

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 **Renaissance** captured national attention when the work of Black writers and artists reflected racial pride and cultural **struggles**.

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

* Alain Locke, a **literary** critic and editor of the **anthology** *The New Negro*, **exposed** Harlem’s artists to a national audience.

* The NAACP’s *Crises*, edited by W.E.B. DuBois, **illuminated** the work of Harlem’s black writers.

* Rev. Adam **Clayton** Powell, Sr. and his son Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. served as pastors of The **Abyssinian** 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 **Ellington**, Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Ethel Waters, Cab **Calloway**, and Louis **Armstrong**.

* The **Savoy** Ballroom was one of Harlem’s top clubs that featured top bands and dancers. Dances such as the “**jitterbug**,” and the “Lindy hop” were very **popular** 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™, creating Harlem’s historic Apollo Theater.

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

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Harlem Renaissance

(Find the bold and underlined words)

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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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