

A Sunny Return for US Singer AJ

An American singer songwriter finally got to experience one of Wales' most unusual theatres when he returned to Radnorshire.

American singer songwriter AJ Roach performed at the Living Willow Theatre near Rhayader on Saturday July 26 in glorious sunshine.

The weather was in stark contrast to Roach's last visit to the outdoor venue. The wet weather, that blighted summer 2007 last year, forced organisers to move Roach and his band indoors to the hay barn, the wet weather alternative to the outdoor theatre.

But as mid Wales enjoyed brilliant sunshine and soaring temperatures during later July, Roach finally got to showcase his brand of Appalachian folk music in the theatre that is constructed from living Willow trees.

The gig was the last date of a European tour and Roach was impressed. He said, "The Willow Theatre has to be the best venue we've played, the atmosphere is amazing." Roach played a selection of new songs and material from his most recent album, 'Revelation'.

Local singer songwriter Ellen Cox opened the show, then Roach played a few solo numbers before being joined on the stage by Alisa Rose on violin and Adam Roszkiewicz on mandolin and guitars.

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