

Under Milk Wood Character Guide



Because our version of Under Milk Wood has lots of multirolling (actors playing lots of different characters), we've created this document to support audiences to differentiate between which characters an actor is playing at any given time.

In order to not overwhelm you with information we've stuck to the key characters each actor plays, and at the end of the booklet you can find more information on groups of characters who don't necessarily have their own storyline, but that you will come across during the show.

Each page contains written descriptions of the characters each actor plays, and gives you useful tips to help you to tell the difference between their characters.

Usually in Under Milk Wood the role of first voice is played by one actor, but in our production this narration is split up between the cast. Often you will

find that an actor narrates a moment about one of the characters they play, and then becomes that character to deliver a line. There are also performers who communicate in British Sign Language throughout the show. Most First Voice lines are performed in both spoken language and BSL.

Douglas Walker



Captain Cat is the retired, blind sea-captain who lives in Schooner House. We often see this character sitting on his large white house at the centre of the stage and listening to the townspeople go about their day. Sometimes we see his dreams of his friends he lost at sea, in particular we see him longing for Rosie Probert, his one true love. He is a gentle and kind character and when Dougie plays him, he speaks in a softer tone and he moves with a spring in his step. Captain Cat wears a navy flat cap and a navy jacket with a blue scarf wrapped around his neck.

Mr Waldo is a five times divorcee, who is a bit of a troublemaker. He drinks often in the pub (The Sailor's Arms) and later on in the show he sings a rude song about being a chimney sweep. He is an eccentric who lives

alone, but in his dreams he is surrounded by gossiping neighbours, a disappointed mother, and his neverending stream of ex-wives. When Dougie plays Mr Waldo he moves slowly and heavily, stomping his feet, and he puts on a deep, thick, voice which can sound harsh and gruff. Mr Waldo wears a bowler hat and a dark apron. Sometimes Dougie changes quickly between Captain Cat and Waldo. This is marked by him changing his hat, or folding his apron down.

Utah Watkins is the local farmer who owns Salt Lake Farm. He dislikes his animals and is often angry with them, but all his animals adore him. He is married to Mrs Utah Watkins. When Dougie plays Utah Watkins, he stomps around quickly in a huff, his voice is raised and sharp and his arms are pinned to his sides with his hands in fists. Utah Watkins wears a white wool hat that comes down over his ears, and makes him look a little bit like one of his sheep.

Caro Parker



Mrs Utah Watkins is married to Utah Watkins, and closely resembles a sheep. Unlike Utah, she loves being surrounded by the animals and is content with her life and her knitting. She talks with a bleat in her voice (like a sheep) and wears a sheep hat that matches the actors on stage who are playing the sheep.

Mrs Organ Morgan is married to Organ Morgan the pianist. She is often miserable because she wants to gossip about all of the goings on of the town with him, but he's only interested in long-dead composers. She isn't always a kind woman, and speaks badly of people in the town, especially Polly Garter. When Caro is playing Mrs Organ Morgan she has a whine in her voice, and cries loudly in frustration. She usually appears all in white.

Mary Ann Sailors is a godly woman and Grandmother to Sinbad Sailors. We often see her proclaiming her love of Milk Wood to the town. She is 85

years old and an eternal optimist. She speaks slowly, but brightly, and uses big hand gestures to talk to the town. She wears a white bonnet over the top of Caro's bae layer.

Mrs Beynon is Butcher Beynon's wife, and she loves his made up stories. She pretends to be outraged by his lies, but really she is thrilled by them. She is excitable and dramatic, she moves quickly and has a shrill voice. Mrs Beynon wears a straw boater hat and a long grey coat.

Macsen McKay



Mog Edwards is the local draper who is hopelessly in love with Miss Price, and writes her letters everyday. In these letters he claims to want to be with her, but really he is content for her to live in his fantasies and to keep all his money for himself. He speaks slowly with a voice full of emotion, his voice is quiet but steady and he moves in a direct fashion, with a purpose. When we first see him, he's in a dream so he's wearing a house hat, but after that he wears blue trouser braces, a red bow tie and a straw boater hat with a red ribbon on it.

Evans the Death is the local undertaker, who loves death a little bit too much, not in a dark way, he just loves his job. He speaks quickly, but calmly. He wears a black top hat with a small opening, from which a miniature version of himself pops out. He also wears a black waistcoat over a white shirt with an undone blue and white bow tie.

Mr Pritchard is one of Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard's dead husbands (yes, he's a ghost!). He's always seen with Mr Ogmores. He moves slowly and ghostly and his only costume is a white night cap, which is worn with his base layer white costume.

Mr Pugh is the long-suffering husband of Mrs Pugh. He frequently fantasises about the different ways in which he could murder her, but to her face he is kind and submissive. He dances around the stage in his imagination, wriggling his fingers in an evil way and using large gestures. When he's speaking to Mrs Pugh he sits very still and softens his actions. He wears a long red dressing gown and glasses.

Lord Cut-Glass is the local outcast. He spends his life inside his home, surrounded by clocks which are all set to different times. He is a troubled man, who believes that something bad is always on the horizon. He moves and speaks very quickly and erratically in a Cockney accent. He doesn't have a Welsh accent. He wears a black hat, a chain necklace with a clock on it, a long black jacket, and later on in the show a wig is added for him with black hair that goes down to his shoulders.

Izzi McCormack John



Myfanwy Price runs the local sweetshop. She is neat and tidy and madly in love with Mr Mog Edwards. She has a high-pitched, polite voice. And moves in a very precise and direct way. She is light on her feet and holds herself in a good posture. She wears a frilly, dark pink dress with white spots.

Lily Smalls works as a cleaner for the Beynons. (This can be confusing because she calls Mrs Beynon Mum, but really Mrs Beynon is her boss) When Izzi plays Lily, she stamps around the stage and often has her arms folded - that is if she's not busy cleaning. She speaks loudly and clearly. She wears a yellow headscarf that matches her yellow apron and underneath her white base layer she wears bright yellow bloomers.

Georgia Griffiths



Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard is uptight and tidy. Her two husbands have long since passed away, but she continues to nag their ghosts. She runs a hotel in town, but doesn't let anybody actually stay there in case they make the place dirty. She moves quickly and with precision. She has a harsh, cold voice. When Georgia is playing Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard, she wears a crisp white frilly bonnet and her white bas layer.

Polly Garter is a young woman who has had lots of children with lots of different men and is perfectly happy about it. She is loving and kind to all of the characters and is perfectly content with her lot, but the other women of the town are incredibly cruel to her. She was once in love with a man who died, and continues to carry a flame for him. When Georgia is playing Polly,

her voices softens and has a kind tone, she sways as she floats around the stage. When Polly's at home, she wears a bright pink floating dressing gown, and when she's in town, she wears a pink headscarf with a pink apron.

Adam Bassett



Jack Black is the local cobbler who hates all the couples who misbehave in the woods and the local bar, but is also thrilled by them, which makes him incredibly confused and angry. He wears a long white gown and a white sleep cap. He storms around the stage, stamping his feet. He communicates using British Sign Language and vocalises moments of anger with shouts or screams.

Cherry Owen is the alcoholic husband of Mrs Cherry Owen. When we see him in the play, he is all laughter and smiles, but underneath he isn't a good man or a good husband, and behind closed doors he is very cruel to Mrs Cherry Owen. When Adam plays Cherry Owen, he switches between light and laughing to heavy and moody, depending on the situation. He wears a brown flat cap and blue trouser braces over his white shirt and trousers.

Dai Bread is the local baker who is married to two different women, Mrs Dai Bread One and Mrs Dai Bread Two. He is physically very expressive, he communicates using BSL. He moves in a happy, jolly way and is usually smiling. He wears a black waistcoat and a red hat.

Because Adam communicates using BSL, sometimes his characters are voiced over by the other actors on stage, and when this doesn't happen they are captured via captions.

Chandu Gopalakrishnan



Mrs Willy Nilly is married to Mr Willy Nilly the postman, and like her husband she also loves hearing all of the town's gossip. She spends her time in her kitchen, using the steam of the kettles to open other people's mail before her husband delivers it. She is a cheerful woman and when Chandu plays her, she walks with a bounce and her hands bounce along at her sides. She has a cheeky, happy voice filled with delight. When Chandu plays Mrs Willy Nilly she wears her base costume which are flowy white trousers that come to just below her knees, a tight white corset and a short sleeved blouse. In Mr Willy Nilly's dream, Mrs Willy Nilly's costume is a white top with a mesh skirt that is designed to look like one of the houses Mr Willy Nilly is delivering the post to.

Gwennie is one of the local school children. She has a scene in the play where she chants a rhyme, which gives to local boys the choice of giving her a kiss in the location she suggests or giving her a penny. She stamps around the stage, and speaks in a loud, demanding and slightly sinister childlike voice. She wears a bright purple pinafore dress, with a lacy white collar and a straw boater hat that ties underneath her chin.

Sean Carlsen



Mr Ogmores is Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard's other dead husband. He also moves and speaks in a slightly ghostly way, his movement is floaty and his voice is soft. Just like Mr Pritchard, he wears a white base layer with a white night cap.

PC Attila Rees is the local policeman, he wanders around the town, chatting to the residents and not doing too much police work. He has a lumbering walk, with bent knees. He speaks quickly but brightly in a deep voice. He wears a black policeman's helmet.

Butcher Beynon loves to make up stories about secretly butchering moles and dogs and feeding them to his family. He plays a game with Mrs Beynon where he teases her about all the different animals he's secretly fed her,

but it is just a game and not real. In his wife's dreams he wears a white apron that is stained in red blood, and in real life he wears a darker navy and red striped apron, and a straw boater hat which matches his wife. He gallops about the stage, with his head down, and speaks in a low thick voice that is full of joy.

Reverend Eli Jenkins is the town preacher, who delivers a poem every morning to the town. He loves the town and all of its inhabitants, and documents all of their lives in his book - The White book of Llaregyb. He glides about the stage and speaks in a soft, sweet voice. He uses large hand gestures as he describes his love of the town in a very exuberant fashion. He wears a long black coat which goes down to his ankles, and he also sometimes wears a wide brimmed black hat.

Jacob Coleman



Organ Morgan is married to Mrs Organ Morgan and drives her mad with his constant focus on the organ. He thinks of nothing else, awake or asleep. He is usually using his hands to mime playing the organ, and moves and speaks very softly and kindly. He wears a navy blazer and a white neck ruff.

Ocky Milkman is the local milkman. We only see him very briefly amongst the rest of the townspeople, but he is spoken about a few times in the show. When Jacob plays Ocky, he often carries his silver milk churn. He wears a white cap and his base layer white costume. He moves with purpose around the town, with his head down, focusing on his work.

Willy Nilly is the town postman and is married to Mrs Willy Nilly. He loves gossiping with his wife, together they steam open the townspeople's mail in order to get all of the good gossip. As he does his morning rounds, he spreads this gossip amongst the rest of the town. He is a happy man, and speaks in a bright voice, he walks at a relaxed pace, with a bit of a skip in his step, and wears a red and black postman's cap and carries a brown postman's bag, from which he produces letters and small pieces of costume to dress up the other characters.

Nogood Boyo is a young man who lives in the town and is always getting himself in trouble, especially with women. He spends his days fishing but rarely catches anything. He wears a brown coat and has a slumped, relaxed posture. He moves at a leisurely pace, and has a cheeky tone to his voice and a sparkle in his eyes as he flirts shamelessly with the women of the town.

Sinbad Sailors works in the Sailor's Arms pub. He is in love with Gossamer Beynon, and she secretly loves him back, but they can not be together. He wears a dirty tea towel over his shoulder, a dark flat cap and an unbuttoned shirt. He speaks in a longing tone, he often runs his hands through his hair. We always see him in the Sailors Arms, pulling pints for the locals.

Amy Conachan



Gossamer Beynon is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Butcher Beynon and the local school teacher. She is loved in secret by Sinbad Sailors. She is described as an ice-maiden. All the men of the town think she's incredibly beautiful, but she doesn't entertain the attention they give her. She wears her white base layer, and her hair down. When she enters the stage she throws yellow petals in the air.

Mrs Pugh is the nasty wife of Mr Pugh. She speaks in a high pitched shrill, that is icy and cold and she always has a scowl on her face. She usually wears a red bonnet, but in her first scene she appears still in bed which is

shown by a garish floral, ruffled skirt and a matching pillow that is attached to the back of her wheelchair.

Mrs Dai Bread One is one of Dai Bread's two wives, she is happy and kind, and prefers comfort over style. She has a bright voice and is always smiling. When Amy is playing Mrs Dai Bread One, she wears a shawl that has a checkered pattern with red, brown and pink. Mrs Dai Bread One moves through the town chatting to and smiling at everybody in a welcoming and kind manner.

Mrs Cherry Owen is married to Cherry Owen. She is more softly spoken than Amy's other characters. She speaks with a bright tone, but there is the undercurrent of fear in her voice. Her husband drinks too much and is very cruel to her, in the scene between the two of them, she uses a small compact to apply a bruise to her face, suggesting he's been physically violent towards her. She wears a pale green cardigan and a white shirt with a floral pattern on it.

Mirain Fflur



Rosie Probert is one of the drowned souls Captain Cat remembers in his dreams. He calls her the one love of his sea life. She moves dreamily around the stage, and speaks with a seductive lilt. When Mirain is playing Rosie Probert, she wears her white base costume which is a sleeveless white top and a bunched skirt that touches the middle of her thighs at the front and trails down in the back.

Mae Rose Cottage is the seventeen year old daughter of Mrs Rose Cottage. She spends her time lying in the fields and dreaming of all of the men she will seduce. She dreams of being wicked and sinning but in reality

she's never been kissed. She trots around in high heels, with a huge grin on her face, and swishes her hair as she walks.

Bessie Bighead works at Salt Lake Farm for Mr Utah Watkins. She has no family, and her story is a sad one. She spends her time reminiscing about Gomer Owen, who once kissed her for a dare. She sleeps in the barn with the animals. Mirrain switches between Mae and Bessie quickly in the show. Mae Rose Cottage is light on her feet and dreamy, and Bessie has a much deeper voice and walks heavily, stomping around with a wide stance and bent knees, her hands tucked in her pockets.

Mrs Dai Bread Two is Dai Bread's second wife, she is sultry and has a wicked sense of humour. She spends lots of time with Dai Bread's first wife, pretending to tell her fortune in a crystal ball in order to get Mrs Dai Bread One to give her some of the housekeeping money. Mrs Dai Bread Two wears a bright red skirt that shows off her knees. She speaks in a drawl, low and seductive. She sways her hips as she walks in a flirtatious manner.

Groups of characters

The Neighbours are various members of the town, played by different actors, that appear throughout the show. They are gossipy and judgemental. When the cast are playing their neighbour characters, they stand very upright and make big gestures with their arms. They are larger than life and embody the rumour mill of the town, with everybody knowing everyone else's business. The male actors who play neighbours wear headscarves and alter their voices to a more traditionally feminine tone.

The Drowned Souls live in Captain Cat's dreams and memories. They wear all white costumes with a hint of dark blue rising up from the bottom. They are memories of the people he came across in his days as a sailor. They are individual characters but they always appear as a group, and they all move slowly, as if they are underwater and each step requires great effort. There is a sound effect on their voices which makes them sound as though they are far away under water.

The School Children appear multiple times throughout the show. They are an energetic rabble of children. Who squeal and argue amongst themselves. They run around the stage and talk over each other. When the cast are playing school children they move with more energy and less direction, scrambling about. The school children are performed in the cast's base costumes.