

You Are Invited to a Free Event at the Alvar Library

Trickster at the Gate, a play by Jonathan Patrick Bray

3 – 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009

Alvar Public Library, 913 Alvar Street (Bywater)

Jennifer has come home to identify the body of Nell, a woman who believed she was the incarnation of Yoruba God, Esu Elegba. Will Jennifer's ghosts haunt her upon identifying the body, or will she find some peace with Nell, herself, and the mortician? As it tracks Nell's life the play takes us from the Harlem Renaissance, to the mystical realms of the Yoruban gods, to present day Louisiana.

Written under The Big Read Acadiana Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, *Trickster at the Gate* finds its inspiration in the life and works of Zora Neale Hurston, gaining approval of Hurston's biographer and niece, Lucy Anne Hurston. The play runs about 75 minutes.

A discussion of Hurston's classic novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, will occur following the play.

The Big Read

The theatrical performance at Alvar Library is part of The Big Read New Orleans. The Southern Food and Beverage Museum and the New Orleans Public Library have formed a partnership to conduct The Big Read. The selected book is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. During the fall of 2009, the two cultural institutions will host or organize numerous events that focus on this classic Southern novel.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts. It is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

The Author

John Patrick Bray is a doctoral student in the Department of Theatre at Louisiana State University. He earned a master of fine arts degree in playwriting from the Actors Studio Drama School at New School University. Bray's plays have been produced Off-Off Broadway and in various venues and festivals around the country. Two of his plays have been published in The Best Plays from the Strawberry One-Act Festival anthologies. He lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, son and two cats.

This Theatrical Performance Is Designed to Enlighten You!