



a living laboratory for the creative process

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 October 2009

CONTACT

Michael Douglas Jones
Companion Star

631-827-1964
Michael.jones@companionstar.org

First Creative Workshop for John Metcalf's new Dylan Thomas Opera

Belport, NY - Companion Star and Talisin Arts Centre held the first creative development workshop for their "live radio opera project". The workshop, took place in Wales and resulted in 30 minutes of opera composition by John Metcalf. John and the artists worked with a percussionist and "foley" artist, who supplied special effects and sounds for use in this "live radio opera" experience.

Since in 2008, Companion Star has been working in partnership with the Taliesin Arts Centre in Wales and Le Chien qui chante in Quebec, to develop and produce a new opera by Welsh composer, John Metcalf. This opera will be Mr. Metcalf's seventh, and will use the text from the Dylan Thomas' radio play *Under Milk Wood*. The production is a live opera experience, which taps into the personal imaginative richness of sitting beside a radio and entering a universe through the ear alone. It is projected to premier in Wales in 2012 and in New York in 2013 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of Dylan Thomas' death.

Dylan Thomas performed *Under Milk Wood* himself in May of 1953 at New York City's 92nd Street Y. Over the ensuing years, *Under Milk Wood* has been recorded and re-recorded, performed and filmed, translated and enjoyed across the globe. This innovative text has become a 20th century classic and arguably the most famous work in modern Welsh literature.