

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – April 2016



A GOOD YEAR FOR PAUL GREEN DRAMA

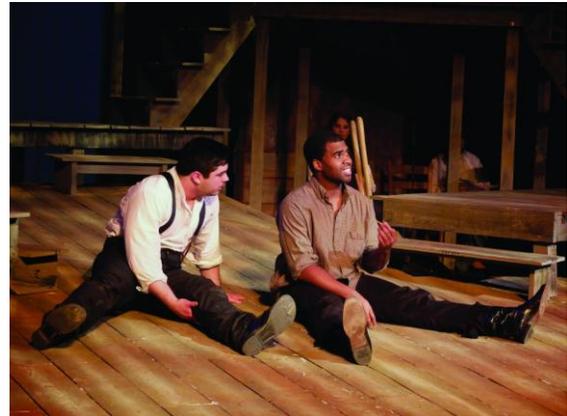


In Abraham's Bosom
Green's Pulitzer Play at UNC

On April 4th an audience of well over 200 saw Paul Green's *In Abraham's Bosom*, adapted by **Laurence Avery** and directed by **Joseph Megel**, at The Paul Green Theatre. The very successful reading was part of the **Pulitzer NC** program supported by the NC Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. An exceptional group of actors: **Ray Dooley, Alphonse Nicholson, Thomasi McDonald, Gregory DeCandia, Myles Bullock, Caroline Strange, Jade Arnold and Carly Jones**, thoroughly engaged the audience that included many UNC students studying the play in their playwriting and Southern Literature classes.

The evening started with scholars **Dr. Laurence Avery** relating the story of Paul Green as a young boy witnessing an incident at an Angier railroad station that gave him the idea to someday write a story about a Black man who desperately wanted to bring education to his people. **Dr. Reginald Hildebrand** then provided the historical context to the time of the play – 1885 – when challenging the white world with educating Blacks, some of whom were former slaves, was very dangerous.

Following the reading, the scholars, director and audience discussed the harsh messages of the play and how they still relate to our world today.



This Body the Earth
Green's Novel Comes to the Stage

April 14-17, Campbell University Theatre Arts' chair, **Bert Wallace** presented a dynamic rendition of Paul Green's excellent novel. Intrigued by the powerful story, Wallace was determined that it needed to be on the stage. The results were extraordinary and the audiences showed their delight with standing ovations.

This Body the Earth is an epic tale written in 1935. To get it all on the stage efficiently and effectively, Wallace created a narrator in Rassie Cox (Rassie McLeod in real life was Paul Green's bosom buddy from the age of 3. Rassie died of typhoid when he was 10), who is "resurrected" as it were as the narrator and it was a masterly decision.

Above is Campbell student **Perry Balentine** as Alvin Barnes, and Rassie, played by **Justin McKoy**, is a former Campbell drama student. There were also 10 other actors and 11 technical crew members. One student said: "To me it's so exciting to know that I'll be the first person to bring these characters to life on stage." Staging this novel was a tremendous feat and we thank Bert Wallace sincerely.

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