

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – May 2011



Excerpts from Jay Ferguson's Acceptance upon Receiving the Paul Green Award for Efforts to Abolish the Death Penalty



"...Recently I read a quote from Rev. Dr. William Barber which really struck a chord with me. He said: 'We' is the most important word in the social justice vocabulary.

"The issue is not what we can't do, but what we CAN do when we stand together. Tonight, I ask you to think about what WE CAN do when we stand together. Friends - Enough is enough. WE cannot tolerate this any longer. You and I are the WE Rev. Barber is talking about.

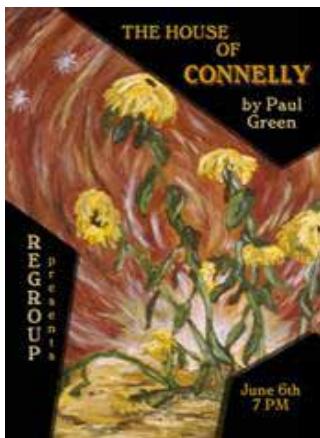
"We cannot be silent because silence is tantamount to acceptance - acceptance of this failed, broken machinery of death that we have the audacity to call justice.

"Our voices need to be heard in the halls of the legislature... in the Governor's office...in our places of worship, in our civic groups and outside comfortable audiences of our like-minded friends. We need to be heard.

"I'm hopeful that someday the Paul Green Foundation will no longer be honoring people who are advocating for the abolition of the death penalty in NC because we will no longer have the death penalty in NC. It's what Paul Green wanted and it's what is right. I firmly believe that someday, someone is going to be able to say "I was the last recipient of the Paul Green Award" but the only way this can happen is if WE are not silent.

"I ask you to stand together and let your voices be heard...!"

Marsha Warren, Director Paul Green Foundation
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The ReGroup Begins Their 2nd Summer Series with The Group Theatre's Debut, *The House of Connelly*

7 p.m. June 6th, 2011
at The 47th St Theatre,
304 W 47th St., NYC

For the first time, audiences will see both endings to the play. Mr. Green's ending was tragic but The Group Theatre had him rewrite a hopeful one. The Group Theatre's inaugural production, *The House of Connelly* debuted on Sept 28th, 1931 and was heralded by the critics as a triumph of the American Theatre and put The Group on the map. The following morning, Brooks Atkinson wrote, "In its utter simplicity of story and structure, in its flow and balance of mood, in its truth and sentience, it is more like a prose poem of the old South yielding to the new. And it is abidingly beautiful."

The House of Connelly is a tale of the crumbling Old South and the fall of the great Connelly estate. The framed photos of the once great, dead Connellys loom large over the household, and young Will Connelly cannot live up to the majesty of his ancestors. With the arrival of Patsy Tate, an ambitious daughter of a tenant farmer, the household is divided. Will is torn between a future with Patsy and the heavy pull of his mother, spinster sisters and the dark shadow of the Connelly legacy.