



November 30, 2007

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NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

**THE NATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE AT THE O'NEILL PRESENTS
A NEW ADAPTATION OF TED HUGHES'S *TALES FROM OVID***

**FREE PERFORMANCES ON FRIDAY, DEC. 14 AND SATURDAY, DEC. 15
AT 7:30 pm IN THE DINA MERRILL THEATER**

The National Theater Institute at the O'Neill will present a new adaptation of Ted Hughes's *TALES FROM OVID* on December 14 and 15 at 7:30 PM. The performances are the culmination of the troupe's Fall theater training semester at the O'Neill.

Ted Hughes, an English poet and children's writer, is routinely ranked as one of the best poets of his generation. Born in 1930, he was British Poet Laureate from 1984 until his death in 1998. He was married from 1956 to 1963 to the American poet Sylvia Plath, who committed suicide in 1963 at the age of 30. His acclaimed *Tales from Ovid* was written in 1997. Like much of his later work, it uses myth and the bardic tradition, heavily inflected with a modernist, existential and satirical viewpoint. In 1999, The Royal Shakespeare Company mounted a production based on the hugely successful Ted Hughes translation of twenty-four stories from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Three years later in New York, Mary Zimmerman had a swimming pool constructed on stage for her acclaimed production of a further batch of the stories translated by David Slavitt.

The National Theater Institute's performances will feature more of these highly entertaining Myths of Greece and Rome. The stories will provide the springboard for the 33 NTI students to demonstrate their skills. Incorporating Ted Hughes's vivid language with Droznin Russian Movement and the students' own insuppressible imaginations, this promises to be another extraordinary event at The O'Neill Theater Center. **Rachel Jett**, who trained with Andrei Droznin at The Moscow Arts Theatre School and has recently completed an MFA in Music Theatre at NYU, will oversee the production in collaboration with NTI Artistic Director **Michael Cadman**.

Please join us for these free public performances on December 14 and 15 at 7:30. The performances will take place in the Dina Merrill Theater at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, 305 Great Neck Road, Waterford.

The National Theater Institute, a program of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, was founded in 1970. Under the direction of Michael Cadman, it offers a fully-accredited, conservatory-based theater training semester to college-age students each fall and spring. In addition to a rigorous schedule of conservatory classes led by leading theater professionals, students attend performances and meet with artists at New York and regional theaters. NTI also offers an accredited semester of study abroad with the Moscow Art Theater. Its summer program, Theatermakers, gives advanced students and recent graduates workshops and classes along with the opportunity to participate as assistants to professional artists during the O'Neill's Puppetry, National Playwrights and National Music Theater Conferences. For more information, please visit the National Theater Institute website, www.theoneill.org/nti.

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