



"Warnings Before Breakfast" Staged Reading, Jan. 2024



Eugene O'Neill Festival 2024

Sweeping Passions

Featuring O'Neill's

MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA

Directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes

Live Performances at Tao House:

Sat., 9/14, 4pm • Sun., 9/15, 4pm

Fri., 9/20, 6pm • Sat., 9/21, 4pm • Sun., 9/22, 4pm

Fri., 9/27, 6pm • Sat., 9/28, 4pm • Sun., 9/29, 4pm



Tao House will get caught up in *Sweeping Passions* this fall. The Eugene O'Neill Festival 2024 will be centered around one of the playwright's most dramatic and adventurous creations, *Mourning Becomes Electra*. O'Neill's great American take on Greek tragedy is an action-packed epic featuring all the hallmarks of a captivating soap opera: jealousy, adultery, revenge, murder, incest, suicide, and more murder! All the things that are horrible to experience in real life but horribly entertaining when watching fictitious characters.

The trilogy of one-act plays that make up *Mourning Becomes Electra* also highlights O'Neill's trademark insight into the desires and struggles of the human condition as well as a haunting musical score. The setting for the play is the exterior and interior of the temple-like Mannon house. September's production will be performed in the courtyard in front of Tao House as well as in the Old Barn theatre a short walk away.

Tickets at <https://eugeneoneill.org/event/festival-2024-feature-oneills-mourning-becomes-electra/>

Look to encounter *Sweeping Passions* through other Festival events, such as:

Sweeping Passions Photography Showcase

Sep 1—Oct 16, submissions due Aug 10

Museum of the San Ramon Valley

View stunning photographs taken by local photographers and Artistic Director Eric Fraisher Hayes of the sweeping hills and house that inspired O'Neill to write his greatest plays. Don't miss this visual tribute to Danville's National Historic treasure as Tao House takes center stage in *Mourning Becomes Electra*.

Poetry in Place, A Workshop

Aug 18 (Sun, 2pm)

Shuttle to Tao House from Museum of the San Ramon Valley

Led by creator of Poetry in the Parks and artist in residence Jodie Hollander, Poetry in Place will kick off the O'Neill Festival 2024. Workshop participants will use Tao House surroundings as inspiration as they receive writing prompts to create a poem about the significance of place. The importance of place is central in this year's performance of *Mourning Becomes Electra* where Tao House takes centerstage.

O'Neill Happy Hour with William Davies King

Aug 20 (Tue, 5:30–6:30pm)

Auburn Lounge, Back Room

Come meet William Davies King, Distinguished Professor of Theater and Dance at UC Santa Barbara and this year's *Mourning Becomes Electra* dramaturg. Dave will highlight Carlotta as O'Neill's "guiding star" and share dozens of photographs with us.

The Women in Mourning Becomes Electra, A Virtual Discussion

Aug 28 (Wed, 6–7pm PST/9–10 EST)

Virtual Discussion via Zoom

Join mother–daughter team Carole and Beth Wynstra as they discuss the play that makes our own mothers seem normal. Beth is an associate professor at Babson College and an O'Neill scholar. Carole is co-president of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Board.

Ghosts of Tao House Stroll

Sep 6–Oct 16

Downtown Danville

Explore greater downtown Danville visiting a dozen-plus shop-and-dine host sites on the Ghosts of Tao House Stroll. Self-guided ghost walk.

The Nomads: A Friendship City Celebration Concert

Sep 12 (Thu, 7:30pm)

Village Theatre

Based in New Ross, Ireland, The Nomads take center stage with special guests Lizzy Heffernan and Todd Brothers. Join us for a night of Irish music through the ages... from folk songs to U2 and much more! A celebration of the New Ross–Danville Friendship City connection.

Secrets of O'Neill's Danville, A Historic Walk

Sep 14 (Sat, 10am)

Eugene O'Neill Commemorative Park

Free guided tour through old town Danville with local historians to discover the secrets of O'Neill's Danville. Learn how the O'Neills shopped and lived local circa 1937–44. Accessible to all levels of walkers. No preregistration required.

Mourning Becomes Electra

Sep 14, 15 / 20–22 / 27–29

(Fri, 6pm), (Sat/Sun, 4pm)

Shuttle to Tao House from Museum of the San Ramon Valley

O'Neill's great American take on Greek tragedy is an action-packed epic featuring all the hallmarks of a captivating soap opera: jealousy, adultery, revenge, murder, incest, suicide, and more murder! All the things that are horrible to experience in real life but horribly entertaining when watching fictitious characters. Join us as Tao House takes center stage in this headliner event.

Whiskey Walk with Ghost Stories

Sep 25 (Wed, 6–8pm)

Auburn Lounge

Check-in at the O'Neill Festival concierge table (patio beside Auburn Lounge) to receive a wristband and signature shot glass. Docents will guide you throughout downtown to taste featured beverages and learn about the Ghosts of Tao House host sites. (\$20)

O'Neill Birthday Tribute

Oct 16 (Wed, 10am)

Shuttle to Tao House from Museum of the San Ramon Valley

Join EONF for a toast to Eugene and a tour of Tao House and its surrounding natural harbor.



Six Artist in Residence Fellows

Six outstanding Fellows have been chosen from 45 applicants for the 2024 Travis Bogard Artist in Residence program at Tao House. Two historians, three playwrights, and, for the first time in the program's nine years, a poet, will be spending time at Tao House this year working on their diverse projects.

We give a big welcome to **Deborah Yarchun, Dasia Posner, Jodie Hollander, Lee Osorio, Parade Stone, and Henry Schvey** to Tao House this summer! For more information on our 2024 Fellows, read here:



O'Neill Happy Hour

Our next social gathering is on **Tues., Aug 20, 5:30 – 6:30 pm** at Auburn Lounge (321 Hartz Ave., Danville)



Come join us for a drink, an introduction to EONF, and some casual conversation with various Foundation folk. These regular get-togethers include updates on coming events, particularly our Festival 2024, and what's happening at local National Parks from NPS Ranger Hilary Grabowska. Our August Happy Hour will feature Dramaturg William Davies King who will discuss *Mourning Becomes Electra*. He will highlight Carlotta as O'Neill's "guiding star" and share dozens of photographs.



The Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre

Join us for an unforgettable journey to New Ross, Ireland from Oct. 10 - 13, 2024! More info at <https://eugeneoneillfestival.com>

Questions? Ask Dan McGovern at danielwmcgovern@gmail.com.

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, some engagement guides as well as short videos featuring leading scholars sharing their insights. YouTube channel: [@eugeneoneillfoundationtaoh2531](https://www.youtube.com/@eugeneoneillfoundationtaoh2531)

National Park Service News: Superintendent's Message



We've made it to summer! I'm sure that brings up a number of thoughts about typical warm-weather activities, family fun, vacations, and the like. Maybe you pictured: swimming pool, watermelon, beach blanket, road trip. How about: playwrighting, pruning, coyote pup, manager, mental health, and fish knife? Let us know if any of these words sprang to mind, because here at your National Park, they are all in a summer's day, and we should be friends because we obviously have a lot in common!

Young voices and energy have returned to the site. While the Foundation and our rangers have welcomed this summer's Studio Retreat teen-aged participants into the world of playwrighting and acting, the NPS has hired a Youth Conservation Corps crew, comprised of four local high school students, and two young adults enrolled in the "Traditional Trades Apprenticeship Program." Together the YCC and apprentices will be working to maintain and restore key elements of the historic landscape such as replanting the ice plant next to Tao House as well as pruning the historic orchards. If you see them while you're up at the site, please thank them for their hard work.

This time of year has also brought increased wildlife sightings at the park. Rangers and visitors have recently spotted coyote pups, young squirrels, and turkeys. We typically see more rattlesnakes in the warm summer months too, so be on alert as you hike, bike, or walk through the grounds.

On the staffing front, our Interpretation, Education, and Outreach Division has hired Elise Eagle as the new division manager for Eugene O'Neill NHS, as well as our other three national park sites in the East Bay. Elise joins us after serving in a similar role for California State Parks. Added bonus, Elise was a theater major in college, and the works of O'Neill have long held meaning for her.

The park has been increasingly focused on bringing mental health awareness to our ranger-led tours and virtually through our posts on social media. Because of O'Neill's writings, this National Park provides a unique opportunity within the national park system to highlight mental health awareness, helping new audiences find meaning and relevancy in O'Neill's plays. We look forward to increasing mental health awareness, in partnership with the Foundation, well into the future.

In 2021, Gerald Stram, grandson of Carlotta, donated a large number of her personal items to the National Park Service including 52 pieces of a monogrammed set from Cartier. In 2023, the Foundation donated personal belongings of the O'Neill's to the park; one of these items was a fish knife which originally belonged to the Cartier set. All of the silverware pieces were dirty and tarnished, with several significantly damaged from previous polishing efforts and corrosion. This spring, the NPS worked with professional art conservators at Preservation Arts LLC in Oakland. They cleaned and repaired all 61 pieces of silverware and lacquered them with a removable resin to prevent future tarnishing and eliminating the need for aggressive polishing. The silverware set looks wonderful now and the park plans to include several pieces in future exhibits.

Have a happy and safe summer! Looking forward to having you with us on your next visit to the park!

K. Lynn Berry

K. Lynn Berry, Superintendent

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



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 to see how you can be involved.



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