

UNIVERSITY OF WALES
TRINITY SAINT DAVID

THE LITTLE SHACKS OF LIFE

A Dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in

Creative Writing and Script Writing

by

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SUMMARY

Entitled THE LITTLE SHACKS OF LIFE, this dissertation contains poetry, prose and an essay describing the methods and philosophy of the creative work contained herein. The title is taken from a quote by the African American novelist Edward P. Jones and refers to how Mr. Jones discovered he was a writer.¹

Included in this presentation are 6 short prose pieces and 12 poems. The poems are all in free verse and represent a personal journey from death to life. The short prose stories reflect my curiosity with the small ways in which we deal with large events. All these written pieces were created within the last year (2010-2011) and represent endeavor in both artistic and technical enquiry. More importantly they also represent how this author found a new means of creative expression along with a vital practice and process.

As imperative as it was to discover HOW to write and what form could best serve the creative process, it was also important to adapt any personal methodologies to achieve this dissertation in the relatively short time period. What I know about the rhythms of Japanese Noh Theatre and Shakespeare became unexpectedly helpful in formulating a creative writing life.

After forty years of work in professional theatre experience, I had expected to write a play for this dissertation, so it was a surprise to find that my own 'little shacks' became the poetry and short prose contained in this dissertation. They were not just the vehicles for my own growth as a writer, but important temporary shelters along a new and unknown path.

¹ *"It is amazing the little shacks of life we can build when it seems that so much is at stake."*

CONTENTS

POETRY:

Only Dealing With	page 1
Forward Facing, Quiet Carriage	page 2
A Poet	page 4
A Stranger at the Poetry Café	page 5
Leaving Detroit in April	page 6
Budget Tours to Auschwitz- Birkenau	page 7
Deluxe Group Tours to Cambodia and Vietnam	page 8
Love Is The Reason Is	page 9
One Morning in December	page 10
Thirty Thousand Years of Wall Art	page 11
Conjugation	page 12
At This Moment of Enquiry	page 13

PROSE:

The Forest	page 14
Driving to Detroit	page 21
Crossing the Lines	page 31
Blind Date with William	page 38
On Patara Beach	page 44
Another Thing That Happened in 1957	page 50

THE LITTLE SHACKS OF LIFE , a Critique	page 61
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	page 78
---------------------	---------

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