



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* productions since '91:

12 ANGRY MEN
ADOLF*
ALL WORDS FOR SEX
AMERICANA ABSURDUM*
ANIMAL FARM (x3)
BALLAD OF JIMMY COSTELLO*
BARB JUNGR - Every Grain of Sand
BARE*
BERKOFF'S WOMEN
BLOWING IT*
THE BOY'S OWN STORY
BYE BYE BLACKBIRD
CASTRADIVA
CINCINNATI*
COOKING WITH PUCCINI*
THE DEVIL AND BILLY MARKHAM*
LOST WORKS OF SAMUEL BECKETT*
FERN HILL & OTHER DYLAN THOMAS
FILLER UP!*
GOERING'S DEFENCE
GONER*
HIP HARP FANTASIES*
HOLLYWOOD SCREAMS
HORSE COUNTRY*

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION
I KISSED DASH RIPROCK*
INTIMACY*
IT WAS HENRY FONDA'S FAULT*
KRISHNAN'S DAIRY*
LEVELLAND*
MOSCOW*
NO. 2*
THE ODD COUPLE
OLEANNA
PLAYING BURTON
RED HAT & TALES*
RESOLUTION
RETURN JOURNEY*
SHYLOCK
SKIN TIGHT*
SLAPS 'N' TICKLES*
A SLIGHT TILT TO THE LEFT
A SOLDIER'S SONG
THE STORY OF FUNK*
SWIFT
TALKIN' TURKEYS
TWO DARN HOT*
UNDER MILK WOOD

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
Melbourne Green Room Awards
2004: 12 Angry Men - Best production
12 Angry Men - Best Direction
12 Angry Men OZ - Best Actor (R. Piper)

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
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: Guy Masterson - Under Milk Wood
Nick Salamone - Red Hat & Tales
ENSEMBLE - 12 Angry Men
The Herald Angel
2002: John Clancy- Various

**"Sheer, unadulterated pleasure...
unutterably moving"**

★★★★★
(Scotland on Sunday)

**"One of those too rare productions that leaves us
so much richer for the experience."**

★★★★★
(Edinburgh Guide)

THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL LTD

THE BULL THEATRE, 68 THE HIGH STREET, BARNET, HERTS, EN5 5SJ, UK

TEL: +44 208 449 7800 FAX: +44 (0)208 449 5252

E-MAIL: ADMIN@THEATRETOURSIINTERNATIONAL.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.THEATRETOURSIINTERNATIONAL.COM



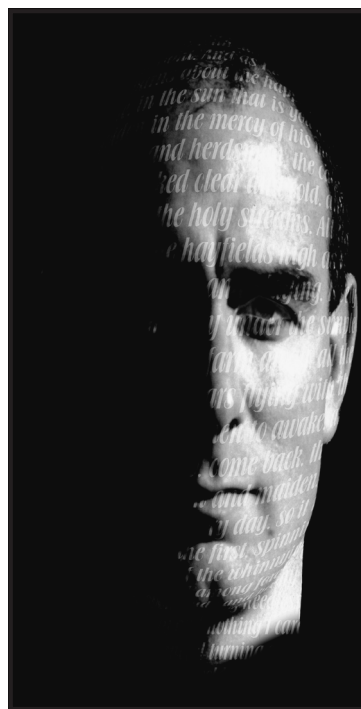
THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

&

guy masterson productions

presents

*Fern Hill
and
Other Dylan Thomas*



*a selection of the
poems and
short stories of*

*Dylan
Thomas*

performed & recited by

*Guy
Masterson*

PROGRAMME:

story: Holiday Memory
poem: The force that through the green fuse...
poem: The hunchback in the park
poem: Lament
poem: The hand that signed the paper
poem: Poem in October
story: A Visit to Grandpa's
possible interval
poem: Death shall have no dominion
poem: Do not go gentle into that good night
poem: Lie still, sleep becalmed
poem: Fern Hill
story: A Child's Christmas in Wales



introductory harp music by Deborah Henson-Conant

PROGRAMME NOTES



this performance lasts approximately 85 minutes



Fern Hill and Other Dylan Thomas

PERFORMER'S NOTE:

Even after over 1000 performances, I remain taken aback by the reception given to my solo version of *Under Milk Wood* and the delight that Dylan Thomas so obviously brings. Yet, although *Milk Wood* is his best known work and undoubtedly a work of genius, much of his other work is often overlooked. After I had fallen "head-over-heels" for his language at the tender age of twenty-five when I started acting and used one of his famous tongue-twisting speeches as a vocal-warm-up-exercise, I rushed out to buy his complete works and voraciously devoured them. Dylan Thomas remains for me the one writer that can move me to tears in one sentence.

Many of his poems are much celebrated; Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night, Death Shall Have No Dominion and, of course, the astounding *Fern Hill*. His short stories, however, are rarely heard, yet they contain some of his most amazing descriptive prose and lyrical musings. From the incredibly dense but tremendously apposite, wonderfully succinct and brilliantly reminiscent *Holiday Memory* - August Bank Holiday at the seaside in Wales - to the moving, boyish romanticism of *A Visit To Grandpa's*, Thomas's ability to transport his audience to magical, universal worlds is almost unparalleled. Perhaps his most famous short story, *A Child's Christmas In Wales*, has to be one of the most wonderful flashbacks to those "Great snowbound, turkey-proud, yule-log cracking, holly berry bedizined, kissing-under-the-mistletoe" Christmases gone ever written.

And it was the reception to my readings of these works - which I often gave in conjunction with performances of *Under Milk Wood* - that prompted me to commit this selection of my favourites to memory, and create this show, permitting the freedom to physically express Dylan's language free from the shackles of book-holding.

For me, the pleasure of performing these stories and poems, bringing to life all the Welshness of my childhood - the vivid memories of the hottest summer in recorded history on Aberavon beach and splurging my pennies - so recently and generously added to my matchbox-wallet by my myriad of uncles - in the fantastic fairground next to the Afan Lido - the local swimming pool where I was learning to drown - is only matched by the rapture of the listener, whether a dedicated Thomas fan or a new exposee.

I hope that you will enjoy Dylan's words as much as I do performing them, and, if what you hear prompts you to read more, then I will sleep a happy man. **GM**

DYLAN THOMAS: author

Born Swansea, 27th October 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. *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog*, a collection of short stories, brought him widespread critical acclaim in 1940. He also wrote several plays and scripts including *The Doctor and The Devils*.

Deaths and Entrances (1946) contained some of his finest poetry and resulted in his being invited to lecture in the USA. Thomas eventually went on four separate tours which paid handsomely, enabling the upkeep of his family back in Laugharne. His heavy drinking, however, had seriously weakened his health and on 9th November 1953, after a famous binge in New York's White Horse Pub, he died of alcoholic poisoning. His body was returned home and buried in Laugharne with a simple wooden cross marking his grave. He was 39.

GUY MASTERSON performer

Born Guy Mastroianni to a Welsh mother and Italian/American father, educated at Christ's Hospital, Sussex and University of Wales, Cardiff (BSc Joint Hons Biochemistry & Chemistry). In 1982 he emigrated to the USA and worked in hotel restaurant management until 1984 when he became a carpenter to support acting tuition at UCLA.

After becoming an actor in 1985, he performed in over twenty plays in Los Angeles including *The Caretaker* (Mick), *City Gents*, *The Elephant Man* (Ross), *Othello* (Iago), *Hamlet* (Title), *The Taming Of The Shrew* (Petruchio), *Henry V* (Title), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio). He (regrettably) 'anglicised' his name to "Masterson" in 1986.

In 1989 he returned to the UK to attend LAMDA (Postgraduate Diploma in Theatre). In 1991 he formed "Boy's Own Productions" (now Guy Masterson Productions) to present Peter Flannery's *The Boy's Own Story* which toured throughout the UK until 1993. In late 1992 he appeared in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Bellerose/Ligniere) with Robert Lindsay at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, West End which ran for 9 months. From late 1993 until the present, he produced and performed in solo versions of *Under Milk Wood*, *Animal Farm*, *A Soldier's Song* and *Fern Hill & Other Dylan Thomas*, all of which toured extensively on the UK and international circuits. The latter (*Fern Hill*) premiered at Edinburgh 2001 and garnered the coveted **Stage Award for Best Actor**. Soon afterwards, he took the part of the Narrator in Theatre Cwyl's full cast production of *Under Milk Wood*, directed by Terry Hands, for their Centenary Celebration season.

In 2002 he produced and performed in an eight month 100+ performance tour of *Oleanna* with Beth Fitzgerald which opened at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh while presenting ten additional productions and garnered multiple awards and nominations.

"Immersed in the words of the Welsh master ...
Glorious!" (The Scotsman)

"Performing at this level, he could make
Thomas fans of us all." (The Stage)

In 2003, he collaborated with composer (and Rolling Stones collaborator) Matt Clifford to add music & soundscape to his acclaimed production of *Under Milk Wood* for the Edinburgh Festival and then embarked on a major national tour to mark the 50th Anniversary of Dylan Thomas' death. His production of *12 Angry Men* also became the biggest grossing drama of all time at the Edinburgh Festival 2003 and, in recognition of this and of his outstanding contribution to that festival over 10 years, he was awarded the prestigious **Jack Tinker Memorial, SPIRIT OF THE FRINGE Award**. He also received a second nomination for Best Actor from the Stage for his revamped *Under Milk Wood*.

In February 2004, *12 Angry Men UK* toured to International Festivals in Perth, Adelaide and New Zealand to huge acclaim and box office success. And for the Edinburgh Festival 2004 he directed *Borge Again!* with Rainer Hersch - a sell out success at Edinburgh, Winnipeg and Montreal. Guy returned to Australia in September of the same year to direct an all-star Australian company - *12 Angry Men OZ* - which played Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, which again broke Australian box office records and eventually won three Melbourne Greenroom Awards including **Best Production** and **Best Direction**. In June 2005, Guy returned to play in London with *Under Milk Wood* at the Bloomsbury Theatre to great acclaim, during which run, his second daughter, Tallulah was born and his first daughter, Indigo, saw him on stage for the first time.

Directorial credits include: *Levelland*, *Cooking With Puccini*, *The Odd Couple*, *Swift*, *12 Angry Men* (UK & OZ productions), *Borge Again!*, *Goering's Defence*, *A Slight Tilt To The Left*, *Resolution*, *Adolf*, *Mom I'm Not A Lawyer*, *All Words For Sex*, *Playing Burton* (UK & NZ productions), *Bye Bye Blackbird*, *The House Of Correction* and *The Private Ear & The Public Eye*

His extensive theatrical commitments have largely prevented him working in other media however, notable televisual work in the UK includes Dennis Potter's *Cold Lazarus* and *Dirty War* for the BBC, several commercials and improvised comedy in *Brass Eye* with Chris Morris. As a freelance critic and feature writer he has been published in *The Herald*, *The Guardian*, *The Scotsman* and *The Stage*, *The Dominion* (NZ), *The Times of India*, and *The South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong). He is married to Brigitta and father to Indigo and Tallulah.

Stage Awards - Edinburgh 2001
Winner - Best Actor