



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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NHC to sponsor “Bright Dreams, Hard Times” Chautauqua

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) again will sponsor Chautauqua in Nebraska in 2008, with the theme “Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties.” Scholars will portray Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945), Huey Long (1893-1935), Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944), Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), and Will Rogers (1879-1935).

Economic depression, a devastating environmental disaster—the Dust Bowl on the Great Plains—and signs of worldwide political unrest characterized the 1930s. In the midst of these difficulties, most Americans had an underlying optimism.

Nebraska audiences will have an opportunity to examine four themes that were important then and have particular relevance for us today: The changing relationship between Americans and their national government, the flowering of artistic and intellectual activity, the role of religion in public life, and the democratization of American culture through radio and sound movies.

The NHC seeks communities to host the 2008 Chautauqua. A host community must be able to provide a steering committee and sub-committees to assist project coordinators; a grassy, well-protected site for the tent; and electricity and sufficient power near the tent.

If your community is interested in hosting the 2008 Chautauqua, contact NHC Program Officer Mary Yager at (402) 474-2131 ext. 103 or at mary@nebraskahumanities.org for an application. Applications are due Oct. 1.

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