

By DAVID POWELL

CAERNARFON filmmakers have been given £1.5m to make children's animated films on the fight against climate change and obesity.

Griffiths has clinched three two-year contracts with the European Commission to make eight films for five to eight-year-olds.

They will then be broadcast across Europe in at least seven languages including Welsh.

The company is already known for its films featuring an animated Bryn Terfel, Katherine Jenkins, Charlotte Church and Gavin Henson.

The new films will encourage children to make small changes in their lives and lifestyles to ensure a better, greener and fitter future.

Griffiths founder and managing director Hywel Griffith said: "In these times of financial hardship, it's great to be a part of positive story."

The films will be launched in Brussels this week to coincide with the EU's Sustainable Energy Week.

Two of the projects Young Energy Savers (YES) and Eco Animation will focus on energy conservation, transport and water conservation. And a project called Active aims to help children understand the importance of healthy eating and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Millions of children and adults will see the animated films in homes, schools and museums.

The animation will also be accompanied by a free, online, teaching pack.

And it will be in an exhibition in five of Europe's most popular kids museums including Ireland.

Iwan Wyn Jones AM, Minister for the Economy and Transport, is delighted to see another leading Welsh company win a significant project.

He said: "Wales has made a name for itself in animation, with home grown Welsh companies producing world beat-

Animators win £1.5m contract FILMS TO TAKE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND KIDS' OBESITY



Hywel Griffith founder of Griffiths and (inset) the Charlotte Church and Gavin Henson cartoon



ing films and memorable characters."

And World Wildlife Fund Cymru boss Morgan Parry said landing the £1.5m work was fantastic news for Wales.

He said: "It's fantastic news especially at a time when we are hearing about so many companies cutting back on investing in Wales and the UK. I hope this exciting project will lead to Wales produ-

cing a generation of budding environmentalists."

Taking part are leading European, environmental and climate experts including the WWF, the Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity, the Department of Food Science (UNINA) in Italy and over 500 children from five countries.

Griffiths, with studios in Caernarfon and Cardiff, hopes to attract sponsorship.

It is best known for producing the animation for S4C's popular satirical series 'Cneif' and the much loved animated film 'Gelerf'.

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Thanks for help says choke teen's dad

THE father of a teenager left severely disabled after choking on chewing gum says he's humbled by the support shown to his family.



Rhys Thomas, of Holywell, has been unable to speak or move after the October 2007 accident and his parents, Grahame and Tricia, have been trying to raise funds to adapt their house so Rhys, 17, can come home.

Grahame said: "We've had cheques from people we don't even know and Rhys's friends have been brilliant."

An evening of dinner and entertainment at Kinnel Manor Hotel, Abergele, on March 7 will be the final fundraising events. To book tickets, which cost £25, contact trustees Beryl Hughes, on 01745 351090, Heulwen O'Boyle, on 01745 339594, or Marianne Roberts on 01745 570648.