

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK  
INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

By the time Eugene O'Neill died, in 1953 at the age of sixty-five, America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright had suffered a professional reversal of fortune. Despite the admiration of younger bards such as Tennessee



Williams, the father of American realist drama was considered old-fashioned by theatregoers who had yet to see "Long Day's Journey Into Night," arguably O'Neill's last masterpiece. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the play's première, Ric Burns has directed an intensely moving and historically thorough documentary, "Eugene O'Neill," which premières on March 27 as part of PBS's "American Experience." As a further example of O'Neill's range, the Wooster Group, under the direction of Elizabeth LeCompte, is staging "The Emperor Jones" (1920), at St. Ann's Warehouse, beginning March 1. Starring the incandescent Kate Valk as Brutus Jones, a black man in search of a kingdom, the show proves that the classically minded O'Neill lives on as a source of expressionistic spectacle.  
*-Hilton Als*