

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Designer, Christopher Ostrom  
Sound Designer, Allan Gallant  
Managing Director, David Fortuna  
Associate Producer, Steven Rahe

## SPECIAL THANKS

Leona Rust Egan  
Kate Clinton  
Salon 54  
Thom Egan  
Ron Robin (wherever you are?)

Michael Shays  
Stephen Borkowski  
Michelle Haynes  
Provincetown Theater Foundation  
Provincetown Elementary School

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Tickets available at Box Office Provincetown!  
Aquarium Marketplace, 205 Commercial Street  
PH: 508.487.7487, [www.provincetowntheater.org](http://www.provincetowntheater.org)*

**Provincetown Repertory Theatre presents Terrence McNally's MASTER CLASS**  
September 11 – 21 at the Unitarian Meeting House Sanctuary

### Jennifer Holliday in Concert

August 23 at 8:00PM at Provincetown Town Hall  
*VIP tickets to benefit the Provincetown Theater Foundation*

### Donna Role presents Summer SongFest

August 23 at United Methodist Church  
*Proceeds to benefit the Provincetown Theater Foundation*

### Love! Valour! Compassion! by Terrence McNally

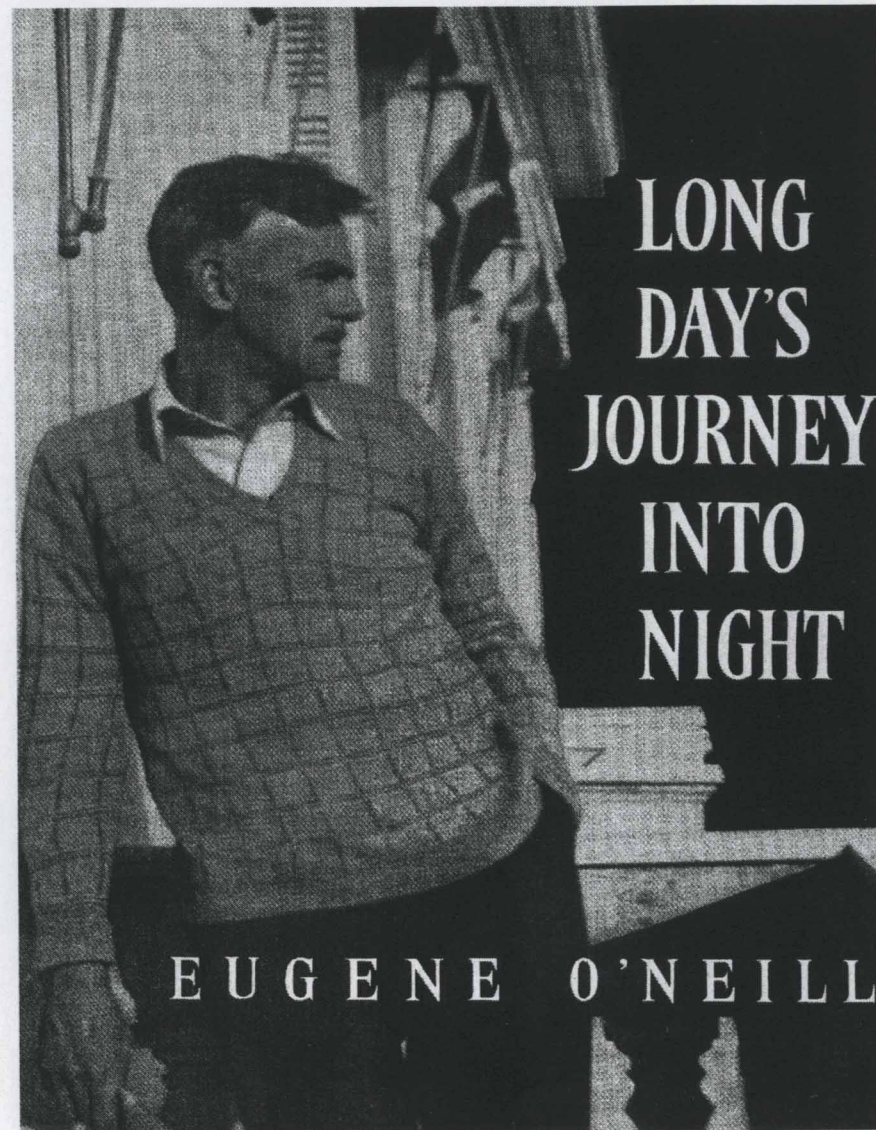
September 18 – 20 at the New Crown & Anchor Paramount Theater  
*Production to benefit the Provincetown Theater Foundation*



THE **red** INN  
WATERFRONT DINING & LODGING



## PROVINCETOWN REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS READINGS FROM



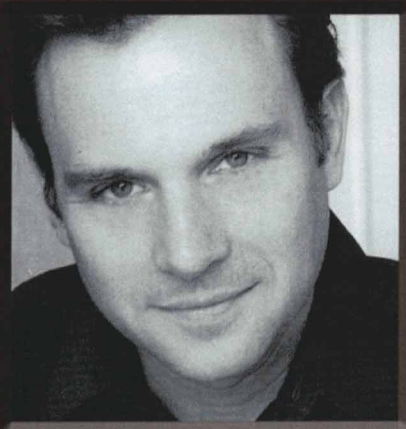
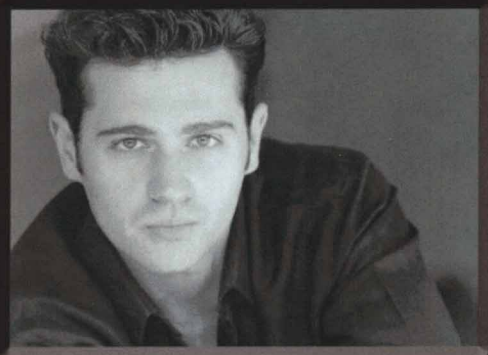
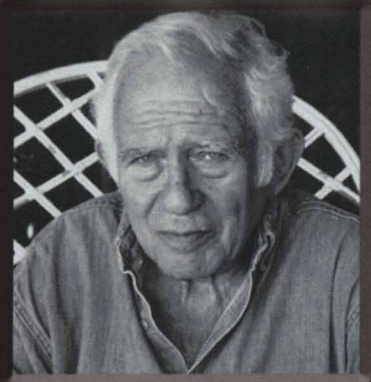
WITH  
NORMAN MAILER      NORRIS CHURCH MAILER  
KATE MAILER      JOHN BUFFALO MAILER  
STEPHEN MAILER

PROVINCETOWN TOWN HALL  
AUGUST 15, 2003



The Mailer Family takes on Eugene O' Neill

# Long Day's Journey into Night



Benefit Evening for the  
Provincetown Repertory Theatre  
with Norman Mailer  
Norris Church Mailer  
Kate Mailer  
Stephen Mailer  
and John Buffalo Mailer

stage directions read by J. Michael Lennon

REP

**Friday, August 15 at 8pm**  
**Provincetown Town Hall**

For Tickets call Box Office Provincetown at 508.487.7487  
Ticket prices are \$50 general admission  
and \$150 for reserved seating and a reception following.



the red inn



Fleet



# The New York Times

Sunday, August 10, 2003  
CIRC: 1,120,551

## THEATER

### THIS WEEK

## A 'Long Day's Journey' With the Mailers

**F**OR some families, a late-summer night of togetherness on Cape Cod calls for a leisurely game of Monopoly, but for Norman Mailer and clan it's the more elevated (if just as endless and recriminatory) "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

On Friday, the 80-year-old author will join his sixth wife, Norris Church Mailer, along with three of his children (each from a different marriage), in a staged reading to benefit the Provincetown Repertory Theater (tickets are \$50 for general admission, \$150 for reserved seating and reception). "I expect us to be considerably better as a the-

atrical ensemble than as a basketball team," Mr. Mailer declared in a press release, but in a telephone interview he admitted that wasn't saying much: "We would make no basketball team at all."

Still, the kids are all professional actors, Norris Mailer is the theater's artistic director and Dad's no slouch in the performance department, even leaving aside his five film roles and longtime membership in the Actors Studio.

So will he be warming up his Method chops in order to inhabit that hammy old drunk, Tyrone? "I was twitting Warren Beatty about playing Bugsy Siegel," Mr.

Mailer recalled, "and he said, 'You only need to have 5 percent of a character to be able to play him.' Of course if you have 50 percent that's not so bad, either."

In any event, the Mailers, unlike the current Broadway cast, will perform only part of the play: "We'll not ask an audience to sit there for four hours," Mr. Mailer said. "Especially when they're paying these prices."

JESSE GREEN

Friday, 8 p.m., at Provincetown Town Hall, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, Mass. Information: (508) 487-7487.



Ting-Li Wang/The New York Times



Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

Norris, Norman and other Mailers will read "Long Day's Journey Into Night."



# Mailers take a family

# Journey

By Christine Frisco

BANNER CORRESPONDENT

Several members of the Mailer family including Norman, Norris, Stephen, John and Kate, will gather on stage in Town Hall for a dramatic reading of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" to benefit Provincetown Repertory Theatre.

Norman Mailer selected "Long Day's Journey Into Night" for this PRT fundraiser because it is one of his all-time favorites. He told the Banner he has had "three or four great nights at the theater" and this was one of them. (The others were "The Glass Menagerie" and "Streetcar Named Desire," by Tennessee Williams, and "Death of a Salesman," by Arthur Miller.)

O'Neill got his start here in Provincetown in 1916 with the Provincetown Players' production of "Bound East for Cardiff" and "Thirst." Over his prolific lifetime, he received three Pulitzer Prizes and a fourth posthumously for "Long Day's Journey Into Night." In 1936, he received the Nobel Prize for Literature and is considered by many to be America's greatest playwright. (The scholarly

O'Neill Festival will be held in Provincetown in 2005.)

One of O'Neill's last plays, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" is trenchantly autobiographical, allowing the playwright to exorcise his family ghosts. It is about a tragic family mired in addiction, regret and despair, with the character of Edmond patterned on O'Neill himself.

Norman praises "Long Day's Journey Into Night" as "human," with "not a phony line in the whole play." Although the members of the Tyrone family are all floundering in the fog of addiction, sickness, homelessness and helplessness, Norman points out that O'Neill is "not dealing with creeps or weirdoes," but with all "the pluses and minuses of a family."

Norman adds that "Long Day's Journey Into Night," stuck with him — he read and re-read it — "and it is a good fit with my family." He adds his family is "not as charged and unstable as the Tyrone family." And in terms of age, the only misfit would be him at 80 playing James Tyrone at 65. But he believes he is up to it and is looking forward to wheeling out just "a touch of the very edge of an Irish accent."

For Norris's part, at 54, she is the same age as Mary Tyrone,

although at first Norris thought Mary was much older with her white hair and gnarled arthritic fingers. She tells the Banner that she was glad she never saw the production with Vanessa Redgrave or it would have colored her own interpretation of the role. She adds that Warren Beatty once said, "If you have five percent of a character, you can portray that character."

Norris recently resigned as artistic director of the Provincetown Repertory Theatre, a full-time job, in order to devote more time to her second novel, which she hopes will be out next year. Her first novel, "Windchill Summer," was published by Random House in 2000.

O'Neill's four-act autobiographical play takes place in one day in one room, starting at breakfast and ending around midnight. O'Neill distills a family's emotional history into one day, centering around the mother's return to her morphine addiction. The distillation is painful, the viewer or reader sits for hours with the characters as they sit and talk, pace and muse. As Mailer says, the play is "repetitious" to bring

MAILERS continued on page 44



PHOTO JEFF LOVINGER

John Buffalo Mailer, Norris Church Mailer, Norman Mailer (seated) and Stephen Mailer will be joined by Kate Mailer for a benefit reading of "Long Day's Journey Into Night."



## MAILERS continued from page 41

home its "stuck nature." The length and sameness of the setting and dialogue steeps the viewer in the fog of the Tyrone's despair.

Faulkner once said, "we will not only endure, we will prevail." The character Edmond comes closest to this, occasionally rising out of mere survival, dictated by heredity and one's environment, with his epiphanic, but ephemeral, moments of understanding and belonging in the universe. He reveals these experiences to his father in Act 4: "Then the moment of ecstatic freedom came. The peace, the end of the quest, the last harbor, the joy of belonging to a fulfillment beyond men's lousy, pitiful, greedy fears and hopes and dreams! And several other times in my life, when I was swimming far out, or lying alone on a beach, I have had the same experience. Became the sun, the hot sand, green seaweed anchored to a rock, swaying in the tide. ... Like the veil of things as they seem drawn back by an unseen hand. For a second you see — and seeing the secret, are the secret. For a second there is meaning! Then the hand lets the veil fall and you are alone, lost in the fog again, and you stumble on toward nowhere, for no good reason!"

Norman tells the Banner

that a performer of this play must be able to go from "A to Z." He explains that there are "two subtexts" for each character, except for "Johnny One-Note" James Sr. who is the most predictable. By subtext, Norman alludes to the performer's challenge to manifest what the character is thinking as he/she is speaking, using whatever dramatic means are available: the pace and intonation in rendering the dialogue, and, of course, body language.

Asked about the somberness of the play, Norman responds that "it is a dark play, but not without humor." He adds that "you always laugh if you recognize yourself or your parents in a character."

There are many similarities between Norman Mailer, the panoramic writer/chronicler of our times, and Eugene O'Neill, the legendary dramatist. Fame and notoriety leap to mind. As Nietzsche, one of O'Neill's favorite writers, wrote: "You must have chaos in you to give birth to a dancing star." Both of their parents were immigrants; both had tumultuous, rebellious, violent and drunken periods in their lives; both have/had arresting penetrating eyes that look into your soul; and both are heralded as among America's literary giants. Another similarity is their blazing chutzpah, spunk, guts.

The Mailers' sons are also

close in age to the sons they will play: John Buffalo Mailer will be Edmond, and Stephen Mailer, Jamie, Jr. Their sister Kate Mailer will also have a cameo appearance as the servant, Cathleen. The boys arrived from New York last weekend to rehearse for the reading. Norman points out that he is the only non-professional actor in the bunch, although he has directed one play and four movies. Norris was an actress and playwright at The Actors Studio in New York for many years. Stephen has been acting for more than 20 years, and had a lead role in John Water's film, "Crybaby." John, an actor since elementary school, is also a playwright with a second play currently in production in New York.

As he leaves his deck at the end of the interview, Norman grins at Norris, and, with an Irish brogue, slips into his James Tyrone role: "I'll just have a little nip, Mary. One nip never did a man harm." □

*The benefit reading of major excerpts from "Long Day's Journey Into Night" begins at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15th at Provincetown Town Hall, 260 Commercial St. Tickets, \$50 and \$150 including a private reception after the reading, are available by calling (508) 487-7487 and at the door.*