

WRITER & ACTOR ANN PERRY WALLACE *presents*

LIVE RICH DIE POOR

A Zora Neale Hurston Story

DIRECTED BY KARON SAMUELS

JUNE 16-18 & 23-25

"I Love Myself When I Am Laughing...and Then Again When I Am Looking Mean and Impressive."

- Zora Neale Hurston

ANN PERRY WALLACE

(Live Rich Die Poor Writer, Performer) Ann Perry Wallace Writer (Actor, Producer of Live Rich Die Poor) is an actor and writer from Memphis, Tennessee. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from UT Chattanooga and worked in theatre in Chicago for 15 years. Theatre Credits include: Tennessee Shakespeare's To Kill A Mockingbird and Educational Tour of Romeo and Juliet. Other theatre credits include No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs; Blues for an Alabama Sky; From the Mississippi Delta; The Death of the Last Black Man in the Entire World; and Women in Shakespeare. Ann can also be seen in the independent films 100 Lives, The Romance of Loneliness and The Department of Signs and Magical Intervention. Ann is a writer of fiction, plays, children's stories and has just started the torture of writing her first screenplay. Live Rich Die Poor is Ann's first one person play and is based on the life of Zora Neale Hurston, the famed folklorist and Harlem Renaissance writer.





KARON SAMUELS (Live Rich Die Poor Director) is a director, program coordinator, and teaching artist with a passion for the performing arts. A proud graduate of Howard University's Fine Arts program. Karon has spent much of her career elevating and celebrating black storytelling and marginalized voices, working with local art nonprofits that support her personal mission of art accessibility and equity. She serves as Program Coordinator for The Cooler and Outreach Coordinator for The Memphis Black Arts Alliance. She is also an artist in her own right, gracing stages in musicals, plays, spoken word sets, and operas in Memphis and the DMV area. Karon is proud to play her part in creating a sustainable, equitable creative economy in Memphis. She hopes to see the creatives in our city leave a lasting, socially impactful influence in modern media, both onstage and behind the scenes.



JOYCLYN WILSON (Live Rich Die Poor Understudy) Singer/Songwriter/Actress/Writer JustJoyclyn is an eclectic blend of soul & pop from the blues capital of the world, Memphis, TN. She pours out her heart through inspiring lyrics and sultry vocals captivating audiences while driving them to build "Something Beautiful (2019)" for the future and "Push Through (2020)" their struggles in today's uncertain society. This artist-educator fights for change in the lives of people in the community through her participation in and writing of social-spiritual content. Her 2020 sophomore single "Push Through's" music video was selected for the Indie Memphis 2020 Film Festival along with four other additional regional and international film festivals. She

performs locally in Memphis as a singer in various stage plays and currently, she is completing the next chapters to her Hamilton-ish Hip-Hop play called "He's Not Dead"(Part I), that she wrote and produced the music for which was released Easter 2022 . Along with her writing and acting skills, her third single "Affirmations for Me" released on July 22, 2022. She has also been writing plays for local churches with one called "The Special Gift" to be hosted on Christmas Day 2022 at The Place of the Outpouring on Knight Arnold. For booking information, send an email justjoyclyn@gmail.com or click this link <https://linktr.ee/justjoyclyn>.

LIVE RICH DIE POOR HONOREES

~ EACH ONE OF THESE MAGNIFICENT WOMEN EMBODIES A TRAIT OF ZORA ~



CYNTHIA ELLIOTT

Zeta Night: June 16th, Opening Night

Cynthia Elliott is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Associate Professor in Accounting at Southwest TN Community College in Memphis, Tennessee. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in Statistics (major) and Mathematics (minor) and her MBA-Finance degree from Clark Atlanta University. Professor Elliott is an author of the book entitled, "ABCs that make cents: tools needed to successfully climb your financial ladder to wealth." In addition to her profession of teaching Accounting at a local college in Memphis, Tennessee, she routinely conducts seminars at Churches and other non-profit organizations.



MICHELLE MCKISSACK

Trailblazer Night: June 23rd

Michelle Mckissack is an Emmy Award-winning journalist with a passion for helping children and supporting public education. She is currently Chairwoman of the Board for Memphis-Shelby County Schools elected in 2018 as a School Board Commissioner for District I which represents downtown Memphis, Midtown and portions of Frayser, North and South Memphis. Michelle is actively engaged in the Memphis community serving on several boards over the years including currently serving on the MATA Board, the Memphis River Parks Board, and as a trustee with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.



DR. BEVERLY CROSS

Brilliant Academic Night: June 17th

Dr. Beverly Cross is the Morrie and Lillian Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education in the College of Education. She received her BS degree from Alabama A&M University and her MA and PhD degrees from The Ohio State University. Since arriving in Memphis, she has designed a Graduate Certificate in Urban Education, created The Center for Urban Interdisciplinary Research and Engagement, both approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents, and coordinated the Johnson Scholars Program that develops exceptional urban educators for the community. Her research focuses on equity in education, urban education, and teacher education.



KAMILAH TURNER

Blackest and the Dopest Night: June 24th

Kamilah Turner practices criminal and juvenile defense in Memphis, TN. She has written and lectured extensively on legal topics including mass incarceration, opportunities for ex felons, and restorative justice. She has won numerous trial advocacy awards, most recently the "Outstanding Defense of The Indigent" award from the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (TACDL). Ms. Turner sits on numerous boards, and is a founding member of Shades of Justice, an organization dedicated to eliminating barriers to legal careers for African American women. She is currently working to create a Tennessee law that requires that an attorney or parent be present when children are questioned regarding criminal conduct.



EDNA PERRY

Queen Mother Night: June 18th

Edna Perry is a lifelong Memphis, wife, mother, and former educator for Memphis City Schools. Mrs. Perry grew up in the New Chicago area and attended Manassas High School from first grade through the twelfth. Further education includes a B.A. degree in English from LeMoyne College; studies in literature at the University of Kentucky - attending as a recipient of the national Woodrow Wilson Fellowship; and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Memphis. After having worked as an English teacher in several Memphis schools for a number of years, she directed her attention to curriculum and became a curriculum writer/coordinator and teacher educator for vocational programs and special projects for Memphis City Schools.



EVA MOSBY

Legend Night: June 25th

Eva Mosby was named Regional Vice President of Urban Strategies, Inc. July 2019. Much of her time is spent in Memphis; however, New Orleans, LA; Miami, FL; St. Croix, VI; Winston Salem, NC; and Ft. Myers are in her portfolio. Prior to that she served as the Operations Director from February 2017 - June 2019. She served as the Project Manager for MAXIMUS, Tennessee Works from December 01, 2014 - February 15, 2017. She also served as Vice President of Workforce Development at BRIDGES from 2012 - 2014. Eva is responsible for managing, directing, implementing of the organization's programmatic function and performance. She specializes in supportive services strategic planning, community engagement, resident capacity building and relocation support.

LIVE RICH DIE POOR

A Zora Neale Hurston Story

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

GENEROUS DONATIONS OF SUPPORT

Tienne & Kenneth Anderson

Dr. Lanetta Anderson

Elayne & Craig Butler

Braden Hixson

Holly Lau

Maria Papagianni

Clarence and Edna Perry

Billie Shanefield Pierce

Vincent Perry

Kazonga Singleton

Darius Wallace

Dana Wilson

Live Rich Die Poor Running Time: 85 minutes. No intermission.

P R O D U C T I O N

Admin/Creative Team:
Creole Devine, Angela
Garland, Crystal Oliver

Lights: Jeremy Fisher

Sound: Carl Caspersen

Marketing: Jeff Hulett

Thank you to the Wonderful
Volunteers: you are loved and
appreciated!

ann perrywallace

MISSION STATEMENT:

*To ignite, encourage, and inspire maturing women through
storytelling and self-exploration.*

Contact Ann's Team to bring this show to your school, church, college
or corporate event. Ask about the 40 min. version, the children's version
or the full length show.



LIVE RICH DIE POOR

An Original Zora Neale Hurston Story

In 1975, Alice Walker set out on a quest to locate Zora Neale Hurston's gravesite and honor her with a tombstone. What if Alice had accidentally awakened Zora? What if, in the confusion of being awakened, Zora forgets the richness of her life? This is where our story begins.

Who is Zora Neale Hurston?

Born in Alabama in 1891, Zora Neale Hurston became a fixture of New York City's Harlem Renaissance, thanks to novels like *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and shorter works like "Sweat." She was also an outstanding folklorist and anthropologist who recorded cultural history, as illustrated by her book *Mules and Men*. Hurston died in poverty in 1960, before a revival of interest led to posthumous recognition of her accomplishments.

Who is Alice Walker?

The author of short stories and novels, essays and poetry and activist for racial civil rights, women's equality and peace among other causes, Alice Walker brought black women's lives into primary focus as a rich and important subject for US American literature. Her landmark novel *The Color Purple* (1982), which drew upon her sharecropper family's Southern roots, made Walker famous the world over and brought her the first Pulitzer Prize for fiction awarded to an African American woman, as well as the National Book Award.

The Life of Zora

Zora Neale Hurston was born on January 7, 1891
in Notasulga, Alabama.

Her mother died in 1904.

Went to high school at Morgan Academy at age
26, in 1917.

In 1920 Hurston received her Associates Degree
from Howard University.

First story "John Redding Goes to Sea" published
in 1921.

"Drenched in Light" published in 1924.

Studied Anthropology with Franz Boas at Barnard
College.

In January 1935, she began her work for a Ph.D. in
Anthropology at Columbia University.

Her greatest work "Their Eyes Were Watching God"
was written in 1937.

Worked at Paramount Pictures as a story consultant.

In 1935, she wrote "Mules and Men", a collection of
African American folk tales.

In 1936 Hurston is awarded a Guggenheim
fellowship to study obeah, the practice of sorcery in
the West Indies.

She wrote her autobiography "Dust Tracks on a
Road" in 1942.

Zora Neale Hurston married three times: 1927, 1939,
1944

Covered the controversial Ruby McCollum case in
1952.

Early in 1959, she suffered a stroke, and entered the
St. Lucie County Welfare Home.

She died in 1960 and was buried at the Garden of
Heavenly Rest Cemetery with an unmarked grave
until Alice Walker came along and gave her a
tombstone.



What's Next?

Live Rich Die Poor the Tour

Shelia Turns 50:

A Movement to Amplify the Voices of the Maturing Woman

Stay in Touch, support, and learn more

WWW.LIVERICHDIEPOOR.ORG

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INSTAGRAM: msannperrywallace

Program design by:

JBCDESIGNS
www.jbernardcarter.com