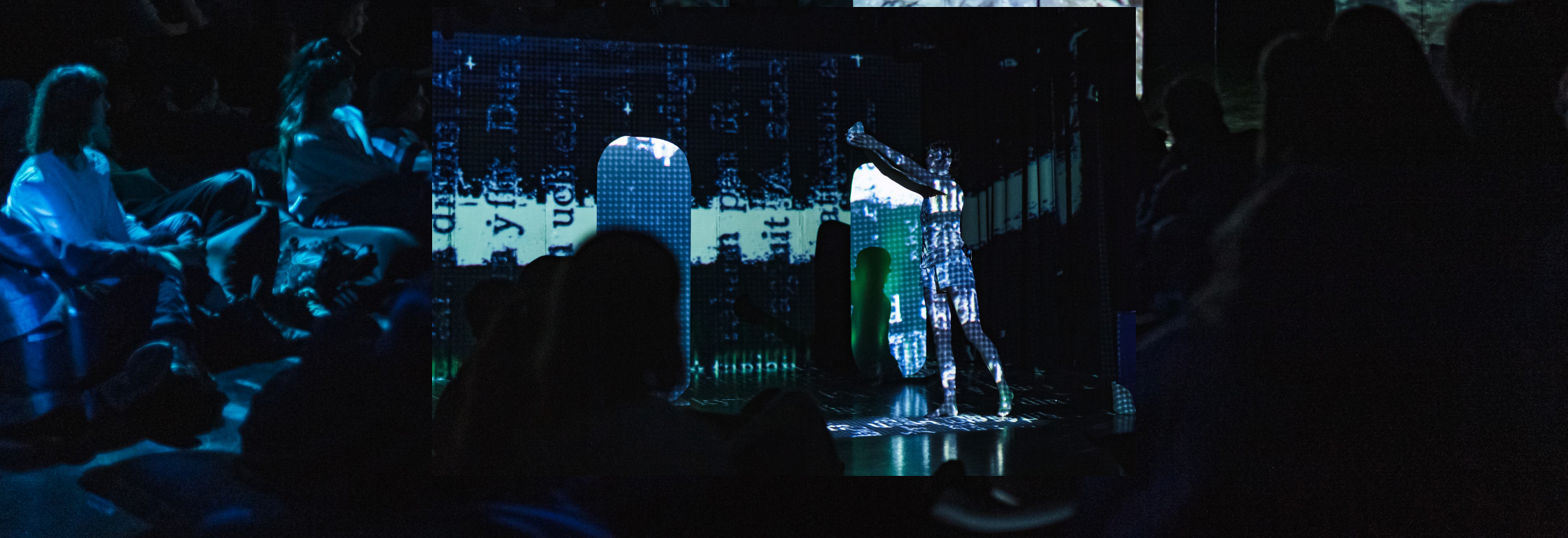


-PRESS QUOTE

LIVE SHOW AT CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE NOV 2025



DOCUMENTATION BY POLLY THOMAS





any more info:

FILM SPECS.

OYSTER IS A SHORT FILM, APPROX 14 MINUTES.

COUNTRY: WALES, UK.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH & WELSH.

PICTURE: UHD 3840 × 2160. COLOUR.

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9.

SOUND: STEREO.

CAPTIONS AVAILABLE: ENGLISH SRT.

BURNT IN SUBTITLES AVAILABLE.

DELIVERY: PRORES 422 MASTER. H264 WEB SCREENER.

[WATCH TRAILER](#) | FULL FILM AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LIVE SPECS.

OYSTER CAN ALSO BE PRESENTED AS A 45 MINUTE

LIVE INSTALLATION AND PERFORMANCE WITH

SCULPTURAL PROJECTION SURFACES IN THE SPACE.

THE WORK USES THREE MOBILE HARD-FRONT SCREENS

AND THREE PAPER FRAMES THAT ARE MOVED DURING

THE PERFORMANCE, WITH VIDEO PROJECTION AND

OVERHEAD PROJECTION INTERACTING ACROSS THE

ROOM. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE ONE SHORT-

THROW PROJECTOR, AN OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, BASIC

MIC INPUTS, STEREO PA, AND SIMPLE LIGHTING

STATES (OPTIONAL). FULL TECHNICAL SPEC AND CUE

SHEET AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

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