



O'Neill's *The First Man* Makes its West Coast Premiere in January 2023



The First Man

by Eugene O'Neill

Fri. Jan. 13, 7:30 pm (followed by post-show discussion)

Sat. Jan. 14, 7:30 pm (followed by post-show discussion)

Sun. Jan. 15, 2:00 pm matinée

Eugene O'Neill loved and hated many things in his life. New London, CT, the only "home" he knew growing up was no different. While the town provided him with a measure of security and a sense of community, he clearly outgrew its puritan pretensions. In his play *The First Man*, he imagines himself an anthropologist who has traveled the world only to land back in the provincial town he grew up in. Scandals and intrigues lead to a showdown with his family and the community when an unexpected pregnancy unleashes a flurry of speculation, and family members are forced to choose sides.

Don't miss your chance to see this
rarely-produced O'Neill play this January.

Tickets [HERE](#)

Other January Events

Sat. Jan. 14, 4:00 pm

"Survival of the Fittest: Eugene O'Neill's *The First Man* and the Forces of Environment and Expectations," presented by Beth Wynstra (Free)

All events are at The Museum of the San Ramon Valley
205 Railroad Ave., Danville, CA 94526



Meet Our Incoming Co-Presidents



Florence McAuley, who has done such a splendid job under difficult circumstances for the last two years, is concluding her term as president of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. We are very grateful to Florence and delighted to say that she will remain on the Board and will continue to focus on her long-term interests, including the Artist in Residence program that she has done so much to shape and foster.

Florence will be succeeded by a "twofer": **Carole Wynstra** and **Dan McGovern** will become co-presidents for a two-year term that begins in January.

Carole joined the Foundation Board in 1997. She served as president from 2003 to 2005. She has chaired the O'Neill Festival four times, and she led the committee responsible for the installation of the O'Neill memorial in Danville's Eugene O'Neill Commemorative Park. In 2020 Carole was awarded the Foundation's Open Gate Award, which honors "those who have served as directors of the Foundation and whose dedication and service have enhanced the memory of Eugene O'Neill." (Florence is also a past recipient of the Open Gate Award.)

Carole's community service extends far beyond the Foundation. She is a former Walnut Creek Arts Commissioner and has served on the board of several nonprofits. They include the Diablo Regional Arts Association, the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, the Diablo Theatre Company, the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, and the Gardens at Heather Farm, where she currently serves as Board Chair.

Carole's honors include *Sustainer of the Year*, Junior League of Oakland- East Bay, *Performing Arts Supporter*, the Concord Pavilion, and *25 Women at Center Stage*, Diablo Magazine. For several years she has served as a judge for Diablo Magazine's *Threads of Hope* awards.

Carole grew up in New Jersey, where her family enjoyed trips to New York City to attend the theatre. She discovered O'Neill in college as an English major. She has lived in Walnut Creek for 41 years. She has twin daughters, Beth and Meg, and is Mimi to three grandchildren, Carson, Porter, and Alison.

Dan McGovern was the president of the Foundation from 2016 to 2020. Dan's major initiative during his term in office was co-founding, along with Sean Reidy, the Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre in New Ross, Ireland. The close artistic partnership between the O'Neill Foundation and the O'Neill Ancestral Trust of Ireland to produce the O'Neill festivals in Danville and New Ross is reflected in their joint slogan, "One Festival, Two Countries." This artistic partnership has led to a strong bond of civic partnership between the towns of Danville and New Ross, that was formalized in a Friendship City relationship, which then-Mayor Renee Morgan authorized Dan to negotiate. He felt up to the task since one of the dozen treaties he negotiated when he was in the State Department was with Ireland.

Before retiring, Dan served in three Presidential administrations. His most exciting job was serving as the second-ranking lawyer in the U.S. State Department during President Reagan's first term and an especially dicey period of the Cold War. Dan's most satisfying job was serving as the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection in the southwestern United States during the administration of President George H.W. Bush. Dan is a Visiting Scholar in the theater department at UC Berkeley and a frequent contributor to the *Eugene O'Neill Review* and the *Arthur Miller Journal*, both published by Pennsylvania State University Press.

Dan grew up in Kansas, where he discovered O'Neill on the page but had no opportunity to see him on the stage. He has been making up for it ever since and may be the last man standing to have seen full-scale productions of O'Neill's *Lazarus Laughed* and *Marco Millions*. Dan and Carolyn have been married for 57 years and have lived in Walnut Creek for 30 years. They have a daughter Katie and a granddaughter, Reilly.



O'Neill scholar Beth Wynstra and her daughter Alison visiting Dan and Carolyn McGovern at their home in Walnut Creek.

Summer 2022

Photo Credit: Carole Wynstra

In Memory of Mary Camezon



On behalf of the National Park Service and Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, we want to express our condolences to Mary's family and our gratitude for her tireless years of contributions to help keep the legacy of Eugene O'Neill alive. As the former superintendent and as someone who had a long relationship with Mary over the years, I asked if I could share my thoughts on behalf of the park. I am sorry I am not able to make the trip back and share these words in person.

When I arrived at the park in 2008, my office was located in the old caretaker's quarters—or the "administrative offices" as we like to call them, just down the hill from Tao House. Being at the site made it easy for me to work closely with all those folks visiting, in particular those who used and accessed the Travis Bogard Reading Room and Library. In those days, Mary was an active board member who spent her time helping out in whatever capacity was needed, including assisting with the Student Days programs and helping with concessions at the Old Barn performances. When long-time Foundation member Diane Schinnerer stepped down from oversight of the library, Mary was the first to step up to ensure that the important archives of the Foundation were not left unwatched. Over the years, Mary worked to ensure the collection was preserved and spearheaded efforts to make the collection available to researchers and scholars who were interested in working with these holdings of the Foundation. She was unwavering in her commitment to the proper care and oversight of the collection, championing a new system for accountability for access to the library and the Cube (where the archives are stored). She demanded adherence to established best practices for library collections, but only in the way that Mary could...by making you feel so bad that you would suggest otherwise. Her firm but quiet demeanor provided just the leadership and oversight that the library and collection needed. Through all of this, she was open and collaborative with the National Park Service, facilitating the donation of some items to the NPS collections because she knew that the NPS had more experience with the proper care of old records... *and old underwear*. Mary's life was a story of commitment and dedication, and she grew to be a close friend and confidant in my years overseeing the site. I cannot think of many people who have shown such a commitment to public service as Mary; having a long career in public education, followed by years of commitment to the Foundation and the legacy of Eugene O'Neill. I am thankful for the guidance and wisdom she shared with me, and I know that her legacy will live on in the people she has touched over the years. I know it will live on in me.

Rest in peace, Mary. ~ Tom

Tom Leatherman, Superintendent Pearl Harbor National Memorial, Honolulu, HI
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Another Successful Eugene O'Neill Annual Festival!



Thank you again for supporting this year's 23rd Annual Festival, and enjoy a look back with these highlights!

- **Across the eight sold-out *Moon* performances**, it was heartwarming to see so many hands raised as the **National Park Service** welcomed audiences and asked who was joining for the first time! Word is getting out!
- Many of you wanted to learn more about the play. For this, we'll point you to this **dramaturgical packet** assembled by **Dr. Katie N. Johnson** which includes a rich set of short essays compiled by Miami University students.
- **Council members from friendship city New Ross, Ireland** joined this year's festival. Festivities included a celebratory toast at Tao House! We also took *Welded* and *Shell Shock* to the **Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre Oct. 13 - 16!** Learn more **HERE**.
- The last Sunday matinee included an **engaging pre-performance talk with Artist in Residence [AIR] Northwestern Associate Professor Dassia Posner**, on her latest book *The Moscow Kamerny Theatre: An Artistic History in Political Times*. Read about Posner's work **here**, and learn more about the **Artist in Residence** and **library/archives**.
- Many of you were inspired by *Moon* and contributed prose and limericks to **Moon Poetry Night** at Cottage Jewel, **Whiskey and Words** at Auburn Lounge, and the **moon poetry tree** at Tao House. Thank you to all our contributors!
- As O'Neill wrote in the stage directions of *The Moon of the Caribbees*, "*on the boat deck there was silence, broken only by the brooding music. It is far off now, getting fainter, like the mood of the moonlight made audible.*" Keep the moon vibe going with this **Spotify** playlist curated for this year's "***A Moon and its Dreams***" festival theme.

See you next year!



Foundation Productions Featured at New Ross Festival

Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House productions were once again the centerpieces of the Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre in New Ross, Ireland this October. The festival opened in historic St. Michael's Theatre with O'Neill's *Welded*, directed by O'Neill Foundation Artistic Director Eric Fraisher Hayes and performed by the stand-out American cast that appeared in the Danville production the previous month. The production was very well received by the Irish audience, and the capacious St. Michael's Theatre gave Hayes the scope for interesting movement and lighting effects that were not possible when the play was performed in the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

The second evening the Wexford band Green Road, with special guest star Clodagh Kinsella, performed before a wildly enthusiastic sell-out crowd. Green Road, which appeared in a smaller venue during the 2019 New Ross festival, has since become very successful, selling out the 850-seat National Opera House in Wexford, for example. Foundation supporters are familiar with the beautiful young Irish opera star Clodagh Kinsella, who performed "Irish Airs and Arias" at the Village Theatre in Danville in 2019. The performance by Green Road and Kinsella was such a hit this year that New Ross O'Neill festival co-chairs Dan McGovern and Sean Reidy are arranging their first American tour for the March St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Mark your calendar. Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich was so impressed by the Green Road concert in New Ross that he has graciously arranged for the tour to kick off at the Village Theatre on Friday evening, March 10. The tour, which will go on to Boston and perhaps other American cities, is supported by recently retired Irish Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall, who toured Tao House this past December.

The third evening of the New Ross festival featured two O'Neill one-acts. *Shell Shock* was directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes, who was able to fulfill a long-standing ambition of incorporating an Irish actor into his fine cast. After the intermission, the New Ross Drama Workshop presented its production of *Recklessness*, directed by Margaret Rossiter. It was interesting to compare this rather arch production with the Foundation's recent more naturalistic production of the same play. The final production of the festival, comic actress Anne Gildea's one-woman show, "How to Get the Menopause and Enjoy It," is not really susceptible to a brief summary. ☺

As in previous years, the festival package included pickup and dropoff at the Dublin airport, plus lodging and meals at the 4-Star Brandon House Hotel. Also, each day before the performances, the festival package included excursions and lunches at such outstanding local sites as Lismore Castle, the Kennedy Homestead, and Hook Lighthouse, as well as a boat trip to Waterford on the *Barrow Princess*.



National Park Service News



Best news up front: I'm very excited to let Foundation members know that the park has welcomed **Hilary Grabowska** as our new Supervisory Interpretive Ranger. Hilary replaces Tory Starling, who now works at Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In Hilary's previous work at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, she served as the Site Manager for Chatham Manor, a plantation house built by enslaved laborers and craftsmen. There she managed all interpretive programming and coordinated with park partners to put on special events at the historic structure. Prior to that, Hilary worked as an interpretive ranger at Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Rangers Nicko, Lily, and Geraldine have done an outstanding job on their own during the time between Tory departing and Hilary arriving, and we are so grateful for all the wonderful things they bring to their work. I'm betting they are pretty happy to have a supervisor

coming on board, though!

As always, it has been a rewarding season of work in the park. Ranger Nicko (who comes to us with a natural resources background) recently delivered a new program on birding that included a hike. We brought in a contractor to replace old multimedia equipment in the Tao House "theater" room. This includes adding a new BrightSign player, a programmable media player that greatly improves our ability to manage videos and accessible media files, as well as new "Listen" devices that are used for audio description of media so that visually impaired persons can enjoy the content. Museum staff are boxing up textiles from the EUON and RORI collections for conservation treatment by ACdR (Art Conservation de Rigueur) Conservation. The conservation process will take about a year to complete. Staff have also completed a rotation of artifacts in the Tao House exhibit cases, so it's a great time to consider another visit to Your National Park.

In the new year, you can expect to see us completing several great projects. We'll begin the design process for remodeling the Tao House Garage into a classroom for visitor orientation and educational programs. We'll host a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to maintain facilities and restore resources, as well as bring on youth through the Public Land Corps (PLC) authority for additional facilities and grounds work. Around the Tao House, look for work in the courtyard, painting the exterior, and our ever-persistent efforts to manage very common visitors to the park: rodents! We'll be replacing some rodent barriers in the house and out-buildings...one of the very few times you'll see us attempting to keep "visitors" away!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season, and very much looking forward to a new year continuing our work together in sharing the story of our favorite American playwright!

~ K. Lynn Berry, Superintendent



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

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

In addition to the film, we have an informative 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 [HERE](#).



Happy Holidays to all O'Neillians and EONF Supporters

Give a Little, Get a Lot!

Please consider us in your end-of-year giving!

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 your continued
support*

[Donate Here](#)

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