Eugene O'Neil's works reflect an occupation with the idea of “belonging”; O'Neil's main concern was to demonstrate the tragic predicament of man struggling for some understanding of himself in an alien universe. Thus the theme of alienation is very clear in his plays. The present thesis concentrates on this theme where it is most intensified in his works. The thesis is divided into four chapters and a conclusion.

The first chapter is an introductory one which handles both the development of the idea alienation and O'Neil's life as a man and a writer.

Chapter two deals with two plays: The Hairy Ape and All God's Chillun Got Wings. Through those plays the alienated American society is portrayed.

The third chapter discusses the individuals' alienation within the boundaries of their own families as reflected in The Long Days Journey Into Night & Welded.

Chapter Four explores the problem of self- alienation that the individual suffers from in a world devoid of meaning as it is reflected in The Emperor Jones & The Great God Brown.