

under milk wood with richard burton

Under Milk Wood with Richard Burton

Exploring the captivating world of Dylan Thomas's masterpiece, *Under Milk Wood*, through the illustrious voice of Richard Burton, offers a unique and immersive experience for literature and theatre enthusiasts alike. Burton's rich, commanding voice and his profound understanding of the Welsh landscape elevate this poetic play to new heights, making the performance a timeless classic. In this article, we delve into the significance of *Under Milk Wood*, Richard Burton's interpretation, and why this collaboration remains a milestone in theatrical history.

Understanding *Under Milk Wood*: Dylan Thomas's Literary Gem

The Origins and Significance of *Under Milk Wood*

- Background of the Play:** Written by Dylan Thomas in the early 1950s, *Under Milk Wood* is a poetic play that captures the essence of a small Welsh seaside town, Llareggub, over the course of a single day and night. The work is renowned for its lyrical language, vivid characterizations, and evocative depiction of Welsh culture.
- Literary Style and Themes:** The play employs a stream-of-consciousness narrative, blending poetry with prose. It explores themes such as community, mortality, love, and the human condition, all wrapped in a humorous and poignant tone.
- Impact and Legacy:** Celebrated as one of the greatest poetic plays of the 20th century, *Under Milk Wood* has influenced countless playwrights and remains a staple in theatrical and literary circles worldwide.

The Unique Narrative Technique

Thomas's innovative use of language and perspective allows audiences to experience the town from multiple viewpoints. The play features a chorus of voices representing various townsfolk, creating a rich tapestry that captures the vibrancy and complexity of community life.

Richard Burton's Interpretation of *Under Milk*

Wood

The Power of Burton's Voice

Richard Burton, one of the most distinguished actors of the 20th century, was renowned for his deep, resonant voice and commanding stage presence. His narration of *Under Milk Wood* brought a new dimension to the play, transforming it from a written text into an auditory and emotional experience. Burton's voice conveyed the nuances of each character, infusing humor, pathos, and authenticity into the storytelling.

Why Burton's Performance Stands Out

- **Vocal Depth and Range:** Burton's voice could evoke a spectrum of emotions, from the comedic to the tragic, seamlessly shifting between characters and moods.
- **Authentic Welsh Heritage:** His Welsh roots lent an intrinsic credibility and warmth to his narration, honoring Thomas's cultural landscape.
- **Artistic Interpretation:** Burton's understanding of the play's poetic language allowed him to deliver lines with poetic rhythm and musicality, enhancing the lyrical quality of the work.

Recording and Broadcasts

In the 1950s, Burton's recording of *Under Milk Wood* became iconic. His narration was broadcast on radio, reaching audiences worldwide and solidifying his reputation as a master storyteller. The recording is still celebrated today for its clarity, emotion, and cultural significance.

The Cultural and Artistic Impact of Burton's *Under Milk Wood*

Revitalizing the Play for a Broader Audience

While Dylan Thomas's original performance was theatrical and live, Burton's recording made *Under Milk Wood* accessible to a global audience, transcending geographical and linguistic barriers. His narration helped popularize the play outside the theatrical realm, embedding it into cultural history.

Influence on Future Interpretations

- **Setting a Standard:** Burton's expressive delivery became a benchmark for audio performances of poetic plays.
- **Inspiration for Actors and Narrators:** Many subsequent performers have cited Burton's work as an influence in their approach to poetic and dramatic narration.

Preservation of Welsh Identity

Burton's authentic Welsh accent and emotional depth reinforced the cultural identity embedded within *Under Milk Wood*. His performance celebrated Welsh heritage, making it resonate universally while honoring local traditions.

How to Experience *Under Milk Wood* with Richard Burton Today

Listening to the Classic Recordings

Audio recordings of Burton's narration are widely available on various platforms, including digital archives and audiobook services. Listening to these recordings offers an immersive experience, capturing the lyrical beauty and emotional depth of the original performance.

Watching Performances and Adaptations

Several theatre companies and radio broadcasters have produced adaptations of *Under Milk Wood* inspired by Burton's narration style. Watching these performances can provide insight into his interpretative approach and the play's enduring relevance.

Reading the Play with a New Perspective

To truly appreciate *Under Milk Wood*, consider reading the script alongside Burton's recordings or performances. This multi-sensory approach enhances understanding of Thomas's poetic language and Burton's expressive delivery.

The Enduring Legacy of *Under Milk Wood* with

Richard Burton

A Cultural Milestone

Richard Burton's narration of *Under Milk Wood* remains a cultural milestone that bridges literature, theatre, and audio performance. His voice brought Dylan Thomas's poetic universe to life, creating an emotional connection that continues to resonate with audiences today.

Inspiration for Future Generations

Burton's interpretation exemplifies how powerful storytelling transcends mediums. His work encourages actors, narrators, and playwrights to explore the poetic potential of performance, inspiring future generations to keep the spirit of *Under Milk Wood* alive.

Celebrating Welsh Heritage and Literary Excellence

Both Dylan Thomas and Richard Burton stand as towering figures in Welsh cultural history. Their collaboration on *Under Milk Wood* exemplifies the richness of Welsh literary and theatrical traditions, celebrating the enduring power of storytelling rooted in cultural identity.

In conclusion, *Under Milk Wood with Richard Burton* exemplifies the timeless importance of storytelling, poetic language, and cultural heritage. Whether through recordings, performances, or literary analysis, experiencing this masterpiece through Burton's voice offers an unforgettable journey into the heart of Welsh culture and the human experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Under Milk Wood' and how is Richard Burton associated with it?

'Under Milk Wood' is a radio play by Dylan Thomas, and Richard Burton famously narrated the original BBC broadcast, bringing a distinctive voice to the work.

Why is Richard Burton's narration of 'Under Milk Wood' considered iconic?

Burton's deep, expressive voice and poetic delivery elevated the play, making his narration one of the most celebrated performances in radio history.

How did Richard Burton prepare for his role as the narrator in 'Under Milk Wood'?

Burton immersed himself in Dylan Thomas's poetry and scripts, focusing on capturing the lyrical and musical quality of the play to enhance his narration.

What impact did Richard Burton's narration have on the popularity of 'Under Milk Wood'?

His compelling narration helped popularize the play beyond literary circles, making it a beloved classic recognized for its rich storytelling and voice.

Are there any notable recordings of Richard Burton's narration of 'Under Milk Wood' available today?

Yes, the original 1954 BBC radio broadcast featuring Burton's narration is available in archives and has been preserved as a landmark recording.

How does Richard Burton's narration style enhance the themes of 'Under Milk Wood'?

Burton's poetic and emotive voice brings out the play's themes of community, poetry, and human nature, adding depth and resonance to the storytelling.

Did Richard Burton perform in any other adaptations of Dylan Thomas's works?

While Burton is best known for his narration of 'Under Milk Wood,' he also performed in various reading and radio adaptations of Dylan Thomas's poetry and plays.

What is the legacy of Richard Burton's performance in 'Under Milk Wood'?

Burton's narration remains a defining interpretation, influencing future performances and helping cement the work's status as a classic of radio drama.

Additional Resources

Under Milk Wood with Richard Burton: A Deep Dive into a Literary and Artistic Milestone

Under Milk Wood with Richard Burton is more than just a phrase; it signifies a confluence of extraordinary storytelling, poetic narration, and theatrical brilliance. At the intersection of Welsh cultural identity, literary innovation, and vocal mastery, this work remains an iconic testament to the power of language and human emotion. In this article, we explore the origins of "Under Milk Wood," Richard Burton's profound contribution to its narration, and the enduring legacy that continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

The Origins of "Under Milk Wood": A Literary and Cultural Landmark

The Birth of a Play: Dylan Thomas's Masterpiece

"Under Milk Wood" is a radio play written by the celebrated Welsh poet and playwright Dylan Thomas in 1953. Originally conceived as a theatrical piece, Thomas envisioned a poetic portrayal of a typical Welsh seaside town called Llaregub (later renamed Llareggub in a playful inversion). The work aimed to evoke the everyday lives, dreams, fears, and humor of the town's inhabitants, blending realism with lyrical fantasy.

The Radio Format: A New Literary Medium

Thomas's decision to craft "Under Milk Wood" as a radio play was revolutionary at the time. Radio, a medium that relies solely on sound, necessitated inventive storytelling techniques that emphasized voice, tone, and sound effects. The play's structure is composed of vivid monologues, dialogues, and poetic narrations that paint a living, breathing community entirely through auditory cues.

Themes and Significance

"Under Milk Wood" explores universal themes such as:

- Community and Isolation: The interconnected lives of residents juxtaposed with individual loneliness.
- Dreams and Reality: The blurry line between inhabitants' aspirations and their everyday routines.
- Memory and Nostalgia: An ode to Welsh culture, language, and the passage of time.

The work's poetic language, humor, and empathy make it a landmark in modern literature, standing as a testament to Thomas's mastery of lyrical storytelling.

Richard Burton's Role: From Actor to Narrator

The Voice that Transcended

While Dylan Thomas crafted the words, it was Richard Burton's voice that brought "Under Milk Wood" to life in a way that resonated deeply with audiences. Burton, renowned for his commanding baritone and emotive delivery, was an ideal choice to narrate this poetic tapestry.

Why Richard Burton?

- Vocal Excellence: Burton's rich, resonant voice could capture the nuances of Thomas's language—humor, pathos, and lyricism.
- Theatrical Background: His experience on stage translated into an ability to embody multiple characters through voice alone.
- Cultural Connection: As a Welshman, Burton's narration added authenticity, grounding the

play in Welsh identity.

The Recording: A Landmark Performance

In 1954, Burton recorded the full narration of "Under Milk Wood," a seminal moment that cemented his association with the work. His interpretation is often regarded as the definitive version, praised for its emotional depth and poetic clarity.

The Artistic and Technical Aspects of Burton's Narration

Vocal Technique and Delivery

Richard Burton's narration of "Under Milk Wood" exemplifies mastery in vocal modulation. His performance exhibits:

- Intimate Monologues: Drawing listeners into the private thoughts of characters.
- Characterization: Using tone, pitch, and pace to differentiate personalities.
- Expressive Range: Conveying humor, melancholy, longing, and joy seamlessly.

Sound Engineering and Production

The recording process involved meticulous sound design to complement Burton's narration:

- Sound Effects: Ambient sounds and character voices created a vibrant auditory environment.
- Music and Atmosphere: Subtle musical cues underscored emotional shifts.
- Audio Clarity: High-quality recording techniques ensured Burton's voice remained clear and impactful.

Challenges and Innovations

Recording a poetic radio play required balancing clarity with emotion. Burton's ability to deliver lines with natural rhythm and emphasis set a standard for voice acting in literary recordings. The innovative use of stereo sound and layered effects enhanced immersion, making it a benchmark for future audio productions.

The Cultural Impact and Legacy

Revival and Continued Relevance

Decades after its initial recording, "Under Milk Wood" with Richard Burton remains a touchstone in:

- Literature and Theatre: Inspiring adaptations and reinterpretations.
- Audio Art: Setting standards for spoken-word recordings.
- Welsh Identity: Reinforcing cultural pride and linguistic heritage.

Critical Reception

Scholars and critics have lauded Burton's performance as:

- A perfect marriage of voice and text.
- An exemplary model of oral storytelling.
- A tribute to Dylan Thomas's poetic genius.

Influence on Future Artists

Burton's approach influenced generations of actors, voice artists, and narrators. His ability to craft characters through vocal nuance demonstrated the power of voice as a theatrical instrument, inspiring projects across radio, film, and stage.

The Enduring Appeal of "Under Milk Wood" in the 21st Century

Digital Accessibility

Today, recordings of Burton's narration are widely accessible online, allowing a new generation to experience the magic of his voice and Thomas's words. Digital platforms have democratized access, ensuring the work's relevance endures.

Educational Value

"Under Milk Wood" serves as a valuable educational resource for:

- Studying poetic language and radio dramaturgy.
- Understanding Welsh culture and dialect.
- Appreciating the art of vocal performance.

Modern Adaptations

Contemporary artists have reinterpreted "Under Milk Wood" through:

- Stage productions blending modern themes.
- Audiobooks featuring different narrators.
- Multimedia projects integrating visuals and sound.

These adaptations reaffirm the work's timelessness and Burton's pivotal role in its history.

Conclusion: A Confluence of Art, Culture, and Voice

"Under Milk Wood with Richard Burton" embodies a unique convergence of literary brilliance, cultural identity, and vocal artistry. Burton's performance transformed Dylan Thomas's poetic radio play into a living, breathing universe accessible to audiences across generations. As both a technical achievement and a testament to expressive storytelling, this collaboration continues to inspire and enthrall.

In an era where the power of voice remains paramount—whether in radio, film, or digital media—Burton's legacy reminds us that the human voice, when wielded with skill and passion, can elevate words into timeless art. "Under Milk Wood," with Burton's evocative narration, stands as a shining example of this enduring truth—a celebration of language, culture, and the human spirit told through the art of sound.

[Under Milk Wood With Richard Burton](#)

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under milk wood with richard burton: [Under Milk Wood, with Richard Burton and an All Welsh Cast](#) Dylan Thomas, 1954

under milk wood with richard burton: **Under Milk Wood Revisited** Mark Davis, Tony Earnshaw, 2014-09-15 This fascinating selection of never-before-seen photographs, including many originals from the film *Under Milk Wood*, traces some of the many ways in which the great Welsh poet Dylan Thomas was influenced by his country.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Under Milk Wood* Dylan Thomas, 2024-01-04 'It is spring, moonless night in the small town, starless and bible-black...' *Under Milk Wood* tells the story of a Welsh village during one spring day. It is populated by some of the best-loved characters in British literature. Lyrical, funny, moving, it is rooted in place but with a universality that has spoken to generations of readers. A Welsh epic, a work of poetic genius, a modern classic. 'A tour de force of oral poetry which oozes word pictures and onomatopoeic musicality' Guardian

under milk wood with richard burton: [Under Milk Wood](#) Dylan Thomas, 2018-06-27 *Under Milk Wood* Dylan Thomas *Under Milk Wood* is the masterpiece radio play for voices Dylan Thomas finished just before his death in 1953. First commissioned by the BBC and broadcast in 1954, it has been performed and celebrated by Anthony Hopkins, Richard Burton, Elton John, Tom Jones, Catherine Zeta Jones, Elizabeth Taylor, Peter O'Toole, and many others. In *Under Milk Wood*, Thomas gave fullest expression to his sense of the magnificent flavor and variety of life. A moving and hilarious account of a spring day in a small Welsh town, the play begins with dreams and ghosts before dawn and closes as the rain of dusk brings on the bawdy night. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an enriching experience.

under milk wood with richard burton: [Under Milk Wood \(Collins Classics\)](#) Dylan Thomas, 2024-05-09 HarperCollins is proud to present its new range of best-loved, essential classics.

under milk wood with richard burton: **Under Milk Wood** Dylan Thomas, Andrew Sinclair, 1972 Screenplay by Andrew Sinclair.

under milk wood with richard burton: [The Growth of Milk Wood](#) Douglas Cleverdon, 1969

under milk wood with richard burton: [The Growth of Milkwood: Variorum Edition](#) Douglas Cleverdon, 1969 *Under Milk Wood* was originally conceived by Dylan Thomas as a radio work--A Play for Voices--and was first broadcast on the B.B.C. Third Programme in January 1954, two months after his death. But during the three or four years that he was working on it, he made various

revisions for solo performances and stage readings of the incomplete script. As a result, there are no less than eleven versions in which the text differs in greater or lesser degree. But none of them can rank as the definitive text of this world-famous work, which has been translated into well over a dozen languages, including Serbo-Croat, Japanese and even Welsh. Douglas Cleverdon was associated with *Under Milk Wood* from its beginnings, first produced it for radio, subsequently co-directed the stage production at the Edinburgh Festival and in the West End, and finally directed it on Broadway. Better than any other living man, he is qualified both to analyze the textual variations and to trace the complicated--and occasionally hilarious--development of the script. The first part of the volume describes the outstanding achievements of Dylan Thomas in radio, as actor, poetry-reader and writer; and recounts the history of *Under Milk Wood* after an amateur dramatic performance in Laugharne in 1939, through the tribulations of his last years, when debts and drinking and recital tours inhibited him from concentration on his writing, to the publication of the 1958 Acting Edition. The second part contains an analysis of all the textual variants in the eleven versions (which comprise published texts, duplicated typescripts for performances, and recordings). The analysis includes punctuation and the line indentations that affect the tempo and the rhythm of dramatic production. It is hoped that the meticulous attention to detail is justified by the interest shown throughout the world in the writings of Dylan Thomas.

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under milk wood with richard burton: The Richard Burton Diaries Richard Burton, 2012-10-15 The irresistible, candid diaries of Richard Burton, published in their entirety "Just great fun, and written out of an engaging, often comical bewilderment: How did a poor Welshman become not only a star, but a player on the world stage that was Elizabeth Taylor's fame?"—Hilton Als, *New Yorker*.com "Of real interest is that Burton was almost as good a writer as an actor, read as many as three books a day, haunted bookstores in every city he set foot in, bought countless books on every conceivable subject and evaluated them rather shrewdly. . . . Apt writing abounds."—John Simon, *New York Times Book Review* Irresistibly magnetic on stage, mesmerizing in movies, seven times an Academy Award nominee, Richard Burton rose from humble beginnings in Wales to become Hollywood's most highly paid actor and one of England's most admired Shakespearean performers. His epic romance with Elizabeth Taylor, his legendary drinking and story-telling, his dazzling purchases (enormous diamonds, a jet, homes on several continents), and his enormous talent kept him constantly in the public eye. Yet the man behind the celebrity façade carried a surprising burden of insecurity and struggled with the peculiar challenges of a life lived largely in the spotlight. This volume publishes Burton's extensive personal diaries in their entirety for the first time. His writings encompass many years—from 1939, when he was still a teenager, to 1983, the year before his death—and they reveal him in his most private moments, pondering his triumphs and demons, his loves and his heartbreaks. The diary entries appear in their original sequence, with annotations to clarify people, places, books, and events Burton mentions. From these hand-written pages emerges a multi-dimensional man, no mere flashy celebrity. While Burton touched shoulders with shining lights—among them Olivia de Havilland, John Gielgud, Claire Bloom, Laurence Olivier, John Huston, Dylan Thomas, and Edward Albee—he also played the real-life roles of supportive family man, father, husband, and highly intelligent observer. His diaries offer a rare and fresh perspective on his own life and career, and on the glamorous decades of the mid-twentieth century.

under milk wood with richard burton: Fixing Reference Imogen Dickie, 2015 Imogen Dickie

develops an account of aboutness-fixing for thoughts about ordinary objects, and of reference-fixing for the singular terms we use to express them. Extant discussions of this topic tread a weary path through descriptivist proposals, causalist alternatives, and attempts to combine the most attractive elements of each. The account developed here is a new beginning. It starts with two basic principles. The first connects aboutness and truth: a belief is about the object upon whose properties its truth or falsity depends. The second connects truth and justification: justification is truth conducive; in general and allowing exceptions, a subject whose beliefs are justified will be unlucky if they are not true, and not merely lucky if they are. These principles--one connecting aboutness and truth; the other truth and justification--combine to yield a third principle connecting aboutness and justification: a body of beliefs is about the object upon which its associated means of justification converges; the object whose properties a subject justifying beliefs in this way will be unlucky to get wrong and not merely luck to get right. The first part of the book proves a precise version of this principle. Its remaining chapters use the principle to explain how the relations to objects that enable us to think about them--perceptual attention; understanding of proper names; grasp of descriptions--do their aboutness-fixing and thought-enabling work. The book includes discussions of the nature of singular thought and the relation between thought and consciousness.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Britain and Ireland* Robin Currie, 2010 Colorful illustrations and maps accompany stories of Great Britain and Ireland, covering topics from landscapes to literature and rock bands to the mystique of the royal family.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Middle-Earth in Magic Mirror Maps... Of the Wilderland in Wales... Of the Shire in England* Stephen Ponty, 2014-07-28 This work is a fresh look at the Maps of the Wilderland in *The Hobbit*, leading to the discovery that Professor Tolkien drew the imaginary maps from the Map of Wales back to front, or in reverse. The maps of the Shire in *The Lord of The Rings* are drawn likewise, of England. "'They are on their way to visit the land of their fathers, away east beyond Mirkwood,'" put in Gandalf...' Gandalf's talk of the 'land of their fathers' is, by translation of its national anthem, Professor J.R.R. Tolkien's hidden clue to the geography of Wales, which we learn the Professor loved, including its language. The focal point of *The Hobbit*, the Lonely Mountain, is identified as Cadair Idris of North-West Wales. Many of the topographical features of the Mountain coincide. The volcano-mouth Lake of the Lonely Mountain so resembles Llyn Cau of Cadair Idris. The marvel is that the lake has been overlooked so long: not only by Smaug the Dragon, but also by most commentators on *The Hobbit*. Which reader remembers there is a lake at all? Stephen interprets many of the allusions borrowed by Tolkien in his fantastic tale, including Beorn at the Carrock, the herons of Wales at Lake Town, and dragon fire at the Withered Heath. The work is divided into nine parts, with three site groupings. His unique focus on Tolkien's map-making methodology will make his book relevant not only to Tolkien fans worldwide, but those interested in geography too.

under milk wood with richard burton: *This Time Next Year* David Jason, 2024-10-10 Discover the brand new, inspirational autobiography from the Only Fools and Horses star and national treasure. 'This time next year, we'll be millionaires' So said Sir David's iconic Only Fools character, Derek Trotter. But such a dream was almost unimaginable for David growing up in a working-class family in North Finchley in the rubble of the Blitz. Throughout his remarkable career, David's north star for navigating life's challenges has been his positive outlook and his resilience. From a trainee electrician to national treasure, David's bumpy journey to success has overcome obstacle after obstacle. Candidly revealing the ups, the downs, and the roundabout turns, David's latest volume of memoirs, *This Time Next Year*, is an uplifting, entertaining, and inspirational book offering an essential and unvarnished primer to leading a good life. Told with his characteristic warmth and humour, David reveals the hard-won wisdom of a life doggedly led getting through one day, looking to the next, and always chasing what's new on the horizon.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Cycle Touring in Wales* Richard Barrett, 2019-06-15 A guidebook to a 1057 km (657 mile) cycle tour of Wales. This circular route passes through Cardiff, Swansea, St David's, Snowdonia (Eryri) and Pembrokeshire National Parks, and can be cycled in 2

weeks. Suitable for cyclists with a good level of fitness. The route is presented in twelve stages of between 58 km and 117 km (36-73 miles) in length, perfect for a two week cycling tour. The guide also features six cross routes that can be completed separately or as options to shorten the circuit ranging in length from 72 to 115 km. 1:200,000 OS mapping included for each route Elevation profiles included for each route GPX files available to download Detailed information on accommodation, refreshments, and other facilities along the route. Advice on planning your trip and preparing your bike

under milk wood with richard burton: *Julian Anderson* Julian Anderson, Christopher Dingle, 2020 Julian Anderson is renowned internationally as one of the leading composers of his generation. This substantial book of conversations with the scholar and critic Christopher Dingle captures Anderson's thoughts and memories in-depth for the first time, not only providing biographical information and background material, but also capturing the workings of a remarkable mind. It is rare to find a composer prepared to speak extensively and honestly on as broad a range of topics as Anderson. These extraordinarily diverse conversations range far beyond his own compositions and even beyond the sphere of music, exploring issues of broad cultural interest.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Resuming Maurice* Philip Mosley, 2020-08-18 This is a collection of personal essays on greater and lesser known writers whose lives and careers have sparked some of Philip Mosley's own literary and historical interests. Drawing on the experience of a forty-year academic career, he also introduces elements of personal narrative into his appreciations of this diverse set of authors whose backgrounds range from English (Vita Sackville West, Whitwell Elwin, George Barker, John Seymour, Virginia Haggard, J.K. Nettlefold), Welsh (Dylan Thomas) and American (Ned Washington) to Belgian (Maurice Maeterlinck), Danish (Karen Blixen), Mexican (Octavio Paz, Rosario Castellanos) and Kenyan (Ngugi wa Thiong'o). Corresponding to the growing academic sub-discipline of celebrity studies, a unifying theme of literary celebrity and its discontents runs throughout the volume. Chapter 1, 'Resuming Maurice,' on Maeterlinck, is the capstone essay and includes a 'Pre-amble' on the celebrity theme. The essays on Barker, Elwin, Seymour and Nettlefold have strong East Anglian connections, while the one on Virginia Haggard invokes the Norfolk origin of her famous great-uncle, the Victorian novelist Sir Henry Rider Haggard. The collection aims at the 'common reader' (in Virginia Woolf's sense), a broad audience of literary enthusiasts and especially those interested in how literary history and criticism, biography and memoir, and celebrity studies may intersect in productive and engaging ways.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Rugby: Talking A Good Game* Ian Robertson, 2018-11-15 Ian Robertson joined the BBC during the golden age of radio broadcasting and was given a crash course in the art of sports commentary from some of the greatest names ever to sit behind a microphone: Cliff Morgan and Peter Bromley, Bryon Butler and John Arlott. Almost half a century after being introduced to the rugby airwaves by his inspiring mentor Bill McLaren, the former Scotland fly-half looks back on the most eventful of careers, during which he covered nine British and Irish Lions tours and eight World Cups, including the 2003 tournament that saw England life the Webb Ellis Trophy and Robbo pick up awards for his spine-tingling description of Jonny Wilkinson's decisive drop goal. He reflects on his playing days, his role in guiding Cambridge University to a long spell of Varsity Match supremacy and his relationships with some of the union code's most celebrated figures, including Sir Clive Woodward and Jonah Lomu. He also writes vividly and hilariously of his experiences as a horse racing enthusiast, his meetings with some of the world's legendary golfers and his dealings with a stellar cast of sporting outsiders, from Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor to Nelson Mandela. It is a hugely entertaining story that begins in a bygone rugby age, yet has much to say about the game in the here and now.

under milk wood with richard burton: *Theatre and National Identity* Nadine Holdsworth, 2014-06-27 This book explores the ways that pre-existing 'national' works or 'national theatre' sites can offer a rich source of material for speaking to the contemporary moment because of the resonances or associations they offer of a different time, place, politics, or culture. Featuring a broad international scope, it offers a series of thought-provoking essays that explore how playwrights,

directors, theatre-makers, and performance artists have re-staged or re-worked a classic national play, performance, theatrical form, or theatre space in order to engage with conceptions of and questions around the nation, nationalism, and national identity in the contemporary moment, opening up new ways of thinking about or problematizing questions around the nation and national identity. Chapters ask how productions engage with a particular moment in the national psyche in the context of internationalism and globalization, for example, as well as how productions explore the interconnectivity of nations, intercultural agendas, or cosmopolitanism. They also explore questions relating to the presence of migrants, exiles, or refugees, and the legacy of colonial histories and post-colonial subjectivities. The volume highlights how theatre and performance has the ability to contest and unsettle ideas of the nation and national identity through the use of various sites, stagings, and performance strategies, and how contemporary theatres have portrayed national agendas and characters at a time of intense cultural flux and repositioning.

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