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## NEWS FROM THE O'NEILL

### EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER ANNOUNCES 2009 CABARET AND PERFORMANCE CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

#### CAST OF *[TITLE OF SHOW]*, PENNY FULLER AND TONY ROBERTS, GREGG EDELMAN, MARY CLEERE HARAN AND OTHERS TO PERFORM

Waterford, Connecticut – The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center announced today selections for the 2009 Cabaret and Performance Conference. The conference, under the guidance of Artistic Director **Michael Bush**, will run from July 29 to August 8 on the O'Neill's scenic campus in Waterford, Connecticut. This year's theme, taken from the title of a song by Irving Berlin, is "Let Yourself Go."

During its intense two week period, the Cabaret and Performance Conference provides hands-on artistic guidance and instruction to a select group of international participants chosen by application and audition. The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center provides professional faculty—led by artistic associates **Penny Fuller** and **Barry Kleinbort**—and the resources to support each participant in the creation of a new cabaret performance piece.

In addition to pieces developed by the Cabaret Fellows, the conference will also present performances of special cabaret theater pieces featuring some of the top names in theater today. This year, the O'Neill is proud to welcome back **Penny Fuller** (*Dividing the Estate*) in an evening with **Tony Roberts** (*Barefoot in the Park* and *Xanadu*) as well as **Hunter Bell**, **Susan Blackwell**, **Heidi Blickenstaff**, and **Jeff Bowen** (the cast of Broadway's *[title of show]*, developed at the 2005 Cabaret and Performance Conference) who will be presenting a new work-in-progress.

Also performing will be the world-renowned cabaret artist **Mary Cleere Haran**; a performance of the songs of **Edward Kleban**, lyricist of *A Chorus Line*; **Gregg Edelman**, Broadway leading man of *City of Angels* and the revival of *Wonderful Town*; in collaboration with the O'Neill's National Music Theater Conference, a new piece by **Paul Scott Goodman**, who wrote the music, book, and lyrics for the current off-Broadway smash musical *Rooms: A Rock Romance*; and *Secrets of Songwriting*, a musical about four very different female songwriters in Nashville, written by **Michael Aman** and **Randi Michaels Block**.

“One of the requirements of great cabaret theatre is the need of an audience response to ignite a performance. If that is true, this summer’s program promises to start a bonfire,” said Michael Bush, Artistic Director, Cabaret and Performance Conference.

Preston Whiteway, Executive Director of the O’Neill remarked, “The Cabaret and Performance Conference always ends the O’Neill season with a bang, and this year is no different. Michael has put together an immensely talented lineup, and each piece will be breaking new ground, in the best O’Neill tradition.”

Schedules are subject to change. Tickets will go on sale beginning Wednesday, June 10. Please call the O’Neill Box Office at 860-443-1238 or visit <http://www.theoneill.org> for times, prices and reservations.

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](http://www.theoneill.org) or call 860-443-5378.

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