

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – June 2014



A TRIBUTE and THANKS to Maya Angelou “A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.”



The Paul Green Foundation adds its voice of grief, to the voices of millions around the world, on the passing of **Maya Angelou**.

I don't see in *A Southern Life* any mention of this Grande dame of letters and music, but I do see that Laurence Avery included a 1940 letter from Paul to Zora Neale Hurston telling her he can't get her the recording equipment she needed to record some fine spirituals that she wanted for a play she and Green planned to write. Hurston was attending writing classes on Sunday evenings at Green's home while she taught at the NC College for Negroes (now NCCU).

Hurston's courage and talent went on to encourage other strong African-American women writers – **Maya Angelou** was one of them. I don't know if they ever met. Hurston died in 1960, but we do know that Angelou wrote an introduction to Hurston's autobiography *Dust Tracks on a Road*.

A TRIBUTE to this remarkable woman: poet, singer, screen writer, essayist, playwright, musician, novelist, dancer. Humanitarian. Friend. **And THANKS.** Last fall, some board members of the NC Freedom Monument Park met with Dr. Angelou in her lovely home and gardens in Winston-Salem. We told her about our hopes for the Project that was initiated by the Paul Green Foundation. She embraced the Project and us enthusiastically and sent us a beautiful letter for use in our efforts to build the Park. In her letter she began: Dear Friend, and ended with...

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. That will be true when you come with me to bring the Freedom Monument Park into reality – a very visible step toward seeking ways to bring equity and freedom to all people.”

Film and TV in North Carolina Slated for November 2014

The NC Museum of History is planning a yearlong celebration of filmmaking in the state. **Starring North Carolina!** will feature the first major exhibit about the Tar Heel State's role in filmmaking; activities that reveal NC stars, filming locations and references; and film series.



North Carolina has been connected to more than **700 major motion pictures** over the years, including *Deliverance*, *The Color Purple*, *Bull Durham*, *Weekend at Bernie's*, *Iron Man 3* and more than 2,400 films and TV programs.

Paul Green's typewriter will be on loan to the Museum as part of its yearlong exhibit. I wonder if it's the very one he used to type his Hollywood films: *Cabin in the Cotton*, *State Fair*, *Voltaire*, *Dr. Bull*, *David Harum*, *Work of Art*, *Green Light*, *Captain Eddie*, *The Green Years*, *Time out of Mind*, *Roseanna McCoy*, or *Black Like Me*.



The National Archives' National Historical Publications and Records Commission has awarded a matching grant to the Special Collections Division at East Carolina University's Joyner Library to process the archives of the **Institute of Outdoor Theatre**, as part of the Commission's "Documenting Democracy."

Since its founding in 1963, the IOT has amassed a considerable collection related to more than 600 outdoor theatres. The earliest of those theatres began production in the 1920s. The Institute, now directed by **Dr. Michael Hardy**, was founded with the purpose of supporting these theatres in all aspects of their artistic and business operations. **Congratulations!**

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