



PRESS RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL
07:00 BST – SUNDAY 16.08.2026

MEDIA CONTACT:

NAME: STUART BROAD
TITLE: CHAIR
COMPANY: CALON FILMS LTD
TEL: +44 (0)7951 704 338
EMAIL: HOPE@CALONFILMS.CO.UK

HEADLINE:

FROM SETBACK TO SOLIDARITY: WALES RALLIES BEHIND 'THE PEOPLE'S FILM'

From setback to solidarity: Wales rallies behind 'The People's Film'

SUB HEADER:

After the withdrawal of a contracted **£4 million investment**, Calon Films is inviting Wales and Welsh communities around the world to help bring the true story of Dic Penderyn and the Merthyr Uprising to the big screen through a **Global Crowdfunding** campaign.

STORY:

PORT TALBOT, WALES. [07:00 BST – SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2026]

Welsh independent production company **Calon Films Ltd** has today announced the launch of a global crowdfunding campaign that will place the future of its debut feature film, **INIQUITY**, into the hands of the Welsh people following the withdrawal of a **signed £4 million investment agreement**. Launching in August to coincide with the 195th anniversary of the execution of **Welsh martyr Dic Penderyn**, the campaign aims to unite supporters across Wales and the global Welsh diaspora to bring one of the nation's most important untold stories to the big screen while preserving the legacy of the **1831 Merthyr Uprising** for future generations.

The campaign follows the decision by investor **Mark John Davies** of **Aerospace Asset Capital Ltd** not to proceed with his signed investment agreement, prompting the five Welsh founders of Calon Films to appeal directly to the people of **Wales** to help realise a project they believe belongs to the nation.

Over the past 18 months, the independent production company has presented its vision, business plan and creative ambitions to high-net-worth Welsh investors through a series of investment evenings held across Wales. Throughout that journey, the five founders have invested thousands of pounds of their own money, alongside countless hours of work, to bring **INIQUITY** into production.

The feature film tells the powerful true story of Richard Lewis, better known as **Dic Penderyn**, Wales' first working-class martyr, whose execution following the Merthyr Uprising of 1831 has become one of the defining injustices in **Welsh history**.

Calon Films Chair and **INIQUITY** writer, **Stuart Broad** said:

"I've always maintained that we're new to this, but we've assembled an incredible team of professionals to bring this hugely important Welsh story to the big screen."

Welsh BAFTA-winning director **Chris Crow** (*The Lighthouse*, 2016) is attached to direct, while award-winning producer **Michael Riley** of **Sterling Pictures Ltd** is producing the film.

INIQUITY tells the story of **Richard Lewis**, better known as **Dic Penderyn**, the 23-year-old Welsh miner who was executed in 1831 following the Merthyr Uprising after standing up for workers' rights. Evidence that emerged after his execution strongly suggested he was innocent of the crime for which he was hanged.

Dic Penderyn's final recorded words before his execution were:

"O Arglwydd, dyma gamwedd."

*("Oh Lord, here is **Iniquity.**")*

Alongside the production, adapted from the award-winning stage play of the same name, Calon Films has also been campaigning for a posthumous Royal Pardon for Richard Lewis. The petition, calling on **King Charles III** to grant the pardon, has received support from members of both **Houses of Parliament** and the **Welsh Senedd**, recognising the historical significance of the campaign.

A long-time supporter and advocate of their work is the newly appointed **Secretary of State for Wales, Stephen Kinnock MP**. Who has said;

"Taking the play from the stage to the screen will immortalize the Dic Penderyn story and the fight our ancestors went through. This type of exposure can only increase awareness and help it reach a wider audience and in-doing-so help achieve a posthumous pardon for Dic Penderyn"

The company's first investor evening took place in April 2025 at Blanco's Hotel in Port Talbot, opposite the cemetery where Dic Penderyn is buried. Around 180 invited guests enjoyed a luxury four-course meal, live entertainment, a male voice choir and commemorative gift sets.

Between each course, the Calon Films team presented the film's story, business plan, political endorsements and creative vision.

The event was repeated twice more at Giovanni's Restaurants in Cardiff, hosted by Cardiff Entrepreneur of the Year **Giovanni Malacrino**.

The evenings attracted investment and support from a number of prominent Welsh business figures, including Port Talbot-born biotech entrepreneur **Professor Sir Christopher Evans OBE**, owner of Castell Howell Foods; **Brian Jones MBE**, **Alan Barham** of Chemical Corporation, and **Mark John Davies** of Aerospace Asset Capital Ltd.

According to Calon Films, Mr Davies attended all three investor evenings and progressively increased his proposed investment, while accepting hospitality and gifts funded from the company's start-up capital.

Mr Broad said:

"We're certainly not millionaires, but we also knew this project could only become a reality with significant financial backing."

In November 2025, Mr Davies signed an investment agreement committing **£4 million** to the production.

Following the agreement, Calon Films publicly announced the investment. The project subsequently attracted widespread media coverage. While the company's social media channels experienced significant growth both within Wales and among Welsh expatriate communities around the world.

Pre-production commenced in early 2026, with nationwide casting calls announced for **St David's Day**.

A launch event was held in January, attended by investors and invited guests, including **Charlotte Church** and **Scott Quinnell**. Mr Davies was among those who voluntarily appeared on camera to speak about his support for the project — just six days before the first instalment of his signed investment agreement was due.

Six days later, the payment failed to arrive.

When approached by the production team, Mr Davies reportedly explained that he was significantly in the red.

When asked why this had not been disclosed previously — including less than a week earlier while publicly celebrating the investment — Calon Films state that, Mr Davies allegedly responded:

"A lot can change in six days."

Mr Broad confirmed that Calon Films undertook what it considered to be appropriate due diligence on both Mr Davies and his company, **Aerospace Asset Capital Ltd** before entering the agreement and announcing the investment.

Mr Broad said on this matter;

"There were no major red flags. Some of the figures being discussed appeared significantly higher than the value of his UK company, but Mr Davies maintained that the investment was coming from funds held outside of the UK."

Solicitors subsequently became involved, and Calon Films chose not to identify Mr Davies publicly in the hope that the matter could be resolved privately and professionally.

Calon Films says that, Mr Davies has since informed them that he would not be proceeding with the investment.

The company alleges that Mr Davies stated:

"Take me to court if you want. This contract is not worth the paper it's written on!"

Mr Broad later met Mr Davies at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge and with Mr Davies' express permission recorded the conversation.

Reflecting on that meeting, Mr Broad said:

"During our conversation I deliberately asked Mark Davies a direct question relating to his investments that I already knew the answer to. Mark Davies' response to that question was inconsistent with the information available to me. I formed the personal view that in my opinion, Mr Davies never had any intention to invest in our film. That is my opinion based on all the information available to me"

Mr Davies was approached for comment by **BBC Wales Today** when they first reported the story in June 2026. Mark Davies chose not to comment

As a consequence of the failed investment, Calon Films announced that production of Iniquity the movie would be postponed.

Mr Broad said:

"The embarrassment and potential reputational damage this has caused has been monumental. Not to mention the stress it has placed on everyone involved."

Despite the setback, Mr Broad emphasized that Calon Films continues to enjoy the full support of its existing investors, including Welsh businessman **Brian Jones MBE** and biotech entrepreneur **Professor Sir Christopher Evans OBE**.

Sir Chris said:

"Stuart has assembled an incredible team around this project. INIQUITY has my full support, and I firmly believe it has all the makings of an unforgettable movie."

Calon Films branding manager, Dean Lawrence also added;

"The outpouring of support from across Wales and proud Welsh people around the world has been truly inspirational. This groundswell of Hiraeth has reinforced what we've always believed. There is a genuine appetite for this story to be heard!"

Inspired by that support, Calon Films has announced plans to launch a global crowdfunding campaign in August, timed to coincide with the 195th anniversary of Dic Penderyn's execution.

The announcement also comes at an exciting time for **Port Talbot**, following its shortlisting to become the **UK Town of Culture 2028**. Calon Films has contributed to Neath Port Talbot Council's consultation process supporting the town's cultural ambitions and believes *Iniquity* can play an important role in showcasing the area's rich industrial and social history to audiences around the world.

Building on that vision, the company has submitted a proposal to the **Neath Port Talbot Heritage, Culture & Tourism Growth Fund** to establish a **Dic Penderyn Heritage Trail**, an ambitious legacy project that would combine film, heritage, public art and storytelling to create a permanent visitor attraction celebrating one of Wales' most significant historical figures.

Calon Films is also in early discussions with neighbouring local authorities, such as Merthyr & Cardiff, regarding opportunities to extend the trail beyond Port Talbot. Therefore creating a wider Welsh heritage experience linked to the locations featured in *Iniquity*. The company believes the project has the potential to become a flagship example of **film-induced tourism**, encouraging visitors to discover Wales through its history, landscapes and stories.

Mr Broad concluded:

"The hearts and minds of the Welsh people are strong and proud and our stories deserve to be told. It is the people of Wales who have firmly embraced INIQUITY and made it 'The People's Film'. Meaning it could well be financed in much the same way our ancestors achieved extraordinary things — through good people standing together in unwavering solidarity to overcome such adversity."

He added:

"The story of Dic Penderyn and of all our ancestors who sacrificed their today for our tomorrow is what has inspired us to never give up on this remarkable project!"

For more information or to pledge your support behind Calon Films and Iniquity – ‘The People’s Film’ please click the links below;

<https://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/iniquitythepeoplesfilm>

[Calon Films – At the Heart of Welsh Film Making](#)

CONTACT:

NAME:	STUART BROAD
TITLE:	CHAIR
COMPANY:	CALON FILMS LTD
TEL:	+44 (0)7951 704 338
EMAIL:	hope@calonfilms.co.uk