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Under Milk Wood

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Dylan Thomas' lyrical play for voices could easily be re-titled play for actors, play for singers or play for musicians following this production.

Five versatile actors not only take on the 30-plus parts but play a variety of instruments and sing enthusiastically in a light-hearted adaptation of great warmth and charm.

Talented director Tom Neill, who also composed the music and performs, seems to have taken the line, "This place of love" as his maxim as we are enveloped in Thomas' bonhomie.

The downside is that we're not allowed to dwell on the sex, death and slightly darker aspects of the poet's web of words, while this is not the most revelatory of versions.

That said, the production is bookended by Bible blackness as we accompany the moles and Captain Cat in the dark courtesy of two perfect blackouts with nothing but the narrator's voice as guide.

These poetic moments pay homage to the play's radio drama origins and allow moments of contemplation before and after the multitude of Llaeggub's colourful townsfolk invade the tiny stage.

Particularly enjoyable are Thomas Heard and Deborah Klayman. In angelic singing voice one moment they morph effectively into a couple of demons the next and their horrible Mr and Mrs Pugh is a poisonous pleasure.



Ali Kemp and Thomas Heard in Under Milk Wood at Pentameters Theatre, London
Photo: Sarah Jane Wilson

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Production information

Pentameters, London, March 15-April 3

Table with production details: Author (Dylan Thomas), Director (Tom Neill), Producer (Leonie Scott-Matthews), Cast (Thomas Heard, Deborah Klayman, Davies Palmer, Ali Kemp, Tom Neill), Running time (1 hr 50mins)

Production information can change over the run of the show.

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