

Presents \* Eugene O'Neill 's

Wilderness!

Ah,

April 21, 23 & 28-30



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Ah, Wilderness! is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services

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## A comedy by Eugene O'Neill

## Directed by MICHAEL WILSON

Producers

**ALICE LUSTRE & DIANNA SCHEPERS** 

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



It's a great privilege to direct my favorite modern play. Many thanks to all the cast and crew. You were a joy to work with over the past two months.

Although Eugene O'Neill is best known for his many tragic plays, Ah, Wilderness! is a refreshing and humorous view of life as it might have been. The character of Richard Miller is a young man whose values are tested as he searches for truth and love. He is an anti-type of O'Neill's own youth. Where O'Neill's experience with absent and addicted parents led to a life of pain; Richard

retains love and loyalty with the help of a caring and understanding family. Eugene O'Neill said of the play, "That's the way I would have liked my boyhood to have been. It was a sort of wishing out loud."

The script places most of the action inside the Miller family home. I chose to place them at the front porch inspired by O'Neill's childhood home in New London, Connecticut. Placing us outside creates a space that modern audiences can relate to without the distractions of a house full of antiques. The costumes and dialogue remain to place us firmly in 1906 New England. I also remembered my youth in Boston, where no one sat around indoors in the summer heat.

Ah, Wilderness! is a beautiful and timeless play that recalls the struggle of every young person to reconcile childhood values with new ideas from the world. It's about growing up, falling in love, and discovering who you are and who you choose to be. Though it is set in a particular time and place, the themes are common to all people. We must all decide how our family values and experience of the world (good or bad) will affect who we will become.

My hope for this play is in the prayer that I offer before each performance, "Lord, use us to give your people whatever they need to live for You."

To God be the glory, Michael Wilson



The use of any recording devices, either audio or video, the taking of photographs, (with or without flash) is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices.

#### SETTING

A small town in Connecticut 1906.

#### ACT 1

Scene 1: The Miller home, the Fourth of July Scene 2: The Miller home, that evening — 15 Minute Intermission —

#### ACT II

Scene 1: The Pleasant Beach Hotel, 10 o'clock that night Scene 2: The Miller Home around 11 o'clock the same night

#### ACT III

Scene 1: The Miller home, 1 o'clock the following afternoon Scene 2: A strip of beach, around 9 o'clock that night Scene 3: The Miller home, around 10 o'clock that night

#### CAST

#### In order of speaking

| Essie Miller    | GWENDOLYN SAMPSON BROWN |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Tommy Miller    | SIMON RAPOLAS           |
| Nat Miller      | GREGORY BROWN           |
| Mildred Miller  | MAKAYLA RHINE           |
| Arthur Miller   | JORDAN RAMEY            |
| Lily Miller     | MAYA RATH               |
| Sid Davis       | DAVID GHILARDI          |
| Richard Miller  | ELIJAH WALLER           |
| David McComber  | ROBERT MARCUS           |
| Muriel McComber | JOSIE RAPOLAS           |
| Norah           |                         |
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## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

| Director                 | MICHAEL WILSON                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Producers                | ALICE LUSTRE, DIANNA SCHEPERS   |
| Stage Manager            | DEBORAH GREENE                  |
| Deck Chief               |                                 |
|                          | KATIE RAPOLAS, MICHELE RHINE    |
| Set Design               | MICHAEL WILSON                  |
|                          | FLORENDA BUCHANAN               |
| Properties               | LINDA PAULINE                   |
| Lighting Design          | MIKE MORRIS                     |
| Light Board Operator     | ETHAN SHEA                      |
| Sound Design             | BEAR HAMILTON                   |
| Sound Mixing             | YOUSSOF GHALY                   |
| Set Construction         | MICHAEL WILSON, ROXI FLETCHER   |
|                          | CAST AND CREW                   |
|                          | MEL NASH                        |
|                          | SARA LEYVA                      |
| Marketing & Publicity    | PHILLIP LEYVA & DIANNA SCHEPERS |
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| HospitalityKATIE RAPOLAS | , CHRISTIANA CHOW, KENDRA BORJA |
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|                          |                                 |

#### **THANK YOU**

The Production Team wishes to thank the following who helped to bring this production to life:

The City of Pittsburg | Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery

Pittsburg Presbyterian Church | Wendy White | Ronn Ton | Kurt James Anthony Lane | Raul Avalos | Dan Rosa | Chance Freeman

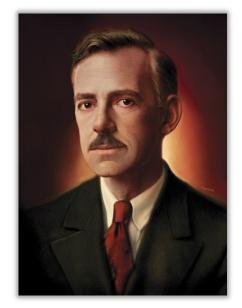


Dramaturg Page

## Eugene O'Neill, The Man, The Myth, The Legend.

Ah, Wilderness!, a comedy in three acts by Eugene O'Neill, was published and first performed in 1933. Written in only three weeks after a he visited his boyhood home, O'Neill made a rare departure from his darker oeuvre. This comedy is unabashedly nestled in the halcyon days of the turn-of-the-century Americana and presents a sentimental tale of youthful indiscretion.

During the 1920s, O'Neill was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for three of his plays—*Beyond the Horizon*, *Anna Christie*, and *Strange Interlude*. In 1936, Eugene O'Neill was the first American playwright to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. The Nobel Prize is the highest international recognition given to honor the creativity of the human mind.



For more information visit https://www.nps.gov/euon/index.htm or visit https://eugeneoneill.org/





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**GREG BROWN (NAT MILLER)** was last seen on stage in Pittsburg Theatre Company's 2022 production of *Oliver!*, playing the role of Fagin and he just completed a successful run directing PTC's production of Clybourne Park. He has performed in numerous productions in Pittsburg, Antioch, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Concord, Martinez, and Berkeley. He recently won the Broadway World SF award for Best Direction for PTC's production of *The Real Inspector Hound*. Gregory has been a member of Pittsburg Theatre Company since its inception (under the previous name

Pittsburg Community Theatre) and is proud to honor the legacy of its founder, his mother, Betty Brown. Greg currently serves on the PTC Board of Directors as the Historian and Dramaturg. He is a member of the English department at Los Medanos College.



**GWENDOLYN SAMPSON BROWN (ESSIE MILLER)** is happily married to her soul mate Robert Brown. She is the proud mother of twins and grandmother to four beautiful children. Gwen has been in the medical field for over 40 years and has an extensive background in Leadership, Nephrology, and Mental Health Nursing. Gwen aspired to be an actress in high school and college, and then "Life" happened; her father convinced her to pursue nursing as a career instead. Still, her love for the performing arts never wavered. She is no stranger to the stage; to date, her fa-

vorite performances include her role as "Libby" in *Bee-Luther-Hatchee*, "Lena Younger" in *A Raisin in the Sun*, "Rose" in *Fences*, and "Charlotte" in *The White Card*. Additionally, Gwen co-operated a Community Theater Production Company for five years before the Pandemic started to rage. Despite the Pandemic, Gwen enjoyed volunteering and performing in Community Theater. Thank you PTC for allowing me to play with you once again.



**AVA DURAN (BELLE)** is thrilled to be returning to the PTC stage with *Ah, Wilderness!* She began acting with PTC since she was in 5th grade and could usually be seen either onstage or backstage ever since. Some of her previous roles include playing an Orphan in *Annie* (PTC), Aunt Lulu in *Footloose* (Contra Costa School of Performing Arts), and Man with Golf Club in *Marisol* (Contra Costa School of Performing Arts). She is currently a student at Diablo Valley College. When she's not acting, she's either writing, drawing, or playing D&D with her friends.

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#### WHO'S WHO



**DAVID GHILARDI (SID DAVIS)** was recently seen as Hoover in *All The Way*, Monsieur Bouc in *Murder on the Orient Express*, Donnie in *Rocket Man* and Russ/Dan in *Clybourne Park*. His 10th book, **Frenzied Betise** will be released this Fall. Look for his television/film work on IMDB or Davidghilardi.com. Much Love to my Jazmin! (Show 182).



**ROBERT MARCUS (DAVID MCCOMBER/SALESMAN)** is excited to be playing two roles in his first production with PTC. Some of his favorite past roles have been Stean in *No Way Out* for Los Medanos College.; Adam in *Help Mate* for Ghostlight Theater, Juror #2 in *12 Angry Juror* for Ghostlight Theater; and Officer Barney Schneckle in a dinner project, *Vintage Murder* at Petersen Vineyard Winery for Ghostlight Theater. Further, Robert also played Otto Von Brunno in *Bullshot Crummond* for the Plotline Theater Company in addition to playing Brighton Welling-

ton in Nosotros for Monument Impact. His past film credits include Super Jerks as part of the Los Medanos College film program. Robert is grateful to his wife and sons for their support, and is thankful to director Michael Wilson, for this opportunity. He also would like to thank Nick Garcia, his acting professor at Los Medanos College for his guidance.



**JORDAN PAULINE (NORAH)** is thrilled to make her debut with PTC. She has been in several community theater and high school productions. Her most recent roles include Leonata (female version of Leonato) in *Much Ado about Nothing*, as well as ensemble roles in *Guys and Dolls*, Lost Girls, and She Kills Monsters. When not on stage, Jordan enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She is especially grateful to her family for all their support over the years.



**JORDAN RAMEY (ARTHUR MILLER)** is an English major at Los Medanos Community College and aspiring screenwriter. He was "discovered" last summer by Steve Kinsella and Delia Colorado of Broadway Repertory Theater at a choir concert of his high school alma mater, Heritage, where he sang in Men's Chorus. Since his stage debut as Rolf in *The Sound of Music*, he has portrayed Warner in Brentwood Teen Theater's production of *Legally Blonde*, and a bellhop in Kinsella Theater Company's original, *Christmas at the Biltmore*. This is his first PCT show,

and he thanks the director for allowing him to be a part of this wonderful play!"



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#### WHO'S WHO



JOSIE RAPOLAS (MURIEL MCCOMBER) caught the acting bug when she was just 6 years old. Since then, she has performed in over 20 something shows, with some of her favorite roles being Mayzie La Bird (*Seussical*), Bet (*Oliver!*), Annie (*Annie*), Young Fiona (*Shrek Jr.*), Rafiki (*The Lion King Jr.*), Marie (*Arisocats*), and singing with the Shellie Award-winning *Joseph and the Dream Coat*! She was most recently on stage as Jovie in Elf Jr. Josie also enjoys working backstage. Whether it be props, costumes, set changes, lights, or interning with the award-winning

PTC's Show Stoppers, she's your gal! Believe it or not, this is her first nonmusical!



**Simon Rapolas | Tommy Miller** has been growing up surrounded by the PTC family, but it took 7 years to finally get him on stage! You may have seen him as a Hyena in PTC's *Lion King Jr.*, or this past summer as the Mayor of Whoville! in *Seussical Jr.* His most recent role was Walter Hobbs in PTC's *Elf Jr.* He is excited to join this talented cast of actors for *Ah, Wilderness!* and hopes you enjoy the show.



**Maya Rath | Lily Miller** is excited to be in her first production at PTC. She was recently seen in *Toward Zero* at Orinda Village Starlight Players. *The Packrat Gene* at Ross Valley Players and *The Game's Afoot* with San Leandro Players and has been in several other productions with that company. She has also performed with Piedmont Players Actors Ensemble, The Playwrights' Center of San Francisco and Altered Sight Theater Company. Maya retired as General Manager o the Oakland Symphony after 24 years. She lives in Piedmont with her husband and has two

grown sons.



**Makayla Rhine | Mildred Miller** has been acting with PTC for 2 years. She is excited to play Mildred as it has challenged her and helped expand her skill level. Her most recent role was Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical Jr.* where she graced the stage with her voice. She has played the role of Young Simba in Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*, ensemble in *Oliver!*, Young Ogre and Baby Bear in *Shrek Jr.* and Raynell in the BroadwayWorld's San Francisco Award Winning Production of *Fences*. Makayla has also been showcased on a local Berkeley television show, Wee Poet,

which you can view on YouTube. A natural born performer, she discovered a passion for singing and acting at a young age. She is currently attending Contra Costa School of Performing Arts in Walnut Creek. When she is not on stage, Makayla enjoys traveling and creating various self-care routines. She shares all of this on Instagram at "arayofmakayla". Feel free to follow along on her journey.



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## WHO'S WHO



ALEX SCHEPERS (WINT SELBY) has performed as long as he can remember. He has always had an interest in the arts and not only performed but has written a number of one-act plays and a full stage adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* all produced through Poison Apple Productions. His first play with PTC was  $M^*A^*S^*H$  which earned him a Shellie Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Radar O'Reilly at the young age of 15. Alex is thrilled to return to the stage with this production of *Ah*, *Wilderness!* and he hopes you enjoy the show.



**ELIJAH WALLER (RICHARD MILLER)** is excited to be in his 7th production with PTC. This is Elijah's 41st show overall. Elijah is very excited to be playing Richard Miller in Ah Wilderness! His most recent show was *Little Shop of Horrors* playing Audrey 2. Some favorite roles include Dwight in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Tom Sawyer in *Big River*, Dan in *Joseph*, The Player in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, R.J in the *Music of Mothers*, Travis Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun* and Cory in *Fences*. Elijah is a Senior in high school and will be attending UC Irvine in the

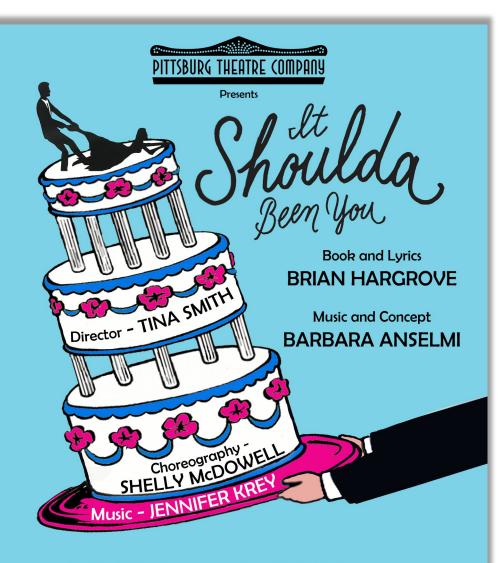
fall majoring in Drama. When not acting he is involved with ASB leadership at his school, watching TV shows and having fun. He hopes that you enjoy the show.



**JOHN WILSON (BARTENDER)** is a long-time actor with both PTC and performed in shows at Grand Canyon University, where he also studied. He currently spends time streaming on the internet and pursuing voice acting. Currently his only voice roles have been small projects, such as the games he develops or fun.

#### Meet the Director...

Michael has been with PTC since 2012 as an actor, director, producer, stage crew, scenic designer, and carpenter. He has performed with several theatre companies throughout the East Bay. Recent roles include Enjolras/ Phantom in Forbidden Broadway (CTC) and Big Jule in Guys and Dolls (GTE). His last directing adventure was The Taming of the Shrew in 2018. Michael is a U. S. Navy veteran and has retired from a 35 year career in building and automation management. In addition to the theatre he enjoys gardening, reading, and travel with his wife, Teresa.



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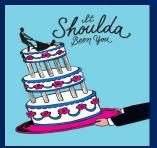
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