

# Alex Baber

in Conversation with  
Michael Connelly, Rick Jackson, Mitzi Roberts  
& David Tresmontan

## Cracking the Code The Black Dahlia and Zodiac Cases



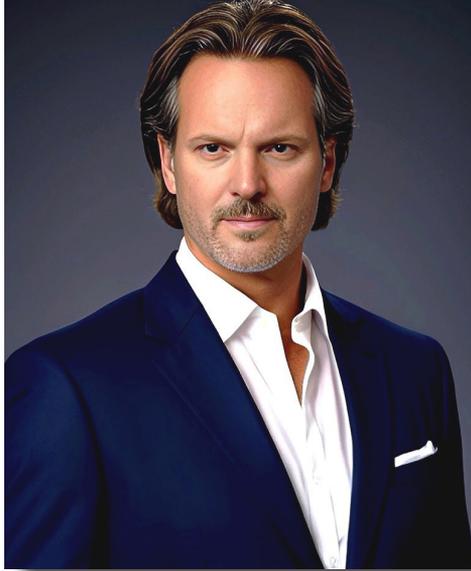
A Fundraising Event for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House

The Village Theatre & Art Gallery  
233 Front Street, Danville, CA 94526  
Saturday, February 21, 2026, 7:30 p.m.  
The Village Theatre & Art Gallery

*Eugene O'Neill.*  
FOUNDATION, TAO HOUSE  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## ALEX BABER



With his genius IQ and the hyper-concentration characteristic of his autism, Alex Baber tackled the Black Dahlia and Zodiac murders, perhaps the most notorious cold cases in California history. Reexamining the cryptological code used by the Zodiac Killer in his last taunting letter to Bay Area newspapers, Alex concluded that the same man – Marvin Margolis – murdered both Elizabeth Short, the Black Dahlia victim, and the Zodiac victims. Alex's conclusion has been reviewed and verified to the satisfaction of the cryptological experts and eminent cold case detectives consulted by Michael Connelly. This undertaking is recounted in Connelly's podcast series, *Killer in the Code*. Alex is the Director of Cold Case Consultants of America (C.C.C.O.A.), an independent investigative consulting firm specializing in unresolved criminal cases. His work focuses on evidence review, forensic documentation, and primary source analysis, with emphasis on cold cases.

# MICHAEL CONNELLY



Michael Connelly is the bestselling author of forty-two novels. With over ninety million copies of his books sold worldwide and translated into forty-five languages, Michael is one of the most successful writers working today. In 2011, the movie adaptation of his #1 bestselling novel *The Lincoln Lawyer* hit theaters worldwide starring Matthew McConaughey as Mickey Haller. Michael is the executive producer of *Bosch*, *Bosch: Legacy*, and *Ballard*, three Amazon Studios original drama series based on his bestselling characters Harry Bosch and Renée Ballard. He is the executive producer of *The Lincoln Lawyer* on Netflix. Michael is also the creator and host of the podcast series *Murder Book* and *The Wonderland Murders & The Secret History of Hollywood*, as well as the series devoted to the Black Dahlia and Zodiac murders, *Killer in the Code*.

## RICK JACKSON



Rick is a retired LAPD homicide detective who has been called “the Godfather to L.A. Crime writers,” having worked with Michael, James Ellroy, Joseph Wambaugh, and a dozen others. Besides consulting with Michael on his novels, Rick has worked with Michael on several true-crime podcasts. Last year Little, Brown published Rick’s account of one of his cases *Black Tunnel, White Magic: A True Story of Murder and Betrayal in Los Angeles*. *Black Tunnel, White Magic* “unfolds like a mind-bending prestige TV crime drama, with the details likely to grip readers as tightly as they did the authors.” *Publishers Weekly*. A “[s]atisfyingly intricate journey into the policing of urban violence” that “minutely details the labyrinthine investigation of a brutal murder.” *Kirkus Reviews*. Rick still works part-time as a cold case investigator with the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

## MITZI ROBERTS



Mitzi Roberts is a former LAPD homicide detective with over three decades of experience and is known for solving high profile cases. Mitzi led the Los Angeles Police Department's Cold Case Unit until her recent retirement. During the last half of her career with the LAPD, she was assigned to the murder of Elizabeth Short. During that time Mitzi was able to review almost all of the records and evidence still in the custody of the police department. However, the Black Dahlia case was only one of her assignments. Mitzi worked dozens of murders and made dozens of arrests. Most notably, she apprehended Sam Little, a serial killer whom the FBI deemed the most prolific in American history, with 93 murders credited to him. Mitzi is a writer and consulting producer for the Amazon series *Ballard*, inspired in part by her own career. She was also a technical consultant on Amazon's *Bosch* and *Bosch: Legacy*.

## DAVID TRESMONTAN



David has served in city, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. He was a detective with the Redwood City Police Department, working on vice, narcotics, and homicide investigations. He later became the Assistant Chief for the California Attorney General's Office, where he developed particular expertise in drug trafficking operations and outlaw motorcycle gangs. David next became the Director of Police Services for the 12<sup>th</sup> District of the Federal Reserve Bank and had direct responsibility for the security of the Bank's operations throughout the western States. David is now a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, where he developed the Cold Case Homicide Unit and has worked with Rick Jackson.

# EUGENE O'NEILL

Eugene O'Neill is the only American playwright to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, as well as the only one to win as many as four Pulitzer Prizes.



Although Eugene O'Neill died seventy years ago, his plays are still among the hottest tickets on Broadway. Denzel Washington starred in a Broadway revival of O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* a few years ago, and Jessica Lange starred in a recent movie of O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*.

*It's an absolute honor to appear on behalf of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. The master at capturing the American experience, O'Neill is one of the giants whose work remains vital decade after decade. He accomplished what every writer dreams of, whether it be on the stage, on the screen, or on the page. It's Legacy with a capital L, and I'm happy to ride his coattails for one night in Danville. - Michael Connelly*

# THE EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Eugene O'Neill lived in Danville when he wrote his greatest plays. His home, Tao House, is now a National Historic Site managed by the National Park Service.



Tours of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site are available Wednesday through Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m but **advanced reservations are always required.** Admission is free. However, the Historic Site is only accessible to the public by a complimentary National Park Service Shuttle that picks up visitors at The Museum of the San Ramon Valley at 205 Railroad Avenue in Danville.

For more information:  
(925) 228-8860, ext. 6422.

[www.nps.gov/euon](http://www.nps.gov/euon)

**More on the National  
Historic Site:**



# THE EUGENE O'NEILL FOUNDATION, TAO HOUSE

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House is the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service. The Foundation promotes the legacy of Eugene O'Neill by producing his plays at Tao House and elsewhere, conducting an Artist in Residence program for theatre scholars and practitioners, providing programming and resources for students, scholars, adults and our audience, and maintaining an archive of rare O'Neill materials.

More Here:



## THE EUGENE O'NEILL FESTIVAL

Each September for twenty-five years the Eugene O'Neill Foundation has held its annual Festival at Tao House. This year the Foundation is producing O'Neill's only comedy *Ah, Wilderness!* Set in a turn-of-the-century Connecticut town during the Fourth of July weekend, *Ah, Wilderness!* follows seventeen-year-old Richard Miller—an idealistic youth struggling with adolescence, romance, and rebellion, whose romantic escapades cause him to foolishly seek adult experiences. Supported by his loving, albeit strict parents and comedic extended family, the play focuses on themes of youthful idealism, family bonds, and the nostalgia of Americana.

## THE O'NEILL CONNECTION: DANVILLE AND NEW ROSS, IRELAND

In the wake of the Potato Famine, Eugene O'Neill's father James emigrated from Ireland as a small boy and became one of the most prominent actors and theater producers in America. In honor of James, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation partners with the Eugene O'Neill Ancestral Trust of Ireland to produce the Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre in New Ross, Ireland each October. (For information, contact Dan McGovern, past co-president of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. [danielwmcgovern@gmail.com](mailto:danielwmcgovern@gmail.com))

The cultural tie between the two cities has led to a formal civic partnership between Danville and New Ross, Ireland, which have become Friendship Cities. Each year official delegations from the two cities attend one another's Eugene O'Neill festivals.

The civic tie between Danville and New Ross has been celebrated at the highest levels of the Irish government. In December of 2021, the Irish Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall and his wife Greta toured Tao House. San Francisco Irish Consul General Micheál Smith and his staff are strong supporters of the O'Neill Foundation and frequent visitors to Tao House.



## The 2026 Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre Will Take Place Oct. 14–18

The 2026 Festival promises to be a truly international affair, featuring:

- *Long Day's Journey Into Night* by the Tumanishvili Theatre Co., Tbilisi, Georgia. The first Georgian language production of this play, which will be presented with subtitles.
- *Lucia Joyce* by Karlik Danza Teatro, Cáceres, Spain. A drama with contemporary dance and AV elements exploring the relationship between James Joyce and his daughter Lucia.
- *The Unkillable Irishman* by Jack Matthews. An original Irish Play.
- *Ah, Wilderness!* by Eugene O'Neill presented by The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, Danville, CA.
- A late evening music celebration of the music of Ireland, Spain, and Georgia.

Tour details will follow but will incorporate the Dublin Theatre Festival.

### UP NEXT!

Our next **O'Neill Happy Hour** will be at 5:30pm on Tuesday, March 24 at Auburn Lounge.

Come join us for some casual conversation with various board members and friends of the Foundation. Free event, no-host bar. We hope to see you there!

*Auburn Lounge (back room)  
321 Hartz Ave., Danville, CA*

## SUPPORT US

Keep the company of scholars, artists, and lovers of culture and history while helping support the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House. Your membership helps us honor the legacy of the only American playwright to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Become a Member



## CONTACT US

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Eugene O'Neill Foundation



[eugene\\_oneill\\_taohouse](https://www.instagram.com/eugene_oneill_taohouse)

## FOUNDATION BOARD

**Join us!** Consider sharing your time and talents by becoming a member of our Board!

**Co-Presidents:** Tom Baxter and Teresa Morley

**Treasurer:** Terry Sherman

**Secretary:** Sarah Cain

**Past Co-Presidents:** Dan McGovern and Carole Wynstra

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We'd like to thank our partners the **National Park Service** and **Museum of the San Ramon Valley** and to recognize the **Town of Danville** and the **Town Council** for its continued support of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, and its events throughout town, as well as for establishing our **Friendship City** relationship with New Ross, Ireland.

