## Stroll through the Harlem Renaissance Era

The 1920s and 30s was a time of creativity and awareness for Black artists and writers in Harlem, New York. It was also a time that the artists were faced with criticism for their expressions of cultural pride and reflection.

\* The Harlem **<u>Renaissance</u>** captured national attention when the work of Black writers and artists reflected racial pride and cultural **<u>struggles</u>**.

\* Artists such as Zora Neale <u>Hurston</u>, Paul <u>Robeson</u>, Charles McKay, and <u>Langston</u> Hughes created powerful messages through various art forms that still have great impact around the world.

\* Alain Locke, a <u>literary</u> critic and editor of the <u>anthology</u> The New Negro, <u>exposed</u> Harlem's artists to a national audience.

\* The NAACP's Crises, edited by W.E.B. DuBois, <u>illuminated</u> the work of Harlem's black writers.

\* Rev. Adam <u>Clayton</u> Powell, Sr. and his son Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. served as pastors of The <u>Abyssinian</u> Baptist Church which is located in Harlem, NY. The church served as the center of civil rights activism.

\* The original Cotton Club opened in 1927 and featured great artists such as Duke <u>Ellington</u>, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Ethel Waters, Cab <u>Calloway</u>, and Louis <u>Armstrong</u>.

\* The <u>Savoy</u> Ballroom was one of Harlem's top clubs that featured top bands and dancers. Dances such as the "<u>jitterbug</u>," and the "Lindy hop" were very <u>popular</u> during the Harlem Renaissance era.

\* The Lafayette Theatre was the leading theater for dramas and major musical performances.

\* The Hurtig and Seamon's New Burlesque Theatre was built in 1914. Black people could not sit in the audience. In 1934, Ralph Cooper, Sr. used the same building to do a live version of his radio show, Amateur Nite Hour at the Apollo<sup>™</sup>, creating Harlem's historic Apollo Theater.

\* <u>Countee</u> Cullen was a leading poet during the renaissance era. He was born in New York City and became a <u>distinguished</u> writer at a very young age. Two of his famous published poems includes "The Black Christ" and "<u>Copper</u> Sun."

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## **Harlem Renaissance**

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"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly." - Langston Hughes, poet

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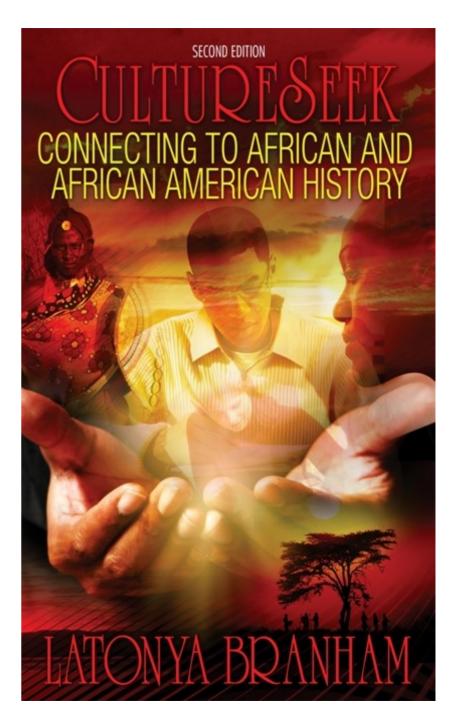
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