EUGENE O’NEILL FOUNDATION, TAO HOUSE

Haunted Poets
Eugene O’Neill and Tennessee Williams

The 20th Annual Eugene O’Neill Festival
Danville, California Aug. 30 - Sept. 29

All of us wrestle with our demons. The choices we’ve made or the people we’ve hurt or who have hurt us follow us throughout our lives. Often these painful episodes involve those closest to us. A great writer is one who finds a way to tell the story of these struggles in such a way that we can recognize that their story is in part our story. At the heart of this year’s Eugene O’Neill Festival will be the soul-stirring artistic confessions of two of our greatest haunted poets: Eugene O’Neill and Tennessee Williams. The festival will feature productions of O’Neill’s Long Day’s Journey Into Night at Tao House and Williams’ The Glass Menagerie at the Village Theatre in downtown Danville. These plays are powerful and poetic demonstrations of how, for these playwrights, the ghosts of the past continued to haunt the imagination.

Long Day’s Journey Into Night
by Eugene O’Neill
The Old Barn, Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site
Sept. 14-29

A son’s looming health diagnosis and a mother’s drug addiction hang over the Tyrone family. Sparks fly as one by one members of the family bring painful revelations to light. The four wounded Tyrones must confront the powerful and contradictory feelings they have for each other. Loyalty and love are put to the test in this tale of survival. Long Day’s Journey Into Night is considered by many to be the greatest American tragedy ever written. Touring Tao House and then seeing the play that put Tao House on the map promises to be a magical experience.

The Glass Menagerie
by Tennessee Williams
Role Players Ensemble, Village Theatre
Aug. 30-Sept. 15

The Wingfield family lives in the shadow of the husband and father who left them to fend for themselves. Struggling to get by, mother Amanda lives in her southern-belle past, son Tom lives for the day he can escape the bonds of a dead-end life, and daughter Laura lives in the comfort of her menagerie of little glass figurines that help her shut out the world. Into this little Wingfield world walks a young man who upsets everything. The Glass Menagerie was Tennessee Williams’ first great success.

More Festival Events

Concert: Clodagh Kinsella, soprano, Irish Airs and Arias
Village Theatre Sept. 5. Sponsored by Chevron
Annual Hike from Danville to Tao House Sept. 8

Visit www.eugeneoneill.org for information on Festival events. Tickets available at www.villagetheatreshows.com the 1st week of April.

www.eugeneoneillfestival.com

Ten-Day O’Neill Idyll with Drama Masters

In June, the Eugene O’Neill Foundation offers a free ten-day intensive workshop in advanced acting and playwriting at the beautiful Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site in Danville, California. The Foundation partners with the National Park Service, which gives tours of the site and provides shuttle transportation. The program is funded by the Lesher Foundation and the Wood Family Foundation.

Now in its 11th year, Studio Retreat is a great opportunity for current and incoming high school students with a serious interest in theater. Students have a unique opportunity to learn from, and collaborate with, professional playwrights, actors, and stage directors in the development of original ten-minute plays. The workshop meets daily from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. The dates for this program are June 12–16, with a two-day break before the retreat resumes June 19–23. Students in the playwriting track delve into topics such as character, dialogue, and story arc—all in the process of developing their own ten-minute scripts. Students in the acting track gain insight into building characters and the importance of movement and voice, and learn the foundations of acting technique taught at college-level programs. The second week is devoted to rehearsing the original scripts by the playwriting track and mounting a performance for friends and family.

Because of the high value of this program, spots are limited. All applications must be received by June 1. Interested students are encouraged to get their application in as soon as possible. For more information and the online application: http://www.eugeneoneill.org/studio-retreat/

Visit www.eugeneoneill.org to learn about our many upcoming events.
You can also see our recent EONF St. Patrick’s weekend booth display in Dublin!
Travis Bogard Artists in Residence for 2019

A theatre historian and author, a playwright, and a scholar have been selected as the three Fellows for the 2019 Travis Bogard Artist in Residence Program at Tao House.

English Professor Katie N. Johnson, of Miami University, Cincinnati, Ohio, plans to complete a monograph, Racing the Great White Way: A Counter-History of Early Twentieth-Century Broadway, that charts a fresh account of one of the most vital and formative moments of U.S. culture. The book will show how theatre shaped cultural attitudes toward national identity, immigration, sexuality, race, and urbanization, and will uncover new sites of cultural production and expand the map of spectatorship. Johnson’s central claim is that “[b]y looking beyond Broadway…we discover not only a rich history of diverse theatrical performances, but also a powerful archive of U.S. culture transitioning to modernity.”

New York playwright, director, and media artist John Jesurun will research, write, and create a special stage design for Tabula Rasa. The play, about libraries, interpretation, memory, and mental space, will have characters but the library itself will become the lead. Tabula Rasa, set in the not too distant future, “concerns a minor academic exiled to a space station with the task of ‘decontaminating’ the major repository of archival information it contains.” Jesurun intends “the work to be an investigation into the archival qualities of the mind and the fragile nature of information.”

English professor Jane K. Dominik, San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, California, will develop, edit, and complete for publication, Singing for Their Fathers: The Struggle for Concentration and Catharsis in American Drama, a paper previously presented at the American Drama Conference. Expectations and demands of fathers and sons who strive for connection will be analyzed in nine plays by five playwrights, including O’Neill’s. The book will show how tumbling masculinity, and the clash of cultural values and expectations, affects male generations. The book will be a “counter-history” that challenges the prevailing narrative of the American Dream as the savior of the nation’s psyche.

Paul Scolati has been selected as the new Superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah. Paul will also supervise the Superintendent of Fossil Butte National Monument in Wyoming. He will begin his new assignment on March 31, 2019. Paul currently serves as the Chief of Resource Management and Planning at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site (and the three other National Park Service sites in Contra Costa County), and as the NPS primary liaison to the Eugene O’Neill Foundation.

“Working with the Foundation to realize the mission of Eugene O’Neill NHS over the past 6 years has been rewarding and enjoyable,” says Paul. “The Foundation is a terrific partner, and while I will miss working with the organization, I am glad to now call many of its members friends.”

Paul came to work in the East Bay in 2012 and has been working for the National Park Service for over 24 years. Paul spent the previous 18 years at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where he performed the duties of historian, American Indian liaison, and historic preservation specialist. In the last three years, Paul completed details acting as Superintendent at American Memorial Park in Saipan and at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam, and as a Legislative Affairs Specialist in the Legislative and Congressional Affairs Office in Washington, D.C. He will complete the highly regarded Office of Personnel Management Leadership Development Program in Monterey, California, at the end of March.

Congratulations, Paul, we will miss you. Tom Leatherman, Superintendent

Thanks to Our Donors, Festivals Patrons, and Volunteers

The Eugene O’Neill Foundation, Tao House is most grateful to you, our supporters, for your generous contributions that enable us to provide artistic and educational programs that focus on O’Neill’s vision and legacy. Thank you to the following donors (through March 2019):

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Visit www.nps.gov/eoue for more information.