



O'Neill's "The First Man" Staged Reading, Jan. 2023

Eugene O'Neill Festival 2023: *Having Her Say*

Featuring "Anna Christie"

by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes

Live Performances at Tao House: Sept. 9, 10* / 15-17* / 22-24*

Performances are at 7:30 pm, *2:00 pm Sunday matinées

Tickets \$60 available in July at www.eugeneoneill.org

Eugene O'Neill created some of the American theatre's most memorable female characters including Mary Tyrone, Josie Hogan, Nina Leeds and Anna Christopherson. It is the last of these, Anna Christopherson (better known as "Anna Christie"), that will be the center of this year's festival. Feeling controlled by her father and fiancé, Anna stops them in their tracks and has her say. Anna's declaration that she is the master of her own destiny ushered in a new appreciation of the female voice in the American theatre. This year's festival will focus on a variety of female voices.



Info on other Festival events coming soon!



The First Man Continues to Evolve

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House has been invited to remount its January production of O'Neill's *The First Man* in St. Louis this October. The upcoming production will feature a combination of Bay Area and Midwest actors under the direction of EONF Artistic Director Eric Fraisher Hayes. The play will be the culminating event on a day devoted to Eugene O'Neill and the acquisition of the Harley Hammerman Collection by Washington University.

The First Man director Hayes and dramaturg Beth Wynstra will team up again for the St. Louis production. In recent years their partnership has included productions of *Abortion*, *Beyond the Horizon*, and *Welded*. Each of these plays, as well as *The First Man* have explored the intersection of marriage, social expectation, and the breakdown of communication.

Despite being the first production of the play in a century, *The First Man* resonated with audiences in January when the play was performed to sold-out audiences at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in downtown Danville. "The play struck people as surprisingly modern," noted Hayes. "Articulating needs within a relationship, especially when needs change, is probably even more topical now than it was at the time of the play's writing." Dramaturg Beth Wynstra added "One thing that attracts me to *The First Man* is a line by Martha. She has, in my mind, some of the most beautiful insights about love and partnership in any of O'Neill's plays: 'We must, both of us, relearn to love and respect—what we have become.' This notion of evolving or 'becoming' has become a big part of how we now think about and discuss relationships and our own life narratives."

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House is excited to celebrate Washington University's commitment to the legacy of Eugene O'Neill and hopes that this partnership production will be a first step in building a bridge between Washington University and Tao House.

O'Neill's *Welded*, A Tao House Film Now Available to Stream!



The film of O'Neill's *Welded* is now available on the EONF YouTube channel. This latest Tao House Film joins our 2021 online production of *Beyond the Horizon* and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to bringing Eugene O'Neill's public domain plays to the screen. As far as we know, this filmed adaptation of *Welded* is the only one in existence. We hope you enjoy this rare glimpse into the lesser-known canon of America's greatest playwright. Also included in this playlist is the recorded online discussion between director Eric Fraisher Hayes, Dramaturg Beth Wynstra, our four actors, and several O'Neill scholars. You can also read the script at *Welded* (archive-it.org)



Travis Bogard Artists in Residence

We are proud to announce the Travis Bogard Artist in Residence Fellowships for 2023. The five were selected from a robust number of diverse applications that support the Foundation's mission to further the legacy of Eugene O'Neill.



Min Kahng and **Matthew Olmos** are playwrights, **Martin Petrucci** a screenwriter, **Sharon Green** a professor of theatre, and **Stefani Kuo** a second year MFA candidate in playwriting. We welcome them to Tao House this summer!



AIR Fellow's Play Premieres this Festival

For this year's festival, we're excited to premiere a staged reading of Jennifer Maisel's *Yellow Wallpaper 2.0 - 2020* on August 19 and 20. This performance is part of our intention to showcase women's voices and the work of playwrights from our Artist in Residence Program. Maisel worked on this play during her time at Tao House as one of our AIR fellows in 2021. *Yellow Wallpaper 2.0 - 2020* incorporates themes from Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1892 short story *The Yellow Wallpaper*, the evocative tale of a woman diagnosed with hysteria and confined to her room by her physician husband. Fast forward to 2020, Maisel's play will feature a female professor trying to write a paper on Gilman when Covid forces her into isolation. Join us for this special performance and opportunity to meet Maisel and director Chloe Bronzan for this powerful and timely story. Use this QR code to listen to Jennifer discuss the process:



Studio Retreat; Acting and Playwriting Workshop for high school students!

Jun 14 - 25, 2023
(with break Jun 19 & 20)

Join us for a **FREE** opportunity to learn from professionals of Acting, Playwriting, and Directing. The 10-day retreat will take place at the beautiful Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville, CA. Transportation provided from Danville/Walnut Creek.

Visit www.eugeneoneill.org/education/studio-retreat
Applications due May 1; students notified by May 15

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Sponsored by the Dean and Margaret Leher Foundation and the Wood Foundation, in partnership with the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House and the National Park Service.

New Sign in Danville

Thanks to a generous grant from the Town of Danville, we were able to design and install a new sign outside the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville. Part of the sign will be updated regularly with info and events. Check it out next time you are in town!



The Tao House Film *Beyond the Horizon* is always available on our website (as well as the recently-produced *Welded*.) In addition, we have an engagement guide as well as short videos featuring leading scholars sharing their insights into various aspects of what is considered America's first great tragic drama. The film, the guide, and the scholar videos can all be found on our YouTube channel [@eugeneoneillfoundationtaoh2531](https://www.youtube.com/@eugeneoneillfoundationtaoh2531)

National Park Service News: Superintendent's Message

It's a fine spring so far at the park and we feel especially happy to be past the winter's atmospheric rivers and the flooding they caused in the Tao House basement and courtyard. Don't worry, no permanent damage was caused. The staff rallied with sump pumps, wet-vacs, and night-time vigils to ensure the house stayed safe.

We're sad to see Ranger Lily end her time with us as a park guide, but happy to look ahead, imagining the good experiences she'll have as graduate student at Columbia University, studying historic preservation. Ranger Geraldine made us proud when her social media post was highlighted in a widely-distributed NPS newsletter called the *Green & Gray Report*. Geraldine reflected on a theme of "discovery," starting her post with this truth: "We are a bit hidden, a little off the beaten track, maybe a bit tougher to reach than other parks, but we think we're worth the effort!"

Ranger Nicko keeps a close eye on our visitation statistics, reporting that our numbers are down a bit compared to last spring, but we've also noticed an uptick in group visitation: hiking groups, senior center groups, MeetUps and local tourism groups have come to the site.

Supervisory Ranger Hilary notes that any quietness on the visitation front has simply meant the staff has been able to fully commit to excellence in interpretation. And they've been left with sufficient energy to wrangle some of the critters around the place. "We've gotten good at our cattle herding skills because we've had to get cows out of our property and out of Blemie's grave area, and back onto East Bay [Regional Park District] land."

Makes you want to be a Park Ranger, doesn't it? *K. Lynn Berry, Superintendent*

Please check www.nps.gov/euon for updates about access to the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EugeneONeillNPS



Thanks to Our Members, Theatre Patrons, and Volunteers

Give a Little, Get a Lot! Invest in the future of our theatre, education, and artist in residence programs.



Your donation helps cover production costs and enables us to continue bringing performances and programs that promote the legacy and vision of America's greatest playwright. Thank you for supporting the Foundation! To make a donation to the Foundation, go to www.eugeneoneill.org/join-us/ or send your check to Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, P.O. Box 402, Danville, CA 94526-0402

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Volunteer for the Foundation? There are many opportunities for your talents or skills, or as a candidate for the Board. Email us at taohouse.eonf@gmail.com to see how you can be involved.



Be sure to follow our Instagram feed: [eugene_oneill_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/eugene_oneill_foundation) and like us on Facebook

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