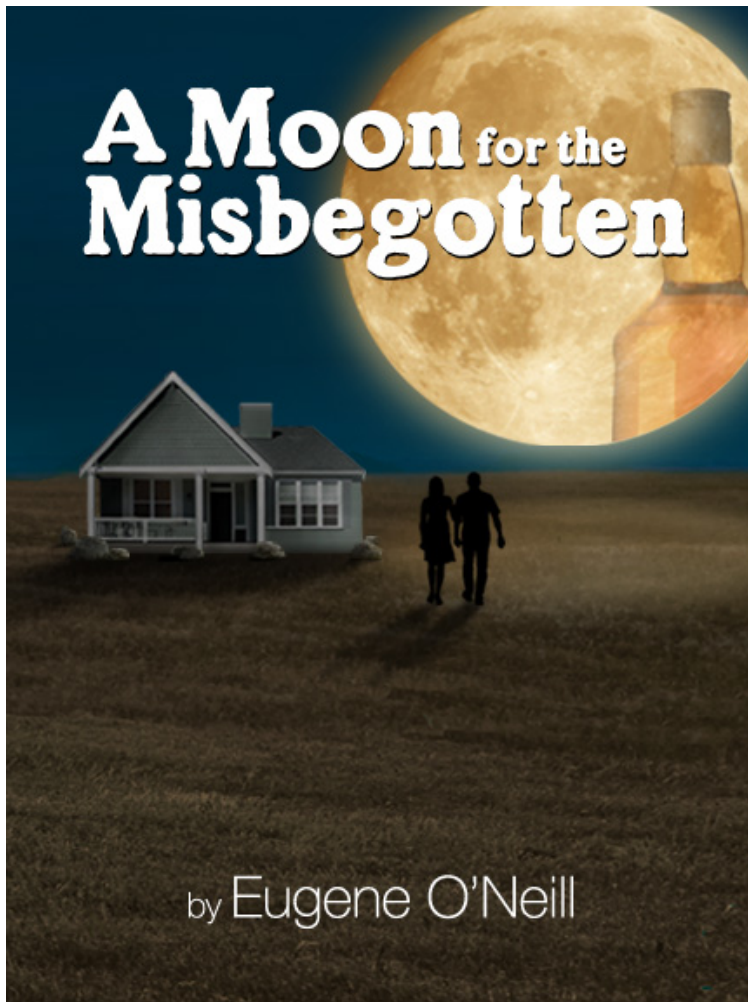


Jewel Theatre Audience Guide
Addendum: T. Stedman Harder Character Description



directed by Joy Carlin

by Susan Myer Sifton, Dramaturge
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T. STEDMAN HARDER

T. Stedman Harder, played by Jerry Lloyd, is an heir to Standard Oil money and neighbor of Phil and Josie whose beachfront property abuts the Hogan farm.

The character is a composite portrait of the O'Neill's wealthy Protestant neighbors, Edward S. Harkness and Edward C. Hammond, who had estates near their New London, Connecticut, summer home, known as Monte Cristo Cottage. The Harkness estate was in nearby Waterford and the Hammond estate was in New London, though some accounts put it in Waterford as well. Harder's character also appears in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, where he is called Harker.

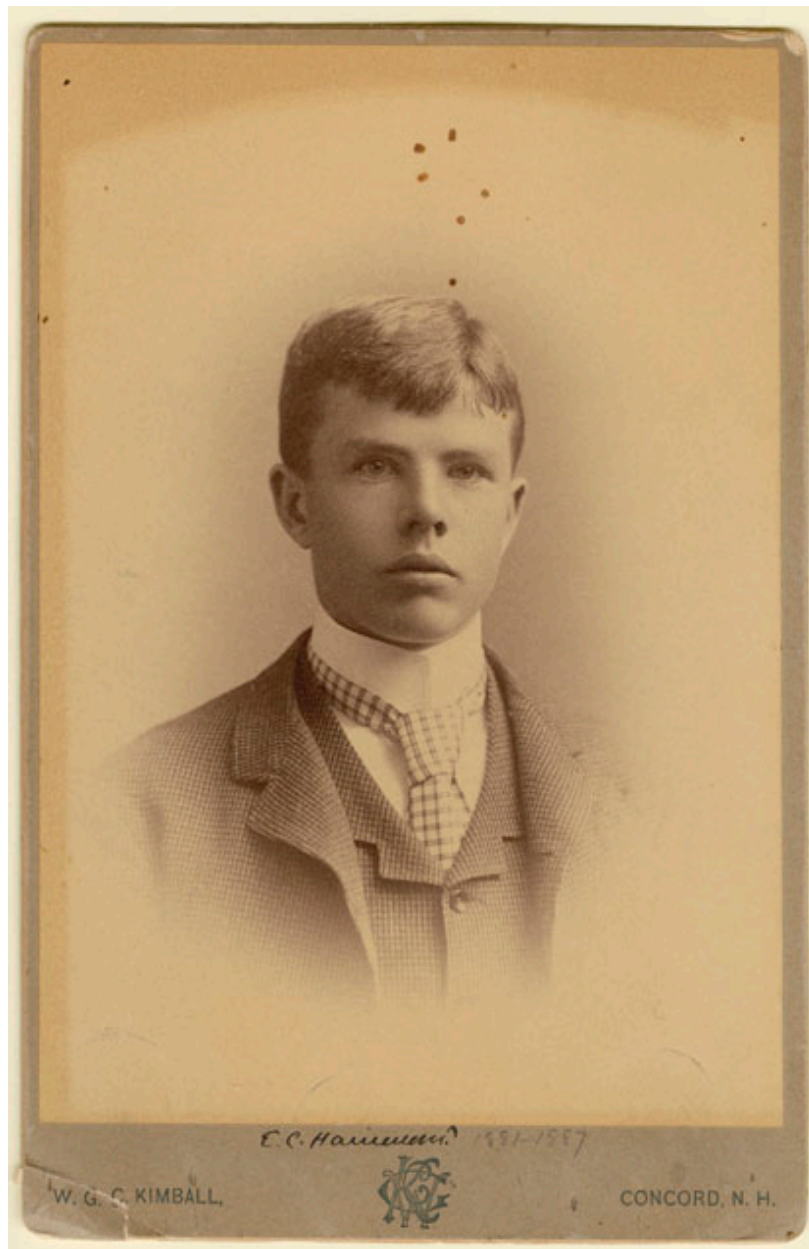
Not only does T. Stedman Harder, as the butt of the Hogans' hilarious insults, provide some of the most humorous moments of the play, his character gives vent to O'Neill's disdain of big business, especially Standard Oil, and the Protestant bias against the Irish.

Edward Stephen Harkness was born in Ohio on January 22, 1874. He inherited a massive fortune derived from his father's and uncle's substantial early investments in John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil. Despite the unflattering portraits of Harder and Harker in O'Neill's plays, Harkness was a philanthropist whose gifts through his family's Commonwealth Fund to private hospitals, art museums, and educational institutions in the Northeast were among the largest of the early twentieth century.



Edward Stephen Harkness, 1912

Edward Crowninshield Hammond was born on November 4, 1868 in New London, Connecticut, the great grandson of Gardiner Greene, who became Boston's wealthiest merchant in the early 19th century through the trade he established with merchants in the West Indies. When researching Hammond, I did not find any evidence that he shared Harkness' philanthropic inclination. Louis Scheaffer, in *O'Neill: Son and Artist*, describes him as "slightly over six feet tall, broad-shouldered, pink-faced from privileged living, he looked like an American version of a British country squire—exactly the sort a good Irishman like Dolan would hate on sight." The outer reaches of Hammond's domain adjoined Dirty Dolan's small farm near the swampy bottom of Niles Hill Road in New London.



Edward Crowninshield Hammond as a young man

O'Neill's Harker-Harder character is essentially Hammond, but has some of the background history of Harkness, whose magnificent estate was next to Hammond's. Harkness named it Eolia for the island home of the Greek God of Winds. The manor itself was on the water, in a windy spot. The land and its buildings were donated to the state of Connecticut and are now a State Park.

Hammond was worth a million or so and Harkness was worth around two hundred million dollars. They looked somewhat alike: they were both large, tweedy men with glowing faces. In terms of temperament, Harkness was quiet, shy, and as mentioned earlier, public-spirited. Hammond is described by Scheaffer as possessing "a vigorous manner," and was supercilious and short-tempered. "But to Eugene O'Neill", he adds, "a disciple of Tucker and Emma Goldman [see next paragraph], the two men were as one. "Eugene," in his friend Maibelle Scott's words, "resented anybody who had a lot of money."

The "Tucker" in the quote above is Benjamin R. Tucker, one of America's leading radicals, the chief spokesman of "individualist anarchism." Emma Goldman is described by Scheaffer:

A Russian-born Jewess who had early rebelled against her dictatorial father, she was passionately committed to economic justice and social freedom for all; as a labor organizer, as a strike leader, as a writer, as a speaker—she was an emotional, inspiring speaker—she was one of the most notorious women in public life, feared by the vested interests and hounded by the authorities.

Goldman also influenced Christine Eil (see character description Addendum for Josie Hogan).

ABOUT THE HARKNESS AND HAMMOND ESTATES

Harkness' aforementioned estate was a working dairy farm in Waterford that the family called Eolia. Hammond had a "gentleman's farm" in New London, though it has also been described as being in Waterford. The towns share a common border and their centers are only five miles apart.

Waterford is located in New London County, and is named after Waterford, Ireland. It is adjacent to New London, where as mentioned above, Eugene spent summers with his family as a boy and young adult. Here's a map of Waterford:

<https://www.mapquest.com/us/connecticut/waterford-ct-282024074>

This is the site of the Harkness family estate, Eolia: <https://www.harkness.org/> The manor itself was on the water, in a windy spot.

This page on the Harkness site describes Eolia, which is now a state park: <https://www.harkness.org/history-of-the-harkness-estate/>

This page shows some old plans for the landscape and gardens:
<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/28722/bk0009s8d8k/?order=3&brand=calisphere>

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