Was Somerton Man a US spy who had a secret love child with an Adelaide nurse? New evidence may be about the break open the enduring mystery of a body washed up on a beach nearly 70 years ago

- Mystery surrounding 'Somerton Man' could be broken open by new details
- Professor investigating the death believes the man had a child in Australia
- Other researchers also believe evidence proves the man was an American
- Mystery after dead man's body washed up on a beach in Adelaide in 1948

By LIAM QUINN FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

One of Australia's most mysterious cold cases could be broken open by fresh evidence after almost 70 years, as details suggest the 'Somerton Man' may be an American and the father of an Australian ballet dancer.

It was also revealed the man, who was found dead on a beach in South Australia in 1948, may have fathered a child with an Adelaide nurse.

University of Adelaide professor Derek Abbott believes Jo Thomson, otherwise known as Jestyn, had a child with the man.

Scroll down for video

An unidentified body, who has become known as the Somerton Man, washed up on a beach 67 years ago

'I'm not alone in believing she knew who the Somerton Man was - I think just about every policeman involved in this case has the same opinion,' Professor Abbott told Daily Mail Australia.

'Moreover, I believe it likely that she had his child.'
Mr Abbott believes the pair had a secret relationship, due to the location of where the dead man's body was found and the fact her phone number was scribbled on a piece of paper found in his pocket.

Ms Thomson died in 2007, and denied knowing the Somerton Man until her death. However, she conceded to friends in her later years she was the nurse in the case. Robin Thomson died in 2009, according to the professor.

Mr Abbott also cited a rare, hereditary dental condition, and odd behaviour from Ms Thomson when interviewed by police.

Another theory suggesting the Somerton Man may be Mr Thomson's father was his muscular legs, similar to those a ballet dancer would have. Mr Thomson went on to perform with the Australian Ballet and Royal New Zealand Ballet.
Robin Thomson shared a rare dental condition with the Somerton Man, according to experts.

In 2012, the professor commissioned a painting of Ms Thomson, in the hope someone who knew her would come forward and provide crucial information.

The Somerton Man was found about five minutes from Ms Thomson's home.

The potential murder has fascinated true crime fans and conspiracy theorists for more than six decades, largely thanks to a number of 'codes' linked to a Persian poetry book found in a doctor's car.

A piece of paper torn from the book was found in the Somerton Man's pocket. It also had Ms Thomson's phone number written on the back.

Robin Thomson was also a ballet dancer, pictured rehearsing for rehearsing Coppélia in 1968

The scrap of paper had 'Tamám Shud,' meaning 'ended' or 'finished' in Persian, printed on it.

Some believe this to be proof he was a spy or double agent that was executed - and that Ms Thomson may have also been a spy.

However, Mr Abbott dismissed the Hollywood-styled theories.
Compared: Robin Thomson's ear (left), the Somerton Man's ear (centre), and a normal ear on the right. The upper hollow, called the 'cymba' is unusually deep and enlarged in the first two photos.

New developments in one of the nation's biggest mysteries

"I would be surprised if they turned out to be true," he said.

"I think this is a love story not a spy one, and one of jilted love. Anything is possible, but I don't find the spy scenario plausible.

"The 'code' is nothing like a professional spy code. He may have just been jotting letters trying to solve a brainteaser in newspaper for all we know."

Ms Thomson wrote a letter in 1957 that reads: ‘...but how to make life interesting when one has two demanding children who have to be fed and clothed?’ Researchers cite this as evidence.

Getting ready for the big day? Jennie Garth and her fiancé enjoy shopping day in LA... after revealing wedding is ‘coming soon’

Ryan Gosling gets his hands dirty as he pumps his own petrol at a filling station in LA
The handsome actor attempted to appear low-key in blue trainers

What a page turner! Hilary Duff shows off her toned figure in olive green leggings while clutching an armful of magazines

No risky business here! Reese Witherspoon is elegant as she wears a blouse and demure floral skirt at the Produced By conference

Girls' day out! Padma Lakshmi goes make-up free as she bonds with daughter Krishna on shopping trip in LA

Little Miss Polka Dot! Abigail Breslin wears quirky pink and black spotted dress at BookCon in NYC

Newlyweds Amy Adams and Darren Le Gallo hold hands with their daughter Aviana on family shopping trip

Hollyoaks beauty Jorgie Porter looks stylish in an ivory gilet over a lacy cream skirt as she steps out for a lavish meal with pals

Mindy Kaling shows off shapely legs in a mini-skirt as she takes the plunge in a green blazer at book signing

British fashion designer John Galliano meets rabbi as part of rehab plan: Scheme is part of his treatment following drunken anti-Semitic rant

She's a part of the family! Robin Thicke, 38, and girlfriend April Love Geary, 20, take his son Julian grocery shopping after Paris getaway
The professor’s comments come as a group investigating the incident said it thinks evidence proves the Somerton Man was American.

The group listed a number of reasons for its theory on a crowdfunding website, including the stripes on his tie being slanted in ‘the US style’, his jacket being ‘determined to be of American origin’, and the aluminium comb he was carrying.

Mr Abbott said DNA testing could be done to help finally shed light on the mystery.

If only it came in my size': Pregnant Hilaria Baldwin keeps daughter Carmen cool with inflatable pool in warm NYC

Special gift! Casey Batchelor displays extreme cleavage as she helps close friend Luisa Zissman celebrate 27th birthday

Proud dad Orlando Bloom enjoys some quality time with his lookalike son Flynn after touching down in Australia

Something for the paw-drobe! Lady Gaga set to launch a line of pet fashion inspired by her dog Asia

Will be the artistic director for the collection

'I realised there is nothing I cannot do': Gisele Bündchen credits motherhood for giving her the strength to tackle anything thrown her way

‘Power walking in water for 30 minutes a day’: Annalise Braakensiek, 42, shares her top fitness tips as she shows off her killer bikini body in Maldives

His royal unhappiness: Prince William looks glum as he watches his side lose in FA Cup Final... but David Beckham and his boys celebrate in stands

‘My girls watching the game!’ Dan Osborne shares cute snaps of Jacqueline Jossa and daughter Ella as they cheer on Arsenal in FA Cup final

The Sweet Escape! Gwen Stefani takes a break from touring with No Doubt to hit the park with her family

The 45-year-old has been busy with her band

What happened to your ankle? Daryl Hannah dotes on beau Neil Young at breakfast as he limps with a leg brace

The lovebirds stepped out as a couple

He’s a super husband! Adam Sandler gives wife Jackie a sweet kiss during PDA-filled outing in LA

Cowell’s plan to win Eurovision for Britain - with an X Factor takeover: Music mogul
A present-day photo of the unit in Moseley Street where Jo Thomson lived in 1948 with her child Robin. The Somerton Man was found dead a short 5 min walk from this place, with her five-digit phone number.

“If we want to establish that a descendent of Robin is related to the Somerton Man, this can be done by extracting the Somerton Man's DNA after an exhumation and comparing the two,” he said.

“If we want to identify the Somerton Man himself, this is a different issue. The way we would do that is find descendents of his cousins by putting his DNA data on a genealogical DNA database. We could then trace those cousins back to a common ancestor and then work forward to find the Somerton Man. We know this works because this is exactly the technique use by genealogists who specialise in finding an adopted child's real parents.”

Share or comment on this article

Australians can buy iPads for $29

GIRL ABOUT TOWN: Hey Jude...Star reveals new love who is 13 years his junior at Hay Festival

GIRL ABOUT TOWN: Harry's the polo Prince with all the right moves Despite his diligent stretching, kicking and twisting, Harry still came down with a bad back

GIRL ABOUT TOWN: Hotel heiress Nicky Hilton will marry British banking scion James Rothschild at Kensington Palace Orangery

GIRL ABOUT TOWN: A cozy night for birthday boy Heston Blumenthal at The Chiltern Firehouse

Like night and day! Kendall and Kylie Jenner...

Want to Stop Avoiding and Start Moving?

This may also interest you

3 remarkable REITs - targeted exposure to sectors

Like night and day! Kendall and Kylie Jenner...

A ray of sunshine! Emma Roberts stands out in elegant bright yellow gown at polo event

Check it out! Freida Pinto looks lovely in green gingham dress as she attends Polo Classic

Chef for ITV's Lorraine: My REAL bikini body diet...with absolutely no protein shakes!

And then there were two: Baby meets mom’s identical twin...