

TALES FROM THE EDGE: *Three Stories of Survival*

The Dreamy Kid by Eugene O'Neill

Cocaine by Pendleton King

Exorcism by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes and Kimberly Ridgeway
Museum of the San Ramon Valley, January 9, 10, and 11

[Tickets Here](#)



Talkbacks: Join post-show discussions Friday, Jan. 9 with our two directors and dramaturg William Davies King and Saturday, Jan. 10 with the production team (actors, directors, and dramaturg.)



“Tales from the Edge” is a trio of early 20th century one-act plays that explore the challenges of surviving in a society that disadvantages people based on race, gender, and economic circumstance. *The Dreamy Kid* deals with personal loyalties in difficult circumstances exacerbated by a system of unequal justice. *Cocaine* delves into struggles with addiction and its effects on relationships. And *Exorcism* is a highly auto-biographical accounting of Eugene O'Neill's brush with death while living amongst society's outcasts. The plays in “Tales from the Edge” are as relevant today as they were when they were written more than 100 years ago. Society always has its outsiders, and these are their tales.

Virtual Discussion with *Tales From the Edge* Dramaturgs

In the summer of 1915 a group of artists, writers, and intellectuals, fed up with the commercial theatre of the day, gathered in Provincetown, Massachusetts to explore how to create a theatre that reflected the complexities of life. In 1916, they invited Eugene O'Neill into their fold, and he soon became their leading light. This collective of bold thinkers soon moved their work to New York, christened themselves the Provincetown Players, and became instrumental in changing the American Theatre forever.

Join preeminent Eugene O'Neill scholars Katie N. Johnson and William Davies King as they lead a discussion of three of the plays produced by the pioneering Provincetown Players: *The Dreamy Kid* by Eugene O'Neill, *Exorcism* by Eugene O'Neill, and *Cocaine* by Pendleton King.

[Register Here](#)



Tales From the Edge (Virtual Talk)

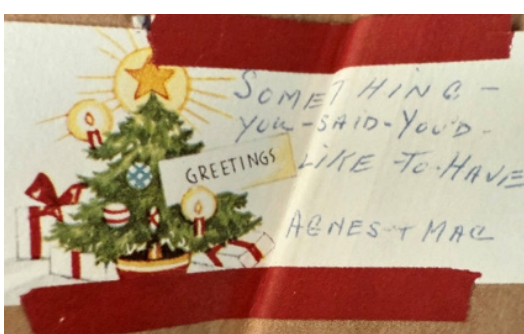
Dec 11 (Thu. 5:00pm PT / 8:00pm ET)

William Davies King & Katie N. Johnson



“Something You Said You'd Like to Have”

O'Neill's second wife Agnes Boulton's words gifting an original manuscript of *Exorcism* (1919) to her friend, writer Philip Yordan, despite O'Neill's intention to have all copies of the play destroyed. *Exorcism* is one of three one-acts featured in January's performances at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and with it comes the fascinating story of this “lost manuscript” discovered in 2011 by Yordan's widow in her late husband's papers, including edits in O'Neill's hand.



The story of the discovery of *Exorcism* is the perfect way to celebrate the value of archives including the Foundation's own archive and library services which your donations support. Scholars, researchers, fellows, and O'Neill enthusiasts access year-round this unique collection of rare books, photographs, letters, and other media offerings.

Learn more about this intriguing story and the role the archives play in January's post-show discussions. In Yale's Book and Manuscript Curator Louise Bernard's words, “And so it is in the spirit of the archives reinvigoration that we embrace the reemergence of this one-act play by Eugene O'Neill, a play that offers a new portrait of the artist as a young man.”

William Davies King Book Celebration

Sat., Jan. 10, 4:00 pm

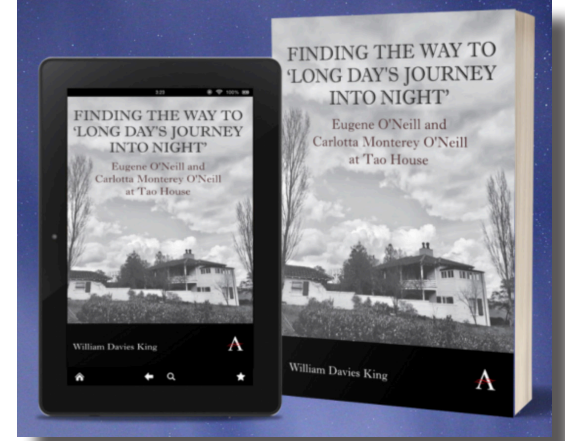
Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville

Join us for a FREE early-evening celebration of William Davies King's book *Finding the Way to Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Meet the author, enjoy a lively conversation, and enjoy some light treats and prosecco, and get your book signed!

"When it seemed like every biographical aspect of Long Day's Journey Into Night has been explored, Dave King opens a new door, the door to Tao House. This fascinating and intimate book reveals how a house, and most especially how the woman who designed and ran it, Carlotta Monterey, helped to shape one of the greatest plays in American drama."

~ Beth Wynstra, PhD, O'Neill Scholar

Take advantage of Danville's many great eating establishments within walking distance, and return to see our production of three one-act plays back at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.



Feb. 3 O'Neill Happy Hour

Our next social gathering is on Tue. Feb. 3, 5:30 – 6:30 pm at Auburn Lounge (321 Hartz Ave., Danville).

Come for a drink or two, enjoy an intro to the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, and join us for some casual conversation. These regular get-togethers include updates on coming events.



National Park Service News



Bravo to all for a successful 2025 Eugene O'Neill Festival! While this year wasn't as complicated as our 2024 season, each production brings its own unique challenges. As always, I was impressed by how everyone stepped up to ensure our visitors had a pleasant and unique experience. Not only that, the additional programming around the Old Barn performances helped to expand the reach of this unique Festival. We are very proud to be able to partner with the Foundation to offer this Festival to the public and share Eugene O'Neill's plays.

Working with the California Conservation Corps, park Horticulturist and Arborist Keith Park has completed the pig exclusion fencing project. This is meant to ensure the feral pigs no longer disturb the historic landscape of Eugene O'Neill NHS. A huge shoutout to the CCCs, Keith, and intern Mikayla Gregory for getting this done so quickly!

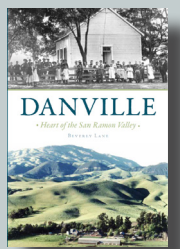
As we look forward to the new year, we have a fun update; former Eugene O'Neill NHS Ranger Nicko Thurston has rejoined the team as a seasonal Ranger! He will be with us through March so while it is a short time with us, we are very grateful to have him back on the team. Thank you and we hope you have a happy new year!

Hilary Grabowska, Supervisory Park Ranger
Eugene O'Neill NHS, Port Chicago Naval Magazine NM

Go to www.nps.gov/euon to book tours to the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EugeneONeillNPS



Looking for original gift ideas this holiday? Shop local, support the NPS! Check out the cool new merchandise available at the Tao House gift shop. Beverly Lane, EONF Advisory Board member, has a new book *Danville Heart of the San Ramon Valley*, available at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.



Volunteer Spotlight



This Foundation runs on volunteer time, talent, and resources. Each of us brings a different mix to the table. We end the year with gratitude for each of our Board members, Advisory Board, partners, and volunteers who help with events and productions.

Adding a special shout out to Board Member Chuck Lewis who lends his trusty workhorse truck to haul set pieces and props to downtown locations. He also lends hands-on help to organize props and production pieces in storage spaces at Tao House.

We also welcome Danville resident Kelly Doyle-Matta to the Board. Kelly has attended EONF plays for years and was an instrumental volunteer with the *Bequest of Wings* scene reading and the Festival production of *Prisontown*.

When asked what prompted the transition from volunteer to Board member, Kelly noted, "For years I have been volunteering when I could and finally after fully retiring I was urged to join the Board. I was strongly encouraged by many members, all of whom I found to be warm and welcoming to join – so here I am!"

Thank you to all who help make Foundation events possible and consider lending your hand as a volunteer with EONF or NPS!

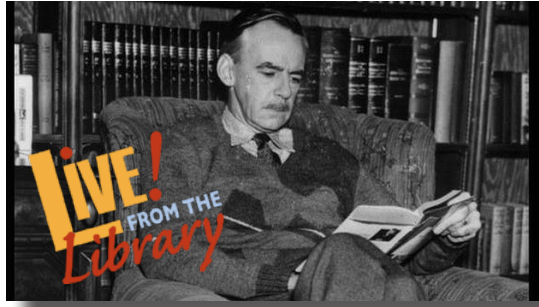
Would you like to volunteer for the Foundation? There are many opportunities for your talents or skills, or as a candidate for the Board. Email us to see how you can be involved at taohouse.eonf@gmail.com.

Catching Up with Sam Robards in NYC

EONF Board Member Lori Cassels managed to catch up with actor Sam Robards in NYC during this fall's acclaimed run of the Broadway play *Punch*. Sam has a special connection with O'Neill and Tao House. His father, the late Jason Robards—an Academy, Emmy, and Tony award winner—played a key role in raising funds to purchase Tao House and establish it as a historic site. He was the first EONF Tao House Award recipient in 1989.



O'Neill to Be Featured at Walnut Creek Library Event



The Walnut Creek Library Foundation holds a monthly program called "Live! From the Library," which features authors, local arts programs, and community leaders. The Foundation has been invited to participate for the second time. Foundation Artistic Director Eric Fraisher Hayes is spearheading the presentation and Board Member Carole Wynstra is program chair. Save the date for an evening of O'Neill on Tues., March 10 at 7pm.

For more information, visit <https://www.wclibrary.org/live/>.

A Special Afternoon at the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum

On Sept. 12, the Foundation had the honor of welcoming city council members from New Ross, Ireland, to the historic Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum. The program was highlighted by a presentation from Kathy Rose O'Regan of the San Francisco Film Preserve, who introduced the recently discovered Gault Collection—a rare set of films that beautifully capture everyday rural life in the western counties of Ireland.

Guests were then treated to a screening of *The Colleen Bawn*, one of the earliest silent films produced in Ireland, adapted from Gerald Griffin's 19th century novel. Accompanied by live music, the film brought the magic of early cinema to life and underscored the deep cultural connections between Irish film history and the Bay Area's own cinematic legacy.

It was an afternoon of discovery, heritage, and celebration—reminding us how the arts continue to bridge communities across time and continents.



Book Signing with AIR Fellow Sandra Jackson-Opoku

Our final AIR fellow for 2025, Sandra Jackson-Opoku, participated in a book signing event this November. The seats were packed at Rakestraw Books in downtown Danville as Sandra discussed her recent cozy mystery publication *Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes*. Look out for her next project "Never in Georgia," a metafictional imaging of what would have happened if James Baldwin and Flannery O'Connor met at a fictional artist community. Her time at Tao House was used to bring this project to life.

The Tradition Continues....

Since 2018, the Foundation has partnered with Danville's sister city of New Ross, Ireland and their Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre in New Ross: *One Festival, Two Countries*. This partnership recognizes the ancestral home of Eugene O'Neill's father, actor James O'Neill, and brings Foundation Festival productions to Ireland. This year, the Foundation's production of *The Hairy Ape* traveled to New Ross, and both countries staged a new theater work: in Danville, *Prisontown* by Artist in Residence Fellow Lee Osorio; and in New Ross, *The Memory Room* by Irish Playwright Shelia Forsey.

In addition, a symposium and scholar's panel discussed the themes of "belonging" that are central to O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*. Professors Brenda Murphy and Beth Wynstra gave insights on Carlotta Monterey and the character of Mildred in *The Hairy Ape*. EONF Board Member Lori Cassels shared her research done for a play in progress, as a Tao House Day Use Fellow. Her paper detailed the night of January 22, 1918, when O'Neill's best friend (Louis Holliday) died in the arms of Dorothy Day, and how such a traumatic event shaped the future paths of both Eugene O'Neill, man of words, and Dorothy Day, woman of action.

Alice McLaughlin, a descendant of the O'Neill clan in Kilkenny, opened the Festival with a talk on the O'Neill's family history. She also led a pilgrimage to the remains of the farm where James O'Neill emigrated from and brought visitors to the O'Neill family grave site.

We are thankful for the partnership with New Ross as we continue to promote O'Neill's legacy together.



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

Support our Foundation through AmazonSmile Visit [AmazonSmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile), shop as usual, and indicate that a percentage of your purchase is donated to EugeneOneillFoundation, at no cost to you. Bookmark your AmazonSmile page!

The Tao House Films *Beyond the Horizon* and *Welded* are always available on our website for FREE. In addition, you can view our *Ghosts of Tao House* series, several engagement guides, as well as short videos featuring leading scholars sharing their insights. YouTube channel: [@eugeneoneillfoundationtaoh2531](https://www.youtube.com/@eugeneoneillfoundationtaoh2531)



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