



THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

INCORPORATING

**guy masterson productions**

Patrons: Melvyn Bragg, Robert Hardy, Peter O'Toole, Maggie Smith



THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

INCORPORATING

**guy masterson productions**

Patrons: Melvyn Bragg, Robert Hardy, Peter O'Toole, Maggie Smith

**"Great theatre should be a tempest of energy illuminated by flashes of blinding communication where the audience are on the receiving end of a theatrical thunderbolt. it should be an experience that no other medium can provide." Guy Masterson**

Since 1991, Guy Masterson has consistently presented theatre of the highest quality dedicated to this principle. By stripping away all that is unnecessary to create an environment for vibrant theatricality his productions are designed to grab the audience's attention, hold it, manipulate it, transport it. Through strong writing, clear direction exceptional performance, atmospheric lighting & sound, the audience are drawn into a 'contract of imagination' with the artiste/s. They are illuminated entertained, educated, excited, moved and, above all, transported.

**Guy Masterson/TTI & Associates\* @Edinburgh since '94:**

12 ANGRY MEN

ADOLF\* (x3)

ALL WORDS FOR SEX

AMERICANA ABSURDUM\*

AMERICAN POODLE

AN AGE OF ANGELS

ANIMAL FARM (x3)

BALLAD OF JIMMY COSTELLO\*

BARE\*

BERKOFF'S WOMEN

BLOWING IT\*

BORGE AGAIN\*

THE BOY'S OWN STORY

BYE BYE BLACKBIRD

CASTRADIVA\*

CINCINNATI\*

COOKING WITH PUCCINI\*

THE DEVIL AND BILLY MARKHAM\*

LEVELLAND\*

LOST WORKS OF SAMUEL BECKETT\*

FERN HILL & OTHER DYLAN THOMAS

FILLER UPI\*

FOLLOW ME

GOERING'S DEFENCE

GONER\*

HIP HARP FANTASIES\*

HORSE COUNTRY\*

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION

I KISSED DASH RIPROCK\*

INTIMACY\*

IT WAS HENRY FONDA'S FAULT\*

KRISHNAN'S DAIRY\*

THE MISTRESS

MOSCOW\*

NO. 2\*

THE ODD COUPLE\*

OLEANNA

PLAYING BURTON (x3)

RED HAT & TALES\*

RESOLUTION

RETURN JOURNEY\*

SHYLOCK

SKIN TIGHT\*

TERRY NEASON SLAPS 'N' TICKLES\*

A SLIGHT TILT TO THE LEFT

A SOLDIER'S SONG

THE STORY OF FUNK\*

SWIFT

TALKIN' TURKEYS

UNDER MILK WOOD (x5)

**AWARDS & NOMINATIONS**

**Jack Tinker - Spirit of the Fringe**

2002: Nancy Walsh - Cincinnati

2003: Guy Masterson - Various

**The Scotsman First Of The Firsts**

2002: Horse Country

**The Scotsman Fringe First**

1998: Skin Tight

1999: Krishnan's Dairy

Moscow

2000: Americana Absurdum

No. 2

2002: Cincinnati

Horse Country

**Strathmore Audience Award - Best Play**

2003: 12 Angry Men

**The Herald Angel**

2001: Terry Neason

2002: John Clancy - Various

2007: Follow Me

**Stage Award Best Actor/Actress Winners**

1996: Beth Fitzgerald - House Of Correction

2001: Guy Masterson - Fern Hill

2002: David Calvitto - Horse Country

**Stage Award Nominations**

1997: Tim Balme - Ballad Of Jimmy Costello

Beth Fitzgerald - Bye Bye Blackbird

Josh Richards - Playing Burton

1998: Pip Utton - Adolf

Gareth Armstrong - Shylock

1999: Jacob Rajan - Krishnan's Dairy

Linda Marlowe - Berkoff's Women

2000: Ensemble - Americana Absurdum

Madeleine Sami - No.2

Jules Leyser - All Words For Sex

2001: Pip Utton - Resolution

2002: Nancy Walsh - Cincinnati

2003: Ensemble - 12 Angry Men

Guy Masterson - Under Milk Wood

2007: Beth Fitzgerald - Follow Me

**"It's a feat of multiple characterisation, getting right inside the words, swelling them to their fullest extent, and achieved through a combination of impeccable timing, vocal dexterity and precise physical control, tremendous sensitivity and panache..."**

(The Guardian February 1994)

**"The language resonates, the laughs linger Masterson makes it sing!"**

(The Herald February 1994)

# Under Milk Wood

by  
Dylan Thomas



performed by

**Guy Masterson**

directed by

**Tony Boncza**

with original direction by  
George Dillon

**Bawdy and beautiful  
Sad and sensual...**

**Through the music of language,  
Under Milk Wood creates indelible,  
unforgettable images of humanity...**

GUY MASTERSON PRODUCTIONS & THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL LTD

MILLFIELD HOUSE & THEATRE, SILVER STREET, EDMONTON, LONDON, N18 1PJ

TEL/FAX: +44 20 8807 5770

E-MAIL: ADMIN@THEATRETOURSINTERNATIONAL.COM WWW.THEATRETOURSINTERNATIONAL.COM

PROGRAMME NOTES

50p

# Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas

Dylan Thomas' beautiful lyrical study *Under Milk Wood* started life as a short story with a working title of *The Town Was Mad*. While working for the BBC in the late Thirties, the first draft of a day in the life of a fictional sleepy Welsh fishing town entitled *Quite Early One Morning*, was broadcast. In 1952, *Llareggub - a Piece for Radio Perhaps* appeared in the *Botteghe Oscure* - a literary magazine published in Rome. After Thomas finally settled upon the title we all know, he also added the proviso *A Play For Voices*. In May 1953, with the piece still in development, Thomas recited it solo to an invited audience at the Poet's Theatre in New York. The 'final draft' had its first complete reading in October of the same year. This time Thomas read "First Voice" and the Reverend Jenkins, with a cast of American guests taking the other roles. It is widely thought however that this draft was not the final version Thomas had in mind, and that the comparative haste of the dusk to evening sequence was indicative of a rush to add a quick ending for the second reading. It could be, then, that the piece we know and revere is actually 'unfinished', and that Thomas had intended to complete the play upon his return to Britain in 1954. He died in New York on the 9th of November 1953. *Under Milk Wood* was posthumously broadcast in January 1954 to widespread critical acclaim with a twenty-nine year old Richard Burton leading the cast. It has since become Thomas' most famous and enduring work and has been translated into over 50 languages. It is regularly on the national syllabus. It was re-recorded for the BBC in 1963 (again with Richard Burton as "First Voice"), again in 1990 with Anthony Hopkins and an all star cast, and again in 2004 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dylan's death with Richard's original 1954 First Voice being set behind a cast of modern Welsh actors. Also in celebration of this anniversary, The Dylan Thomas Estate have kindly given permission for this performance. As a stage play, it is normally presented with more than one actor playing the 69 ebullient characters...

When I came to *Under Milk Wood* for the first time, I had no idea that I would be performing it thirteen years later! It changed my life. I had always been aware of it, mainly through my large Welsh family and my great-uncle's famous recording of it, but had never read or listened to it in its entirety until I decided to perform it. Inspired by Steven Berkoff's work, it started as an experiment in my exploring physical performance. Having been a "neck-up" actor for my entire career, I wanted to use more of my body to communicate a story rather than just my face and voice. *Under Milk Wood*, with its 69 wondrously rich characters, was perfect. Being of Welsh stock with a myriad of Uncles and Aunts, I could see them very clearly so playing them - recreating them from my mind's eye - would be fun... I had no training in mime and I was resolved to use no props or changes of costume! It was to be an experiment in simplicity with the words and power of performance at its core... Thankfully it worked... and partly due to its first sensational review in February 1994, a show became a critical and commercial success. I have since played it over a thousand times all around the world. It now defines me as a theatre practitioner and I am proud of it. And, as long as the audiences keep wanting it and I still have fun doing it, I shall continue! *Guy Masterson*

## GUY MASTERSON Performer

Born Guy Mastroianni to a Welsh mother and Italian-American father, educated at Christ's Hospital School, Horsham, and University of Wales, Cardiff graduating BSc Joint Hons in Biochemistry & Chemistry. Emigrated to the USA in 1982 and started as an actor in 1985 in Hollywood returning to the UK in 1989 to study drama at LAMDA. He began solo performing in 1991 with *The Boy's Own Story* and thence, *Under Milk Wood*, and producing & directing in 1993 with *Playing Burton*. He went to the Edinburgh Fringe for the first time in 1994 with the latter two shows. The following 14 seasons saw his association with some of the Edinburgh's most celebrated hits (see overleaf) winning **The Stage Award for Best Actor** in 2001 for *Fern Hill & Other Dylan Thomas* and culminating in his receiving the prestigious **Daily Mail Jack Tinker Spirit Of The Fringe Award** in 2003. Other Edinburgh appearances include: *American Poodle* (2007) *Steve Martin's Wasp* (1997) *A Soldier's Song* (1998) *Oleanna* (2002) Directorial credits include; *The Eagle Dances*, *The Mistress*, *Follow Me* (2007), *Levelland* (UK & OZ), *Cooking With Puccini* (2006); *The Odd Couple*, *Swift* (2005); *Borge Again!*, *12 Angry Men* (UK 2003, OZ 2004); *Goering's Defence*, *A Slight Tilt To The Left* (2002); *Resolution*, *Mom I'm Not A Lawyer* (2001); *All Words For Sex* (2000); *Adolf* (1999); *Hollywood Screams II* (1998) *Bye Bye Blackbird* (1997); *The House Of Correction* (1996); and *Playing Burton* (UK 1994, NZ 2002 & 2007). Notable TV and Film appearances include *Salvador* (with James Woods) *Moonwalker* (wit Michael Jackson) *Dennis Potter's Cold Lazarus*, *Dirty War* and *Casualty Christmas Special 2005* for the BBC and improvisational comedy with *Brass Eye* (yes, that [banned] episode!) His company, Theatre Tours International, works out of the Millfield Theatre in Edmonton, London, where he is Associate Director. He is married to Brigitta and father to Indigo and Tallulah...

## TONY BONCZA Director

For Guy Masterson Productions/TTI, Tony has directed *A Soldier's Song*, *The Boys Own Story*, *Animal Farm* and redirected *Under Milk Wood*. He also performed in *The House of Correction* produced & directed by Guy Masterson at the Edinburgh Festival '96. He has also directed corporate videos and short films including *Walk On The Wild Side* for Baron Unicorn Films. He trained at Central School Of Speech and Drama. Acting credits include *The House of Correction* for GMPS, Edinburgh Festival 1996, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Just Between Ourselves* (Neil), *Racing Demon* (Streaky Bacon), *The Cherry Orchard* (Yepikhodov), *The Rover and The Banished Cavaliers* (Blunt), *The Norman Conquests* (Tom), *Merchant of Venice* (Prince of Arragon/Salario) - all directed by Jonathan Church at Salisbury Playhouse. Other theatre credits include *The Crucible* for Birmingham Stage Company/Salisbury Playhouse, *The Mousetrap* (Dt. Sgt. Trotter) at St. Martins Lane Theatre, London; *Barbarians*, *The Maids*, *The Atheists Tragedy and Romeo and Juliet* (Belgrade, Coventry); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nuffield, Southampton); *Christie in Love*, *Hitting Town* and *A Taste of Honey* (Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford); *Macbeth* (Thorndike, Leatherhead); *The Boyfriend* (Dundee Rep); *Piaf* (Farnham and the Royal Alexander, Toronto); Film credits: *Chariots of Fire*, *Empire of the Sun*. Television credits: *The Vet*, *Ties of Blood*, *Squadron*, *Coronation Street*, *For Maddie With Love*, *Strangers*, *Morecambe and Wise*, *Jackanory Playhouse*, *Eric Sykes* and *Dick Turpin*.

## MATT CLIFFORD composition & sound

Matt composed the soundscape for Guy Masterson's solo *Under Milk Wood* in the summer of 2003 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Dylan Thomas' death. This led to several more theatre commissions including *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* with Christian Slater, Gavin Robertson's *The Day Of The Triffids*. Matt has also recently arranged music for the UEFA Champions League and a theme for the UEFA Cup. Compositions for television and film credits include: *The Return Of The Living Dead*. For the BBC: *The World About Us*, *The Natural World*, *75th Anniversary Commissions*; for ITV: *The Brit Awards*, *Champions League*, *Our Town Story*; for Channel 4: *Being Mick* (Jagger); for Discovery: *Animal Planet*; for CNN: *Inventors - Price Waterhouse* and commercial music for Citroen and Pepsi. He has composed, arranged and conducted for the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Session Orchestra, and L'Orchestre de La Suisse Romande of Geneva. He also played the French Horn for 10 years orchestally and on stage with the Rolling Stones! Studio productions and co-writes include *Goddess in the Doorway* and *Wandering Spirit* with Mick Jagger, *Change We Must* with Jon Anderson, *The Choirboy* with Anthony Way, 5 albums for Show Of Hands, *40 Licks* including the single *Steel Wheels* for the Rolling Stones, *Les Aventures a L'eau* with Julien Clerc, *Sauver L'Amour* with Daniel Balavoine, *Abwh* with Abwh, *Overdream* with Overdream, *The Kid and I* with August Darnell. He has composed scores for the Royal National Theatre and the Gloucester Festival and he is writing his first screenplay for Jagged Films.

**"Imagination personified!"** (Adelaide Advertiser)  
**"Intensely uplifting... therapeutic!"** (BBC Radio Scotland)

## DYLAN THOMAS author

Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea, South Wales on October 27th 1914, the son of the English Master of Swansea Grammar School, where Dylan was later educated. He began writing poetry as a schoolboy before taking his first job as a junior reporter for the South Wales Evening Post in 1931. His first volume of verse *Eighteen Poems* was published in 1934 prior to a move to London where he worked in journalism, broadcasting and script-writing. His next volume, *Twenty Five Poems* was completed and published in 1936. In the same year, Dylan married Caitlin Macnamara and they moved to Laugharne in Carmarthenshire, South West Wales. During World War II, Dylan spent most of his time in London where he wrote & broadcast for the BBC. In 1940 *Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Dog* - a collection of short stories, brought him widespread critical acclaim. He also wrote several plays and scripts including *The Doctor And The Devils*. *Deaths And Entrances* which followed in 1946, contained some of his finest poetry and resulted in his being invited to lecture in the USA. Thomas eventually visited the USA on four separate tours which paid handsomely, enabling the upkeep of his family back in Wales. His heavy drinking, however, had seriously weakened his health and on 9th November 1953, after a famous binge in the White Horse Pub in New York, he died, ostensibly of alcoholic poisoning - although it has since been suggested that he, being diabetic, entered a fatal diabetic coma induced by excessive alcohol. His body was returned home and buried in Laugharne with a simple wooden cross marking his grave. He was 39. *Under Milk Wood* and *Quite Early One Morning*, a collection of his works for the BBC were published posthumously in 1954.

### UNDER MILK WOOD: cast of characters

First & Second Voice	Jack Black	Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard
Captain Cat	Evans the Death	Mr Ogmores
Cry Baby	Mister Waldo	Mr Pritchard
Alfred Pomeroy Jones	Blodwen Bowen	Mr & Mrs Butcher Beynon
Jonah Jarvis	Matti Richards	Gossamer Beynon
Tom Fred Donkeyman	Dulcie Prothero	Mr & Mrs Organ Morgan
Dancin' Williams	Effie Bevan	Mr & Mrs Floyd (the cocklers)
Curly Bevan	Lil the Gluepot	
Miss Myfanwy Price	Mrs Flusher	Farmer & Mrs Utah Watkins
Mr Mog Edwards	The Preacher	Ocky Milkman

### UNDER MILK WOOD: cast of characters (cont)

Mr & Mrs Cherry Owen	Bessie Bighead	The Shopping Women
P.C. Attila Rees	Rev. Eli Jenkins	Lord Cut-Glass
Mr & Mrs Willy-Nilly	Mr & Mrs Pugh	Gwennie Gwennie
Postman	Dai Bread	Billy
Sinbad Sailors	Mrs Dai Bread One	Johnnie Cristo
Mary-Ann-The-Sailors	Mrs Dai Bread Two	Little Dicky
Tom Sailors	Polly Garter	The ShriII Girls
Lily Smalls The Treasure	Grumpy Grandpa	The Bully Boys
Mrs Rose Cottage	The Fishermen	Rosie Probert
Mae Rose Cottage	Nogood Boyo	