

# Jo Morello

## Playwright/Screenwriter

Member: Dramatists Guild, AACT;

Eugene O'Neill Society:

Board of Directors, Newsletter Editor

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**“O’NEILL, LOST AND FOUND,”** *American Theatre* magazine, December 2011, p. 14.

**“BEFORE BREAKFAST: THE JOURNEY OF A MINOR PLAY,”** *Eugene O’Neill Society Newsletter*, November 2011, pp. 29-30.

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**MA, MOONFLOWERS & ME: A comedy for people old enough to know better**—Full-length contemporary comedy. After a 10-year courtship, Al, 60s, finally decides to marry Barbara, one year older—but there are complications: a long-missing first wife and especially Ruth, his feisty, thrice-married, 80-something mother who blocks his every effort. Things start to change when Tina, a spiky-haired, tattooed, teenager, delivers two tiny moonflower plants.

**DADDY’S LITTLE GIRL** (formerly THE MARKHAM MYSTERY)—Full-length. Two detectives search for a schizophrenic woman who hears voices ordering her to kill her younger stepmother. Now the woman is missing and soon other family members disappear. Inspired by a crime on Florida’s west coast in 2007.

### ■ Awards

- **Finalist**, 28th Annual ScriptFEST, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART), Mars Hill, NC, January 2010
- **Finalist**, 2009 “The Play’s the Thing” New Play Contest, The Players, Sarasota, FL

■ **Readings:** 28th Annual ScriptFEST, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART), Mars Hill, NC, January 24, 2010

**THE CRASH AT CRUSH**—Full-length play with music dramatizing a staged train wreck in 1896 in Waco, TX.

■ **Production:** Dallas Hub Theater (community theatre), Dallas, TX Aug. 29-30 and Sept. 4-5-6, 2008, Tim Shane/dir.

■ **Development: Workshop**, Baylor University Graduate School of Theatre, and **staged reading**, Waco Hippodrome, both in May 2007, dir. Marion Castleberry, SDC, 2006 Drama Desk nominee, professor of theatre arts at Baylor University, artistic director of Horton Foote American Playwrights Festival.

### ■ Awards

- **Winner**, 2009-2010 Individual Artist Fellowship, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
- **Winner**, 2007-08 Artist Enhancement Grant, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
- **Finalist**, Women Playwrights’ Initiative (Orlando)

**E.G.O.: THE PASSIONS OF EUGENE GLADSTONE O’NEILL**—Full-length play with music about Eugene O’Neill and his relationship with his second and third wives, Agnes Boulton and Carlotta Monterey. Adapted from *E.G.O.: A Haunted Life*, also written by Jo Morello.

■ **Production:** First two scenes produced with AEA cast for Eugene O’Neill Society’s 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Provincetown Theater, Provincetown, MA, June 18, 2005, Margaret Van Sant/dir.

### ■ Development/Staged readings

- Reston Community Players, Reston, VA, reading scheduled for June 2, 2012.
- freeFall Theatre, St. Petersburg, FL, Feb. 27, 2012. Susan Forbes, SDC/AEA/dir.
- Banyan Theater Company, Sarasota, FL, March 9, 2009, Jane B. Cook Theatre (Asolo Rep Second Stage), Sarasota, FL, Carole Kleinberg/dir.
- Neighborhood Playhouse, New York, NY, June 26, 2006, Steven Ditmyer/dir.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentation, Eugene O’Neill Foundation Playwrights’ Theatre, Old Barn at Tao House (O’Neill’s Home), now part of National Park Service, Danville, CA, May 15, 2005, AEA cast; Dan Cawthon/dir.
- Venice Little Theatre, Venice, FL, June 2004, Leanne Hanson/dir.

### ■ Awards

- **Winner**, 2009 Banyan Becoming (New Play Contest), Banyan Theatre Company, Sarasota, FL
- **Winner**, Artist Enhancement Grant, 2005-2006, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.
- **Winner**, Manatee Players Summer New Play Contest, 2005, Bradenton, FL
- **Winner**, Artist Enhancement Grant, 2005-2006, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.

(*E.G.O. Awards, continued*)

**E.G.O.: THE PASSIONS OF EUGENE GLADSTONE O'NEILL** (*Awards, continued*)

- **Winner**, Manatee Players Summer New Play Contest, 2005, Bradenton, FL
- **Winner**, Artist Enhancement Grant, 2004-2005, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
- **Finalist**, 2007 Arthur W. Stone Playwriting Award, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA
- **Finalist**, 2006 Women Playwrights' Initiative, Orlando, FL
- **Semifinalist**, 2005: PlayLabs, Minneapolis
- **Semifinalist**, 2005: Mildred and Albert Panowski Playwriting Award, Northern Michigan University
- **Semifinalist**, 2005: Backdoor Theatre, Wichita Falls, TX
- **Semifinalist**, 2005: Ashland New Plays Festival, Ashland, Oregon, top 10 of 350;
- **Semifinalist**, 2004-05: Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival, Orlando, FL, top 15 of 300+

**GENE & AGGIE**—Short play excerpted from *E.G.O.: A Haunted Life* and *E.G.O.: The Passions of Eugene Gladstone O'Neill* (both by Jo Morello).

- **Production**: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Original Short Play Festival, The Chernuchin, New York, NY, June 2004
- **Publication** (early version): eoneill.com at <http://www.eoneill.com/library/essays/morello.htm>

**E.G.O.: A HAUNTED LIFE**—Full-length play about Eugene O'Neill and the ghosts that haunt him; incidental music by Dick Hyman.

- **Development**: Staged reading, The Players, Sarasota, FL, August 16, 2002, Bob Trisolini/dir.,
- **Awards**
  - **Winner**, 2001-02 Individual Artist's Fellowship, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
  - **Finalist**, 2003, 10th Annual Women at the Door contest, Famous Door Theatre, Chicago
  - **Semifinalist**, 2003 PlayLabs, The Playwrights Center, Minneapolis

**THE SPLIT**—Full-length romantic comedy co-authored with Jack Gilhooley.

- **Production**: Manatee Players (community theatre), Riverfront Theatre, Bradenton, FL, July 9-11, 2004, Bob Trisolini/dir.
- **Development**
  - Workshop production, West Central Florida Playwright's Process, Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater, FL; May 3, 1997, Elizabeth Brincklow/dir.
  - Rehearsed reading, Asolo Theatre Company, Sarasota, FL, Apr. 25, 1999, Bob Trisolini/dir.
  - Rehearsed reading, Players of Sarasota, Sarasota, FL, June 1, 1998.
- **Awards**
  - **Winner**, Manatee Players New Play Contest, 2004
  - **Winner**, 1996 West Central Florida Playwright's Process, Clearwater, FL
  - **Semifinalist**, 2005 Mountain Playhouse contest
  - **Second place**, Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwriting Excellence, February 1999
- **Publication**: Monologue in *The Best Women's Stage Monologues of 1996*, Smith & Kraus.

**HOUSEHUNTING IN PARADISE WITH BILL AND HILLARY** (1996)—Political satire co-authored with Jack Gilhooley; commissioned and produced by the Home Builders Association of Sarasota County, Sarasota Hyatt, Oct. 1996.

**THE FABULOUS MRS. PALMER**—Full-length musical biography about a Bertha Palmer of Chicago's Palmer House and a founder of Sarasota; written with composer/lyricist Diana Colson. (Played to 5,000 people in 8 performances.)

- **Production**: Manatee Community College Foundation, Venice High School, Venice FL, and Neel Auditorium, Manatee Community College, Bradenton, FL, (Sept. 26-Oct. 17, 1992).
- **Awards**
  - NEA grant for development of new American musical, 1991-92
  - Tourist Development Grant, Sarasota County Tourist Development Council and Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, 1991-92

**A LITTLE BYTE OF MURDER**—10-minute play

- **Development**: reading as part of *The Third Millennium*, Eric Krebs Productions, John Houseman Theatre, 42nd Street, NYC, Feb-Mar. 1992, Sue Lawless/dir.

(continued)

**LOTIONS & POTIONS**—Intergenerational one-act for young adults and family audiences.

■ **Development**

- Workshop production, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, CT, March 6, 1992, Tom Deedy/dir.
- Workshop production, Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT, July 1990, Terry Ortwein/dir.
- Staged reading, "Centerpieces," Mill Mountain Theatre, Roanoke, VA, May 6, 1992
- Staged reading, Springer Opera House, Columbus, GA, April 16, 1992
- Reading, "The Play's the Thing" Reading Series, The Players, Sarasota, FL, August 2001
- Reading, StageWorks, Tampa, FL, Feb. 11, 1992
- Reading, 1992 North Carolina Playwrights' Festival, North Carolina Playwrights' Center, Salisbury, NC, June 1992

■ **Awards**

- **Winner**, 1992 Young People's Drama Project, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
- **Winner**, 1991-92 Individual Artist's Fellowship, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.
- **Winner**, Discovery '90, Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT
- **Finalist**, Critic's Circle '93, Stage One: Louisville Children's Theatre, KY
- **Finalist**, Family One-Act Competition, Theatre With A Message, Nashville, TN, 1992
- **Finalist**, Shubert Fendrich Memorial Playwriting Contest, 1991
- **Finalist**, Anna Zornio Memorial Children's Theater Playwriting Award, Department of Theater and Dance, University of New Hampshire, 1990
- **Second place**, Beverly Hills Theatre Guild Play Competition for Children's Theatre, 1999
- **Second Place**, DeepSouth New Playwrights' Contest, 1992

**THE KING'S CADILLAC**--Romantic comedy/screenplay.

- **Awards:** Finalist, 1992 Florida Screenwriting Competition

**TOO BIG TO CRY**—One-act play for young adults and family audiences.

■ **Development**

- Workshop at St. Stephen's Episcopal Academy, Bradenton, FL, Apr-May 1994.
- Reading, "The Play's the Thing" Reading Series, The Players, Sarasota, FL, August 2001.
- Reading, 1992 North Carolina Playwrights' Festival, North Carolina Playwrights' Center, Salisbury, NC, June 1992.

- **Awards: Finalist**, Discovery '89, Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT.

**SHIRLEY BASIN**—Screenplay; with Jack Gilhooley.

- **Awards: Finalist**, 1993 New Harmony Project.

## **SPECIAL AWARD**

**OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN THE PERFORMING ARTS**, AAUW, Cambridge, OH (as "Jo Carmosky") for three years of service as managing director of Cambridge Area Theatre Association

## **PRODUCTION/MANAGEMENT**

**DRAMATIC PRODUCTIONS/READINGS**, 1990-Present; production/technical aspects of my plays

**JAZZ CLUB OF SARASOTA, INC.**, Sarasota, Fl, 1995-2009

- Consultant, providing services in public relations, publications, newsletters, publicity, educational programs, grant-writing and community outreach, 1995-2008
- Managing Director for this major arts presenter in the community, presenting some 100 performances and a week-long Jazz Festival annually, 1996-1997.
- **Awards**
  - **Winner**, Local Gold Addy 2000, Advertising for the Arts, Sarasota Jazz Festival, Copywriter, Advertising Federation of the Suncoast
  - **Winner, 1998 Golden Image Award** for Newsletter, "Sarasota Jazz Sounds," Florida Public Relations Association
  - **Award of Distinction**, 1998, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarasota Jazz Festival, Promotional Marketing, Florida Public Relations Association

**MANATEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, BRADENTON, FL, 1990-1992**

With the MCC Foundation: Conceived of and promoted my own original full-length historical musical play (*The Fabulous Mrs. Palmer*); produced advertising and collateral materials; formulated sales strategy for the world premiere; directed group sales, sold out all performances of this major regional event sold out, which played to an audience of 5,000 in 8 performances, generated \$16,000 for MCC Theatre Department.

**CAMBRIDGE AREA THEATER ASSOCIATION CAMBRIDGE, OH, 1975-1978**

- Served as producer, managing director, publicity chair of summer-stock theatre.
- Participated in selecting seasons; hiring and supervising creative staff; creating, coordinating and implementing all fundraising activities.
- Founded a children's theater that made a profit on all productions during my tenure as producer and publicity chair.

**THEATRICAL ADJUDICATION**

**THEATRE FELLOWSHIP PANEL**, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, 1996, Panelist.

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA PLAYWRIGHT'S PROCESS**/Ruth Eckerd Hall, High-School Component, 1996 and 1999, Adjudicator; Adult Component, 1995, Adjudicator.

**FLORIDA THESPIANS CONFERENCE**, St. Petersburg, FL, January 2000; Adjudicator.

**FLORIDA TEEN PLAYWRIGHTS' FESTIVAL**, statewide competition operated by Hippodrome State Theater, Gainesville, FL; funded by Florida Department of State, Arts Council, 1991-92, Adjudicator.

**EDUCATION**

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**, B.S., Nursing; minor, English

**TEMPLE UNIVERSITY**, M.S., School of Communications and Theatre

**LaSALLE UNIVERSITY**, Classes towards M.B.A.

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS**

**NATIONAL:** Dramatists Guild of America; American Association of Community Theatres; Eugene O'Neill Society, Newsletter Editor & Ex Officio Member, Board of Directors; Eugene O'Neill Foundation

**REGIONAL:** Sarasota Screenwriters Network, Sarasota Scriptwriters' Circle.