



Kansas-Nebraska

Chautauqua

Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties

PRESENTED BY THE KANSAS AND NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCILS



Zora Neale Hurston was a Harlem Renaissance author and folklorist who worked for the Federal Writers Project during the 1930s. Hurston provided an authentic voice for African Americans through her folklore collection *Mules and Men*, the fictional *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and her work for the Library of Congress and the Folk Arts Committee of the WPA.

Wanda Schell portrays Zora Neale Hurston. Schell is an accomplished actress and writer who holds degrees in Liberal Arts and Theatre from the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and has pursued graduate work at the Trinity Repertoire Conservatory. In addition to a variety of stage roles, Schell has used her theatrical skills to conduct youth outreach programs across the country. She also portrays Jazz vocalist Billie Holiday.