

For Immediate Release

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Emerson Theater Collaborative Announces The Sixth Annual Celebration of the Life and Writings of ZORA NEALE HURSTON

February 2, 2017, New London, CT...In honor of *Black History Month and Women's History Month*, Emerson Theatre Collaborative (ETC) announces *The Sixth Annual Celebration of the Life and Writings of Zora Neale Hurston* on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Miracle Temple Church in New London, CT. Featured participants include: *Leola Wilkerson, Nichelle Rollins, Ciara Rollins, Theresa Broach, Rhonda Ward, Attallah Sheppard, Charlene Sheppard, Frank Silva, Christian Marshall and Lisa Giordano*. Suggested Donation: \$10, Seniors and Students: \$8. Refreshments will be served. At the end of the formal presentations, there will be an open mic for community members to present a reading from one of Ms. Hurston's works, or an original piece inspired by the her life and writings.

Zora Neale Hurston is considered one of the most important and influential modern American writers who wrote groundbreaking works about the culture and folk traditions of southern African Americans. Along with Langston Hughes, she was a central and celebrated figure during the Harlem Renaissance, and is best known for her 1937 masterpiece novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Not only was Ms. Hurston a successful novelist, essayist, journalist and playwright, but a talented anthropologist as well. Acclaimed authors of our time, including Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker acknowledge Ms Hurston as their "literary foremother." Please join the Emerson Theater Collaborative in a reading of Ms. Hurston's selected works. For more information call (860) 861-3743 or go to www.emersontheatercollaborative.org.

Emerson Theater Collaborative's mission is to serve youth, under-represented communities and artists with an emphasis on diversity, by producing innovative and exhilarating theater in Southeastern Connecticut. ETC explores timely themes and issues through new, original works and modern theatrical classics. ETC's goals include reaching inner city youth through educational theatrical programming, to support local communities by providing free admission to low-income families and donating profits to humanitarian causes. For more information go to EmersonTheaterCollaborative.org.

Key Dates and Information

What: *In honor of Black History and Women's History Months, Emerson Theater Collaborative Presents: The Sixth Annual Celebration of the Life and Writings of Zora Neale Hurston.*

When: March 4, 2017 at 4:00 PM

Where: Miracle Temple Church, 45 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320

How: Suggested Donation: \$10 general admission; Seniors and Students \$8. For more information please visit our website emersontheatercollaborative.org and by calling (860) 861-3743

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