

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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“UNDER MILK WOOD”

**Caffeine Theatre presents Dylan Thomas’
celebration of humanity conjured in a fictional Welsh Town**

**Chicago DCA Storefront Theater
August 21 – September 27, 2009**

Caffeine Theatre, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, presents ***Under Milk Wood*** by Welsh playwright and poet Dylan Thomas. The production comes to Chicago DCA Theater’s Storefront Theater at 66 E. Randolph Street, from August 21 – September 27, 2009. Members of the press are invited to the opening performance on Thursday, August 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Under Milk Wood is Dylan Thomas’ dark, but funny play about the dreams and waking lives of a fictional Welsh town. An iconic favorite since it was first broadcast as a radio play in 1954, the play’s 47 quirky characters bring to life their inner longings bubbling beneath the surface of the town’s daily life, endearing us to humanity’s bawdy and magnificent possibilities. Paul S. Holmquist directs this classic but utterly relevant play with an intimate and physically intense ensemble of Chicago theater veterans and emerging talent.

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. Post-show discussions will follow the performances on Thursdays, September 3 and 17.

Tickets for ***Under Milk Wood*** are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for seniors, and \$16 for students. The preview performances on August 21, 22, and 23 cost \$15. Discounts are available for Chicago Cultural Center Mosaic Members, military personnel, theater industry affiliates, and large groups. All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting www.dcatheater.org, or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.; and one hour prior to each performance.

Dylan Thomas wrote poetry, short stories, and plays, including “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” and *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*. Famous for his Romantic personality, bouts of drinking and public passions, the Welsh writer helped popularize the poetry reading as an art form, particularly during his tours of America in the 1950s. ***Under Milk Wood*** is one of Thomas’ best-known works, first begun in reaction to the final year of World War II and developed over the next 8 years. The completed radio play was first broadcast by the BBC in 1954, months after Thomas’ death. Soon after the production was adapted for stage, and several performances have followed including a 1972 film version starring Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, and Peter O’Toole among many others. The play was produced in Chicago with tremendous success by Michael Barto’s Barto Productions at the Theatre Building in 1992.

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Cast and Production Team

Director Paul S. Holmquist is a member of Lifeline Theatre Ensemble and the Griffin Theatre Company. He directed Lifeline's production of *The Island of Dr. Moreau* (winner of five Non-Equity Jefferson Awards including Best Production – Play) and Griffin's production of W. Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* (winner of the Non-Equity Award for Best-Actress – Play) as well as the recent stagings of *The Robber Bridegroom* for the Griffin and *Busman's Honeymoon* for Lifeline.

The ensemble cast features Kaitlin Byrd, Charles Filipov, Dan Granata, Jacqui Jackson, Elise Kauzleric, Callie Munson, Paul Myers, Kate Nawrocki, and Dave Skvarla.

The dramaturg for the production is Caffeine Theatre Artistic Associate Daniel Smith, and Assistant Director/Producer is company Trustee Jason Beck. Scenic design is by Ian Zywica with costumes by Ruthanne Swanson, sound by Thomas Dixon, and lighting by Seth Reinick. Shane Kelly is technical director and Christine Adaire is dialect/vocal coach. Caffeine Theatre's Artistic Director and Producer is Jennifer Shook.

Caffeine Theatre mines the poetic tradition to explore social questions. In bringing language-intense, idea-driven works to the stage, Caffeine renews poetry's place in public life and brings to light buried theatrical treasures. The company's productions include *Like the Moon Behind the Clouds* at Chicago DCA's Studio Theater, the Jeff Committee recommended *Translations*, William Carlos Williams' *Many Loves*, Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, and the rotating repertory of *The Changeling* and *Tallgrass Gothic*. Caffeine Theatre also organizes a successful series of readings and Coffeehouse Discussion Forums at local bookstores and coffee shops.

Special Events

In association with the production, Caffeine Theatre and Chicago DCA Theater present:

Dylan Thomas Coffeehouse Cabaret

Wednesday, September 9, at 7 p.m.

Storefront Theater Mezzanine, 66 E. Randolph Street

FREE, Reservations encouraged at 312.742.TIXS (8497), or at www.dcatheater.org

Caffeine Theatre brings together local performers and poets to celebrate Thomas' works in scene and song. Including Summer is for Fireflies (dance and music by Fannie Hungerford and Joshua Dumas), Chicago Opera Vanguard, and local composer Robert Steel.

The Storefront Theater and the Studio Theater, its companion theater located in the Chicago Cultural Center at 77 E. Randolph Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging theater companies that call Chicago home. Proposals for creative and innovative productions for the July to December 2010 season are now being accepted until October 15, 2009.

Discounted parking is available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

For more information about Caffeine Theatre's ***Under Milk Wood*** and Chicago DCA Theater, call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or [visit www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org). The enhanced website features more information about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a blog, photo galleries, and visitor information. More information on Caffeine Theatre can be found at www.caffeinetheatre.com.

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Note to Press: Electronic images are available at www.dcatheater.org/press or by request.