Loyola University Chicago English professor Terence Boyle will present his play Oh, What a Bloody Good Friday: A Playful Mystery as the first outdoor summer theatre production held at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens. From September 9-11, 2011, this mystery will bring a contemporary version of the death and resurrection of Christ to audiences.

Oh, What a Bloody Good Friday: A Playful Mystery grew out of Boyle's experience at the bi-annual 14th Century Mystery plays held in York, England, where he watched 11 plays. From this, he became intrigued by the challenge of creating a modern mystery play, and worked creatively with director Katie Miller to create this production. Their creativity paid off as the play was named a semi-finalist at the 2011 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference this summer.

"These plays, which were religious in nature, were based on Bible stories. The playwrights of each instilled their own unique touch or spin on the stories, including comedy, in order to communicate better and to engage the audience," said Boyle. "After witnessing all of these unique productions, I discovered I wanted to construct a similar play, surrounding it around a religious event, but also setting it in a contemporary time that enabled the audience to live and breathe the play as well. That is the basis of how Oh, What a Bloody Good Friday: A Playful Mystery was created."

The play, set in contemporary time, centers upon the death and resurrection of Christ in Derry, Northern Ireland after the 1998 ceasefire, also called the Good Friday agreement, which was the establishment of peace of Northern Ireland. The play begins with God, a character who hangs out at a local park and who is viewed as the outsider, commenting on the events, which have led to the death of Christ. His reflections are quickly built on by the four main characters: Murray, the mother of Jesus, Mary, as in Mary Magdalene, Siobhan, a sassy, young, good-time woman, and Phyllis, a middle-aged teacher who fears getting older.

"We are very excited to present this modern day mystery as our first outdoor summer theatre production," said Kevin Ginty, general manager of the Cuneo estate. "We strive to offer an array of educational programming, events, and entertainment for the local community, and this play is an example of that. While the majority of our events are family friendly, we do stress that this production contains adult language and is not appropriate for children."

The play will be held outside in the back yard area of the Cuneo Mansion and Gardens. Attendees should provide their own chairs and blankets. Tickets are $18 per adult and $15 for students and seniors for each play. Performances (rain or shine) will occur on the following dates and times:
• Friday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m.
• Saturday, September 10 at 1 p.m.
• Sunday, September 11 at 1 p.m.