



April 12, 2010

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Maureen Q. Wolyniec  
Director of Institutional Development  
860-443-5378, x213  
[mwolyniec@theoneill.org](mailto:mwolyniec@theoneill.org)

**NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL**

**The O'Neill Prepares for Monte Cristo Cottage Tour Season**  
***Docent Opportunities Available - Open House April 20***

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center will host an open house on Tuesday, April 20 for **Monte Cristo Cottage** docents and friends, and is inviting interested community members to attend. Monte Cristo Cottage is the New London childhood summer home of **Eugene O'Neill**, America's most revered playwright, and is the setting for ***Long Day's Journey Into Night*** and ***Ah, Wilderness!***

The Cottage, which operates as a museum, will be open for tours Thursdays through Sundays, Memorial Day through Labor Day; the O'Neill is seeking returning and new docents to conduct the tours. **Trevor M. Wise**, O'Neill Community Associate, explained: *"The Cottage truly is a remarkable piece of American literary and theatrical history; we want to be sure our summer guests have an equally special visit, so we are scheduling docent training, which will be available to returning docents and required for new docents."*

The open house, which will begin at 5:30 pm, will offer light refreshments, casual tours, information on docent opportunities and upcoming training, as well as exciting news about the continued development of Cottage exhibits by supporters **Kathy and Carlos Heilmann**. The Cottage is located at 325 Pequot Avenue, New London.

Those who wish to attend the open house with a possible docent role in mind, or to renew or begin an acquaintance with Monte Cristo Cottage, should contact Trevor Wise at 860-443-5378 x285 or [twise@theoneill.org](mailto:twise@theoneill.org).

The O'Neill, founded in 1964 in honor of Eugene O'Neill, four-time Pulitzer Prize Winner and America's only playwright to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, is the country's preeminent

organization dedicated to the development of new works and new voices for the American theater. The O'Neill 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 production at other theaters around the world, including Broadway, Off-Broadway and major regional theaters.

O'Neill programs include the National Playwrights Conference, National Music Theater Conference, National Critics Institute, National Puppetry Conference, the Cabaret & Performance Conference, and National Theater Institute, which conducts semester-long, fully accredited intensive theater training programs and Theatermakers, a six-week accredited summer program.

In addition, the O'Neill owns and operates Monte Cristo Cottage as a museum open to the public. Childhood summer home of Eugene O'Neill, the Cottage is a National Historic Landmark.

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center has received a special Tony Award, the National Opera Award, the Jujamcyn Award for Theatre Excellence and the Arts and Business Council Encore Award. For more information, visit the O'Neill website, [www.theoneill.org](http://www.theoneill.org) or email [theaterlives@theoneill.org](mailto:theaterlives@theoneill.org).

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