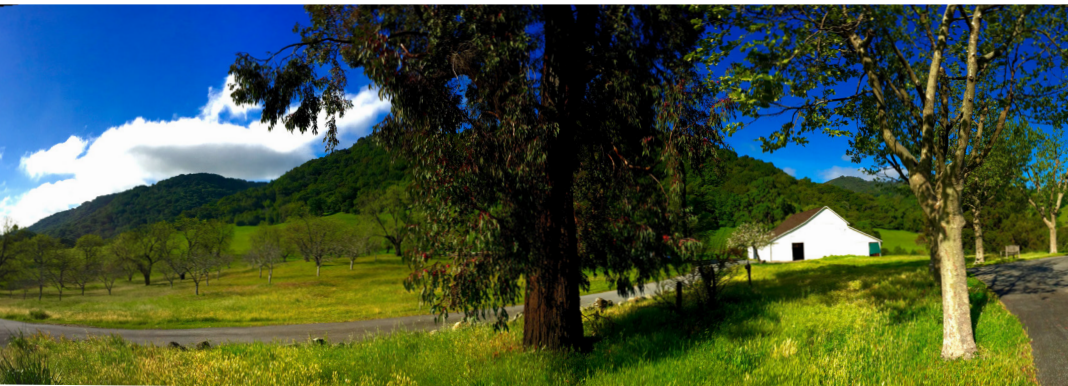


EUGENE O'NEILL FOUNDATION, TAO HOUSE

SUMMER 2026



EUGENE O'NEILL FESTIVAL 2026

This year's Festival brings two plays to Tao House with *Teddy* (a co-production with New Ross, Ireland) followed by one of Eugene O'Neill's rare comedies *Ah, Wilderness!*

Opening the Festival at Tao House (Sept. 12–13) is a US premiere of *Teddy* featuring an Irish and American cast. *Teddy* premiered in New Ross, Ireland as part of the Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre in 2024. Written by Irish playwright Sheila Forsey and directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes, *Teddy* tells a powerful and heart-wrenching story of family ties, home, and secrets.

O'Neill's "comedy of recollection" *Ah, Wilderness!* follows with performances both at Tao House and the Village Theatre downtown. We're excited to welcome Director Titian Lish back to Tao House. Titian brings an engaging radio play format for this telling of O'Neill's nostalgic imagined family. Watch for more radio-inspired events leading up to Festival!

Festival 2026

Two Plays Featured at Tao House!

TEDDY

Written by Sheila Forsey | Director: Eric Fraisher Hayes
Sat, Sep 12 at 7:30pm | Sun, Sep 13 at 1:30pm

AH, WILDERNESS!

Written by Eugene O'Neill | Director: Titian Lish
Thu–Sat, Sep 17–19 at 7:30pm | Sun, Sep 20 at 1:30pm

Performances at Village Theatre, Danville

AH, WILDERNESS!

Written by Eugene O'Neill | Director: Titian Lish
Sat, Sep 26 at 1:30pm and 7:30pm

Tickets and
more



This Festival offers plays that explore families, both imagined as they might have been, and very close to home no matter where home resides. Join us!

Eugene O'Neill.
FOUNDATION, TAO HOUSE
50th ANNIVERSARY

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House works to celebrate and promote the vision and legacy of Eugene O'Neill, America's foremost playwright.

taohouse.eonf@gmail.com • www.eugeneoneill.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Upcoming events:

June Happy Hour: *Ah, Poetry!*

Jun 23 (Tue 5:30pm-6:30pm) • Auburn Lounge

Encore production of *Lee Osorio's Prisontown*

Jul 3 (Fri 7pm) and Jul 5 (Sun 2pm) • Town Hall Theatre, Lafayette

Festival Events:

Summer Book Club

Aug 5 (Wed time tbd)
Downtown Danville

Festival Preview

Aug 11 (Tue 6pm)
Danville Library

Teddy

Sep 12-13 (Sat 7:30pm, Sun 1:30pm)
Shows at Tao House

Ah, Wilderness!

Sep 17-20 (Thu-Sat 7:30pm, Sun 1:30pm)
Shows at Tao House

Sep 26 (Sat 1:30pm and 7:30pm)
Shows at Village Theatre, Danville

Historic Walk of Danville

More details coming soon

Tour Calif. Historical Radio Society
Museum Alameda
More details coming soon



THREE AMAZING WOMEN STARTED IT ALL AND WE'RE CELEBRATING!

Fifty years ago in 1976, the Foundation took the title to Tao House under the vision and tenacity of three amazing women—Thalia Brewer, Darlene Blair, and Lois Sizoo.



Founder Thalia Brewer and Jason Robards Jr.

This down payment was enabled by funds raised through efforts like Jason Robards Jr. and Jack Dodson's performances of O'Neill's *Hughie*, an imaginative production of *The Hairy Ape* performed in the courtyard of Tao House, and support from State and Federal legislators.

Scan to hear O'Neill called this year's Festival play *Ah, Wilderness!* "a comedy of recollection," so we're celebrating our 50th with a series of *audio recollections* that capture memories and experiences of Foundation founders and builders, partners, and patrons!



One contributor shared these recollections offer "both a treat and an interesting peek at the Foundation's history." We look forward to hearing experiences that stand out for you! Visit often as memories are added through the year.

TRAVIS BOGARD DAY-USE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Our very successful **Day-Use Fellowship** program continues this year under the leadership of our newest board member Kelly Doyle-Matta. Since its inception we have welcomed dozens of artists, writers, and scholars to work in the peace and solitude of Tao House.



Juanita Halberg, artist, painting at Tao House

Applications for Day-Use fellowships are due Sept. 1 and Nov. 1 annually.

More on our two fellowship programs



WE WELCOME NEW ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

We say goodbye to Superintendent K. Lynn Berry as she departs for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area located in the Atlanta, Ga. metro area to serve as their superintendent. This brings K. Lynn's four-year tenure at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front Historical Park, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, John Muir National Historic Site, and more recently Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to a close.

K. Lynn's enthusiasm, dedication, and ability to energize the teams that she leads will be missed by staff and partners alike.

Elaine Jackson-Retondo is stepping in as acting superintendent at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and the four additional NPS units. Elaine has worked for the National Park Service (NPS) for nearly 24 years. She manages the regional Cultural Resources and Science Division, which supports parks throughout the Pacific West and carries out NPS historic preservation responsibilities at the regional level through the National Historic Landmarks and other programs.



Elaine Jackson-Retondo

Elaine is looking forward to meeting everyone and working with the Foundation.



Please check 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

Book a Tour



"Gee, I love tonight... I love the sand, and the trees, and the grass, and the water and the sky, and the moon... it's all in me and I'm in it... God, it's so beautiful!"

Richard Miller, Ah, Wilderness!

PRISONTOWN RETURNS TO BAY AREA

Prisontown, directed by Richard Perez, returns for two encore performances (Fri., July 3 and Sun., July 5) as a co-production with Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette.

Past artist in residence, playwright, and actor Lee Osorio performed his play last year to sold-out audiences. This important and timely play delves into the complexities of a town relying on an immigrant detention facility as its life blood resulting in moral challenges that lead to apathy and activism in the face of the dehumanizing of others.

Plan to see this uniquely American story in this 250th anniversary year.



Lee Osorio performing *Prisontown* in 2025

Prisontown Tickets



LIBRARY ARCHIVES



EONF librarian Vickie Sciacca

The archival collection of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Library holds a treasure trove of books, photographs, original correspondence letters, playbills, historical reviews and articles, and original pieces owned by Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill during their time at Tao House. While Tao House was not the only home where Eugene O'Neill lived and worked, it certainly inspired something deeply important to him as his greatest plays were written from his desk at this unique and beautiful property in Danville, Calif.

The library's holdings include hundreds of photographs of the O'Neills at work and play at Tao House. When writers, students, artists, scholars, actors, and others visit the homestead, they can easily view the beauty and expanse of the San Ramon Valley, the Las Trampas Hills, the wildlife, and gain a sense of the peace that inspired O'Neill to create his most important works. The Foundation Library's unique and special collection represents the breadth of O'Neill's work and legacy. We are fortunate to house this special collections library at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and offer programs and opportunities for artists in residence, scholars, students, writers, and other guests to gain their own ideas and inspirations while here.

Thanks to the leadership of librarian Vickie Sciacca, our special collections and holdings are entrusted to very capable hands.

PLAYGROUND-SF STUDENTS CAME TO TAO HOUSE IN JUNE

Sponsoring education and artistic events for students to gain a deeper knowledge of O'Neill's work is a long-standing mission of the Foundation. This year, the Foundation partnered with Playground-SF to stage the winners of the 2026 Young Playwrights Contest "Tales of the City." Open to Bay Area high school students, the contest is an open-submission competition that provides winning high school playwrights with a professional staged reading.

On June 6 9-3:30, the winners visited Tao House, toured O'Neill's home, and met with actors/directors. After a noon lunch, the students were treated to a professional staged reading of their 10-minute plays in the Old Barn Theatre.

The Foundation was delighted and proud to collaborate with Playground-SF and encourage young playwrights in the pursuit of their art. Our invaluable members and supporters make these events happen. Thank you!

More here



GARY SCHAUB

We recently lost a friend and supporter with the passing of Gary Schaub. Gary joined the Board and served as co-president and in recent years was an Advisory Board member. He and Maria could always be found in the audience of EONF productions. Our condolences to his wife Maria and family.

FAREWELL SUPERINTENDENT K. LYNN BERRY



Hammer-wielding K. Lynn Berry will be missed!

This May we say farewell and best wishes to Superintendent K. Lynn Berry. While we will miss K. Lynn, it is heartwarming to know this move brings her close to family and home.

We know K. Lynn as the leader who artfully and smartfully navigated challenges faced by the National Park Service and Tao House these recent years. With integrity, humility, and savvy service leadership, she has been an outstanding partner to the Foundation and is as resourceful in managing MOUs and work plans as picking up a hammer to reattach fallen Old Barn slats. She's also a master at deflecting compliments... so apologies, K. Lynn, for causing discomfort.

Please join us in wishing the best to K. Lynn and her family!
~ The Eugene O'Neill Board of Directors

Thanks to our Board members, volunteers, and partners for their invaluable help and support!

TRAVIS BOGARD ARTIST IN RESIDENCE NEWS

We will be hosting five **Artists in Residence** in 2026: J. Chris Westgate, Bill Bowers, Mar Gallego, Phillip Smith, and Charles II. Welcome to Tao House!

O'Neill Scholar **J. Chris Westgate** will continue his research for a scholarly monograph that will examine the significance of shipwrecks in O'Neill's early plays. **Bill Bowers**, a mime, returns to Tao House to continue work on his memoir which he began in his 2021 residency. Professor **Mar Gallego** from Universidad de Huelva (Spain) intends to focus research on two of O'Neill's plays of the 20s during the Harlem Renaissance to the drama production of two African American women playwrights, Zora Neale Huston and Georgia Douglas Johnson. **Phillip Smith** of Pace University in New York will work on his play about family; an elderly father and his middle-aged son and daughter. **Charles II** plans to work on a play which follows two college roommates—one of whom is black and the other white—who test a homemade time machine, hurling them into racially-charged and culturally-defining eras of the past.



SOCIETY NEWS

Work in the International Eugene O'Neill Society continues apace! We are looking forward to the 13th Annual International Eugene O'Neill Conference in 2029 in Los Angeles. The planning committee includes Eric Fraisher Hayes, Chris Westgate, Beth Wynstra, and Rob Richter.

Valerie Joyce has agreed to chair the new Education Committee, which will "Promote and support the teaching of the life, works, and legacy of Eugene O'Neill in high schools, colleges, and universities in the United States and across the globe."

Become a member



THE EUGENE O'NEILL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE

Join us for this unique celebration of the deep cultural ties between Ireland and the United States, inspired by the life and legacy of America's most celebrated playwright. Set in O'Neill's ancestral hometown of New Ross, the festival brings together world-class theatre, Irish heritage, music, and scholarship. This year's events are truly international, including plays from Ireland, Danville, Calif., and Tbilisi, Georgia, and dance, drama, and music from Cáceres, Spain, Ireland, and Georgia.



We at the Foundation are proud of Danville's friendship city status with New Ross and are excited to return to O'Neill's ancestral home in October for the International Festival. Join our group traveling from Danville to New Ross this year!



Learn more
& view the
itinerary



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CONNECTING PASSIONS WITH PURPOSE

Eugene O'Neill once said, "The one thing that explains more than anything about me is the fact that I'm Irish." Eugene O'Neill Foundation Board Member Lori Cassels agrees and leans into the Foundation's recognition of Eugene O'Neill's appreciation of his Irish Heritage. Attending One Festival, Two Countries in New Ross, Ireland was a highlight for Lori, where she got to present her paper, "One Night at the Hellhole" on her research about Eugene O'Neill and Catholic Worker-Activist Dorothy Day. She then continued working on writing a play while being a Travis Bogard Day-Use Fellow.

Lori is also on the board of Irish American Writers and Artists, a New York-based arts nonprofit founded by Malachy McCourt. She is just back from chairing two panels for them at the American Literature Association in Chicago.



Board Member Lori
Cassels at ALA
conference in Chicago

"It was an honor to be invited on the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Board and I enjoy helping with the artistic and educational mission of the Foundation." We appreciate the incredible energy, creativity, and connections Lori has brought to the Foundation!

JOIN US

Your donation helps cover production costs and enables us to continue bringing artistic and education programs that celebrate and promote the legacy of America's foremost playwright. Check for your employer's **matching donation policy!** Our non-profit tax ID # is 23-7401824.

Enjoy member benefits! 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. **Thank you for your support! Looking to volunteer?** There are many opportunities for your talents and expertise. Email us to see how you can be involved at **taohouse.eonf@gmail.com**.

Join us!

