



THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

INCORPORATING

guy masterson productions

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



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IN ASSOCIATION WITH

JOSHUA RICHARDS PRODUCTIONS

"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*

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 UP!*

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*

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

2002: John Clancy - Various

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

Playing Burton

by Mark Jenkins

performed by

Josh Richards

directed by

Guy Masterson

He was the 12th of 13 children of a drunken Welsh coalminer. He rose to become King of Camelot and the Tabloids.

He played with the World's most beautiful women.

He earned millions.

He was the most nominated actor never to win an Oscar.

But who he really was even he didn't know.

TTI Guy Masterson @ Edinburgh 2007

The Mistress

@ GEORGE ST WILDMAN ROOM 11:00 - 11:55

Under Milk Wood

@ GEORGE ST MUSIC HALL 14:15 - 16:10

Follow Me

@ GEORGE ST WILDMAN ROOM 12:15 - 13:30

An Age of Angels

@ GEORGE ST DRAWING ROOM 17:15 - 18:35

adolf

@ UNIVERSAL ARTS MAJESTIC 12:20 - 13:40

American Poodle

@ GEORGE ST WILDMAN ROOM 17:00 - 19:30

GUY MASTERSON PRODUCTIONS & THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL LTD

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assembly
@ GEORGE STREET
BOX OFFICE 0131 623 3030
www.assemblyfestival.com

August 2-27 2007 not 13th

Wildman Room 18:30 (19:30)

Tickets: £11 - £13 (reviews 55)

PROGRAMME NOTES

50p



Playing Burton

This is something of a blessed project: in 1980, as a starving, impoverished Biochemistry student at Cardiff University, I answered an ad for a flat-share and met... Josh Richards, studying at The Welsh College of Music and Drama. We lived together for two terms before going our separate ways. He had a fantastic singing voice, he was wild, and he was constantly impersonating my Great Uncle... Richard Burton.

It was a good impersonation, though, in order to achieve Burton's famed resonance, Josh had to stick his head in the huge yellow bubble acquired from a pedestrian crossing. He looked entirely alien, but, my God, you could swear that Burton was in the room. It was quite a party piece and the girls loved him. I never told him that Burton and I were related... closely.

Later that year, I drove Uncle Richie to Switzerland in a red Mini Cooper S. I spent two weeks with him in Paris and a further two weeks at his home in Geneva prior to the Royal Wedding. He was recovering from neck surgery. We were rarely out of each other's company.

When I left Cardiff the following year - with no intention whatsoever of becoming a Biochemist - I ran off to Los Angeles with a nagging suspicion that I too would become an actor someday, but I had some life experiences to accumulate first.

When Uncle Richie died suddenly in August 1984 (during the LA Olympics) I was deeply shocked. We had become so close; we both had an extraordinary relationship with Cis - his older sister, surrogate mother - my Grandmother - a mutual love of beautiful ladies and, of course, Rugby. We chatted endlessly and he extended to me the kind of fatherly love that I'd lost when my father died a decade earlier. And once he'd stopped impressing his wide-eyed nephew with multitudinous rollicking yarns, he started to really open up. He was in a very vulnerable state... and he constantly reiterated how horrendous the acting world really was. I now know that much of what he said he did not share with anyone else. I grew to love him deeply and was devastated when death came for him that night in August.

I resolved to become an actor that could follow in his footsteps... not a healthy ambition for a young man with nil experience... but I was determined nonetheless. And follow him I did, though the neon lights of super-stardom did not beckon for me.

After 4 years of professional acting and with 20 plays under my belt and a handful of healthy reviews, I returned to the UK where I fully intended to join the R.S.C. with a view to taking the lead in some huge Shakespearean extravaganza! That part of my ambition also never happened. It was then, while walking dejectedly through Camden Town, I noticed a decapitated poster with only the words "With Josh Richards as Richard Burton"... Surely not? It was! Still impersonating him! ...I got in touch.

We met for the first time in over a decade again in Cardiff where I confessed my connection. Josh was dumfounded! I asked if he'd mind my reading the script. And then I asked if he'd mind my directing him in it! He agreed and soon, we were working out of my mother's garage in North London. I'd already been invited by Assembly to bring my solo *Under Milk Wood* to the Fringe having sold out the Traverse earlier in the year. So I pitched that I should bring *Burton* too. After all, it would be a terrific publicity angle!

More to the point, the work we'd achieved was spectacular - dare I say it myself. Gone was the Burton that everyone expects; the public Burton, the sneering, angry, booming baritone... the sot with endless repartee. Out shone the spirit of Burton himself, Burton re-incarnate! Gentle, measured, modest, truthful. It was truly uncanny. Josh was amazing.

What Josh and the writer Mark Jenkins allowed me to share with them was "the man behind the myth"; The melancholic, ashamed boozier, "the boy without a shadow" on the one hand, and, on the other, the brilliant unassailable genius that seemed to have an apposite Shakespearean quote for anything any-time. The loving, generous, charming, wonderfully erudite man who never forgot his family or his roots. The grossly misunderstood, horrendously misrepresented superstar that, once sacrificed, would never enjoy true peace and privacy again. His life belonged to the public... and the public could not get enough of him.

So here he is again, and with a truth that I can personally attest to. On stage it's as close a representation of a man that once lived that you will likely see. More to the point, it's good drama - because it's true drama. Sometimes it is too painful for me to watch because we have pulled no punches, but I do believe that his 'warts 'n all' madeth the man. No point in trying to hide them. What is left is a true living portrait. One that I and my family am proud to share with you.... **Guy Masterson**

JOSH RICHARDS Performer

Trained at the Welsh College of Music and Drama. Theatre credits include: *Canterbury Tales*, *As You Like It*, *Henry V* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Troilus and Cressida* (Theatr Clwyd, Mold), *Brighton Rock* (Almeida Theatre), *Fly Me to the Moon* (Hull Truck Theatre Company), *Edward III*, *Roman Actor*, *Eastward Ho!* (Royal Shakespeare Company/West End), *Twelfth Night*, *Richard III* (Northern Broadsides - National Tour), *The Passion* (Northern Broadsides), *Jump To Cow Heaven* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Winner Assembly & Riverside Studios), *As You Like It* (Battersea Arts Centre), *Playing Burton* (National Tour, Edinburgh Festivals 1994 & 1997), *South Pacific* (National and Japanese Tour), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Pied Piper*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Winters Tale*, *The Passion of Dracula*, *An Inspector Calls* (Sherman Theatre), *Orpheus* (Traveling Opera Co.), *Richard II*, *Accidental death of an Anarchist* (Bright Red Theatre Co.) *Flying for Arthur*, *Cromwell*, *Greenham Strike a Light* (Made in Wales).

Television credits include: *High Hopes*, *Reasonable Force*, *New World*, *The Vision*, *A Perfect Spy*, *Bowen A'l Bartner* (BBC), *Mind Games*, *Trial & Retribution* (La Plante Productions), *Heartbeat* (Yorkshire TV), *New Adventures of Robin Hood* (Warner Bros), *Pobol Y Cwm* (S4C).

Film credits include: *Troy* (Warner Bros), *Doctor Sleep* (Doctor Sleep Ltd), *Very Annie Mary* (Dragon Pictures), *Rancid Aluminium* (Rancid Aluminium Films).

Radio credits include: *Wormwood*, *The Tempest*, *Last Bus Home*, *In Praise of Idleness*, *Page 3*, *Dai's Army*, *Other Men Do* (BBC).

Ar Edinburgh 2007 he has also adapted and directed *One Sea and One Tree*, and directed *Rosebud - The Lives of Orson Welles* - all at Assembly.

GUY MASTERSON Director

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 came to Edinburgh for the first time in 1994 with the latter two shows. The following 13 seasons saw his association with some of the Fringe's most celebrated hits (see overleaf), winning **The Stage Award for Best Actor** in 2001 for *Fern Hill*, and culminating in his receiving the prestigious **Jack Tinker Spirit Of The Fringe Award** in 2003. Directorial credits include; *Levelland* (UK & OZ), *Cooking With Puccini* (2006); *The Odd Couple*, *Swift* (2005); *Borge Again!* (2004), *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* (1994, 1997 & 2007). He is married to Brigitta and father to Indigo and Tallulah...



MARK JENKINS Author

One of Wales' leading writers of theatre and film. *Playing Burton*, his best-known work, is the most successful Welsh play of the last twenty-five years with over a thousand performances on three continents. His other plays include *Rosebud: the Lives of Orson Welles* (Fringe First and Ccarol Tambor Awards, 2004), *Strindberg Knew My Father*, *Mister Owen's Millennium*, *Downtown Paradise* and *Nora's Bloke*. Screenplays include *The Scarlet Tunic* (Scorpio-Pinewood 1998) which starred Simon Callow and Emma Fielding. His first novel, *Birthmarks*, is to be published in August 2007.



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MAJESTIC 12:20 - 13:40