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**For Immediate Release**

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**NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL**

**EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR FIFTH ANNUAL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL**

The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center is pleased to announce its Fifth Annual Young Playwrights Festival, May 7-9, 2010, with a call for scripts by young writers. Following the festival's great success of the past four years, the O'Neill will again work with local high school and middle school students to develop and stage readings of the selected original one-act plays.

Scripts will be accepted through March 5. The Festival begins on Friday, May 7. Students will spend the weekend working with a creative team composed of a director, dramaturg and actors to develop and stage their scripts. The development process for each script will draw on the principles and techniques used during the O'Neill's renowned professional summer National Playwrights Conference. Through these methods, the students will take their creative writing project to the next step, by moving from the initial isolation of writing to the collaborative process involved in making their script into a living, breathing play.

Selected students should expect a vibrant exploration of their work, professional and helpful artists with whom to work, full rehearsals with their artistic team, and opportunities to re-write their play. The Festival concludes in a script-in-hand public reading of the students' work on Sunday, May 9.

Plays will be selected on a competitive basis. Submission requirements are as follows:

- *Students in middle & high school, grades six through twelve, are eligible for the Festival.*
- *Students must submit ten to fifteen pages of original work.*
- *An application with a completed checklist and two copies of the scripts must be received by March 5, 2009.*
- *Only the work of those able to attend the entire festival, May 7-9, 2010, will be considered for inclusion.*
- *Submissions should be sent to:*

*Young Playwrights Festival  
c/o Eugene O'Neill Theater Center  
305 Great Neck Road  
Waterford, CT 06385*

To receive an application, or for more information about the Young Playwrights Festival, please visit [www.theoneill.org](http://www.theoneill.org) or contact Sophia Chapadjiev, Festival Director, at [sophia@theoneill.org](mailto:sophia@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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