TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR JANUARY 7 AND 8 STAGED READING OF DYNAMO

A cruel joke sets in motion a series of events leading to murder in Eugene O’Neill’s *Dynamo*. Young Ruben Light feels betrayed by his family and his religious beliefs. In his desperate search to make sense of the world, he finds the secret to all questions: Electricity. He turns his eyes to the awesome power of the Hydro electric power dynamo. Possessed with new fervor, Ruben sets out to convert others to his “religion” and to reconnect with the mother tragically taken from him.

“Dynamo is a very dramatic story using a very stylized means of presentation. I’ve grown to think of it as *Days of Our Lives* meets *Hollywood Squares* meets Alfred Hitchcock’s *Psycho,*” says director Eric Fraisher Hayes. “It’s a lost gem of a play.”

The 1929 Broadway premiere of *Dynamo* featured actress Claudette Colbert and continued in the experimental theatrical footsteps of *Strange Interlude*, *The Hairy Ape* and *The Emperor Jones*, recently presented in the Old Barn at Tao House in the 2016 Eugene O’Neill Festival.

- Eric Fraisher Hayes

Tickets available at www.eugeneoneill.org

2017 STUDENT DAYS COMING TO TAO HOUSE IN MARCH

Continuing a 16-year program of interaction where students benefit from free instruction by artists, actors, directors and writers, the Eugene O’Neill Foundation Student Days program, generously funded by the Lesher Foundation, will be offered to local teenagers on two consecutive Saturdays, March 11 and 18, 2017. The program takes place at Tao House, where Eugene O’Neill wrote some of his finest plays.

Students may choose from several disciplines; acting or digital/visual arts on the 11th, and photography or playwriting on the 18th. Nestled in the hills above the city of Danville, the Eugene O’Neill Tao House National Historic Site, managed by the National Park Service, is the site for the workshops. Visit eugeneoneill.org to apply. Applications will be accepted in the new year. The program is limited to 40 students.

-Katy Colbath
JONATHAN MANN, SON OF THEATER GIANT AND O’NEILL PRODUCER, VISITS TAO HOUSE

The apple, they say, doesn’t fall far from the tree. That’s certainly the case with Jonathan Mann who, with his wife Chandra, visited the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site and Tao House in mid-September.

Jonathan Mann carries forward a tradition of creative exploration and excellence learned through decades in the theater. His parents were two celebrated figures: theater director/producer Theodore Mann and Patricia Brooks, lyric soprano known for her acting talent with the NYC Opera.

The Manns visited Tao House in a docent led tour by a Eugene O’Neill Foundation past president and current Advisory board member Wendy Cooper, along with current board members, Gary Schaub, a former EONF co-president and Artistic Director, Eric Fraisher Hayes.

After training at London’s Drama Studio and Julliard School in New York, Jonathan Mann acted in three Broadway shows, and became director/manager of The Arts Exchange’s arts residencies and public art projects in White Plains, Westchester County, N.Y.

Mann is currently developing productions including Sweeney Todd, directed and choreographed by Adam Barruch; and is co-directing with Zoe Caldwell Tennessee Williams’ Sweet Bird of Youth, both to be staged in New York City. Mann continues his position on the Board of the Circle Theatre School, overseeing arts education and development.

Jonathan’s father, Ted Mann, (1924-2012) was an influential Broadway producer responsible for a resurgence of interest in Eugene O’Neill in the mid-20th century. Ted Mann, with Jose Quintero, were co-founders of New York’s Circle in the Square, which won a Tony award in 1976 for 25 years of quality productions.

Ted Mann was an active O’Neillian, visiting Tao House many times. The Eugene O’Neill Foundation honored Mann with the EONF Tao House Award in 1999. Mann’s revival of The Iceman Cometh, starring Jason Robards in 1956, is considered a landmark in re-evaluating O’Neill’s legacy. At Circle in the Square, Mann produced the U.S. premiere of Long Days Journey into Night on Broadway in 1957, winning a Tony for best play, and in 1963, Desire Under The Elms. In 1972, Ted Mann and producer Paul Liben (an EONF Tao House awardee in 2003) moved Circle in the Square to a new venue on 50th Street. As producer and Director, Mann opened the season with Colleen Dewhurst in O’Neill’s Mourning Becomes Electra.

Recommended Reading: “Journeys in the Night: Creating a New American Theater with Circle in the Square.” (Applause Books)

-Gary Schaub
DIRECTOR'S CORNER: THE (R)EVOLUTION

As I reflect on the 2016 Eugene O’Neill Festival devoted to the revolutionary use of expressionism in storytelling, I feel a sense of accomplishment. Our production of The Emperor Jones was a riveting experience. As a director, I was thrilled with the way the live drumming gradually moved toward the barn, working to heighten the tension of the story line. My experiment in using the “formless fears” of Scene 2 yielded many dynamic possibilities which veteran choreographer Tom Segal enhanced. The production of Seascape by Edward Albee broke new ground artistically for both the O’Neill Festival and its partner, Role Players Ensemble. The set, lighting and particularly the costumes of the sea creatures, beautifully designed by Barbara Bandy, were highlights. The Festival performed Seascape, one of Albee’s personal favorites, on the evening of his death. At that performance, Role Players Ensemble Director George McGuire gave a tribute to Albee, who won three Pulitzer Prizes throughout his distinguished career.

Another success of the 2016 Festival was the introduction of our first workshop and performance of a new play, N, by Adrienne Pender. Pender developed N as a 2015 Travis Bogard Artist in Residence at Tao House, returning this fall to rehearse and present the play with a core of actors from The Emperor Jones. An audience discussion followed the performance.

- Eric Fraisher Hayes

“FIND YOUR PARK” CENTENNIAL HIKE A BIG SUCCESS

“The hike was a great idea, executed beautifully, and it appears to have revealed an audience for trekking to Tao House. We hope to tap into that and develop more such activities. It was a really enjoyable day, with great spirit amongst the visitors and staff.” - Paul Scolari, NPS

An initiative of EONF board member Trudy McMahon, partnering with the National Park Service and with the cooperation of the Kuss Road residents, the hike commemorated the NPS and the Eugene O’Neill Centennials.

“Ashley Greiner of East Bay Regional Parks and Tori Baird of NPS did a wonderful job leading hikers on an interpretive hike up to the Eugene O’Neill Historic site, while Paul Scolari led a group of hikers who wanted a brisk pace,” said McMahon.

Curator Beverly Lane spoke at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley about the inception of the Iron Horse Trail, and the museum’s role in mounting the centennial O’Neill exhibit. Represented were the National Park Service, Eugene O’Neill Foundation, Friends of John Muir, Rosie the Riveter Trust, Save Mount Diablo, Mount Diablo Interpretive Association and California State Parks. East Bay Regional Parks district provided their mobile visitors’ center.

According to Kelli English of NPS, the official count was 94 participants, including hikers and shuttle riders. Tao house was open for the event and Wendy Cooper, a volunteer guide, said most guests were first time visitors. “The responses to the hike were very positive; we connected with many people. It was gratifying to be able to incorporate the NPS’s Centennial and theme, ‘Find Your Park’ with this year’s O’Neill Centennial and Festival.” -Trudy McMahon
NPS REPORT, Tao House Historic Site

It is amazing to look back on 2016 and reflect on the great things we were able to accomplish. In our celebration of our double centennial (for the NPS and O'Neill), we had the opportunity to touch and expose new audiences to the lasting legacy of Eugene O'Neill through a variety of offerings. Music filled the old barn at Playwrights’ Theatre in May as we celebrated the music that brought O’Neill’s plays alive. Our special event in July to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first production of a Eugene O’Neill play in Provincetown in 1916 was a great success, combining the Tao House barn production of “Bound East for Cardiff” with shanty singers from across the bay.

In September, we started the month with a hike from downtown Danville at the O’Neill commemorative park, traveling along the Iron Horse Trail, through the East Bay Regional Park’s Las Trampas Wilderness, to the historic Tao House site on the hill. On the hike we helped over 90 people “Find Their Park” as we highlighted the wonderful network of protected areas and open spaces we are blessed with in our community.

At the end of September, we had an extraordinary production of O’Neill’s “The Emperor Jones”, coupled with a staged reading of a new play “N” from one of our Travis Bogard Artists in Residence, Adrienne Pender. I am inspired by what we did in 2016 and am excited about continuing to work closely with the Eugene O’Neill Foundation in 2017 in our ongoing efforts to keep the legacy of Eugene O’Neill at Tao House alive. We hope that you will join us.

- Thomas Leatherman, NPS Superintendent

Visit the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

Guided Tours Available Wed., Thurs., Fri and Sunday. 10AM & 2PM. Reservations are required.

Self-guided Tours “Saturdays Without Reservations” at 10:15AM, 12:15PM and 2:15PM. If hiking to the site on Saturdays, please be here before 3PM. The park is closed to visitors Monday and Tuesday.

Due to the location of this park, all visitors are required to take a free National Park Service shuttle from the town of Danville to the historic home and grounds. Visitors are not permitted to drive their personal/private vehicles to the site. For both “Saturdays Without Reservations” and reserved tours, the shuttle meets at 205 Railroad Avenue in downtown Danville, just outside of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Parking is available next to the museum. Admission to the site is free.

Reservation Line (925) 838-0249

TAO HOUSE GARDEN IN “EDEN”

This year, in honor of the National Park Service Centennial, the California Garden and Landscape History Society produced a special issue of their publication, Eden, to highlight historic garden sites in parks. The courtyard and landscape at the Eugene O’Neill site was included in this publication as the cover article, written by Keith Park (Horticulturist) and Paul Scolari (Chief of Resource Management).
Pam Patterson comes to the board with a wealth of experience in modern communications technologies. For more than twenty years she worked at the University of California in the Berkeley Lab Public Affairs Department as managing editor for science communications, where she oversaw the website, photography, print and social media. There she also served as the historian for the Ernest Lawrence archive, curating a small museum of photographs, letters and scientific instruments. She is a contributing member to the UC Berkeley Mark Twain Papers Project at the Bancroft Library, where she edits the Project's newsletter. Her novel, *Rescue Man*, was published this November.

Pam is bringing modern technologies to our communications efforts by using 21st century methodologies. She has been instrumental in launching our new website: [www.eugeneoneill.org](http://www.eugeneoneill.org) and will be the editor of a new e-newsletter publication as well as starting Instagram for the Foundation.

Pam came to EONF upon retirement, when she volunteered as a docent at Tao House. “I have been enamored of Tao House and its history since the first moment I set foot on it,” she has said of the experience. A former English and American literature lecturer at San Jose State University, she was captivated not only by Tao House’s powerful literary legacy, but also by the profound natural beauty of the place. Pam and her husband, Nate, are long time residents of San Ramon, where they live with their three rescue dogs.

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Dan McGovern has been an O’Neillian for almost 60 years. He can claim a rare double, having seen full-scale productions of both *Lazarus Laughed* (UCLA) and *Marco Millions* (ACT). Other notable productions Dan and his wife Carolyn have seen include *More Stately Mansions* with Ingrid Bergman and *Long Day’s Journey into Night* with Lawrence Olivier.

Dan will bring considerable management experience to the board. He was the second-ranking attorney in the U.S. State Department as well as the general counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Returning to California as the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the western U.S., Dan supervised 800 environmental professionals. Later, as the general counsel of the California Department of Transportation, Dan supervised 125 attorneys.

Dan’s experience as a spokesman and advocate will also serve the board in good stead. At the State Department he chaired U.S. delegations for bilateral treaties with a dozen countries. He testified before Congress as an administration witness over a dozen times. Dan also represented the United States in oral argument before the World Court in The Hague.

Finally, Dan is a scholar. He pursued graduate study in philosophy (UCLA) and English literature (Cal), in addition to his law degree (UCLA). He taught a course in environmental policy at Cal, wrote a nonfiction book hailed as one of the outstanding academic works of the year, and served as staff attorney for the California Supreme Court for 20 years. In retirement he audits classes at Cal.

The Foundation is fortunate to have Pam and Dan bring their talents to our efforts to preserve and expand the legacy of Eugene O’Neill. We are always looking for vital contributors with special expertise. Please email us of your interest at taohouse.eonf@gmail.com
TRAVIS BOGARD ARTIST IN RESIDENCE VALERIE JOYCE
“I WILL SPEAK FOR MYSELF”

At the end of June, Travis Bogard Fellow, Dr. Valerie Joyce, arrived at Tao House for the first two weeks of her three-week residency. She immediately set to work revising her 90-minute manuscript, *I Will Speak for Myself*, for presentation at the Edinburgh, Scotland Fringe Festival in August. Valerie’s task was to revise and refine the play text to fit into the 45-minute time limit for the production.

After a very successful run in Edinburgh, Valerie returned to Tao House in early October to complete her three-week residency. She described her successful experience at the Festival as “exciting, exhausting and rewarding.” Each entrant had 59 minutes to set up and remove all production elements. Her family, especially her 13 and 11 year-old daughters, were instrumental to her success as they were the “production team”. The actress in the production, Kimberly Fairbanks, a former student of Valerie’s, provided the impetus for the application to the Festival and was the solo actress depicting each woman’s narrative in the play.

During Valerie’s third week at Tao House, she spent time completing the chapter on Ellen Craft for her book, *Embodied Performance and African American Women, 1649-1865: A Living Historiography*, which is under contract with publisher Palgrave MacMillan. Even though the time was short, Valerie felt the time was invaluable, especially for a full-time working mother. As she stated in her exit debriefing, “The opportunity to clear the mind and focus for an intense/extended period was greatly beneficial to both my play and my book...” We offer our congratulations to Valerie, as she will become Chair of the Graduate Theatre Department at Villanova University in Villanova, PA, in January 2017. -Florence McAuley

O’NEILLIANS CELEBRATE O’NEILL’S IRISH HERITAGE IN IRELAND, JULY 2017

Three members of our Board of Directors–Dan McGovern, President-Elect; Eric Fraisher Hayes, Artistic Director; and Janet Roberts, Newsletter Editor–will present papers to the gathering of O’Neillians in Galway, Ireland when they meet for the Tenth International Conference on Eugene O’Neill. Over one-hundred O’Neill scholars and other devotees will meet July 19-22 at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) to explore the presence of Ireland on the playwright’s work and its influence on his life.

In 1946, O’Neill told his son, Eugene Jr., “The one thing that explains more than anything about me is the fact that I’m Irish. Strangely enough it’s something that all the writers who have tried to attempt to explain me and my work have overlooked.”

Although he never set foot on Irish soil, Ireland’s presence was an integral force in O’Neill’s life and temperament as reflected in his canon. His father, James, was a famine immigrant from County Kilkenny, and his mother, Mary Ellen Quinlan, was the daughter of immigrants from County Tipperary.

Michael D. Higgins, the President of Ireland, and a long-time O’Neill enthusiast, will deliver the keynote lecture, “O’Neill and the Irish Tradition,” at the Conference. Visits to the Abbey Theatre and to nearby Thoor Ballylee Castle, once owned by W.B. Yeats, will be part of the program. The Eugene O’Neill International Conference is held every three years in locations associated with the playwright. The Conference has met on two previous occasions at Tao House in Danville.

For details visit eugeneoneillsociety.org or email Beth Wynstra, bethwynstra@gmail.com
PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING US IN YOUR END-OF-YEAR GIVING

2016 has been a very good year for the Foundation. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, it has been filled with successful events and activities. Here is a glimpse:

- Script in Hand Performances—Beyond the Horizon and Bound East for Cardiff.
- Student Days and Studio Retreat. A free opportunity for Bay Area high school students to study and interact with professionals in their field of interest. Funding thanks to the Lesher Foundation.
- A musical review, The Rhythms of His Soul displaying Travis Bogard’s Song book of O’Neill’s music in the plays.
- Fellowships for two Travis Bogard Artists in Residence—Thierry Dubost, Professor at University of Caen Basse-Normandie and Valerie Joyce–Professor at Villanova University.
- The 17th Annual Eugene O’Neill Festival.

We are looking forward to 2017 with events beginning in January, a script in hand production of O’Neill’s Dynamo on January 8th and 9th (See article on page 1). Get your tickets when you make your donation on our brand new website at www.eugeneoneill.org.

Although we are partners with the National Park Service, we receive no government support in the form of funds for programming. The Foundation is a tax-exempt not-for-profit organization.

Our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your continued support. You are instrumental to our ability to provide programs and learning opportunities for the community. -Florence McAuley

FOUNDATION LIBRARY TO RECEIVE BRYER DOWLING ENDOWMENT

The Eugene O’Neill Foundation is pleased to announce the donation of the reviews of O’Neill’s plays to be housed at the research library located on the grounds of Tao House. The collection contains all the reviews upon which Jackson Bryer and Robert Dowling based their 2016 Eugene O’Neill: The Contemporary Reviews, as well as those reviews not included in the book. All of O’Neill’s plays are to be found—from his debut productions by the Provincetown Players and the Washington Square Players in 1916 and 1917, through his Broadway successes of the 1920s and 1930s, and, finally, those of his 1946 return to Broadway—including Long Day’s Journey Into Night, The Iceman Cometh, A Touch of the Poet, Hughie, and More Stately Mansions. Besides reprints of reviews not found in Eugene O’Neill: The Contemporary Reviews, the Collection includes “follow-up” reviews—i.e., those written by newspaper reviewers sometime after the play opened, as well as reviews of book publications of O’Neill’s plays.

The archived collection will be housed on-site at the library. The library committee invites scholars from around the world to Tao House to avail themselves of this exciting and unique research opportunity. We thank Drs. Bryer and Dowling for this important donation. -Eileen Hermann
The Eugene O’Neill Foundation, Tao House is most grateful to you, our supporters, for your generous contributions that allow us to provide artistic and educational programs which focus on O’Neill’s vision and legacy. Eugene O’Neill is recognized throughout the world as America’s foremost playwright. Please join us in recognizing the following donors (through October, 2016). All gifts and renewed donations received after that date will be acknowledged in our next publication.

Thank you also to all of our valued Crew Level and Actor Level members.

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Florence McAuley cuts the centennial cake at a performance of “Bound East For Cardiff”. 