

**The Harlem art
theatres of the
1920s gave birth
to political
theatres of the
1930s.**



During this period, Paul Robeson's portrayal of Othello became the pinnacle of his career.



A collection of military medals and a compass are arranged on a wooden surface. The medals include a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem, and two silver Maltese crosses with central medallions. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses lies across the scene. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass is visible. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

Owen Dodson focused on writing navy themed plays as his mission was to elevate company morale by creating plays about African Americans, naval history, and America's wartime politics.



**Following the tenure
of the Pekin Theatre,
Chicago's black
community theatres
had been confined to
churches and
settlement houses.**

A collection of military medals and a compass on a wooden surface. The medals include a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem, and two silver Maltese crosses with central emblems. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses and a silver compass are also visible.

**In the 1940s, four
dramas addressed
racial dilemmas for
African Americans:
Native Son 1941, *On
Whitman Avenue*
1946, *Deep are the
Roots* 1945, and
Strange Fruit 1945.**

A collection of historical artifacts is displayed on a light-colored surface. On the left, there is a red ribbon with a white star-shaped medal, a blue ribbon with a white star-shaped medal, and a silver star-shaped medal. A pair of glasses with thin frames and a compass are also visible. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Katherine Dunham
emerged in the
integration period of the
1930s and 1940s as the
queen of black dance,
taking her troupe to
Haiti in 1935 to record
the island's approach to
black dance.**

A collection of items including a checkered board with buttons, a red ribbon with a star, a blue ribbon with a star, a pair of glasses, and a compass.

**The American Negro
Theatre formed in 1940
became the most
important, self-contained
black theatre troupe
between the demise of the
African Company in 1823
and the birth of the Negro
Ensemble Company in
1967.**

A collection of personal items is displayed on a light-colored surface. In the upper left, there is a red ribbon with a white star-shaped medal. Below it is a blue ribbon with a white star-shaped medal. To the right of these ribbons is a white star-shaped medal with a central emblem. In the lower left, there is a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. At the bottom left, there is a circular compass with a white face and black markings. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

**Ruby Dee, her husband
Ossie Davis, Sidney
Poitier, and Harry
Belafonte were notable
ANT alumni , with
Davis remembered as
the outstanding
playwright of 1961's
*Purlie Victorious.***

A collection of items including a chessboard, medals, a compass, and glasses. The chessboard is in the top left, with several pieces visible. Below it is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. To the right is a silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem. Below that is a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. In the bottom left is a silver compass. The background is a light-colored surface.

**The Committee for the
Negro in the Arts
defined itself as
dedicated to the
integration of Negro
artists into all forms
of American culture
on a dignified basis
of merit and
equality.**



**The Council on Harlem
Theatres began as an
alliance issuing a resolution
noting the failure of the
Broadway theatre to deal
with African Americans in a
truthful dramatic way and
exhorting the representative
groups to produce plays by
black playwrights within
Harlem.**