

REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
Thursday, January 31, 2013

REDCAT presents the Los Angeles premiere of

The Wooster Group/New York City Players

EARLY PLAYS

February 21–24, 2013

<http://www.redcat.org/event/wooster-group-and-new-york-city-players>

Featuring three of the Glencairn Plays by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by Richard Maxwell

Produced by The Wooster Group with performers from both companies

85 minutes with no intermission.



Production still from *Early Plays*. Pictured: Brian Mendes, Ari Fliakos.
Courtesy of The Wooster Group.

"A rare collaboration between two avant-garde powerhouses: The Wooster Group and Richard Maxwell's New York City Players."

— Scott Brown, *New York Magazine*

"[Richard Maxwell is] one of the most innovative and essential artists to emerge from American experimental theater in the past decade."

— Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

LOS ANGELES, CA—REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents the Los Angeles premiere of The Wooster Group and New York City Players' Obie Award-winning collaboration, *Early Plays*. Performances will be held at the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater Thursday, February 21 through Sunday, February 24, 2013.

Featuring three of Eugene O'Neill's one-act Glencairn plays—*Bound East for Cardiff* (1914), *The Long Voyage Home* (1917), and *The Moon of the Caribbees* (1918)—*Early Plays* uses these stories, about sailors on and off the ocean, to explore themes of longing and eternity. The production is directed by Richard Maxwell at the invitation of The Wooster Group's director Elizabeth LeCompte; and it features artists from both The Wooster Group and New York City Players.

In the Glencairn cycle, O'Neill drew upon his youthful experience as a merchant seaman to capture the vernacular of sailors from disparate nations, all shipmates on the British tramp steamer *S.S. Glencairn*. Maxwell and the cast explore that language both from the viewpoint of its starkness and its musicality.

The production reveals O'Neill's beautifully romantic text in a sparse, modern, yet still mythic place. Dark episodes of the underside of early twentieth-century maritime life—brawls, dances and carousing—are staged with a quotidian grace, allowing these simple stories to resonate emotionally. These scenes are threaded together with original songs composed by Maxwell and sung live by the cast.

The *Early Plays* company includes Wooster Group members and associates Bob Bellerue, Enver Chakartash, Jeff Englander, Ari Fliakos, Teresa Hartmann, Bill Kennedy, Bobby McElver, Andrew Schneider, and Kate Valk, and New York City Players Lakpa Bhutia, Keith Connolly, Alex Delinois, Nicholas Elliott, Jim Fletcher, Kevin Hurley, Brian Mendes and Victoria Vazquez. Fletcher and Vazquez appeared at REDCAT last November and December in Elevator Repair Service's *Gatz*. Most recently seen in Los Angeles in 2010 with *Vieux Carré*, The Wooster Group has made several appearances at REDCAT as part of a multi-year partnership that began in 2009.

Early Plays is made possible with funding from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Pilot, with lead funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

To visit the event webpage on REDCAT.ORG:

<http://www.redcat.org/event/wooster-group-and-new-york-city-players>

To request press accommodations, interviews, additional information, media or images, please contact Diana Wyenn at 213 237-2873 or dwyenn@calarts.edu.

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TICKETS & INFORMATION

THE WOOSTER GROUP & NEW YORK CITY PLAYERS: *EARLY PLAYS*

Date(s)/Time(s):

Thursday, February 21 at 8:30 pm

Friday, February 22 at 8:30 pm

Saturday, February 23 at 3:00 pm

Saturday, February 23 at 8:30 pm

Sunday, February 24 at 3:00 pm

Ticketing:

\$45-50 general (\$36-40 students & members)

Seating is general admission and tickets are available for purchase in-person at REDCAT Box Office, by phone at 213-237-2800, or online at redcat.org.

REDCAT's Box Office is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon until 6 pm or two hours prior to curtain. Group, member, student and CalArts faculty/staff discounts available.

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ABOUT THE WOOSTER GROUP

The Wooster Group is a company of experimental theater artists led by founding member and director Elizabeth LeCompte. Since 1975, the Group has made more than 30 works for theater, dance, film and video, including SAKONNET POINT (1975), RUMSTICK ROAD (1977), NAYATT SCHOOL (1978), POINT JUDITH (1979), ROUTE 1&9 (1981), L.S.D. (vâJUST THE HIGH POINTSvâ) (1984), FRANK DELL'S THE TEMPTATION OF ST. ANTONY (1988), NORTH ATLANTIC (1984, 1999, 2010), BRACE UP! (1991, 2003), THE EMPEROR JONES (1993, 2006), FISH STORY (1994), THE HAIRY APE (1996), HOUSE/LIGHTS (1998, 2005), TO YOU, THE BIRDIE! (Ph-èdre) (2002), POOR THEATER (2004), WHO'S YOUR DADA?! (2006), HAMLET (2007), LA DIDONE (2009), VIEUX CARR-É (2011), and TROILUS & CRESSIDA (2012). Those works have toured in the U.S. and to Europe, Russia, Canada, South America, the Middle East, Asia and Australia. The Group has enjoyed a long partnership with REDCAT, which has presented west coast premieres of the Group's new work since 2004. The Performing Garage at 33 Wooster Street in lower Manhattan is the company's permanent home, which they own and operate as a shareholder in the Grand Street Artists Co-op, originally established as part of the Fluxus art movement. The daily life and work of The Wooster Group can be viewed by watching the Group's online video series DAILIES at thewoostergroup.org.

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ABOUT NEW YORK CITY PLAYERS

New York City Players is a theater company founded in 1999 under the artistic direction of playwright and director Richard Maxwell. The company has toured extensively in North and

South America, Europe and Australia, producing 25 projects in over 20 countries. Recent projects include *Neutral Hero*, a musical play written and directed by Richard Maxwell (The Kitchen, NYC, 2012; Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels; Vienna Festwochen; Festival D'Automne –à Paris, among others, 2011); *Devotion*, a dance by Sarah Michelson with text by Richard Maxwell (The Kitchen, 2011); *Ads*, a video play conceived by Richard Maxwell and produced in New York (2010), Salzburg (2010), Evry (2011), Toulouse (2011), Marseille (2011), Bonn (2012), and Santarcangelo di Romagna (2012); and *Dreamless Land*, a play written and directed by Julia Jarcho (Abrons Arts Center, 2011). Richard Maxwell and New York City Players appeared in the 2012 Whitney Biennial. The company's work has been selected for national and international recognition, including four Obie Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award. Richard Maxwell is a member of the inaugural class of Doris Duke Artists. nycplayers.org

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ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a modular theater, a 3,000-square-foot gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit redcat.org.

REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. REDCAT's street address is 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

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