

# UNDER MILK WOOD

by Dylan Thomas



## Director's Note

*Under Milk Wood* is like going 'Up the Garden Path' and 'Down the Rabbit Hole'. It has the beauty of your grandmother's garden, language that is eternal and the strange reality you would find in wonderland. It is a day in the life of a fishing village where nothing happens. The history of the town is rich and the characters are deep, quirky and delightfully surprising. It is the town of 'Llareggub', which is 'bugger all' backwards. Like us, they are absorbed in life. The characters move in and out like the tide. They don't know what comes next but nor do they care. This piece by Dylan Thomas was said to give "scope for all his versatility, for his gifts of humour and characterisation as well as his genius for poetry". For me it has stretched my imagination, challenged my senses and made me question what theatre is really about and why we do it. There has been gold at the end of every rainbow in this production. It has been magical.

It has been ten years since I first did *Under Milk Wood* and fell in love with the absurd life that rolls forth from Dylan Thomas' work. Originally a radio play, as a piece for stage it opens the door for endless possibilities. Life is full of moments. Every moment is special to us. They make up the strange thing we call life. There is so much life in *Under Milk Wood*. You cannot help but get lost in this strange little fishing harbour. We invite you to step off the main street, tumble through time and step into your imagination. There are not many pieces that are as caught between dreaming and reality as *Under Milk Wood*. I love this piece to little bits and pieces. I love its characters and its quirks. I have to thank the crazy actors, who agreed that fifty four characters could be played by nine people and my designers who have followed me down the rabbit hole. Welcome to 'Llareggub'. Please get lost along the way.

*Ylaria Rogers*

Director

**YLARIA ROGERS - Director** Ylaria is a director and actor. She has worked in Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra since she graduated from AIM in 2013. Last year Ylaria co-founded FREEFALL Productions with Derek Walker. She worked as the Assistant Director on the Premiere of *Crossroads* in Melbourne and *Follies: In Concert* directed by Tyran Parke and featuring Phillip Quast, Anne Wood, Nancy Hayes. She will be co-directing *Miss Saigon* with Neil Gooding for Packemin later in the year but before then, she needs to deal with a *Big Fish* at the Hayes with Tyran Parke. Her work includes: Hannah in *Lies, Love and Hitler* by Australian Playwright Elizabeth Avery Scott, Hazel in the premiere of *Where I End and You Begin* at the Street Theatre and Catherine in David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize winning play *Proof* directed by Derek Walker.

**MICHAEL HEMING - Assistant Director** Michael is a director, writer, and performer. He has directed *Go Back For Murder*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, and *Dracula* for the Genesian Theatre Company, *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Pantomime* for St George Theatre Company, and wrote and co-directed *Dr. McCarb's Independent Surgical Hospital On The Hill* for Ostrbian Theatre for Sydney Fringe Festival (2015). Michael has completed the Directing For The Stage course at the NIDA Open program.

**MARTIN SEARLES - Set Design** *Under Milk Wood* is Martin's second set design for the Genesian Theatre, having previously designed for their 2016 production of *Dracula*. Martin has studied stage design via short courses at the Australian National University ('ANU') & NIDA. Martin's previous design credits include costumes for Genesian's 2014 production of *Sherlock Holmes*, and costume/set design for *The Forced Marriage* at ANU in 2007. Martin would like to thank Gary Bates, Paul Gilbert, Kelly James, Ylaria Rogers, Michael Heming, and Derek Walker for their generous assistance and tireless efforts in bringing this set design to life (and Marty O'Neill for his unsolicited design advice).

**PHEONUH CALLAN - Costume Design** Pheonuh started designing as a child making patterns for doll's clothes. She stems from an Irish family of several generations of costume designers. In her early years of designing, she trained in PVC, Gothic Underground, and Alternative couture under David Rochford from The Wild One Sydney. Her past projects include *Gods of Egypt*, *Mr Pole-Australia*, commissioned projects for Mardi Gras, Carriageworks, and Comicon, as well as designing with Ragav Handa (*Turke and Mens Rea*) and Paloma Negra (*Noir Review*). For the Genesian she has previously worked as costume designer for *Dracula*.

**SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design** Susan, a long term member, is Wardrobe Coordinator for the Genesian Theatre. Her credits are extensive and include *The Three Musketeers*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Appointment with Death*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Dead White Males*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *By Jeeves*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Star Child*, *Morning Sacrifice*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Go Back for Murder*. She has worked for Opera Australia, ABC, and BBC as costume coordinator; and costume maker for Tall Poppeas, Ondine Productions, and Opera Bites.

**LIAM O'KEEFE - Lighting Design** Liam is a freelance Lighting Designer and technician based in Sydney. Recent design work includes *Transcience* (leftofcentre theatre co.), *Smudge* (The King's Fools), *The Tragedy of Antigone* (Ninefold), *Contrite Spirit* (Edgware Forum), *Shut up and Drive* (subtlenuance), *Year of the Family* (Tooth and Sinew), *The Poor Kitchen* (subtlenuance), and *Femme Fatale* (leftofcentre theatre co.). As a technician, he has been a part of the lighting team for five national tours, the Sydney Festival, and The Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour's *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Aida*, and *Turandot*. Liam was lighting designer for *Dracula* at the Genesian in 2016.



**TUREA BLYTH** - Turea is from the UK but currently working in Sydney. She started acting from a young age, putting on a variety of voices and accents. She did several amateur shows in London, while living there 8 years including *Teachers* by John Godber, *Family Circles* by Alan Ayckbourne, and *The Odd Couple* female version which she also directed! Turea is a fan of theatre and film - especially horror movies and hopes to direct one of her own one day soon! She only hopes that you aren't scared by her acting this evening! This is Turea's first play on the other side of the world and she's being... Welsh! Watch this space Australia next time she might get out her Aussie accent! Tonight though, she's very proud to be a part of the Genesian Theatre Company.

**BROOKE BURNS** - Brooke Burns began her acting career when accepted to study her Bachelor of Fine Arts at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. During her time spent abroad, studying both at NYU and The Stella Adler School of Acting, Brooke appeared in a number of local theatre productions and made her NYC Off-Broadway debut in a production of *Uncle Vanya*, portraying the part of Sonya. Brooke has also made advances in the Film/TV field with a number of cameo appearances on popular HBO TV series, whilst collaborating with fellow NYU students on various short films. After a fruitful start to her career in the USA, Brooke returned home to Brisbane before relocating to Sydney in attempt to advance her skills, whilst broadening her horizons in Film/TV and theatre on her home turf.



**SANDRA CAMPBELL** - Over the past 35 years, Sandra Campbell has attained a breadth of acting experience across a plethora of productions, stages, and creative disciplines. Sandra made her debut at the New Theatre in 1982 performing in *First Class Women* which Nick Enright was commissioned to write for the Theatre's 50th anniversary. Her Television appearances include a somewhat risqué role in *Water Rats* where she played the part of a dominatrix(!) and the slightly more respectable character in *Rake*, where she played a Judge. More recently, Sandra had a feature role in the award winning short film *The Salt Maiden* which was also seen at Cannes. She is delighted to be a part of *Under Milk Wood*, (having spent her childhood in Dylan Thomas country) and to be collaborating with such a talented bunch of people.

**CASPAR HARDAKER** - Having completed his degree in Theatre and Performance studies and Creative Writing in 2015, Caspar has continued to act for stage and screen. His theatre credits include *Harry Reconciles With His Sister in One Minute* (Factory), *Campfire Stories* (New), *Idle Lies* (Nags Head), *Love by Destination* (Moon), *The Double Disguise* (Juvenilia Press), *Hope* (Seymour Centre), and *Plaything* (Depot). For screen, Caspar has acted in numerous shorts and features which have been shown at Berlin Film Festival (*Viral*, 2014) Sydney Film Festival (*Lisa IRL*, 2015), and been distributed online (*Girt By Fear*, 2015/2016), (*Modern Educayshun*, 2015) and national/international releases (*You're Not Thinking Straight*, 2015). Caspar loves a bit of banter and garlic bread and is super excited to perform in *Under Milk Wood*.



**COURTNEY HOUGH** - Courtney Hough is a graduate from the Australian Institute of Music where she received her Bachelor of Music majoring in Music Theatre. Whilst studying at AIM she played the role of Mimi in the production of *RENT* Directed by Tyran Parke. Courtney has recently premiered her one-woman cabaret *When One Door Closes* at the New Theatre in Sydney and in 2016 was cast in Exclaim Theatre Company's *In The Heights*. Courtney has toured with Perform Educational Musicals 2015 Book Week musical *Shine A Light* and in 2014 played the role of Ilse in Stagetek's production of *Spring Awakening*.



**TIFFANY HOY** - Tiffany Hoy is an actor and writer. She co-devised *Femme Fatale* for the Old 505 Theatre and travelled interstate with Kinetic Energy Theatre Company performing social justice plays throughout 2016. Her short film, *The Architect*, won the 2016 Anthropocene Film Festival. Credits include *The After Dinner Joke* (NIDA), *The Matilda Waltz* (Factory Space Theatre), *(extra)ordinary (un)usual III* (New Theatre), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Acting Factory). Tiffany has trained at NIDA and the HubStudio.

**MARTY O'NEILL** - An ageing and equally exhausting thespian, Marty has previously appeared in *Dead White Males*, *Saint Joan*, *Money and Friends*, and *Sherlock Holmes: the Final Adventure* for the Genesian Theatre as well as a notable cameo in the acclaimed short *Red Nuts* at the 2014 Tropfest Festival; when not actually concentrating on his performance, he is known for giving unsolicited advice on set design!



**MARTIN SEARLES** - Martin has been acting since 2001 on stage and screen. Martin studied drama at the Australian National University, graduating with Honours in 2007. He has studied acting with many great tutors over the years, including recently Kevin Jackson, Ben Mathews, and Roel Voorbij. Some of his favourite recent theatre credits include *Three Sisters* (Genesian), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (New Theatre), *Privates on Parade* (New Theatre), *Spider's Web* (Genesian), *Romeo & Juliet* (Impulse Theatre), *St Joan* (Genesian), *Great Expectations* (Genesian), *Angels In America Parts I & II* (Papermoon), and *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Free Rain).

**TIM QUAIFFE** - Timothy began his performing career in 2012 when he began his Bachelor of Music at AIM majoring in Music Theatre. Six months into his studies Timothy co-founded a theatre company with two of his high school friends and after a successful season of a self-written play at the King Street Theatre in Newtown decided to refocus on his degree. In 2013 he played Collins in *RENT* as part of his final year at AIM. Since then, Tim has been focusing on his original music, performing as a solo artist or with his band 'Wolves in Fashion' all over the country.



## **Production**

Director

Assistant Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Production Manager

Set Construction

Original Music

Accents Coach

Photography

Graphic Design

Ticketing

Archives

Transport

Acknowledgements

**Ylaria Rogers**

**Michael Heming**

**Martin Searles**

**Pheonuh Callan, Susan Carveth**

**Liam O'Keefe**

**Roger Gimblett**

**Garry Bates, Paul Gilbert, Kelly James,**

**Members of the Company**

**Courtney Hough, Tiffany Hoy, Tim Quaife**

**Sandra Campbell, Nick Curnow**

**Grant Fraser**

**Patrick Magee, Tom Massey**

**Shane Bates**

**Grant Fraser**

**Debbie Smith**

**Jaime Hadwen, Melanie Robinson,**

**Denise Vicenio, Derek Walker,**

**Noemie Jounot, Matthew Vella**

## **Crew**

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Lighting & Sound Operation

**Eleni Pyretzis**

**Macushla McGown**

**Carlin Hurdis, Amy Roberts**

## **Cast**

**Turea Blyth**

**Brooke Burns**

**Sandra Campbell**

**Caspar Hardaker**

**Courtney Hough**

**Tiffany Hoy**

**Marty O'Neill**

**Martin Searles**

**Tim Quaife**

# About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops, and many other activities.

The building which houses the Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

## Membership

If you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...

# A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

by Agatha Christie  
adapted by Leslie Darbon



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