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Contact: Suzanne Hendrix
Associate Director of Development
860-443-5378 x217
shendrix@theoneill.org

NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center 18th Annual Fishers Island Golf Classic

**Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at the Fishers Island Club
Fishers Island, NY**

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, Connecticut, will hold its 18th Annual Fishers Island Golf Classic on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at the Fishers Island Club. The course, designed by Seth Raynor, is rated in the top 20 courses in the United States and the top 30 golf courses in the world. John Rafal, President of Essex Financial Services and O'Neill Trustee is serving as chairman for the event.

The day will begin with a ferry ride to Fishers Island, followed by brunch, an afternoon of golf, cook-out, cocktails, and live auction.

Fishers Island, known for its scenic beauty, has served as the tournament's home for the past 17 years. The golf tournament is a significant source of support for Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in its mission to support and develop new works and new voices for the American theater.

Committee members for the Fishers Island Golf Classic include: **Jeff Aiosa, Dick Bruno, Darren DeVerna, Carolyn Greenspan, Chet Kitchings Jr., and Marshall Ruben.**

Sponsorship opportunities for this premier event range from tees to title sponsor, with benefits including ferry transportation to and from the island for cocktails, cook-out, and the auction. Foursomes and single golfers may register to play until the tournament field of 28 foursomes is filled. The rain date for the event is Thursday, May 28. For information on sponsorships and foursome opportunities, contact Suzanne Hendrix at (860) 443-5378 ext. 217 or shendrix@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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