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NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

The O'Neill's National Theater Institute to Present Original Work, *Appetites*

**Free Performances on Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 pm
in the Dina Merrill Theater.**

After working for twelve weeks in a variety of disciplines including acting, directing, playwriting, design, movement, and voice, the twenty-eight students that comprise the National Theater Institute's fall ensemble proudly present their final project, *Appetites*. "The final project is a true reflection of NTI's multi-disciplinary nature," says Jeff Janisheski, Artistic Director of the National Theater Institute, "serving as a culmination of all of their work and growth over the course of these last few months."

The ensemble is composed of students from schools across the country with diverse theatrical backgrounds. The final project allows these students to participate in all areas of the production from writing to acting, design to co-directing. Janisheski notes that "the journey at NTI is a road of self-discovery," a supportive environment where students are encouraged to take risks and develop their own unique voice and perspective within the theater.

Appetites, an original work-in-progress developed by the students with Janisheski's guidance, is an exploration of hungers physical, emotional, and artistic and the constant desire, pressure, or obligation to satisfy them. A true collaboration, *Appetites* will feature excerpts and scenes from various plays, novels, and poems, including the works of Eugene O'Neill, Eric Bogosian, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Richard Wright and T.S. Eliot, as well as excerpts from non-fiction books and original work written by the students. With both seriousness and humor, employing theater, dance, and music, *Appetites* explores and articulates our cravings and compulsions.

Please join us on December 12 and 13 at 7:30pm to experience this original performance by some of America's most promising future theater artists. The NTI Final Project will be performed in the Dina Merrill Theater at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, 305 Great Neck Road, Waterford. For more information, please contact (860) 443-5378 or email theaterlives@theoneill.org.

The National Theater Institute, a program of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, was founded in 1970. Under the direction of Jeff Janisheski, 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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