

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



The only play in the village

Wales has its fair share of famous exports, including singer Sir Tom Jones, actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, the inimitable Sir Anthony Hopkins and, of course, the character Daffyd of *Little Britain* fame.

Wales also serves as the setting for a special play, set to be performed by a group of third-year theatre and performing arts students next week.

Set in the small seaside village of Llareggub, the play centres on a host of intriguing characters and the mysteries boiling just beneath the surface.

Under Milk Wood is the culmination of three years' work for 12 students, who have formed a tight bond throughout their course at UTAS.

Each student will play multiple characters in the production, adding an extra layer of difficulty.

But, according to students Elise Manion and Sophie Hart, the most complex aspect for the performers has been mastering the difficult Welsh accent.

Vocal coach and UTAS lecturer Rob Lewis, who worked as a vocal consultant on the first *Saw* film, was brought in to help the students get to grips with the Welsh accent.

"It's been a very hard accent to master," Ms Hart said.

"Three weeks in we were all very depressed because we didn't think we'd be able to get it.

"It is a mash of several different accents, including a mix of English, Irish, Indian, Scottish, and Scandinavian.

"Rob has been great. He can slip into just about any accent; he's extremely clever. Now we're pretty comfortable with it."

Ms Manion said it would be an emotional time for the students once the play wrapped up.

"It's very sad, we will all be going in different directions," Ms Manion said.

"All twelve of us get along really well; we have been through a lot together.

“It’s going to be really sad after this show.

“It is the last thing we will get to do together.”

Under Milk Wood will be performed at the Annexe Theatre at Inveresk, from 7pm on Wednesday, October 19, to Saturday, October 22.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and concession card holders.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6324 5019 or 0488 021 960

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au