



TV & Film production

Neath Port Talbot: A gateway to inspirational and stunning locations



Unrivalled locations

Neath Port Talbot County Borough is a gateway for UK and international television and film productions. Conveniently located along a key stretch of the M4 motorway, with easy access and short transit times to locations within the County, across Swansea Bay and South Wales.

It is also home to one of Europe's largest indoor film studios, Bay Studios on Fabian Way, which has approximately 265,000 sq ft of studio space and an additional 30,000 sq ft of production offices, where Adjacent Productions have established their base since 2011 to film Da Vinci's Demons.



Wales is perfect for making historical productions. The Neath Port Talbot area has great locations and landscapes. It's a gateway to everything we needed. All of which was easily accessible from our production base at Bay Studios.

David S Goyer

Writer & Producer of Da Vinci's Demons, co-writer of the Dark Knight Batman Trilogy, Blade Trilogy and Man of Steel

The production team considered filming locations around the world, from Canada and New Zealand to Eastern Europe and across the UK. Bay Studios in Neath Port Talbot, proved ideal for our production base and to establish our studios because it is central to all the locations we needed for the series.

Edward Thomas

Production Designer on Da Vinci's Demons, Torchwood, The Sarah Jane Adventures, Sherlock, Doctor Who, Outcasts, The Sorcerer's Apprentice

The international success of Da Vinci's Demons has been down to the talent and skills base from the area, which has helped us to make a world class drama series for the international audience.

Jane Tranter

Executive Producer
(Da Vinci's Demons)





The locations across the region have attracted many major film and TV productions, such as the **BBC's flagship Doctor Who, Torchwood, Merlin, Bollywood movie Bhoothnath Returns** and films such as **Snow White and the Huntsman, Dark Knight, Harry Potter, Set Fire to the Stars and Up All Night.**

Set Fire to the Stars 2014

We co-produced with YJB Films and Bay Studios was our base, which enabled us to hit the ground running. We had easy access to all our locations from our production base, and to the existing skills and talent of people, to help make this production a reality. It's a testament to the quality of the script, people and the area to be able to attract such acting talent to Swansea Bay – the home of Dylan Thomas.

Andrew Riach (Producer) & **Andy Goddard** (Director)



Da Vinci's Demons 2011/14

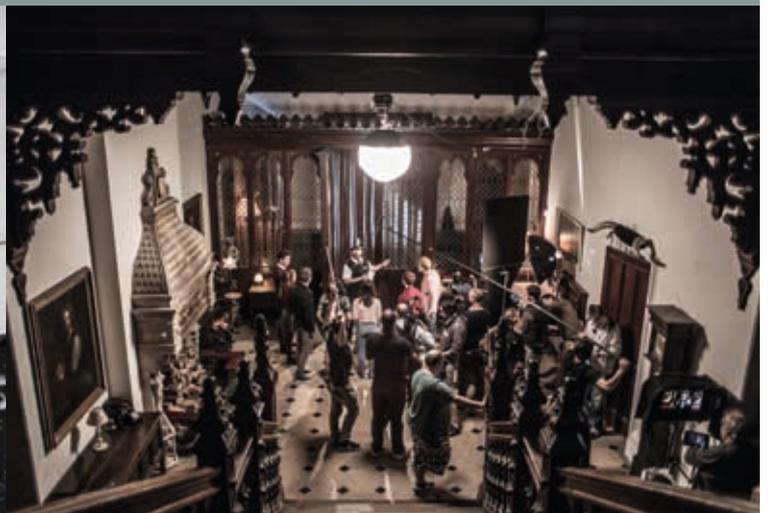
Margam Castle offered a blank canvas and the flexibility to build interior sets of Renaissance-period Florence. We also used Margam Country Park's thousand acres of parkland to double for the Tuscan countryside. There aren't many locations like this in the UK or worldwide. All the other locations we used in South Wales were all within easy travelling distance, which made Bay Studios in Neath Port Talbot a very attractive area to set up our base.

Gareth Skelding Location Manager on Da Vinci's Demons, Torchwood, The Sarah Jane Adventures, Sherlock, Doctor Who

Up All Night 2014

YJB Films worked with us on this production at Bay Studios, which was an ideal production base as it was ideally located between our key filming locations, Margam and Stradey Castle. The area has some great locations to offer, from coastlines and urban waterfronts to city scenes and incredible landscapes and beaches, perfect for film and TV production.

Dan Shepherd (Producer) Pilot Media Productions





Pembrokeshire

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows part 1 & 2 (2010 & 2011), Robin Hood (2010), Snow White and the Huntsman (2012) have all filmed at locations on the Pembrokeshire Coastline.



Stradey Castle

Stradey Castle was a main location for the filming of Up All Night (2014), the Bafta Winning CBBC show, adapted for the big screen.



Gower Peninsula

Designated Britain's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Within 70 square miles are cliffs, beaches and dunes, salt and freshwater marshes, wooded valleys and farmland. Da Vinci's Demons (2011/14), Doctor Who, Torchwood, and Set Fire to the Stars (2014) have all filmed on Gower.



Bay Studios

Sets created at the studios range from the medieval Florence replica of the Duomo Cathedral, Da Vinci's Workshop, the Ponte Vecchio, the vast Papal state rooms, Naples, Otranto, Machu Picchu and a lot more for Da Vinci's Demons (2011/15).

To Pembrokeshire

Carmarthen

A48

Cross Hands

A483

Ammanford

■ Stradey Castle

Llanelli

M4

Swansea ■

Gower Peninsula





Neath Abbey

These Cistercian Monastery ruins provided a perfect backdrop for Da Vinci's Demons (2012/13), Being Human (2012), Doctor Who (2007) & Merlin (2010).



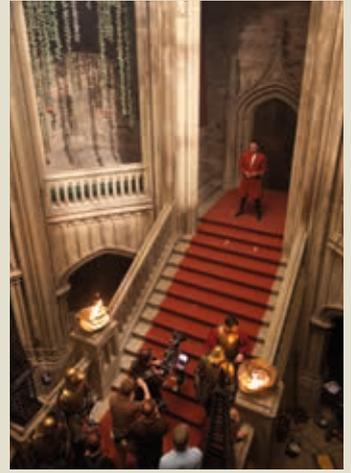
Ivy Tower

Doctor Who 50th anniversary episode: filmed on location at Ivy Tower near Gnoll Park in Neath. Doctor Who has also filmed scenes at Margam Park for several series, the ruins at Neath Abbey and on the Gower Peninsula.



Neath Valley

The Dark Knight Rises (2012): South Wales's tallest waterfall 88 feet (27 metre) Henrhyd Falls (27 metre) used as the Bat Cave. The highest of dozens of cascades on the south western border of the Brecon Beacons National Park, in the Neath Valley.



Margam Castle

Transformed into Florence's Medici Palace for Da Vinci's Demons (2011/14). Other filming at Margam Castle & Country Park: The Sarah Jane Adventures (2007), Torchwood (2007), Merlin (2012) & Doctor Who (2012), Bhoothnath Returns (2014 - Bollywood film) and Up All Night (2014).

■ Brecon Beacons National Park



Locations and productions across the region

Neath Port Talbot

Darklands (1996), I Know You Know (2008), Flick (2008), One Chance (2013), The Passion (2012), Pride (2013)

Swansea

Darklands (1996), Twin Town (1997), Mine all Mine (2004), Little White Lies (2006), Doctor Who (2006/09), Submarine (2010), Torchwood (2006 - 2011), Night of the Living Dead: Resurrection (2012), The Longest Night (2012), By Any Name (2014) and Set Fire to the Stars (2014)

Blaenau Gwent

Trefil Quarry: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (2010), Wrath of the Titans (2012), Doctor Who, Merlin and Da Vinci's Demons

Brecon Beacons National Park

An American Werewolf in London (1981), King Arthur (2004), Stardust (2007), The Wolf Man (2010), Killer Elite (2010), The Dark Knight Rises (2012)

Pembrokeshire

Vanity Fair (1998), I Capture the Castle (2003), I'll Sleep when I'm Dead (2003), The Edge of Love (2008), Round Ireland with a Fridge (2010), Third Star (2010), Richard II (2011), Under Milk Wood (2014).



“For me, it’s great to see such amazing work happening close to home, with many people working on various productions that have come to the area. When given the opportunity, the people of Neath Port Talbot always inspire and amaze with their creativity, commitment, passion and talent. They can produce world-class work and, with this kind of platform, the world will have the chance to experience that.”

Michael Sheen, Actor, born in Port Talbot



“There are stunning locations, all within a short distance from Neath Port Talbot and Bay Studios, with easy access to West Wales, Gower Peninsula and Brecon Beacons, making it fantastic for film and TV productions. It’s also much more economical to film here than in potentially more expensive locations such as London or England’s home-counties. The area is also bursting with talent, which is evident from the likes of Richard Burton, Anthony Hopkins and Michael Sheen, who have all come from here.”

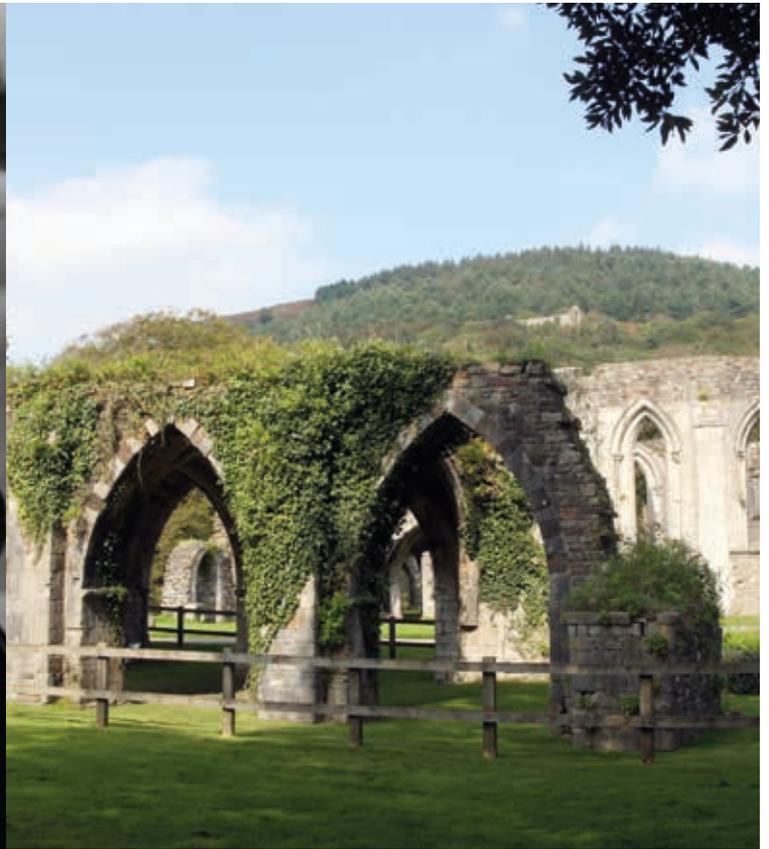
Andrea Moignard, Andrea Casting and Fifty One Productions





- ❑ Competitive and lower production costs
- ❑ Home to one of the largest indoor film studios in Europe
- ❑ Access to a rich variety of historic sites, beautiful landscapes and coastlines
- ❑ Gateway to National Parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty
- ❑ Easily accessible from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Bristol
- ❑ Direct access to London and the South East of England via the M4 motorway
- ❑ High-end TV, film and animation can qualify for UK tax relief on qualifying UK spend
- ❑ Flexible production funding available from Welsh Government
- ❑ Assistance with sourcing locations, crew and facilities available via Wales Screen www.walescreen.com





“The Bay Studios at Fabian Way provided enough space to base everything at the one site, which is a tremendous advantage for a production of this size. The convenience of the location also provided easy access to all our filming locations across South Wales and we had access to the necessary expertise and experience needed, in terms of businesses, resources and people. We are really pleased with the proactive approach by Neath Port Talbot Council’s Business Development Team which has helped us from the very beginning, and proved to be an invaluable point of contact for us.

Julie Gardner, Executive Producer (Da Vinci’s Demons, Life on Mars, Doctor Who, Torchwood)

Business Support

For any enquiries contact the Economic Development Team on 01639 686 835
email: business@npt.gov.uk or
visit: www.npt-business.gov.uk

