

## This is the day

**323BC:** Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, died after a prolonged period of feasting.

**1381:** Wat Tyler led the first popular rebellion – against unpopular taxes – in English history. It has become known as the Peasants' Revolt.

**1842:** Queen Victoria travelled by train for the first time, from Slough to Paddington, accompanied by Prince Albert. She was the first British monarch to use the train.

**1893:** Dorothy L Sayers, writer of detective stories featuring Lord Peter Wimsey, was born in Oxford.

**1900:** The Boxer Rebellion began in China to end the domination and exploitation of the country by foreigners. The Boxers were a secret society, originally formed to practice martial arts.

**1944:** The first V1 flying bomb, or "doodlebug", landed in England. Hitler's "secret weapon" hit a house in Southampton, killing three people.

**1956:** Real Madrid won the first European Cup, beating Stade de Reims 4-3 in Paris.

**1981:** Blanks were fired at the Queen during the Trooping the Colour ceremony.

**1989:** The wreck of the German ship Bismarck, which was sunk in 1941, was found 600 miles west of Brest.

**1990:** The official demolition of the Berlin Wall began.

## Star birthdays

Christo, artist, 72; Andreas Whittam Smith, journalist and former President of the British Board of Film Classification, 70; Malcolm McDowell,



actor, 64; Simon Callow, actor, 58; Tim Allen, actor, 54; Ally Sheedy, actress, 45; Alan Hansen, football pundit, 52; **Kathy Burke, actress, 43;** Kym Ryder, singer/actress 31; Lisa Riley, actress, 31.

## News quiz

**1. Which country has topped a table as the healthiest food destination for holidaymakers?**

**2. Which type of train made its European debut in a journey from London Euston to Llandudno?**

**3. Unless the number of homes being built increases, the next generation of homebuyers could face average house prices that are how many times their salaries?**

**4. Who has revealed she is worried about landing in jail along with her reality TV co-star Paris Hilton?**

### Answers

1. Greece, according to a food index by supermarket chain Sainsbury's.  
 2. The biodesel train Virgin Voyager.  
 3. Ten times, according to the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit.  
 4. Nicole Richie in an interview with US talk show host David Letterman.

# Community's roots help film director paint a truer picture



London-based film-maker Janis Pugh comes home to North Wales to find her inspiration

By TONY CHALLIS

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**IT'S one of the paradoxes of the arts scene that young independent film-makers are so dependent on established names to back their talent with encouragement and financial support.**

Janis Pugh, a working class girl from Flint, knows how the system works and her quest to make her own type of films is driven by such enthusiasm that it amounts to a force of nature.

I spoke to her before she hosted a night of short films written, directed and introduced by her to a packed cinema at Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold.

Outspoken, humourous, fiercely loyal to her roots, Janis, 36, lives to make films. She has three at home in London ready to go into production if the funds can be found. Her work so far has been guided and supported by distinguished talents like Mike Leigh, Ken Loach and Stephen Frears.

Frears even telephoned one day to ask why someone who wrote scripts so well wanted to be a director.

Janis told me: "I trained as an actress at the Drama Studio in London and spent my time travelling around and making simple films with friends. It was really just a lark. Then I decided to join the London Film School which was totally male and middle-class dominated. I applied to do a masters degree and discovered the fee for the two-year course was £40,000. On top of that I'd have to live and pay rent."

She got in and managed to scrape up the first term's fees of £7,000, largely thanks to a benefits night at which her film *Madres de Plaza de Mayo*, about Argentina's Mothers of the Disappeared, caught the attention of

■ Filmmaker  
 Janis Pugh.  
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