



# Press Release

**For Photos, interviews, videos, press tickets, etc. contact:**

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**Rarely Seen Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama *Anna Christie* by Eugene O'Neill Plays Redwood City**

Eugene O'Neill's (*The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*) epic 1922 Pulitzer Prize-winning play about love and forgiveness charts one woman's longing to forget the dark secrets of her past and hope for salvation. Rarely performed, but arguably O'Neill's quintessential early play, *Anna Christie* grapples with alcoholism, alienation, heartbreak, mortality and the monolithic sea, all experiences drawn from the playwright's own past.

A surprisingly feminist work from 1921, *Anna Christie* is a woman who has led a difficult life on her own until now. Illness drives her to seek out her estranged father, meets a would be suitor, and takes the time to reflect upon her future. Director Jenny Hollingworth says "When the two men are finally forced to let go their romanticized fantasy of womanhood and recognize the truth about Anna, they respond with prejudice, denial, moral hypocrisy and barely contained violence. Anna's own, extraordinary, capacity for forgiveness in the face of their repudiation lies at the heart of the play. "It ain't your fault, and it ain't mine, and it ain't his neither," she says. "We're all poor nuts, and things happen, and we just get mixed in wrong, that's all." Already a seasoned survivor, she sees more clearly than either of them that the universe is morally chaotic, and that fragile though it may be, there is a better chance of happiness if they stick together than if they go it alone."

Part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stages series, producer and actress Tina Rutsch pitched this show as a long time passion project. Executive Artistic Director Meredith Hagedorn says "Tina had such passion for this bucket-list role, and she presented a very clear vision and plan for this production. We were thrilled to partner with Tina to present this classic play that audiences might not expect to see on the Dragon stage. This is why we love the 2nd Stages Series and have been very excited to be working with this tremendous team of talented artists to present this powerful tale as only Eugene O'Neill can tell it. By supporting the productions offered through Dragon's 2nd Stages Series, you are supporting the dreams of so many artists that might not have the opportunity to be realized on their own."

**Featuring:** Tina Rutsch (Anna Christopherson), Geoff Fiorito (Chris Christopherson), Sean Garahan (Mat Burke), Warren Liu (Larry), Barbara Ann Cechetti (Marthy), Butchy Welby (Johnny the Priest).

**Designers & Production Team:** Tina Rutsch (Producer), Jenny Hollingworth (Director), Rachel Nin (Rehearsal Stage Manager), Jocelyn Truitt (Production Assistant), David Donovan (Scenic Designer), John Bernard (Lighting Designer), César Reyes (Sound Designer), Laura Elder (Costume and Properties)

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Designer), Melissa Weinstein (Hair & Makeup Designer), Kyle McReddy (Fight Choreographer)

## **WHEN: June 17th – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

Thursdays – Saturdays, 8pm, Sundays, 2pm

Pay What You Will Preview, Thursday, June 16th at 8pm

Opening Night Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 8p

Post-show discussion with the cast and director Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>

## **SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**

### **Sunday, June 19th**

Join us for a special post-show discussion with Eric Fraisher Hayes, an actor, director, and educator who is the Vice President of Programming for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, where he has directed *The Hairy Ape*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, and *All God's Chillun Got Wings*. 2nd Stages producer (and the actress playing Anna Christie) Tina Rutsch will also join the discussion. Tickets for this event are \$40 and include that day's matinee performance and the special post-show discussion about Eugene O'Neill and *Anna Christie*. The extra proceeds go to support the production of *Anna Christie*.

### **Saturday, July 2nd**

For centuries, sailors have honed their shipboard skills to the cadence of songs recounting the adventure, tragedy and romance of life at sea. Local musician Raggy will lead us all in some traditional "sea chanteys." If you come in costume you will be given one free drink ticket for that evening's performance. The singing starts at 6:30p on July 2nd and only costs an extra \$5 on top of the usual price for the show. The extra proceeds go to support the production of *Anna Christie*.

**WHERE:** The Dragon Theatre in downtown Redwood City  
2120 Broadway Street at the intersection of Broadway and Theatre Way

## **HOW MUCH:**

\$30 for general admission seats. \$25 for student/senior tickets.

\$15 rush tickets on Thursdays and Fridays starting 2nd week. Limited availability. Cash only at the door. Limited discount tickets available on <http://www.tixbayarea.com>

Pay what you will preview on Thurs, June 16th– no reservation, just walk up and pay cash at the door.

\$175 for the VIP box (seats 4 people and includes champagne and chocolates.)

**TIX & MORE INFO:** <http://dragonproductions.net/>

**PRESS PHOTOS:** Available online at <http://www.dragonproductions.net/about-dragon/media.html>