



Kansas-Nebraska  
**Chautauqua**  
*Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties*  
PRESENTED BY THE KANSAS AND NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCILS



**Will Rogers** was a humorist, film and radio celebrity, and essayist who commented on American culture and politics. He brought people together through humor and his ability to speak to the average American. A member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Rogers was billed as the “Cherokee Kid” for stage performances and secured his stage career by performing in Ziegfeld’s New York variety revue. Writing for newspapers and magazines from 1925-1935, giving radio broadcasts, appearing in movies, and winning the admiration of American audiences, Rogers offered observations from a general, non-partisan viewpoint.

**Doug Watson** portrays Will Rogers, and, as Rogers, is the moderator for Chautauqua. Dr. Watson holds the Ph.D. from Texas Tech University and is a recently retired professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University. A seasoned Chautauquan, Watson has performed over 300 programs across the nation as Will Rogers. He has also developed and presented over 40 “Let’s Talk About It” programs for Oklahoma and Kansas.