

PRESS RELEASE

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Boston Playwrights' Theatre & Boston Children's Theatre
PRESENT
The Second Annual Production of
Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*
adapted for the stage by Burgess Clark
December 3 – December 23, 2010

PRESS NIGHT: December 4, Saturday night at 8 pm.

WHERE: BCA Plaza Theatre, 539 Tremont Street, Boston.

EMAIL: mdsmith@bu.edu for press tickets.

***“One Christmas was so much like another, in those years
around the sea-town corner...”***

BOSTON, MA – Boston Playwrights' Theatre and Boston Children's Theatre are thrilled to announce the second annual production of the Dylan Thomas story *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Following the wonderful critical and audience response of its inaugural production last year *A Child's Christmas in Wales* returns to the Boston Center for the Arts this Holiday Season. Playwright and director Burgess Clark has transformed this classic story into an annual Boston holiday tradition—complete with presents, odd relatives and freshly fallen snow.

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It is Christmas 1923 in Swansea, Wales. Will the fire in Mrs. Prothero's kitchen finally burn the house down? Will a hole have to be cut into the roof for the Christmas pine? And who sent young Dylan that mysterious package? Originally commissioned and performed by the National Theatre of the Deaf, Clark's adaptation stays true to the best of Thomas's vision, all the while leading us to new wonderments.

Featuring – Steven Barkhimer*, Margaret Ann Brady*, Shana Dirik*, Franci DuMar, Adam Freeman, Anne Gardiner*, Meagan Hawkes*, Coleman Hirschberg, Stephen Libby*, Allan Mayo* and Robert D. Murphy*.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

Burgess Clark (Playwright/Boston Children's Theatre Executive Artistic Director) assumed leadership of Boston's oldest theatre company, Boston Children's Theatre (BCT), in 2008. BCT has since enjoyed immense popularity and profile among teachers, students and the community, having renewed its standing as Boston's premier theatre for young people.

A 30-year theatre professional, Burgess was nominated in 1991 and again in 2007 as a "Distinguished Teacher in the Arts" by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts for encouraging and supporting students with exceptional artistic achievement. Burgess has taught for the University of Hawaii and acted as Director of Theatre for The Mid-Pacific Institute. He also served as Director of Education for the Honolulu Theatre for Youth and was the Director of Theatre at the Perry-Mansfield school of the Arts in Steamboat Springs, Colorado—the oldest arts school in the nation. Prior to assuming leadership of the Boston Children's Theatre, Burgess was the Director of Education of the acclaimed Academy of Music Theatre at North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, MA. From 1988-94, Clark was the National Instructor for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/Office of Very Special Arts, working with special populations and those who educate them. Five of his students have won the National Young Playwrights' Award.

An award-winning writer, Burgess wrote the Emmy-nominated documentary series *Pets: Part of the Family* for PBS, hosted by Gary Burghoff. He was the recipient of the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild's 2000 Julie Harris Award for his play, *The Ivory Alphabet*. Burgess was also honored at the 15th Annual William Inge Theatre Festival as the "New Voice in American Theatre." In 1999, he was awarded the Vermont Playwright's Award for his drama, *The Touch*. *Purple Hearts* was produced in San Francisco and toured to the Edinburgh Theatre Festival in Scotland where it placed among the "Best of Fest." A member of the Dramatists' Guild, Burgess has won several other playwriting awards, including "Best Play" from the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts, the Mary Roberts Rinehart Award for playwriting and a Special Services Achievement Award from the U.S. Army for *Purple Hearts*. Burgess' other works include *Down*

Came the Rain, Relative Strangers, The Velveteen Rabbit, Island of the Blue Dolphins and an adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* originally produced for the national Theatre of the Deaf. Burgess will be scripting several new pieces in seasons to come at BCT, including the new stage adaptation of Aaron Fricke's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. He divides his home between Boston and historic Walden Farm in Walden, Vermont.

**Boston Playwrights' Theatre & Boston Children's Theatre present
Dylan Thomas's A Child's Christmas in Wales
Adaptation for the stage by Burgess Clark
December 3 – December 23, 2010**

For tickets call 617.933.8600 or visit www.bostontheatrescene.com

\$35/General Admission - \$20 Student Admission

**Friday, December 3 at 8:00pm
Saturday, December 4 at 4:00pm & 8:00pm
Sunday, December 5 at 2:00pm**

**Friday, December 10 at 8:00pm
Saturday, December 11 at 8:00pm
Sunday, December 12 at 2:00pm**

**Friday, December 17 at 8:00pm
Saturday, December 18 at 8:00pm
Sunday, December 19 at 2:00pm**

**Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 22 at 3:00pm & 7:00pm
Thursday, December 23 at 7:00pm**

Additional school matinees are available by calling Boston Children's Theatre at 617-424-6634.

**VENUE INFORMATION
Boston Center for the Arts Plaza Theatre
539 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02215**