

ACTORS ENSEMBLE is Berkeley's oldest theatre group and has been producing plays in Berkeley for 45 years. In addition to our four major productions, we sponsor performance workshops throughout the year. We also manage Live Oak Theatre--which is available at low cost to other performing groups--on behalf of the city of Berkeley. For informaton about the Theatre, call (510) 841-5580.

ACTORS ENSEMBLE Board of Directors: Barbara Bradley, David Bradley, David Cohen, John Dahlen, Anna Foote, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bill Martinelli, Ralph Miller

ACTORS ENSEMBLE membership is open to anyone in the community who is interested in learning about, participating in, or supporting this theatre and its organization. If you are interested in membership, please call John Dahlen (415) 469-8428.

Summer Production:

The Heidi Chronicles

by

Wendy Wasserstein

Directed by Fez Cruz

Auditions: Three men and five women, ages 18-35.

Sunday and Monday (May 5 and 6, 2002) at 7pm

Live Oak Park Theatre.

1301 Shattuck Avenue at Berryman

Short monologue and read from the script

Call backs May 8, 2002 at 7pm

The show opens Friday, May 6, 2002 and runs through Saturday, August 10, 2002 with a Thursday night performance on August 8.

If you have questions, please call (510) 525-1620.

www.actorsensembleofberkeley.com

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

presents

Eugene O'Neill's

LONG
DAY'S
JOURNEY
INTO
NIGHT

LIVE OAK PARK THEATRE
1301 Shattuck at Berryman,
Berkeley

Directed by
Jean-Marie Apostolidès

design © christian l. frock 2002

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) wrote *Long Day's Journey into Night* in 1941. The play is dedicated to Carlotta, his second wife. The author meant it <<as a tribute to [her] love and tenderness which gave [him] the faith in love that enabled [him] to face [his] dead at last>>. He wrote it with <<deep pity and understanding and forgiveness for *all* the four haunted Tyrones.>> O'Neill wanted the play to be published 25 years after his death and never produced. However, as the author's widow, Carlotta had the play published and produced in 1956, only three years after the playwright's death. Since 1956, this text has been performed all over the world and is regularly given in the USA. It is generally considered one of the author's greatest plays and a classic drama of the American repertoire.

This play is usually seen as autobiographical and realistic. The first point is evident even if one should be cautious when reducing the text to its biographical components. Autobiography is a risky enterprise and O'Neill cannot be totally associated with Edmund, his double. Each character represents some elements of the author's unconscious, creating a dialogue between the different elements of his rather complex and tortured personality. The second point, that of the play's realism, is even less obvious. Reducing *Long Day's Journey* to a realistic representation of an uncharacteristic American family in 1912 makes it easy to forget many other aspects encompassed in this text. Beyond being a representation of O'Neill's family, it is also a conscious rewriting of *Hamlet* and *The Ghost Sonata*, a famous play by Strindberg which was first performed in America in 1924, by the Provincetown Players, under the direction of O'Neill himself. The references to ghosts are so numerous in *Long Day's Journey* that they force us to confront them.

I chose to underline the play's many connections to the symbolic theatre which so influenced the young O'Neill. By doing so, I hope that the unconscious structure of the play will be visible and its multiple layers of signification will become more evident.



Director

Jean-Marie Apostolidès

Cast

Mary Tyrone
James Tyrone
Jamie Tyrone
Edmund Tyrone
Cathleen
Young Mary
Young Tyrone

Mikel Clifford
Charlie Anderson
Erik Kaul
Noah Feinstein
Lara Marie
Jennifer Le Blanc
David Fenerty

Designers & Crew

Stage Manager
Stage Manager's Assistant
Director's Assistant
Costume Design
Sound Design

Bob Gudmundsson
Vicky Siegel
Jennifer Le Blanc
Mikel Clifford
Pistole Soda
Paulin Capron

Light Design
Light and Sound Boards

David Starke
Pierre Apostolidès
Stanley Clayton

Set Design
Set Crew

Lea Feinstein
Melissa Westlake
Keith Baldwin
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
Sally Lillis

Photographer
Poster/Program Design
Special Thanks

Ken Lillis
Julia Shiang
Ray Young
Christian L. Frock
Linda Allen
Iris Cavagnaro
John Dahlen
The Eugene O'Neill Historic Site
Gregg Le Blanc
Jo Lusk
Masquers Playhouse
Clive Matson
Ralph Miller
Linda Sklov
Anne Ventresco

Long Day's Journey into Night is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.