

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – January 2014



Final Week for THE HOUSE OF CONNELLY

The **New York City** hit *The House of Connelly* by Paul Green enters its final week with performances on: Thurs Feb 6- Sat Feb 8th at 8 PM and Sunday Feb 9th at 3 p.m. The Group Theatre's first play in 1931 receives a top-notch 2014 ReGroup production that is receiving raves from audiences and critics alike!

For tickets: www.regrouptheatre.org/
<http://thehouseofconnelly.com/About.html>

Critics say:

"ReGroup is one of the most important companies in the city. Allie Mulholland unearths long-neglected treasures and directs them with loving care. Don't miss even one of his productions."

– Peter Filichia, Theatre World Awards, Jan 2014

"THE HOUSE OF CONNELLY is a fascinating and complicated slice of Americana. Paul Green's ambitious play examines post-Reconstruction racial attitudes through the lens of '30s radicalism...and we watch it 80-odd years later from the far side of the Civil Rights Movement and the Obama presidency. ReGroup's rescue of this big, messy, unsettling drama is full of revelations about those earlier times, and implications about our own."

– Jim O'Quinn, American Theatre, Jan 2014

This poetic tale of the last dying gasps of the Old South, trying to prevent the progression of new ideas, gets a much overdue NY revival. Though the Group Theatre made Mr. Green rewrite the ending to make it more hopeful, ReGroup is presenting Mr. Green's original tragic ending.



Green's play propelled the Group Theatre to prominence. Directed by Lee Strasberg, the cast featured future legends such as Stella Adler, Morris Carnovsky, and Clifford Odets.

In his 1931 *New York Times* review, Brooks Atkinson wrote that Mr. Green "...has such abundant understanding, such integrity of character – a magnetism of passion that you are likely to remember the pure truth of his prose poem long after you have forgotten a thousand craftsmen-like plays about love, family and possessions."

In 1934, the play was turned into the film *Carolina* starring Lionel Barrymore, Robert Young, Janet Gaynor and 6-year-old Shirley Temple.

ReGroup's *The House of Connelly* features a 16 person cast and was staged by **Allie Mulholland** who writes this about the production:

"We have Broadway actors and many wonderful actors in the show, ranging from 20 to late 60s. At most, they're getting paid \$99 for 2 months of work – 14 shows. I've asked them WHY - why would you do this for free, and even ask to do extra rehearsals, and get paid about 3 cents an hr? They've all responded: *'It's the play. You LIVE to do a play like this. The words are so amazing – as an actor, it engages the artist and challenges you on so many levels.'*

Across the board of 16 actors, they've all said this has been a special and unique experience, based on the script. It is so, so rich. They don't write plays like this anymore. Hopefully, this exposure to this type of play will re-educate people of the power of the playwright and inspire new plays. It all begins with the text."



Marsha Warren, Director, Paul Green Foundation

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