



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

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Theatre Arts
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CHARLESTON - LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, the drama which made Eugene O'Neill the only man ever to be awarded four Pulitzer Prizes, opens at the University Theatre on Friday. This is the searing autobiographical drama that the author requested be withheld from performance until 25 years after his death. The world could not wait so long for a masterpiece by America's greatest dramatist and it was presented in New York in 1956, three years after his death. It achieved a record of 389 performances on Broadway to become the second longest running of O'Neill's plays. It has been acclaimed throughout the world as one of his finest plays.

The play depicts the shattering of events of one climactic day in the life of the Tyrone family, which is the name that O'Neill employs instead of his own. The father is a fading matinee idol with a blustering alcoholic grandeur that does not prevent him from denying his wife and children a pittance of money which would save them from despair and death. The mother became addicted to drugs because he chose an incompetent local doctor whose fee was small, when she was painfully bearing their youngest child. The older son is thrust into alcoholism because of his frustration and the younger son, (who is O'Neill himself), is being sent to a state sanatorium instead of being given the best attention for his TB.

Though this sounds like a house of misery, and is longer than the average play, critics all over the world have declared that it is lifted to the heights of great tragedy by the genius of O'Neill.

In the cast of the University Theatre's production will be Robert Caisley as the great playwright's actor father, Ana Cooper as the addicted mother, J. Kenneth Barnett and Robert Poe as the two sons. Deborah Althoff will portray a young maid, C.P. Blanchette is directing the drama, and the setting has been designed by Doug Molash.

Performances of LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT are at 8:00 p.m. December 1,2,6,7,8,9 and at 2:00 p.m. December 3 in the Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and youth, and \$3 for EIU students. Tickets are available at the University Theatre Ticket Office, open daily Monday through Friday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and one hour prior to each performance. Phone 581-3110 for reservations and ticket information during ticket office hours.

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