

Mad as Birds' Dylan Thomas

NORTH YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM, August 5, 2015

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Mad as Birds Films describes themselves as "an independent film production company." They were formed in the spring of 2013 to produce "[Set Fire to the Stars](#)," a drama that seeks to capture an idea of what might have happened the week that John Malcolm Brinnin takes Dylan Thomas on a retreat to a country cabin to prepare him for a tour of America. The dialog and characterizations are drawn from Dylan Thomas's writing, and from documentaries. With no actual records of events for that week, the writers were free to use poetic license.

The film caught the eye of many reviewers who praised it for its performances, creativity and style, it has also gathered a large and lovingly supportive online fan base who have been inspired by the film and its creation. Shot in 18 days and to an even tighter budget with a small and mighty team, helmed by the films director and co-writer Andy Goddard, it continues to punch above its weight.

John Malcolm Brinnin, played by Elijah Wood, is portrayed as a rather prim academic who is more than a little dismayed by the wild man he has brought to America. Dylan Thomas, is played by Welsh character actor Celyn

Jones who delivers a Towering performance as the wild and unruly poet, intent of sticking two fingers up at the establishment and all it's academic scrutiny.

The contrast between the two characters is masterfully done. Jones, as Dylan Thomas, sports wild, Byron-esque curls and behaves outrageously. Wood, trim and neat, with his hair slicked down and sporting a bow tie, is every inch the reserved school master. The video, which came out in England in November 2014, receiving lots of positive praise and attention 'the must-see Dylan Thomas film' said the Times. A few reviewers had issue with it's audacious treatment of the biopic structure or with their



own expectation of this type of film, However, all agree that it captures the feel of the 1940s and 1950s America, when intoxication was almost essential to poetic enlightenment and the spirit of Dylan Thomas, the man, himself.

Set Fire to the Stars' vividly captures Dylan Thomas visit... Gorgeous, evocative and well performed, reading tour.' Los Angeles Times



The movie is filmed in stunning black and white, and focuses on dialogue and

above all character, supported by a stand out musical score. Most of the tension focuses around a letter from Dylan's wife, which he refuses to read. It does a good job of setting the scene for the time, and presenting the drama of this iconic poet's life.

The next step for this indie-produced drama is to seek greater exposure. In order to do this, it will need subtitles in a variety of languages and even voice dubs of certain frequently used languages.

There is relatively little risk involved with this particular [Kickstarter Crowdfunding Campaign](#). The movie has already been made; the work that remains is strictly post-production.

Should you choose to contribute, you can do so from the Set Fire to the Stars crowdfunding campaign website, created by producer Andy Evans. If you love movies and movie memorabilia, there are some incredible rewards available. These include posters created in black and white – just like the filming of the movie, t-shirts with an understated design that features the words Set Fire to the Stars above a pen point – of the style used as a stick pen or as the writing face for fountain pens, signed props that were actually used in the making of the film, a digital copy of the film itself – available as a secure download, a copy of the incredible soundtrack by Gruff Rhys, photo credits if you published as part of the package on iTunes as a thank you for your contribution, a signed DVD or Bluray edition, a PDF of the script, and the culminating prize: a recording of Celyn Jones, as Dylan Thomas, saying words of your choice (within reason and good taste, of course.) [Rewards are given](#) in proportion to the contribution.

In an age when movie-making seems to focus mostly on how many things can be blown up or on the incredible CGI, this old-style movie, that captures the spirit of the black-and-white productions of the 1950s, is a treat for those of us who would like a little more plot and thought with our video entertainment.

About: Dylan Thomas was the iconic Welsh poet of the 1950s. He died in 1953, at age 39. He is best known for his poem "Go not Gentle into that Good Night." Mad as Birds Films was created specifically to produce "Set Fire to the Stars," which imagines how it might have been when John Malcolm Brinnin, his American sponsor, takes Dylan to a log cabin to prepare him for an upcoming tour. The movie is filmed in black and white to re-create the video style of the time.

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