



## 'One Festival, Two Countries' Off to a Promising Start



(From left) Walter O'Leary and Richard Hayes, Waterford Institute of Technology; Sean Reidy, Co-Chair of The Eugene O'Neill International Festival in New Ross; Dan McGovern; Willie Fitzharris, Chairman of the Council of the New Ross Municipal District; Eamonn Hore, New Ross Town Manager; Carolyn McGovern; Tomas Kavanagh, Director, St. Michael's Theatre in New Ross. Photo: Mary Browne

Great progress is being made on two of the Foundation's projects: First, "One Festival, Two Countries," the Foundation's partnership with the Eugene O'Neill Ancestral Trust of Ireland for Eugene O'Neill festivals in Danville and New Ross, Ireland, in Fall 2018; and second, the official Friendship City relationship between Danville and New Ross.

At the Foundation's November meeting, President Dan McGovern read a letter from Danville Town Council member Robert Storer expressing support. "One Festival, Two Countries' can put Danville on the cultural map, and we are just as excited about the Friendship City relationship with New Ross...the Festival will be at the heart of that relationship."

Four plays will be presented in New Ross October 11-14, 2018. EONF's production of O'Neill's *Hughie* will be presented in both Danville and New Ross. If funds can be raised, *Hughie* will also tour Ireland. "I have received strong expressions of interest from, among others, the famed Samuel Beckett Theatre at Trinity College Dublin," McGovern stated. The second production, O'Neill's four one-act Sea Plays will be performed aboard the *Dunbrody*, a full-scale replica of one of the sailing ships that brought Irish emigrants from New Ross to America. It promises to be a powerful theatrical experience.

Ben Barnes, former artistic director of the Abbey Theatre, will direct the third production. He is considering a staged reading of O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*, which was cited as his "grandest work" when O'Neill was presented the Nobel Prize. "A five-hour production, with dinner break, of a rarely performed masterpiece featuring the finest actors in Ireland would be quite an event," McGovern said.

The fourth play will be by an Irish playwright. "We are considering Eoin Colfer's *My Real Life*, a new play that was a hit at the Dublin and Edinburgh festivals this year," McGovern said.

The festival package will include tickets to all four plays; reservations at Brandon House, including breakfast and dinner; and day tours of such sites as Waterford, Wexford, and Kilkenny. An optional five-day tour of the South and Southwest of Ireland following the festival will also be offered. Reservations on the New Ross festival website, coming soon.

## O'Neill's *Days Without End* Set for January

Teddy Spencer (left) and Chad Deverman, who played brothers Andrew and Robert Mayo in *Beyond the Horizon* two years ago, will return in *Days Without End*. Written in 1933 as the last of O'Neill's theatrical experiments, *Days Without End* features the two actors playing dueling instincts within a single man. Join us in welcoming this dynamic duo as they battle over one man's destiny! Performances **Sat., Jan. 6 at 8pm, and Sun., Jan. 7 at 2pm** at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. This is a staged, script-in-hand performance. Purchase tickets at [eugeneoneill.org](http://eugeneoneill.org)



Jeffrey Toobin, center, with members and guests of the Foundation

## Leshner Center Honors the Foundation

This Fall, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation was honored at the Leshner Speaker Series, a community event that brings prominent speakers to the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Each program features a local nonprofit to highlight its contribution in creating a vibrant, thriving Contra Costa County. On September 25, EONF members attended a talk and reception featuring legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin. KTVU prepared a short video about the Foundation, which was shown preceding Mr. Toobin's lecture. It's available at [www.eugeneoneill.org/about-the-foundation/](http://www.eugeneoneill.org/about-the-foundation/)

# Foundation Friends and Theatre Glitterati Honor ACT's Carey Perloff



Dan McGovern with ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff

At a gala celebration dinner on October 14, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation honored Carey Perloff, long-time artistic director of the American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) in San Francisco, by presenting her with its most prestigious award, the 2017 Tao House Award.

“For her visionary leadership of A.C.T. for twenty-five years, and for her strong encouragement for emerging and distinguished playwrights, Carey Perloff is eminently suited to join the impressive group of previous recipients of the Tao House Award,” said Foundation President Dan McGovern.

Jonathan Moscone served as master of ceremonies for the event, which featured a riveting performance by stage and screen actress Kimberly Franklin, reenacting three pieces from Tao House fellow Valerie Joyce’s play, *I Will Speak for Myself*. The play, which was previously performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, gives voice to the stories of three historical African American Women. Joyce completed work on the play during her fellowship at Tao House’s Artist-in-Residence program.

The appearance of Franklin and Joyce was especially significant, since Perloff was also honored at the event with the creation of the “Carey Perloff Fellowship” within the Foundation’s Travis Bogard Artist in Residence program at Tao House. The Perloff Fellowship is for theatre artists transitioning into writers, or for established playwrights transitioning into prose.

## National Park Service News

### 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 to the historic home and grounds. Visitors are not permitted to drive their personal/private vehicles to the site. The shuttle meets at 205 Railroad Avenue in downtown Danville, 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**  
Visit [www.nps.gov/euon](http://www.nps.gov/euon) for more information.

We are excited to continue our partnership with the Eugene O’Neill Foundation, Tao House, to preserve his Danville home and to keep the legacy of Eugene O’Neill alive. The National Park Service takes pride in making sure the house and surrounding landscapes are maintained, preserved and available for everyone to enjoy. Whether on a tour or attending one of the performances in the Old Barn Theater, you can’t help but feel the sense of serenity and inspiration that O’Neill himself felt so many years ago.



The site will come alive again this next spring with students from the surrounding communities learning at the site, as mentors guide them in the writing and the performing arts in the Foundation’s Student Days program. We are proud to support this effort in making connections to the next generation.

Tom Leatherman, NPS Superintendent

## Thanks to Our Donors, Festival Patrons, and Volunteers for a Grand Year!

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 November 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.

#### Executive Producers’ Circle: \$1000+

Linda and Ed Best  
Gagen, McCoy, McMahon, Koss,  
Markowitz and Raines  
Linda Grundhoffer  
Kay Jones  
Mac and Florence McAuley  
Dan and Carolyn McGovern  
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Claudia Nemir  
Jack Schwartzman Family Fdn  
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Brian Thiessen

#### Producers’ Circle: \$500 - \$999

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Trudy and Pat McMahon  
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#### Playwrights’ Circle: \$100 - \$249

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