

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



A poster for the production 'Supernatural Secrets'. It features a large, ornate Victorian house in the background under a dark, stormy sky. In the foreground, a man in a red velvet jacket and a blue patterned hat is making a 'shh' gesture. To his left and right are two women in period costumes. The title 'Supernatural Secrets' is written in a large, glowing, orange-outlined font. Below the title, it says 'STORIES TO MAKE YOU SHUDDER' in a stylized font. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text providing details about the production.

Supernatural Secrets

STORIES TO MAKE YOU SHUDDER

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Mon 20 - Sat 25 Oct
Performances at 7:30pm

Full details and on-line booking at:
maskers.org.uk

Tickets £15
Registered charity 900067

Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

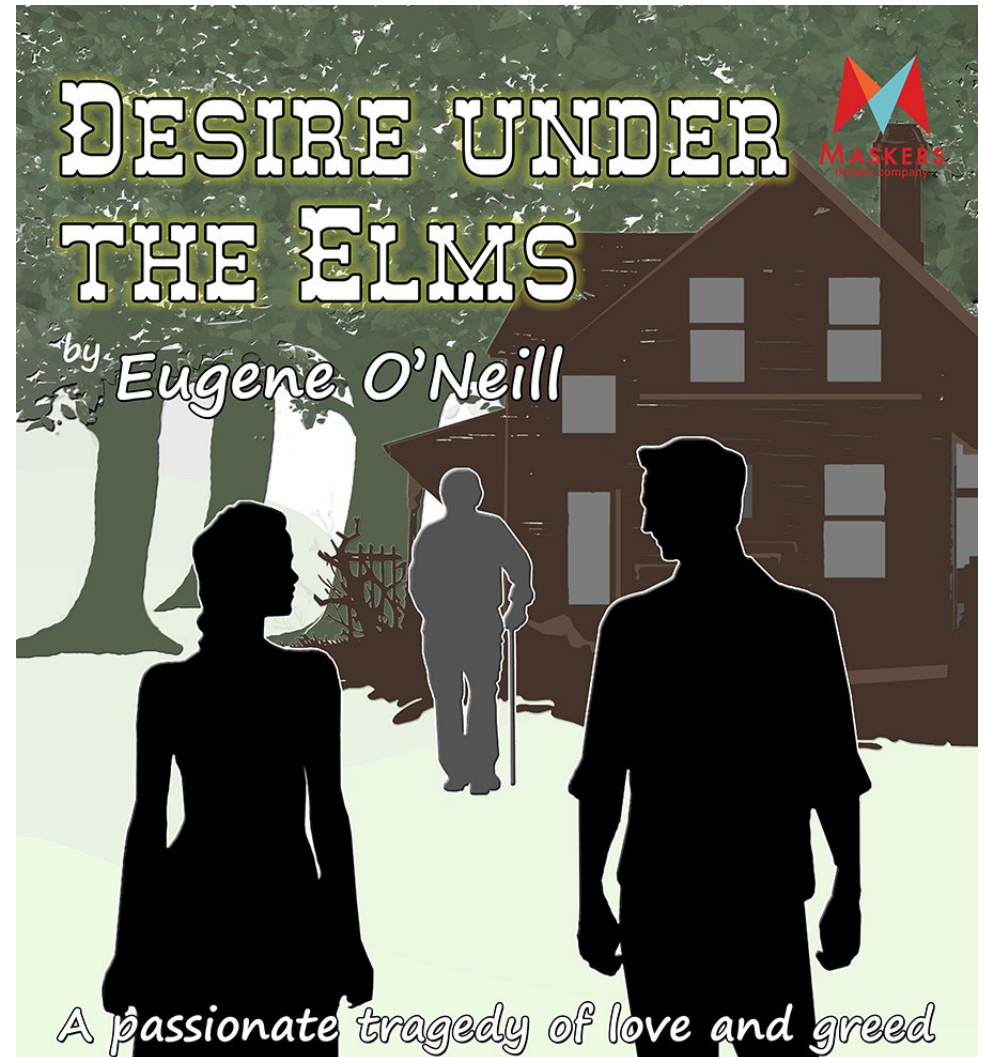
Some bad language and a reference to suicide. Recommended for age 12 years and older.

**BOOKING: Via link on our website
maskers.org.uk or 0333 666 3366**

 @MaskersTheatre

 Find us on
Facebook

Registered charity no.900067



A poster for the production 'Desire Under the Elms'. It features a dark, two-story house in the background. In the foreground, there are three silhouettes of people: a woman on the left, a man in the middle with a cane, and another man on the right. The title 'DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS' is written in a large, white, outlined font. Below the title, it says 'by Eugene O'Neill' in a smaller font. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text providing details about the production.

DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS
by Eugene O'Neill

A passionate tragedy of love and greed

Programme

15th — 20th September 2025

Maskers Studio Theatre

Registered Charity no. 900067

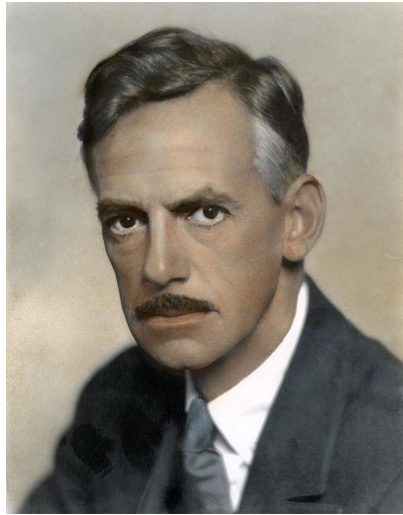
maskers.org.uk

Notes

Eugene O'Neill was born in 1888 in New York, the son of Irish immigrants. During his first seven years, the family accompanied the father, who was an actor, on tour. Then O'Neill was sent to a Catholic boarding school. The father was an alcoholic and his mother abused morphine, which she received as a painkiller when Eugene was born. Addiction is a recurring theme in O'Neill's works and he himself had terrible problems with alcohol abuse. Before his breakthrough as a playwright, O'Neill lived an itinerant life. He mined gold in Honduras, worked at sea, and had short-term jobs in Buenos Aires.

When O'Neill began writing for the stage early in the twentieth century, American theatre was dominated by Vaudeville and romantic melodramas. Influenced by Strindberg, Ibsen and other European playwrights, O'Neill vowed to create a theatre in America, stripped of false sentimentality, which would explore the deepest stirrings of the human spirit.

During the 1920s he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for three of his plays, and other popular successes, including *Desire Under the Elms*, brought him international acclaim. In a career spanning three decades he wrote nearly sixty plays, most of them tragedies, and in 1936 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "for the power, honesty and deep-felt emotions of his dramatic works". He died of pneumonia in 1953 and his masterpiece *Long Day's Journey into Night* was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1957. He is the only playwright to have won four Pulitzer Prizes for Drama.



Directed by Jez Minns - Jez has been a Masker for nearly thirty years now. Mostly he is known as an actor, but he has also done a fair bit of directing, once for the Maskers, when he directed the light-hearted one-act comedy, *Sharks in the Custard*, and in his twenties for various companies in the Midlands. He directed *The Sons of Light*, by David Rudkin, an amazing large-cast tragedy and a huge undertaking. He also directed the farce, *Can't Pay! Won't Pay!* by Dario Fo, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, the latter winning Pick of the Week in the Scotsman newspaper when he took it to the Edinburgh Fringe. When Jez is not doing theatre, he spends his time painting and sketching and writing poetry.

Due to illness, Jez has had to step into the part of Peter. Get well soon, Matthew!

POP IN AND GET TO KNOW MASKERS BETTER



Ever wondered what goes on offstage at a play?

Every show has a host of people working away out of sight of the audience.

Maskers is welcoming people into the theatre to explore the bits the audience doesn't usually get to see. Come and learn a little about the workshop, the technical department, the costume department and how we go about marketing our shows.

Or just drop in for a cup of tea and a chat on the first Saturday of every month.

Saturday 4th October

Running from

10am – 1pm.

VALUE FOR MONEY ENGAGING LOCAL DRAMA CLASSES RUN BY HAMPSHIRE'S MOST INNOVATIVE YOUTH THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS CHARITY

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WEDNESDAY (TERM TIME) - LAMDA TUITION 7+ 5:00 - 6:00
Times vary depending on grade, enquire for more details

THURSDAY (TERM TIME) - MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS 7 TO 14 5:00 - 6:00

FRIDAY (TERM TIME) - COMPANY 7 TO 16 4:30 - 6:30

www.lightupdrama.org.uk

Scan above or Email info@lightupdrama.org.uk to book a FREE trial.

DOING YOUTH THEATRE DIFFERENTLY

REG. CHARITY - 1194787

The Production Team

Director	Jez Minns
Production Manager	Meri Mackney
Stage Manager	Donald Coe
Lighting Design	Emily Smith
Sound Design	Ashley Martin
Lighting and Sound Operators	Ashley Martin, Abi Linnartz
Set Crew	Maria McKay, Meri Mackney
Set Design	Clive Weeks, Jez Minns
Set Construction	Tuesday Team
Set Painting	Lucy Lockyer, Donald Coe
Set Dressing	Lucy Lockyer, Maria McKay
Costume	Lucy Lockyer, Sheana Carrington
Properties	Maria McKay
Poster Design	Nataliia Prymak, Clive Weeks
Show Photography	Donald Coe, Ian Wilson
Rehearsal Prompt	Philip de Grouchy, Helen McCaskie

Acknowledgements

Maskers are very grateful to:

Graham Buchanan for his support with props
RAODS for the loan of the rocking chair and tankards



For the Maskers **Technical Manager:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

Marketing Team:- Jenni Prior, Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; Tash Priddle; Maddy Cope, Nataliia Prymak; **Front of House Manager:-** James Lawson;

Box Office Manager:- Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney



*This production is dedicated
to the memory of
Gill Buchanan
1941-2025*

Gill was a founder member of Maskers, along with her husband Graham, back in 1968. She continued to be active in the company, with props, costumes and set dressing being her specialities. Indeed she was due to be part of the props team for this production when she fell ill and quickly succumbed to a particularly aggressive cancer.

A dedicated primary school teacher, Gill excelled at crafts and had a meticulous eye for colour. She particularly enjoyed dressing the Studio for Christmas.

Gill had a sharp wit and a lively sense of humour. She will be remembered for her kindness, her sense of fun, her craft skills — particularly calligraphy, her cooking, her organisational skills, being a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother and for generally being a lovely, warm human being. She will be greatly missed.

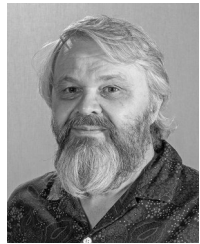


There will be one interval of 20 minutes
Win a bottle of Prosecco—tickets available from the bar!

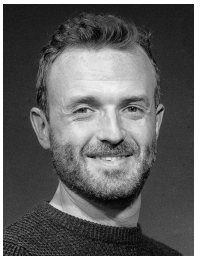
The Cast



Abbie Cabot played by **Emma Kirkpatrick** — Emma has had a keen interest in performing since she was very young. She was part of an amateur dramatic theatre group when she lived in Devon during her teenage years and then went on to gain a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies at Aberystwyth University. After Emma moved to Southampton, she joined Maskers in 2021 and made her debut performance in *Out of Focus*. Since then, she has appeared in *The Three Musketeers*, *Blue Remembered Hills* and *Cash on Delivery*.



Ephraim Cabot played by **Duncan Randall** — Duncan is involved in various community theatre groups in Southampton. Duncan joined the Maskers in 2022, playing Athos in *The Three Musketeers*. Since then, he has appeared in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Gormenghast*, *Time and Tide*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Murder in the Studio*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Blue Remembered Hills* and, most recently, *Absurd Person Singular*. It has been a challenge to play Ephraim for, although Duncan is also old and grumpy, that is where the similarities end. As Duncan says, “When you are playing a nasty piece of work like Ephraim you have to find some redeeming aspect, even if it is buried somewhere, out in the fields, with all those stones”.



Eben Cabot played by **Neil Forster** — Neil joined Maskers in 2021 and has since made appearances in *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Almost, Maine*, and *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. Most recently he could be seen as a collection of quirky characters in this year's production of *Notes from a Small Island*. A native Geordie (ish), Neil grew up in South Shields and has been moving further and further south since he left school. Next stop: Isle of Wight!



Simeon Cabot played by **Iain Shaw** — This play marks Iain's 2nd performance for Maskers, having made his debut in last year's, *Blue Remembered Hills*. Prior to his work with Maskers, Iain was part of the Blag It theatre Company and starred in an internet audio sitcom and a series of audio plays he produced for charity. When Iain isn't treading the boards, he can be found hosting stage events and interviews, walking his dog, Willow, and hosting podcasts. Iain is also a carer for his mother in his hometown of Romsey.



Peter Cabot played by **Jez Minns** — Jez has appeared in many Maskers' shows over the years. He was last seen in *Blue Remembered Hills*, when he played the tragic and ill-fated Donald and as the irascible Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other recent performances include Mr Jenkins, the fuddy duddy benefits inspector in *Cash on Delivery*, the corrupt Lord Henry Wotton in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the drunkard Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. When he isn't doing theatre, Jez enjoys painting and sketching and writing poetry.



Musician played by **Alan Fitch** — Alan learned the violin at school but then stopped playing for 25 years until taking it up again by joining the Northwood String Orchestra in Southampton in 2007. Alan is now the Chair of the Northwood String Orchestra and plays in the first violins. Alan also plays folk music (on both violin and hammered dulcimer) with the Southampton Folk Orchestra. Alan is a volunteer at Southampton Hospital Radio, and it is via a friend there that he was asked to play the fiddle (a.k.a. violin!) for *Desire Under the Elms*.

