The grand tradition of Irish story-telling is the focus of the 18th Eugene O’Neill Festival in Danville in September. With music, drama, and a lot of Irish blarney, the month-long “Telling Tales” Festival celebrates the resilience of the Irish spirit. Sponsored by the Eugene O’Neill Foundation, Tao House, the O’Neill Festival takes place at the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site in the Danville hills, and at locations in downtown Danville. For tickets go to www.villagetheatreshows.com and for more information visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

See our special Festival insert for all information and dates.
See you there!

SAVE THE DATE....
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 2017, 6:30 PM

Please join us for a Gala Event honoring Carey Perloff, Artistic Director of the American Conservatory Theatre and recipient of the 2017 Tao House Award as we celebrate the establishment of the Carey Perloff Fellowship at Tao House.

Jon Moscone, master of ceremonies and special guest.

For additional information: email: taohouse@eugeneoneill.org
HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDIO RETREAT 2017

This July, the Eugene O’Neill Foundation hosted another highly successful Studio Retreat, our free, ten-day student workshop led by professional Bay Area actors and playwrights. We had the privilege of welcoming 29 enthusiastic and talented students from 10 High Schools in the Bay Area. Hosted by the Foundation, supported by the National Park Service and funded by generous grants from the Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation and Wood Family Foundation, the workshop took place at Tao House, in the dramatic rolling hills of the Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site. Many thanks to the wonderful instructors and many volunteers who took part in Studio Retreat. To see more photos and learn more about this year’s Studio Retreat, visit www.eugeneoneill.org

“I learned a lot about playwriting, and I grew by hearing personal perspectives from others... It was an amazing and very worthwhile experience.” Keegan Day

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE UPDATE

Adam Versenyi came to Tao House for a lofty task: to complete the first draft of a translation of Chilean playwright and director Ramon Griffiero’s book of aesthetic theory. A few days before leaving the peaceful hills of Danville, he met with the Board to share his insights about the intricacies of trying to translate the playwright’s words to accurately reflect his vision, while also insuring they resonate as an actor performs them on the stage. Adam remarked that his time at Tao House offered him welcome solitude to immerse himself in his task.

For Patrick Midgley, the play’s the thing. Midgley has written a performance piece titled, “Shakespeare and O’Neill” in which he pairs selections from plays by the two writers, preceded by scholarly analysis of the selected passages. He performed his 30-minute piece before an audience in the Old Barn, with a lively discussion following. The intent was to refine it for his presentation at the Eugene O’Neill Society International Conference in Galway, Ireland. Ultimately, he hopes to expand his exploration of the ways Shakespeare and O’Neill’s creative imaginations have shaped American drama.
The 2017 Eugene O’Neill Festival is coming up in September and the National Park Service is excited to be hosting another play that was written while Eugene O’Neill lived at Tao House. 

*A Touch of the Poet*, the first of what O’Neill hoped would be a nine part series, is another masterpiece which so accurately captures the human condition. We are always excited when we are able to host a performance of a play written at the site, and this year is no exception. Those of you who have been to a performance on a warm Fall evening know how spellbinding the setting in the old barn can be. For those who have not, now is your chance to experience the magic for yourself. We will have Tao House open if you are able to come up early, for a chance to see the study where O’Neill created his most powerful works. The light of his study, visible from the performance space of the old barn, will be a reminder of the inspirational setting which created the very work you will witness.

In addition to the preparations for the Festival, the site has been alive this year with new (and seasoned) artists gaining inspiration. From plein air painters, to high school students, to artists-in-residence, the historic landscape continues to serve as a stage for creative endeavors. This year we hosted 29 students in the O’Neill Studio Retreat program, creating over 10 original one-act plays which were performed in a culminating production. There were three different artists who participated in the Travis Bogard Artist-in-Residence Program, using the site as a studio to further their academic and creative pursuits. One of the artists was even able to workshop a new play that was later presented at the Eugene O’Neill International Conference in Ireland.

With all of the creative energy in the air, we encourage you to find some time to gain your own inspiration from a visit to the site. Whether you experience a performance, tour the house, or just wander around the landscape, we hope to see you making a connection to the National Park in your own back yard. Eugene O’Neill would be proud.

*Tom Leatherman, Superintendent*

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**NEW EONF BOARD MEMBER Gail Smith**

Gail was born in Schenectady, NY and spent her childhood in Bergen County, NJ. From the time she was in 5th grade she knew she wanted to be a teacher. She earned a BA at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. Upon graduation she returned to NJ, married her husband Doug and began her teaching career. After taking a break to raise her children, Craig and Marci, she returned to teaching, becoming President of the PTA, Vice-President of AAUW, Board President of the local library and President of the Bergen County Library Board, along with being active in her children’s activities and their church.

In 1980 the family moved to Danville and Gail enrolled in St. Mary’s College to earn a Master’s Degree and Reading Specialist Credential. She spent many years teaching at Alamo School, retiring 15 years ago to spend more time with her grandchildren, travel, quilt, and volunteer.

She looks forward to contributing to the Eugene O’Neill Foundation.
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. Please join us in recognizing the following donors (through March 2017). All 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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Interested in becoming involved with the Foundation as a volunteer or board member? We’d love to hear from you. Email us at taohouse.eonf@gmail.com for additional information. We can use your talents!

To see a complete listing of the EONF Board of Directors, Advisory Board and more, go to www.eugeneoneill.org

Editor Pam Patterson • Design and Production Alison C. Bodden