

## The Philadelphia Artists' Collective presents

### ***The Sea Plays:***

#### ***Bound East for Cardiff and In the Zone* by Eugene O'Neill**

Performed aboard Philly's Tall Ship Gazela at Penn's Landing

In affiliation with Philadelphia Fringe Arts

September 11-23, 2013

Philly's Tall Ship Gazela sets the stage for the Philadelphia Artists' Collective's production of Eugene O'Neill's rarest and earliest plays of loneliness and regret, ***The Sea Plays: Bound East for Cardiff and In the Zone***. Join the crew of the S.S. *Glencairn* below deck, as tensions erupt and every move betrays a thirst for survival. Presented in affiliation with the Philadelphia Fringe Arts Festival and directed by PAC Co-Founding Artistic Director, Damon Bonetti, *The Sea Plays* feature some of Philadelphia's most respected actors including Keith Conallen, Brian McCann, and David Blatt, and showcases the work of photographer David Comdico as part of the PAC's Resident Artist Program. *The Sea Plays* run September 11-23 aboard Philly's Tall Ship Gazela, located at Penn's Landing, 101 Columbus Blvd (between Market and Chestnut). Running time of the show is 60 minutes; tickets are \$20 (\$15 for Students and Seniors) and can be purchased by contacting the Fringe Festival Box Office at (215) 413-1318 or by visiting [www.livearts-fringe.org](http://www.livearts-fringe.org).

In 1907, an angry young Eugene O'Neill dropped out of Princeton University and shipped off to sea. His first plays, set aboard the fictional S.S. *Glencairn*, launched the career of the man who would become one of the greatest playwrights of the twentieth century. O'Neill is best known for incisive explorations of the dark yet resilient human spirit—*A Long Day's Journey Into Night*; *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. *The Sea Plays* are no exception: deep bonds of love are balanced against jealousy and suspicion; ambition and desire give way to survival; and O'Neill's innate knowledge of seafaring life combines with his moving explorations of human regret and desire to express the dark loneliness of life at sea.

In *Bound East for Cardiff*, the unspoken leader of the ship's crew is dying; as his comrade stands vigil, the remaining crew clashes over who will assume his command. As the ship then passes into an active war zone (in *In the Zone*), fear of a spy among the ranks arouses suspicion and violence. Tension mounts as the crew navigates dangerous waters and their own explosive journeys within the ship's hold. "O'Neill was a master of building tension," notes director Damon Bonetti, "And this is where he began, with the deep psychological character studies that we see [in the *Sea Plays*]. Camaraderie and deep human bonds are shattered when faced, as these men are, with the sheer necessity of survival."

The acting company of *The Sea Plays* is comprised of some of Philadelphia's finest actors, including Keith Conallen, Brian McCann, David Blatt, John Lopes, Brian Ratcliffe, Eric Scotolati, Adam Altman, Luke Moyer, Mort Paterson and Adam Rzepka. Many of the artists are "regular suspects" with the PAC; they have also collectively worked at the Wilma, Inis Nua, InterAct, Theatre Exile, Azuka, EgoPo, Iron Age, Luna, Curio, and many more.

The **Philadelphia Artists' Collective**, founded in 2008 by Damon Bonetti and Dan Hodge, is committed to promoting rarely performed classical plays through workshops and readings in the greater Philadelphia area. It is comprised of a group of performance and visual artists seeking to encourage the development of a common vocabulary and to promote arts awareness within the Philadelphia community. Its past readings and workshops have featured some of the region's finest artists, and its productions (*Duchess of Malfi*, *Changes of Heart*, *Creditors*, *Timon of Athens*) have garnered wide audience and critical praise.

**FringeArts** (formerly Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe) exists to commission, develop and present a range of high-quality contemporary performing and visual arts. Every September the Fringe Festival features boundary-breaking work created by some of the most renowned contemporary artists from our region and around the world, and serves as a collective home for artists to bring their artistic visions to audiences without any curatorial barriers. The community is enriched as art takes over neighborhoods, animating the spaces of Philadelphia from traditional theaters to corner bars and vacant storefronts.