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NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

THE EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR FOURTH ANNUAL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center is pleased to announce its Fourth Annual Young Playwrights Festival, May 8–10, 2009, with a call for scripts by young writers. Following the festival's great success of the past three years, the O'Neill will again work with local high school and middle school students to develop and stage readings of the selected original one-act plays.

Scripts will be accepted through March 6. The Festival begins on Friday, May 8th. Students will spend the weekend working with a creative team composed of a director, dramaturg and actors to develop and stage their scripts. The development process for each script will draw on the principles and techniques used during the O'Neill's renowned professional summer National Playwrights Conference. Through these methods, the students will take their creative writing project to the next step, by moving from the initial isolation of writing to the collaborative process involved in making their script into a living, breathing play.

Students should expect a vibrant exploration of their work, professional and helpful artists with whom to work, full rehearsals with their artistic team, and opportunities to re-write their play. The Festival culminates in a script-in-hand public reading of the students' work on Sunday, May 10th.

Plays will be selected on a competitive basis. Submission requirements are as follows:

- Students in middle & high school, aged 12 - 18, are eligible for the Festival.
- Students must submit ten to twenty pages of original drama.
- Scripts and application must be received by March 6th, 2009.
- Submissions should be sent to:
Young Playwrights Festival
c/o Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
305 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385

To receive an application, or for more information about the Young Playwrights Festival, please visit www.theoneill.org or contact Sophia Chapadjiev, Festival Director, at sophia@theoneill.org.

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, founded in 1964 and located in Waterford, Connecticut, is the pre-eminent center for the development of new works and new voices for the American theater. It has been home to more than 1,000 new works for the stage and 2,500 emerging artists. Scores of projects developed at the O'Neill have gone on to full productions at other theaters around the world, including Broadway, off-Broadway and major regional theaters. The O'Neill is itself the winner of a special Tony Award; the first Jujamcyn Award for Theater Excellence in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent for the theater; the National Opera Award; and the Arts and Business Council Encore Award.

O'Neill programs include the National Playwrights Conference, National Music Theater Conference, Young Playwrights Festival, Puppetry Conference, Cabaret & Performance Conference, National Critics Institute, and the fully accredited National Theater Institute, which includes semester-long, fully accredited intensive theater training programs and a six-week accredited summer program, Theatermakers. In addition, the O'Neill owns and operates the Monte Cristo Cottage, a National Historic Landmark and the childhood home of Nobel Prize-winning and four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Eugene O'Neill. For more information regarding the Center, please visit the O'Neill website at www.theoneill.org, call 860-443-5378, or email theaterlives@theoneill.org.

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