



June 24, 2008

EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER ANNOUNCES

Four TONY Awards for 2005 National Music Theater Project
In the Heights;

Two Cabaret & Performance Conference Projects to Open on Broadway;

Nine World Premiere Productions of Recent O'Neill National Playwrights
Conference Projects This Season with Additional Performances Scheduled;

Deborah Zoe Laufer wins Citation in prestigious
Steinberg New American Play Competition;

Samuel D. Hunter awarded 2nd Annual PONY Fellowship in NYC

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center is proud to announce that the National Music Theater Conference's 2005 project *In the Heights* (music & lyrics, **Lin-Manuel Miranda**; book, **Quiara Alegria Hudes**) has received four Antoinette Perry Awards – including the coveted Best Musical Award and prestigious Best Original Score. *In the Heights* opened on Broadway in February 2008, following an off-Broadway run last season that earned it Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding New Musical and a Drama Desk Award for Best Ensemble Performance. Hudes is a 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist and Miranda was recently awarded ASCAP'S 2007 Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award which recognizes emerging artists in the musical theater.

Paulette Haupt, Artistic Director of the National Music Theater Conference, stated, "It is very gratifying when artists who have developed their projects here receive recognition in the theater community beyond the O'Neill. We are proud of the continuing success that Lin-Manuel and Quiara have had with *In the Heights*."

Latest News about Upcoming Broadway Transfers: Two recent projects from the O'Neill's Cabaret & Performance Conference, under the Artistic Direction of **Michael Bush** are scheduled to open on Broadway runs in 2008/2009. *[title of show]* by

Hunter Bell and **Jeff Bowen**, was developed at the O'Neill in 2005. It will open on Broadway in July 2008, following a twice-extended off-Broadway run in 2006/2007 which received two Obie Awards, and Lucille Lortel and Drama Critics Circle award nominations for Outstanding Musical. The show's original performers and director, all of whom were involved in the project at the O'Neill, will comprise the Broadway company. *The Story of My Life*, by **Brian Hill** and **Neil Bartrum**, a 2006 project, is scheduled to open on Broadway in January 2009 following successful runs at Canada Stage in Ontario and City Theater in Philadelphia. NPC alumnus **Richard Maltby** will direct. Congratulations to the talented writers, composers and performers of these two projects!

As previously reported, six of the eight 2007 National Playwrights Conference (NPC) projects received full production world premieres at theaters throughout America this year. In addition, two 2006 NPC projects received their world premieres this season - *The Receptionist* (**Adam Bock**), at the Manhattan Theatre Club, and *The K of D* (**Laura Schellhart**) at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre - and one project from the 2005 NPC, *Great Falls* by **Lee Blessing**. The plays were seen at theaters on Broadway and regionally, including Manhattan Theatre Club and Second Stage Theatre, New York; Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the Goodman Theatre, Chicago; Actors Theatre of Louisville; Florida Stage, Manalapan; The Woolly Mammoth Theater, Washington, DC; and The Magic Theatre, San Francisco.

Several of these projects are also scheduled for additional productions at theaters around the country. In addition to its world premiere at the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in December 2007, *Good Boys and True* by **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa**, transferred to the prestigious off-Broadway Second Stage Theatre in New York in mid-April 2008. Following the world premiere of **Rebecca Gilman's** *The Crowd You're In With* at the Magic Theatre in November 2007, it will have its Chicago premiere at The Goodman Theatre next season, directed by NPC Artistic Director **Wendy C. Goldberg**. *The Book Club Play* by **Karen Zacarias** will open at the Berkshire Theatre Festival in July 2008 following its February 2008 world premiere at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland.

NPC Artistic Director **Wendy C. Goldberg** said, "This is an important and rich artistic time for us at the National Playwrights Conference. To have nine world premiere productions on the boards in New York and at theaters across the country is a staggering achievement. I feel very proud of this accomplishment and thank the writers and staff for their hard work during their stay with us in Waterford each summer. The O'Neill is indisputably a home for inspiration, reflection and artistic development, and its impact on the landscape of the American Theater is invaluable."

Deborah Zoe Laufer received a Citation Award and \$7,500 prize in the prestigious Steinberg New American Play competition for her 2007 O'Neill project, *End Days*, which premiered at Florida Stage, Manalapan, FL.

Samuel D. Hunter was recently awarded the 2008-09 Playwrights of New York (PONY) Fellowship by the Lark Play Development. As a PONY Fellow, Sam Hunter will receive housing in the PONY apartment in the heart of the theatre district in midtown Manhattan for one year with a \$24,000 living stipend and artistic support from the Lark as a member of the prestigious Playwrights Workshop led by O'Neill alum **Arthur Kopit**. Hunter recently moved back to New York for a fellowship at Juilliard after completing his MFA at the Iowa Playwrights Workshop last May. He developed his play *Norman Rockwell Killed My Father* at the O'Neill in 2005, and has since served as a playwriting mentor for the O'Neill's National Theater Institute.

O'Neill projects that received world premiere and Broadway productions this past season are:

The Receptionist by **Adam Bock** – world premiere, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York, NY – previewed October 12, 2007, opened October 30, 2007 – RUN EXTENDED through January 6, 2008.

End Days by **Deb Laufer** (2007) – world premiere, Florida Stage, Manalapan, Oct. 19 – Nov. 25, 2007.

The Crowd You're In With by **Rebecca Gilman** (2007) – world premiere, Magic Theatre, San Francisco, CA, November 10 – December 9, 2007 – run extended two weeks to December 22.

Good Boys and True by **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa** (2007) – world premiere, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago, IL, December 12, 2007 – February 16, 2008; New York City premiere, Second Stage Theatre, April 24 – June 8, 2008; directed by Scott Ellis.

The K of D by **Laura Schellhardt** (2006) – world premiere, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC, January 16 – February 10, 2008.

In The Heights – Music & Lyrics by **Lin-Manual Miranda**, Book by **Quiara Alegria Hudes** (2005) – presented off-Broadway, January 2007; previewed on Broadway, Feb. 14, 2008; opened March 9, 2008. Currently running.

The Book Club Play by **Karen Zacarias** (2007) – world premiere, Round House Theatre, Bethesda, MD, February 6 – March 2, 2008.

Great Falls by **Lee Blessing** (2005) – world premiere, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Louisville, KY, during the 32nd annual Humana Festival of New American Plays, February 24 – March 30, 2008.

The Ballad Of Emmett Till by **Ifa Bayeza** (2007) – world premiere, The Goodman Theatre, April 26 – June 1, 2008.

The Woodpecker by Samuel Brett Williams (2007) – world premiere, Cherry Lane Theatre, March 25 – April 5, 2008.

O’Neill projects scheduled to open on Broadway this coming season:

[title of show] by Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen (2005) will open on Broadway in July 2008.

The Story of My Life, by Brian Hill & Neil Bartrum (2006) is scheduled to open on Broadway in January 2009.

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