

Great play, er ... story

Under Milkwood
Walterdale Theatre
through January 19

review by Gilbert Bouchard

If I had to sum up the Walterdale's latest play — Dylan Thomas' *Under Milkwood* — in one sentence, I'd say it was a great play.

I'd even go as far as to say that while *Under Milkwood* is both lively and interesting, it is closer to a short story than a play. In fact considering the lack of traditional plot and no immediately visible story line and conflicts, *Under Milkwood* is more a narrative than it is a story.

The play takes a look at a typical day in the life of a small Welsh town. We are shown, in a systematic fashion, the inhabitants, their dreams, their work and their recreation.

The only problem is that it is a bit too systematic. We are shown the inhabitants of the town one by one in short independent vignettes. It's the independence of the vignettes that bother me. The play shows very little interaction between the town's inhabitants. What lacks is a usual convention of conflict and character development.

Under Milkwood develops a strong resemblance to one of those National Film Board documentaries, you know *A Day in the Life of Small Town Alberta*. They could have, perhaps, made some of the characters slightly

more important to heighten the dramatic tension.

All the parts of the play are damned interesting, but the show never gels into a coherent whole.

Nevertheless, the vignettes themselves are worth the price of admission and the play is by no means a light affair.

We are shown characters such as the schoolteacher who wants to poison his wife, the blind captain who dreams of the drown sailors of his past, and the baker who has two wives — one for the day and one for the night.

And while the script is initially disturbing, the production values of the play are amazingly consistent and amazingly high. The sets and costumes were functional, simple and aesthetically intriguing. Director Bill Meilen makes excellent use of the available resources in directing a seamless production which is no mean feat considering he was directing a 20 plus member crew.

As for the actors, every single performance was more than adequate but special mention has to go to the two narrators who had added real life to Dylan Thomas' excellent prose verse.

Under Milkwood is different. And in this case different is synonymous for a good night out at the theatre.

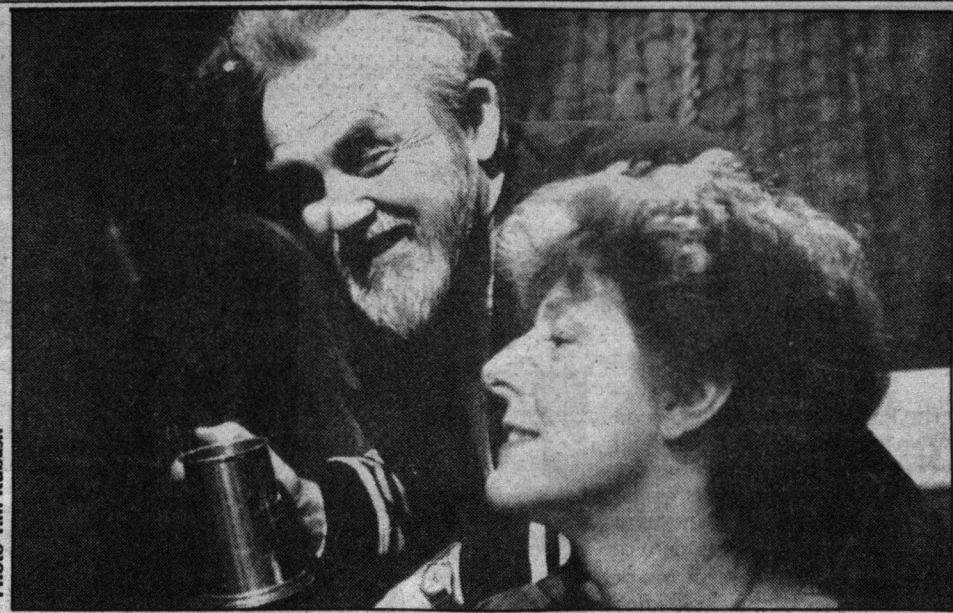


Photo Tim Kubash



Photo Tim Kubash

Under Milkwood features a cast of 25. Above: Sinbad Sailors (Stephen James) chats with Gossamer Beynon (Lindsay Burns). Top right: Narrator, Vivien Bosley and Captain Cat, played by Edwin Thornton.

On and around campus

Entertainment and Issues Week continues at the Students' Union Building. Today and tomorrow in Dinwoodie Lounge there will be afternoon Indoor Beer Gardens featuring local bands 17 Seconds (today) and darkroom (Friday). Admission of \$1.00, and proceeds go to charity. At the lunch hour, you can hear folk music at L'Express, with David Grainger Brown today, and Terry Bradstock tomorrow.

Movies: for just \$1.00, you can see *Un-*


common Valor tonight, or *Raiders of the Lost Ark* tomorrow night. Both showings are at SUB Theatre at 8:00 pm.

Friday night's cabaret at Dinwoodie Lounge features darkroom, presented by the U of A Golden Bears Ski Team. Saturday night, Lambda Chi alpha fraternity presents Chilliwack, with guests, The Sailcats. Cabaret tickets available at the Su Box Office, second floor SUB.

Looking towards off-campus entertainment, The Citadel's Rice Theatre presents the opening of *Glengarry Glen Rose*, a play by David Mamet on Friday night. It runs through Feb. 3.

The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Master Series continues Friday night with pianist Peter Frankl, conducted by Uri Mayer.

Under Milkwood, a Dylan Thomas play, opened at the Walterdale Theatre last night, and continues through Jan. 19.



SU ELECTION

STUDENT UNION GENERAL ELECTION

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
 President
 VP Internal Affairs
 VP Academic
 VP Finance & Administration
 VP External Affairs

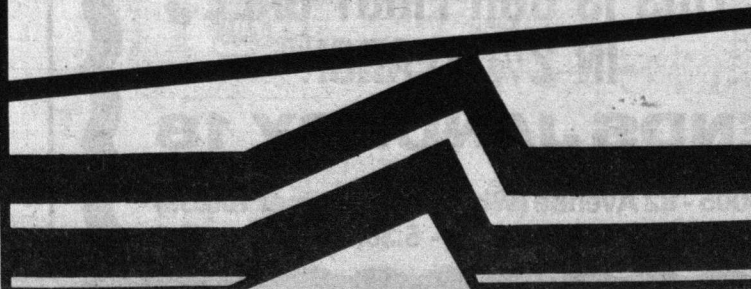
UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC BOARD (UAB)
 President Men's Athletics
 President Women's Athletics
 VP Men's Athletics
 VP Women's Athletics

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
 1 Student representative

CLOSING OF NOMINATIONS:
 1700 hr., Thursday, January 24, 1985

ELECTIONS:
 Thursday & Friday, February 7 & 8
Advance Poll — February 6

For further information, please contact the SU Returning Office (Room 232 SUB), or the Receptionist, SU Executive Offices (Room 259 SUB)



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