

Paul Green Foundation

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PlayMakers & Paul Green Theatre

PlayMakers Repertory Company, the successor of the Carolina Playmakers and named after the Historic Playmakers Theatre, was founded in 1976. In 2016, PlayMakers celebrated its 40th Anniversary. As we approach the 40th Anniversary of the **Paul Green Theatre** in 2018, we wanted to look back at the dedication that took place on September 29, 1978.



Excerpted from Paul Green's diaries:

“Unveiling exercises in Gerard Hall last evening. Quite a crowd. Roger Kirkman of the Di Society spoke a fine introduction for me. Thad Stem read a good essay and Sam Ragan spoke warm and appreciated words. My sister Mary unveiled the P. Green bust (E. [sister Erma]

insisted she do it, ‘since she raised you.’)

“Then I spoke words of praise for young William Hipp, III the talented young sculptor and had him come up on the platform for (applauding) recognition.

“He retired and I talked my usual strain of cooperation among men and the place of the artist in the cherishing of the world and all in it. Etc. Isn't it possible that the prime good of man – through all his multitudinous inventions and doings – possible that the creating of forms and deeds and things of beauty is the way that Jefferson's ‘pursuit of happiness’ can best be realized? And so on.”



Here's the story of the Paul Green bust made possible by the Dialectic Society.

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies (now referred to as Di-Phi) began at Chapel Hill in 1795. They were, and are still, literary and debate societies with “ideals of rational thought, free interchange of ideas and study of University of North Carolina history.”

In those early days, eager upperclassmen would ride out on their horses to quickly greet the new students as they arrived on campus to recruit them to join *their* Society and dissuade them from joining the other. The rivalry became so bitter between the Societies that the strong-armed recruitment turned, in some cases, to dueling! In the 1850s, university administrators called a halt to the harassment and ruled that men who came from east of Orange County would be in the Philanthropic Society and west of the County, the Dialectic Society. Paul was a member of the Dialectic Society.

William Emsley Hipp, III studied drama and sculpture at UNC-Charlotte and graduated in 1974. During his brief career, he was awarded commissions by Di-Phi to sculpt many of North Carolina's distinguished citizens. Among them were Paul Green, Albert Coates, Samuel Erwin, Jr. and Dean Smith. He made these sculptures from 1976-1985 so Paul Green's may be the first one.

Here in this picture are Paul and Bill in 1976 out at White Cross School on Rt. 54, west of Chapel Hill – a c. 1930's four-room school that closed as a public school in 1960. Ironically this is the very classroom at the school where the Paul Green Foundation would have its office from 1991-1998.

Di-Phi has Hipp's original clay cast of the Paul Green bust. Forged in bronze it was ready for the 1978 Paul Green Theatre Dedication when Green and Richard Wright's *Native Son* was performed.

Bronze copies of the bust are at Green's: *The Lost Colony* and *Texas Musical Drama*. Copies are also at the Harnett County Library and in the NC Collection Gallery at Wilson Library.

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