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THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
EUGENE O'NEILL

This is a volume of specially commissioned essays containing studies of Eugene O'Neill's life, his intellectual and creative forebears, and his relation to the theatrical world of his creative period, 1916–42. Also included are descriptions of the O'Neill canon and its production history on stage and screen, and a series of essays on “special topics” related to the playwright, such as his treatment of women in the plays, his portrayals of Irish and African-Americans, and his attempts to deal in dramatic terms with his parental family culminating in his greatest play, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. One of the essays speaks for those who are critical of O'Neill's work, and the volume concludes with an essay on O'Neill criticism containing a select bibliography of full-length studies of the playwright's work.

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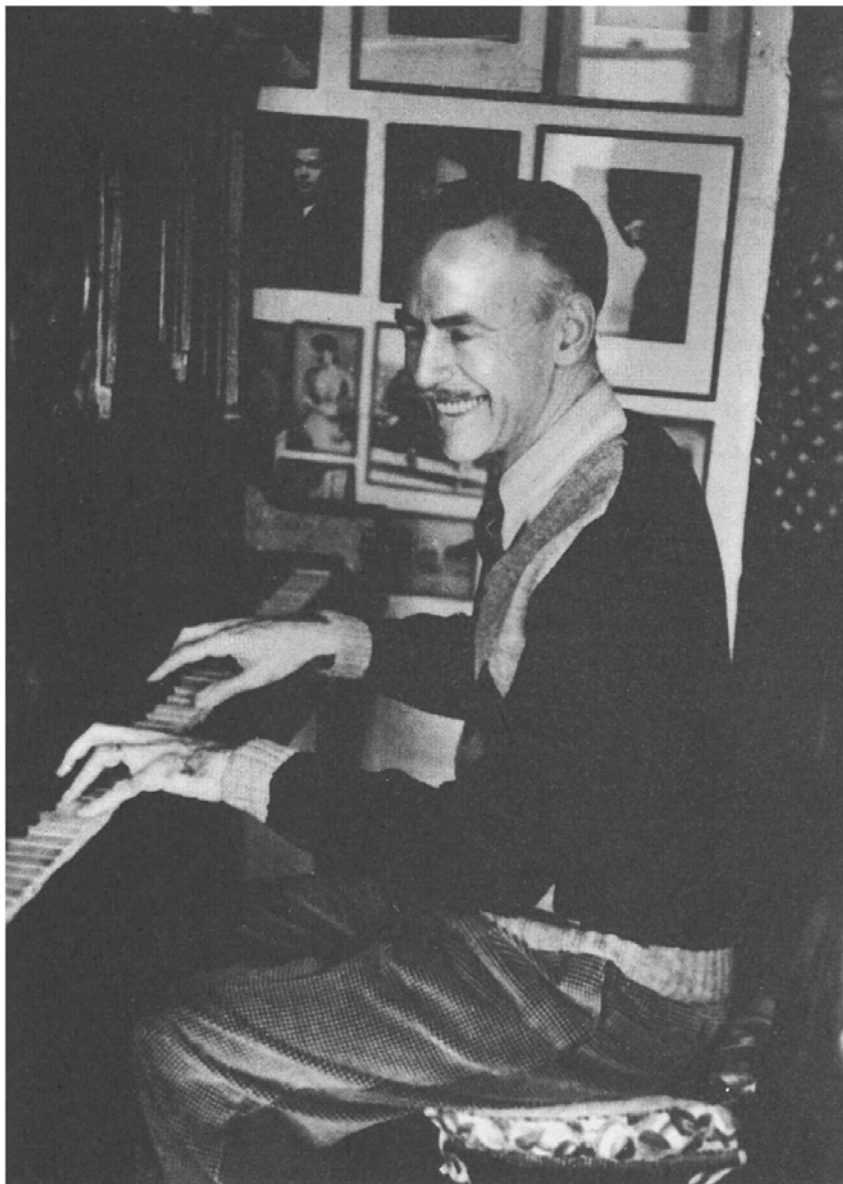
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Eugene O'Neill at his player piano "Rosie" in the early 1940s

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THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
EUGENE O'NEILL

EDITED BY
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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bibliographies of both T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound, and a book of memoirs, *Pigeons in the Granite* (1988).

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Companies and Festivals: An International Guide (1995), and numerous articles on American theatre and drama, as well as on contemporary Shakespearean production.

MATTHEW H. WIKANDER is Professor of English at the University of Toledo. He is author of *Princes to Act: Royal Audience and Royal Performance, 1578–1792* (1993), and *The Play of Truth and State: Historical Drama from Shakespeare to Brecht* (1986), as well as numerous articles on drama and theatre from the Elizabethans to the present.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1877 James, Sr. (father) marries Ella Quinlan O'Neill (mother).
- 1878 James, Jr. (brother) born.
- 1883 Edmund (brother) born.
- 1885 Edmund dies.
- 1888 Eugene Gladstone O'Neill born on 16 October in New York City.
- 1895 To Mount Saint Vincent Academy boarding school (NYC).
- 1900 To Betts Academy (Stamford, Connecticut).
- 1906 To Princeton University (leaves 1907).
- 1909 Marries Kathleen Jenkins, followed by gold prospecting trip to Honduras.
- 1910 Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, Jr. (son) born. O'Neill sails to Buenos Aires as member of ship's crew.
- 1911 Returns to United States. Takes up residence at Jimmy-the-Priest's (tavern and room house in lower Manhattan, where he attempts suicide in 1912).
- 1912 Divorced from Kathleen Jenkins, returns to parental home (Monte Cristo Cottage in New London, Connecticut). Reporter for the New London *Telegraph*. Enters Gaylord Farm Sanatorium

CHRONOLOGY

for tuberculosis on 24 December (where he stays for six months and writes his first one-act plays).

- 1914 To George Pierce Baker's class in playwriting at Harvard. Publishes *Thirst, and Other One-Act Plays*.
- 1916 To Provincetown, Massachusetts, where *Bound East for Cardiff* and *Thirst* are produced. *Bound East* also produced in New York later this year. *Before Breakfast* produced.
- 1917 *Fog, The Sniper, In the Zone, The Long Voyage Home*, and *Ile* produced.
- 1918 Marries Agnes Boulton. *The Rope, Where the Cross is Made*, and *The Moon of the Caribbees* produced.
- 1919 Son, Shane O'Neill, born. *The Dreamy Kid* produced.
- 1920 *Beyond the Horizon* produced (wins Pulitzer Prize). Father, James O'Neill, Sr., dies. *The Emperor Jones* and *Diff'rent* produced.
- 1921 *Anna Christie* produced (wins second Pulitzer Prize). *Gold* and *The Straw* produced.
- 1922 Mother, Ella Quinlan O'Neill, dies. *The Hairy Ape* and *The First Man* produced.
- 1923 Brother, James O'Neill, Jr., dies.
- 1924 *All God's Chillun Got Wings, Welded*, and *Desire Under the Elms* produced.
- 1925 *The Fountain* produced.
- 1926 Daughter, Oona O'Neill, born. *The Great God Brown* produced.
- 1928 *Lazarus Laughed* produced (in Pasadena, California). *Marco Millions* and *Strange Interlude* produced. (*Strange Interlude* wins third Pulitzer Prize.)

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- 1929 *Dynamo* produced. Divorces Agnes Boulton, marries Carlotta Monterey (in France).
- 1931 *Mourning Becomes Electra* produced.
- 1933 *Ah, Wilderness!* produced.
- 1934 *Days Without End* produced.
- 1936 Awarded Nobel Prize. (During the late 1930s and into the 1940s, O'Neill is at work on his eleven-play Cycle, "A Tale of Possessors Self-Dispossessed," which includes the later-to-be-produced *A Touch of the Poet* and *More Stately Mansions*. See the essay by Donald Gallup in this collection.)
- 1937 Builds "Tao House" in Danville, California (where he writes his last plays).
- 1939 Writes *The Iceman Cometh*.
- 1940 Writes *Long Day's Journey Into Night*.
- 1943 Completes *A Moon for the Misbegotten*.
- 1946 *The Iceman Cometh* produced.
- 1947 *A Moon for the Misbegotten* produced (in Columbus, Ohio).
- 1950 Son, Eugene O'Neill, Jr., dies.
- 1953 O'Neill dies (27 November, in Boston).
- 1955 *The Iceman Cometh* revived by José Quintero in New York (starring Jason Robards, Jr.).
- 1956 *Long Day's Journey Into Night* produced in Stockholm, then New York. (Wins fourth Pulitzer Prize.)
- 1957 *A Touch of the Poet* produced.
- 1958 *Hughie* produced (in Stockholm).

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- 1959 *Hughie* produced in New York.
- 1962 A version of *More Stately Mansions* produced (in Stockholm).
- 1962 Another version of *More Stately Mansions* produced in New York.
- 1972 *Long Day's Journey Into Night* revived in London (starring Laurence Olivier).
- 1973 *A Moon for the Misbegotten* revived by José Quintero in New York (starring Jason Robards, Jr. and Colleen Dewhurst).

From the 1960s on, there have been numerous successful revivals of O'Neill plays on stage and screen. See the essays by Ronald Wainscott and Kurt Eisen in this collection.

PLAYS AND POEMS
 (listed by year of publication)

- Thirst, and Other One-Act Plays* (*Thirst, Fog, Warnings, The Web, Recklessness*). Privately Printed, 1914.
- The Moon of the Caribbees, and Six Other Plays of the Sea* (*Bound East for Cardiff, In the Zone, The Long Voyage Home, Ile, Where the Cross is Made, The Rope*). NY: Boni and Liveright, 1919.
- Beyond the Horizon*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1920.
- Gold*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1921.
- The Emperor Jones, Different, The Straw*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1921.
- The Hairy Ape, Anna Christie, The First Man*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1922.
- All God's Chillun Got Wings, and Welded*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1924.
- The Complete Works of Eugene O'Neill* (including *The Dreamy Kid*). 2 vols. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1924.
- Desire Under the Elms*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1925.
- Plays*. 4 vols. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1925.
- The Great God Brown, The Fountain, The Moon of the Caribbees, and Other Plays* (the "other plays" being those included among the (Other) *Six Plays of the Sea*). NY: Boni and Liveright, 1926.
- Lazarus Laughed*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1927.
- Marco Millions*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1928.
- Strange Interlude*. NY: Liveright, 1928.
- Dynamo*. NY: Liveright, 1929.
- Mourning Becomes Electra*. NY: Liveright, 1931.
- Nine Plays*. NY: Liveright, 1932.
- Ah, Wilderness!*. NY: Random House, 1933.
- Days Without End*. NY: Random House, 1934.
- The Plays of Eugene O'Neill*. 12 vols. NY: Random House, 1934–5.
- The Iceman Cometh*. NY: Random House, 1946.
- Lost Plays of Eugene O'Neill* (*Abortion, The Movie Man, The Sniper, Servitude, and A Wife for A Life*). NY: The Citadel Press, 1950.

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- The Plays of Eugene O'Neill*. 3 vols. NY: Random House, 1951.
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A Touch of the Poet. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1957.
Hughie. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959.
More Stately Mansions. Edited by Donald Gallup. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1964.
Ten "Lost" Plays (including the plays from *The Lost Plays of Eugene O'Neill* plus *Thirst*, *The Web*, and *Warnings*). NY: Random House, 1964.
Poems: 1912-1914. Edited by Donald Gallup. New Haven and NY: Ticknor and Fields, 1980.
Chris Christofersen. NY: Random House, 1982.
O'Neill: Complete Plays. 3 vols. NY: The Library of America, 1988.
 (Includes the following previously unpublished plays: *Bread and Butter*, *Now I Ask You*, *The Personal Equation*, *The Reckoning*.)