



## Dust

**Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1JX**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (not 15<sup>th</sup>), 16:40**

A woman. A suicide. A choice. A fly on the wall. A funeral. A Bakewell tart. A life. A lie. A truth. An ending. Of sorts.

*Dust* by Milly Thomas (*Clique*, BBC3; *Clickbait* and *A First World Problem*, Theatre503) is a refreshing, caustic and comedic treatment of one woman's depression, suicide and everything that happens afterwards. Alice thinks that life isn't worth living. So she kills herself. Sort of. She is stuck, a fly on the wall. Forced to watch the aftermath of her suicide and its ripple effect on her family and friends, Alice quickly learns that death changes people. And that death is not the change she hoped for.

In an unflinching examination of a suicide, this stripped-back monologue for one woman explodes the myth that death is a quiet affair, as it inspects the unavoidable practicalities, alongside the heart-wrenching decisions and pain - and the laughter.

Milly Thomas comments, *I'm fascinated by the way we eulogise people once they've died. The way we rewrite whole lives to suit our own narratives and the use of euphemism as a masking tool of the dead never ceases to amaze me. I'm also keen to explore the way we're looking at mental health now. It strikes me that we're encouraged to disclose our mental health issues provided they're past tense or we're 'high functioning' as though we have to ensure that our illness conforms to social standards. While Dust is fiction, it's a deeply personal story.*

*Dust* is very much about life, about those who remain behind and how squeamish we are around death. How do you quantify a life? What if you lived as an arsehole but suddenly, in death, you're a saint? And, if push came to shove, would your mother get your funeral right?

Deborah Frances-White of The Guilty Feminist says, *Milly Thomas is an extraordinary performer, a fearless writer and one of the most relevant, vibrant, funny and insightful millennial voices*

*working in British Theatre today. Often controversial, always daring, never disappointing-like the love child of Charlie Brooker and Diablo Cody.*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Dust</i>
Performance Dates	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August (not 15 <sup>th</sup> ), 16:40
Running time	60 minutes
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1JX
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk">www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk</a> or 03333 444 167 Previews: £6.50 Weekday: £10 (£9) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@dust_theplay, @followthecow
Notes	Ages 14+
Writer/Performer	Milly Thomas
Director	Sara Joyce
Producer	Holly De Angelis
Set Designer	Anna Reid
Sound designer	Max Perryment
Lighting designer	Jack Weir

## Milly Thomas

Milly Thomas is a London-based writer and actor, whose credits include *Quacks* (BBC2); *Cargo* (The Arcola Theatre); *Dry Land* (Jermyn Street Theatre); & *Downton Abbey* (ITV). She began writing when she graduated in 2014 from the BA Acting at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Milly's first full length play *A First World Problem* opened at Theatre503 in July 2014 to critical acclaim. She was then commissioned by The Royal Central School of

Speech and Drama to write *Piggies* in 2015 . Her play *Clickbait* opened the 2016 spring season at Theatre503 and played to sold-out audiences and an extended run. *Clickbait* is published by Oberon. Her play *Brutal Cessation* will also be running alongside *Dust* during the Edinburgh Fringe 2017. She is a member of both the Young Writers' Lab 2015 and Writer's Lab Alumni 2017 at Soho Theatre. She has taken part in The Royal Court Writers' Group 2016 led by playwright Stef Smith, and of Headstart – a group comprising of ten playwrights assembled by Headlong Theatre Company and Blacklisted Films. Milly has taken part in writers' rooms for Pure Grass Films, Balloon Entertainment and Brown Eyed Boy and has recently completed the 2016 Channel 4 Screenwriting Course. She has written episodes of *River City* for BBC Scotland and *Clique* for BBC3.

## Sara Joyce

Sara's work includes: *Hedda Gabler* (Bunker Theatre November 2017); *Service* by Lauren Mooney (Edinburgh Summerhall); *The Scar Test* by Hannah Khalil (Soho Theatre); Bush Theatre Emerging Writers' Showcase (Bush Theatre) *Crestfall*, *The Quality of Mercy*, *The Win Bin*, *Night Tella*, *Act Without Words I*; *Rough For Theatre II*; *Catastrophe*, *The Playboy Variations* and *Click*. Sara is Associate Director at The Bunker Theatre. Previous residencies include: the Almeida & Soho Theatre. She is an Off-West-End nominee for Best Director for *Act Without Words I*, *Rough for Theatre II* and *Catastrophe*.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Chloé Nelkin, Chloé Nelkin Consulting

E: [chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com](mailto:chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com), M: 07764 273 219

W: [www.chloenelkinconsulting.com](http://www.chloenelkinconsulting.com)