

**In the midst of the
Great Depression, *The
Green Pastures* in 1930
employed nearly one
hundred African
Americans in a fantasy
about a black god with
black angels at a
heavenly fish fry.**

**Langston Hughes
wrote about black
folk life during the
Great Depression,
as a victim of race
and class
discrepancies
himself**

To cope with unemployment during the Great Depression, Congress and President FDR created the Works Progress Administration which included the Federal Theatre Project which included as many

as 22 Negro units

**Rose McClendon
headed the New York
FTP black unit, Ralf
Coleman headed the
FTP black unit in
Boston, and Shirley
Graham was appointed
director of Chicago's
black FTP unit.**

**The FTP sponsored
black units in many
major cities
including Seattle,
Los Angeles,
Newark, Buffalo,
and Birmingham.**

**Harlem's
Federal Theatre
Project was the
largest and
most productive
of all black**

Orson Welles' mission during this era was to perform black adaptations of the great western dramas and directed what came to be known as "Voodoo Macbeth" set in Haiti.

**The Great
Depression
transformed art
theatres into
stages for social
problems and
leftist politics.**

**In Chicago, the
Negro People's
Theatre emerged as
a leftist political
theatre born of the
Great Depression
and founded by Lou
Gilbert.**

**The Negro
Playwrights
Company of Harlem
premiered *Big White
Fog* in 1940 that
drew criticism for
being a communist
propaganda play.**