

WILLIAMS, ROBERT JOHN (PRYSOR; 1891 - 1967), collier and actor

Name: Robert John Williams
Pseudonym: Prysor
Date of birth: 1891
Date of death: 1967
Spouse: Margaret Mary Williams (née Walters)
Parent: Eliza Williams
Parent: Ellis Williams
Gender: Male
Occupation: collier and actor
Area of activity: Business and Industry; Performing Arts
Author: Lorraine Davies

Born 13 April 1891 at Trawsfynydd, Meirionnydd. His father, Ellis, was a carpenter and died young; his mother, Eliza, daughter of ' Eos Prysor ', raised him and his sister with the scant assistance of the Board of Guardians. He was educated at Trawsfynydd British School but he left when he was ten years old to earn his living as a farm-worker. When his mother re-married the family moved to the coalmining valleys in the South, first to Abertridwr, where he began working underground in Senghennydd colliery, and subsequently in Abergorci pit, Treorchy.

He was interested in music and drama and through his own exertions he became a precentor, an organist in the chapel (and local cinema, too, when he was short of money), and a prominent member of the opera company and drama company. At the Treorchy national eisteddfod in 1928 he met two people who were to influence his life greatly, namely Daniel Haydn Davies, who became a producer of school programmes for the B.B.C., and also one who became a lifelong friend, namely David Moses Jones, a collier and actor like himself. In 1936 [Thomas Rowland Hughes](#), the novelist and producer, invited both of them to take part in a radio play, and for the next 30 years Prysor Williams's voice was among the most familiar on Welsh radio and television. He appeared also on stage, including performances in the Abbey in Dublin (*Birds of a feather* by [J.O. Francis](#)) and in the Globe, London (*Rhondda roundabout* by [Jack Jones](#)). He took part in five films; the best-known was *Blue scar* by Jill Craigie.

He married in 1917 Margaret Mary Walters and they had two daughters. He died 13 October 1967 at Treherbert and his remains were cremated at Glyn-taff.

Author

Lorraine Davies

Sources

Personal acquaintance and information from his daughter Betty Edwards, and Wyn Thomas, Cardiff

Additional Links

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