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NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

PRELIMINARY CASTING FOR O'NEILL NATIONAL PLAYWRIGHTS AND NATIONAL MUSIC THEATER CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED

PROMINENT STAGE AND SCREEN ACTORS TO PERFORM

Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference (NPC) and **Paulette Haupt**, Artistic Director of the National Music Theater Conference (NMTC), announced today the actors cast in the summer projects. Actors for the conferences include award-winning actors of stage and screen, seasoned O'Neill performers, and new talent.

The list includes **Alan Ruck**, best known for playing Cameron in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*; **Johanna Day**, Tony Nominated for her work in *Proof* and most recently seen in Broadway's *August: Osage County*; **Mike Doyle**, who played forensics technician Ryan O'Halloran on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*; **Lynn Cohen**, most recently seen in Tina Howe's *Chasing Manet* at Primary Stages and known for her recurring role as Magda, Miranda's housekeeper, on *Sex and the City*; **Christopher J. Hanke** of Broadway's *Cry-Baby* and the upcoming CBS drama *Three Rivers*; **Candy Buckley**, most recently seen in Raúl Castillo's *Knives and Other Sharp Objects* at the Public Theater; **Jeffrey Carlson**, who originated the role of Billy in Edward Albee's *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* on Broadway; **Mary Birdsong**, who played Deputy Cherisha Kimball on Comedy Central's *Reno 911!*; 2005 Drama Desk Award-winner for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; **Jose Llana**; **Alma Cuervo**, who originated the role of Ida Straus in the original Broadway cast of *Titanic*; **Rob Campbell**, seen in the Broadway revival of *Ivanov* with Jayne Atkinson, Kevin Kline, and fellow NPC actor Lynn Cohen; and 2003 Tony Award-winner for Featured Actor in a Musical in *Hairspray*, **Dick Latessa**.

Some roles have yet to be cast. Further announcements forthcoming.

The O'Neill 2009 National Music Theater Conference projects and casts are:

Picnic at Hanging Rock
Book, Music and Lyrics by Daniel Zaitchik
Director: Joe Calarco
Music Director: Deborah Abramson

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Performances: Sat., June 27 at 8:00 pm; Sun., June 28 at 3:00 pm; Wed., July 1 at 8:00 pm; Fri., July 3 at 8:00 pm

CAST: Whitney Bashor*, Charlie Brady*, Matt Doyle*, Jessica Grove*, Veronica Kuehn*, Hannah Laird*, Anne Letscher*, Anne Nathan*, Lauren Nolan, Laila Robins*, Sarah Shahinian*, Nick Sullivan*, Kate Wetherhead*, Jessica-Snow Wilson*, Lauren Worsham*, and Valerie Wright*.

Tales of the City

Book by: Jeff Whitty

Music and Lyrics by: Jason Sellards aka "Jake Shears"

Music by: John Garden

Director: Jason Moore

Music Director: Stephen Oremus

Performances: Sat., July 4 at 8:00 pm; Sun., July 5 at 2:00 pm; Wed., July 8 at 8:00 pm; Sat., July 11 at 8:00 pm

CAST: Mary Birdsong*, Candy Buckley*, Jeffrey Carlson*, Diane Davis*, Christopher J. Hanke*, John Jellison*, Steve Kazee*, Jose Llana*, Matt McGrath*, Betsy Wolfe*, and Kristine Zbornik*.

The O'Neill 2009 National Playwrights Conference projects and casts are:

The Language Archive** by Julia Cho

Director: Mark Brokaw

Performances: Sat., July 4 at 8:15 pm; Sun., July 5 at 5:15 pm

CAST: Lynn Cohen*, Johanna Day*, Sue Jean Kim*, Dick Latessa*, and Alan Ruck*.

Fire Work by Lauren Gunderson

Director: Sean Daniels

Performances: Thurs., July 9 at 8:15 pm; Fri., July 10 at 7:15 pm

CAST: Brandon Dirden*, Suehyla El-Attar, and Kevin Geer*.

The Color of Desire by Nilo Cruz

Director: Wendy C. Goldberg

Performances: Sat., July 11 at 8:15 pm; Sun., July 12 at 3:15 pm

CAST: Maria Cellario*, Alma Cuervo*, Johanna Day*, Mike Doyle*, Rey Lucas*, and Stephen Schnetzer*.

House of Gold by Gregory Moss

Director: Sarah Benson

Performances: Thurs., July 16 at 8:15 pm; Fri., July 17 at 3:15 pm

CAST: Karen Briscoe*, Rob Campbell*, Matt D'Amico*, Stephen Ellis, Evan Enderle, Kevin Geer*, Ben Gunderson, and Karak Osborn.

Spoon Lake Blues by Josh Tobiesen

Director: Kyle Donnelly

Performances: Sat., July 18 at 8:15 pm; Sun., July 19 at 3:15 pm

CAST: Michelle Beck*, and Scott Drummond*, Ryan King*, and Makela Spielman*.

Carthage by Emily Schwend

Director: Davis McCallum

Performances: Thurs., July 23 at 8:15 pm; Fri., July 24 at 7:15 pm

CAST: Craig Bockhorn*, Christian Conn*, Emily Donahoe*, and Matt Rausch*.

Bogwog*** by Abbie Spallen

Director: David Esbjornson

Performances: Sat., July 25 at 8:15 pm; Sun., July 26 at 3:15pm

CAST: Dane Dehaan*, Birgit Huppuch*, Ryan King*, Rachel Leslie*, and Ryan Spahn*.

*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association

***The Language Archive* was commissioned by the Roundabout Theatre Company

****Bogwog*, The Irish Project at the O'Neill, is sponsored in part by a grant from the Xerox Foundation.

Schedules are subject to change. Tickets are on sale now. Please call the O'Neill Box Office at 860-443-1238 for times, prices and reservations. Outdoor performances will be moved indoors in the event of rain.

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, founded in 1964, 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 itself is the winner of a special Tony Award, the National Opera Award, the Jujamcyn Award for Theater Excellence and the Arts and Business Council Encore Award. The O'Neill's programs include the National Playwrights Conference, National Music Theater Conference, Puppetry Conference, Cabaret Conference, National Critics Institute, and the National Theater Institute, which includes semester-long, fully accredited intensive theater training programs in Waterford and Moscow 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 or call 860-443-5378.

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