

Archives of African American Achievement

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stm black history month 2008

Week Two—The Harlem Renaissance

A Week of Accomplishments

- **Week 1: Politics**
- **Week 2: Harlem Renaissance**
- **Week 3: Religion**
- **Week 4: Atlanta**

Zora Neale Hurston

b: 1891 – d: 1960

- Folklorist and novelist
- Produced Harlem Renaissance's main literary magazine, *Fire!!*
- Most famous books: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Mules and Men*, *Go Tell My Horse*, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*



***"I do not weep at the world--
I am too busy sharpening
my oyster knife."***

Langston Hughes

b: 1902 – d: 1967

- Central figure of the Harlem Renaissance
- *The Weary Blues* (1926) was his first volume of poetry
- Writing uses dialect and jazz rhythms



“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

Oscar Micheaux

b: 1893 – d: 1951

- First African-American filmmaker
- "The most prolific black - if not most prolific independent - filmmaker in American cinema." -- The Producers Guild of America
- Wrote, produced and directed 44 feature-length films and wrote seven novels, one a national bestseller



"One of the greatest tasks of my life has been to teach that the colored man can be anything."

Mamie Smith

b: 1883 – d: 1946

- First to record blues songs
- Show included trapeze acts, dancing, comedy, lavish costumes and jewelry as well as music
- Set the standard for female blues singers that followed in her footsteps.



“Don't mess with me.”