



June 4, 2009

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NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER ANNOUNCES SUMMER GATHERING FOR MFA PLAYWRIGHTS

ELIZABETH FRANKEL, MARC MASTERSON, EDWARD SOBEL,
JACK TANTLEFF, AND PAULA VOGEL SET TO SPEAK

This summer the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference is organizing and hosting a gathering for student playwrights in MFA programs across the country. Through the generous support of the Mellon Foundation, graduate students from various playwriting programs will convene on the O'Neill's picturesque campus in Waterford, Connecticut from July 22 to 25 to meet, hear readings of new American plays, and engage with professional theater artists.

As part of the National Playwrights Conference mission to nurture and develop new voices and works for the American theater, the gathering will also host a panel discussion on the steps MFA playwrights might take to make the transition from an academic environment to the professional world. This panel discussion will feature **Elizabeth Frankel** (Literary Associate, The Public Theater), **Marc Masterson** (Artistic Director, Actors Theatre of Louisville), **Edward Sobel** (Director of New Play Development, Steppenwolf Theatre Company), **Jack Tantleff** (Co-Head of Paradigm Literary and Talent Agency), and **Paula Vogel** (Playwright, Eugene O'Neill Professor (adjunct) of Playwriting and Chair of the Playwriting Department, Yale School of Drama).

Panelists will discuss a number of topics, depending on their specialty and interest, including how literary offices work, what opportunities are available for graduating writers, and what works and doesn't work in new play development and production. The panel will be hosted by **Wendy C. Goldberg**, Artistic Director, National Playwrights Conference.

"Since the beginning of my own professional career, it has been imperative to me to aid in the mentoring and development of emerging artists. At a relatively young age, I knew I could help provide access and resources to the next generation of artists due to my own

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leadership positions. This commitment can be seen in the inclusion of a student writer in the National Playwrights Conference every season of my tenure as well as hosting students from across the country to participate in all level of the conference structure. This convening builds on a history of dedication to the next generation, while deepening the conversation for these writers who are moving into the world of professional theater. We thank the Mellon Foundation for aiding in this effort. I believe this unique experience will prove extremely valuable,” said **Wendy C. Goldberg**, Artistic Director, National Playwrights Conference.

For more information on the convening, or if you are an MFA student interested in attending, please contact John Baker, O’Neill MFA Convening Coordinator, with your interest by July 1 at jbaker@theoneill.org.

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.

PANELIST BIOS – 2009 O’NEILL MFA CONVENING

ELIZABETH FRANKEL

Currently the Literary Associate at The Public Theater, Elizabeth Frankel has previously worked at Waxman Williams Entertainment, Miramax Films and in the literary office of Manhattan Theatre Club. She was the Associate Producer of *Bingo*, a new musical which played off-Broadway in the winter of 2005/2006. With the Summer Play Festival, she was the dramaturg for Sylvia Reed’s *The Ones that Flutter* in 2008, producer of Jim Knable’s *Spain* in 2006, and the associate producer of John Yearley’s *Ephemera* in 2005. She was a Lucille Lortel Awards Nominator during the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 theater seasons. Her journalistic work has appeared in *The Village Voice*, *Time Out New York*, *American Theatre*, and *Northeast Magazine*. She holds a BA in Performing Arts and English from Colby College.

MARC MASTERSON

Marc Masterson, in his tenth season of leadership at Actors Theatre of Louisville, is an award-winning director specializing in new work and innovative productions of the

classics. Actors directing credits include *Wild Blessings: A Celebration of Wendell Cherry*, *Shipwrecked! An Adventure*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Tempest*, *The Unseen*, *Mary's Wedding*, *The Crucible*, *The Shaker Chair*, *Betrayal*, *After Ashley*, *Tallgrass Gothic*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Second Death of Priscilla*, *Limonade Tous les Jours*, *Wonderful World*, and his acclaimed three-actor production of *Macbeth*. As a producer, he has brought new artists to Louisville audiences, including playwrights August Wilson, Craig Wright, Pearl Cleage, and dozens of Humana Festival playwrights. He led the creation of Actors Theatre's first Education department and numerous community outreach efforts. Mr. Masterson earned his M.F.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University, and subsequently taught at both universities. He served as Producing Director of City Theatre in Pittsburgh for 20 years. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of Theatre Communications Group.

JACK TANTLEFF

Jack Tantleff is a Theatre Agent at Paradigm Literary and Talent Agency. But he began his career working in Broadway and Off-Broadway management and production. He was instrumental in bringing the critically acclaimed musical *Side Show* to Broadway, representing most of the creative team, including composer Henry Krieger, bookwriter and lyricist Bill Russell, director and choreographer Robert Longbottom, costume designer Gregg Barnes, orchestrator Harold Wheeler and music director David Chase. He also represented a number of company members, including Norm Lewis and its Tony nominated star Emily Skinner. More recently, he and his clients played a significant part in the development of the Broadway musicals *The Full Monty*, *Hairspray*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and Disney's *The Little Mermaid*.

For three years, beginning in April 2000, Mr. Tantleff was head of the Literary Division in the New York and Los Angeles offices of Abrams Artists Agency. In June 2003 he joined William Morris Agency as a Senior Vice President and co-head of Theatre, where in 2005 his department's clients received 21 separate Tony nominations. Mr. Tantleff is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, where he studied with Wilford Leach.

EDWARD SOBEL

Edward Sobel is the Director of New Play Development at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, where he has overseen the development of over 40 new plays into production, including the Pulitzer finalists *Red Light Winter* and *Man from Nebraska*, as well as Pulitzer and Tony Award winner *August: Osage County*. Recent directing credits include *Cadillac* at Chicago Dramatists (Jeff Award nominations, best director and production), and *Huck Finn*, *The Chosen* and *A Lesson Before Dying* at Steppenwolf. He founded Steppenwolf's FIRST LOOK REPERTORY OF NEW WORK, for which he received the Elliott Hayes award from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas for outstanding contribution to the field of dramaturgy. He holds an MFA from Northwestern University, and is currently on the faculty of Temple University.

PAULA VOGEL

Paula Vogel's play, *How I Learned to Drive*, received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Lortel Prize, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and New York Drama Critics Awards

for Best Play, as well as winning her second OBIE. It has been produced all over the world. Other plays include *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Mineola Twins*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Hot'N'Thrbbing*, *Desdemona*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, and *The Oldest Profession*. In 2004-5 she was the playwright in residence at The Signature Theatre in New York which produced three of her works. Her new play *A Civil War Christmas* was produced at The Long Wharf Theatre in November 2008, directed by Tina Landau. She is currently playwright in residence at the Yale Repertory Theatre, as well as an artistic associate at Long Wharf Theatre.

Ms. Vogel won the 2004 Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the OBIE for Best Play in 1992, the Rhode Island Pell Award in the Arts, the Hull-Warriner Award, The Laura Pels Award, the Pew Charitable Trust Senior Award, a Guggenheim, an AT&T New Plays Award, the Fund for New American Plays, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center Fellowship, several National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, the McKnight Fellowship, the Bunting Fellowship, and the Governor's Award for the Arts. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She was recently awarded a Thirtini, a most coveted award, from 13P in New York.

Paula Vogel is the Eugene O'Neill Professor (adjunct) of Playwriting and Chair of the Playwriting Department at the Yale School of Drama.

WENDY C. GOLDBERG

Wendy C. Goldberg is in her fifth season as Artistic Director of the National Playwrights Conference at the O'Neill. In five seasons at the O'Neill, she has nurtured over 40 new works for the American Theater that have moved directly into significant world premiere productions across the country at theaters including Manhattan Theatre Club, Steppenwolf, and The Goodman. Her own directing credits include multiple productions at Actors Theater of Louisville, Arena Stage, Alliance Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Denver Center, Florida Stage, Goodman Theatre, and Signature Theatre. Goldberg was Artistic Associate at Arena Stage from 2000-2005 where she ran the new play development program since its inception. Her production of Rebecca Gilman's play *The Crowd You're in With* is currently running at The Goodman Theatre in Chicago. Goldberg is also the Creative Consultant for the musical *Rock of Ages*, currently running on Broadway. She will direct Gilman's play *Dollhouse* this season at The Guthrie. Goldberg serves on the Executive Board of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and holds a BA from The University of Michigan and a MFA from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television.

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