

My Proposal

Subject: Will I need to start an OnlyFans to fund my dream career in the arts?

Overview: Insecure, draining, unreliable, rejection. Consistent words used to describe a career in the arts, and as I prepare to graduate and step into the industry this year, I've begun to question whether this is the lifestyle I want to lead. With major funding cuts to the arts in Wales restricting opportunities, my efforts to gain broader experience have repeatedly taken me beyond Wales, which poses serious financial and practical difficulties as a student. The Welsh Government's view of the arts as a "nice to have" has resulted in widespread job losses and forced local theatre companies to close. As a result, I find myself questioning my future as an artist in Wales and whether staying is financially viable. How will I manage to pay a mortgage? Will they limit the production of new work in Wales, limiting local opportunities?

The instability of the industry has become one of the greatest threats to sustaining a career as a performer, with many choosing to move into alternative career paths rather than continue facing financial, health, and personal challenges. Many celebrities have been criticised for turning to sexual-content platforms such as OnlyFans to sustain their careers, and this is not limited to actors. More than 70% of UK sex workers have previously worked in healthcare, education or charities, while more than a third hold university degrees.

Should we have to go to these limits, degrading our bodies for a chance to succeed, because we weren't born into money or we don't have the right connections, or is it just another way for us to perform? Is it the basement into the industry that will open more doors, build us a platform and financially look after us.

To explore this issue further, I will be interviewing artists to understand how industry working conditions impact them personally, particularly how they cope with the instability of moving between employment and unemployment. I will also ask whether they would consider alternative income streams, such as Onlyfans if it allowed them to continue pursuing their creative careers without the financial strain of life between contracts. "Arts funding in Wales had dropped by 30% since 2017. This is compared to a drop of 11% in England, 16% in Northern Ireland, and an increase by 2% in Scotland."(BBC 2024).It will also be interesting to explore why the Welsh Government appears to be neglecting this industry and raise awareness of the serious effects for the future of Wales. Bringing attention to the decline is essential to protect and support communities and new graduates from feeling trapped.