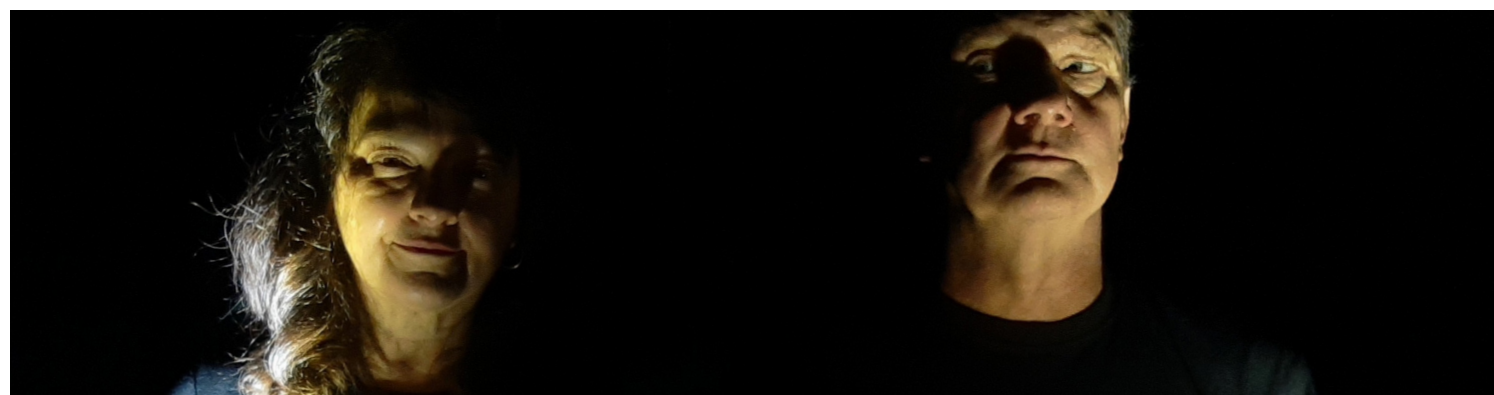


EUGENE O'NEILL

FOUNDATION, TAO HOUSE

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2021



Bonnie DeChant and Craig Eychner, *Welded*. Photo: Eric Fraisher Hayes



Eugene O'Neill's "Welded" Coming in January

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House is proud to announce it will kick off 2022 with a production of O'Neill's play *Welded*.

Idealism, insecurities, and intrigues send the marriage of successful theatre couple Michael and Eleanor Cape spinning out of control in this rarely produced 1924 play. *Welded* comes from O'Neill's highly experimental period. In his stage directions, he wrote that Michael and Eleanor should be illuminated by individual spotlights which O'Neill referred to as "auras of egoism." This provocative stage direction was not followed in the original production nor subsequent productions. January's production will seek to explore this lighting device and its ramifications on the other characters in the play and the audience.



Welded

by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes

Jan. 14, 15 & 16, 7pm

Museum of the San Ramon Valley

Free talk by Beth Wynstra, Dramturg Sat., Jan. 15, 4pm

Marriage and O'Neill

Additional details and tickets available at eugeneoneill.org



Another Successful Eugene O'Neill Annual Festival!

The 22nd Annual Eugene O'Neill Festival brought to you some LIVE events for the first time in two years! From Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Beyond the Horizon* (set outdoors and indoors to a mobile audience at Tao House), to Eric Fraisher Hayes' rollicking *51 Plays in 51 Minutes*, we had a lot of fun. We were thrilled to see and interact with our audiences in person.



Missed the live "Beyond the Horizon" performances? Watch the film!



The live performances of Eugene O'Neill's *Beyond the Horizon* have come and gone, but the film is now available. In addition to the film, we have a 33-page engagement guide as well as nearly a dozen short videos featuring leading scholars from around the country 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 website or by scanning this code, or go to:

<http://www.eugeneoneill.org/beyond-the-horizon-the-film/>



Calling All High School Students

Our annual virtual Student Days for Playwriting and Acting is scheduled for March Sat. 12 and Sun. 13, 2022 (a two-day program this year!).

Watch for information in the new year at www.eugeneoneill.org.

To Russia With Love...



We love when creative connections happen in the world of O'Neill and Tao House.

Foundation members recently learned a bit of Russian to send greetings from Tao House to Moscow in a short video featuring the lifestyle of Eugene and Carlotta at Tao House. The video will be shown in November to audiences in Moscow viewing a new play written by talented young playwright, composer, and actor, Dr. Amina Zhaman. *Chaliapin/O'Neill* is inspired by a true story of O'Neill's numerous attempts to realize his dream of a Broadway collaboration with legendary Russian opera singer Feodor Chaliapin. The Chaliapin character's singing is featured throughout the play.

Our Russian coach, Danville resident Natalia Lappo, attended the recent live *Beyond the Horizon* production at Tao House where she shared that she came to the US from Russia at 22 and her great grandfather had a personal connection to Chaliapin. Dr. Zhaman's play brought Chaliapin to life for her and we hope you'll agree the *Greetings from Tao House* video brings O'Neill to life for Moscow audiences. View it on our YouTube channel (*Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House*). Follow Amina Zhaman on IG at *aminazhamanofficial*.

Travis Bogard Artist in Residence 2021

Five Travis Bogard fellows enjoyed working in the isolation of Tao House this year. Isolation was also a focus of the projects of the four playwrights in residence. Jennifer Maisel was inspired by Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1892 short story to write *Yellow Paper 2020*, a play about a female professor being forced into isolation because of the COVID crisis. Isolation was also a theme in Minghao Tu's *A Silkworm Play*, the story of two silkworms in a shoe box. Well known mime Bill Bower, recipient of the Carey Perloff Fellowship, worked on a solo play, *The Space Between Us*, using both spoken and unspoken words, also dealing with isolation caused by the pandemic. Chuck Goodin in his play *Fort Hope* wrote of the aloneness of two young men returning to Michigan from the Korean war, who are dealing with family obligations and differing political opinions. Academic, Reed College professor Kate Bredeson, was completing her book *A Lifetime of Resistance, The Diaries of Judith Malina*, co-founder of New York's Living Theatre during her time at Tao House. At a salon she introduced O'Neill board members to the life of this fascinating theatre figure. 2021 marks 20 fellows to date, and the Travis Bogard Day-Use Program had nine fellows this year.

Students Back at Tao House This Summer

We were excited to welcome a group of talented and creative high-school students to the site last July. Thanks to our dynamic staff, Norman Gee, Letitia Duarte, Natalie Rich, Penelope Brown, and many tireless volunteers, we were able to offer a full in-person 10-day workshop to a group of young theatre enthusiasts. Some studied playwriting and some acting, and they all joined forces to present 10 short plays of their own to an outdoor audience on the last day. Check out eugeneoneill.org/studio-retreat/ for photos!



National Park Service News: Superintendent's Message



It's with great pleasure to return to Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site as the Acting Superintendent. My history with the site began in 2008 when I served as the Chief of Interpretation in the Four National Parks in the East Bay. It was a short but wonderful tenure! To share a bit about myself, my career spans 30 years with the National Park Service. My most recent position has been serving 12 years as Superintendent of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The trail is rich with partners along the 1200 mile historic corridor and I carry a wealth of experience with a variety of partners. In your travels in the Bay Area you may have seen the Anza Trail Sign, in particular on I-80 through the East Bay.

Much has happened at Eugene O'Neill NHS and the other three parks in the East Bay since 2008 and I look forward to learning more about current projects and programs. During this detail I look forward to helping the park and the Foundation move forward on achieving their goals and aspirations.



Some key updates about what's been happening at the site lately:

Our Interpretive rangers at Eugene O'Neill NHS have been cooking up some delicious posts on social media: Ranger Altman discovered that the O'Neills had marked some favorite recipes in their copy of *America's Cookbook*, which is on display in the kitchen at Tao House. These recipes include Perfection Salad, Sardine Sandwiches, and Hot Cheese Nut Balls. They inspired a cooking show that features interpretation about the O'Neills and their life in Danville. Stay tuned for our next episode!

Carlotta's grandson, Gerald "Jerry" Eugene Stram and family members visited Tao House on August 7th. The Stram family graciously offered for donation to the park, many of Carlotta's personal belongings which have been with the family since the 1950s. The donation includes clothing, 121 books, a monogrammed set of silverware, ceramic dishes, sewing supplies, a rug, and one of the original suitcases in Carlotta's set of Louis Vuitton luggage. Once cataloged, the items will be placed on display contributing to a more authentic furnishing of Tao House. Additionally, the park recently received a donation from Sylvia Carrol, the daughter of Herbert Hollis, former owner of University Radio and Electric in Berkeley, CA from whom the O'Neill's purchased phonograph records. The donation includes several letters written by the O'Neill's to Hollis. Once the letters are cataloged and digitized, they will be added to the National Park Service Web Catalog (Museum Collections, U.S. National Park Service - (nps.gov)) ~Naomi Torres, Acting Superintendent

Please check www.nps.gov/euon for updates about access to the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.

Thanks to Our Donors, Theatre Patrons, and Volunteers

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

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