

FREE

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CATALYST

HEALTHY LIVING, HEALTHY PLANET

In this issue:

- Undo dirty air with yoga
- Alchemical Kitchen:
DIY pantry raid
- The real cost of gas
- 7/26/10: preview of 2012
- How to transform the jerks
in your life
- Urban Almanac, Calendar,
Resource Directory, more!

Wallace Thurman *by Trent Call*

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jects, I have painted the first dozen portraits (Suite One: Literary Utah:—Edward Abbey, Fawn Brodie, Juanita Brooks, Neal Cassady, Bernard DeVoto, Raymond F. Jones, Charles Kelly, Dale Morgan, Wallace Stegner, May Swenson, Wallace Thurman [on the cover] and Maurine Whipple) in the fashion I saw fit. ♦

UCONOCLASTS (Suite One: Literary Utah) is on display

in the Rose Wagner Art Gallery, February 19 (for Gallery Stroll) through March 14, M-F, 9am-5pm. Information on purchasing prints at KENSANDERSBOOKS.COM/UCONOCLASTS or UCONOCLASTS.COM.

UCONOCLASTS is also open before/after performances of Plan-B Theatre Company's WALLACE about the lives of Wallace Stegner and Wallace Thurman (March 4-14 in the Studio Theatre at the Rose Wagner. Details and tickets at PLANBTHEATRE.ORG).

I believe in process, spontaneity and action. My style and interests are varied, as are the mediums I use. The medium foresees the style. The interest suggests the medium. My work combines formal academic painting and drawing with a strong interest in graffiti, comics, graphics and pattern.

This collaboration with Ken Sanders — UCONOCLASTS — brings to light the rich history of some of Utah's most iconic figures. Using historical photos of the sub-

2010: Celebrating 28 years of being a CATALYST!

- ♦ 1. An agent or substance that initiates, precipitates or accelerates the rate of a reaction without being consumed in the process.
- ♦ 2. Someone or something that causes an important event to happen.

Who we are...

CATALYST is an independent monthly journal and resource guide for the Wasatch Front providing information and ideas to expand your network of connections regarding physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. CATALYST presents useful information in several ways: through articles (often containing resource lists), display advertising, the Community Resource Directory, Dining Guide, and featured Events. Display ads are easily located through the Advertising Directory, found in every issue.

Finding CATALYST

20,000 copies of this magazine have been distributed at over 300 locations along the Wasatch Front, including cafes, bookstores, natural foods stores, spas and libraries. Call if you'd like to have CATALYST delivered in quantity (40 or more) to your business.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: First Class, \$40. We are not currently accepting third class subscriptions. Please notify us promptly if your address changes.

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If you have a business that our readers would like to know about, please contact us. We would be happy to help you clarify your advertising needs and manifest the clients you want with an appropriate and attractive display ad or a resource directory listing. You can download our rates and specifications from our website (see below).

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Mail: 140 S. McClelland St.
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Uconoclast Wallace Thurman

From the City of Salt to the streets of Harlem

BY KEN SANDERS

A black man from white Utah talking about the dark color of his skin. White America didn't care for that.

A black man in black America during the heady days of the Harlem Renaissance talking about racism within the African-American community. Black America didn't care for that.

Wallace Thurman, a young black homosexual male from Salt Lake City seduced by the glittering

At the Salt Lake premiere of the "Birth of a Nation," Utahns came out dressed in antebellum regalia, posing in front of the theatre alongside mounted horseman, replete with the white capes and hoods of the KKK.

lights of New York City in the 1920s, didn't care what America—black or white—thought. He simply told the truth.

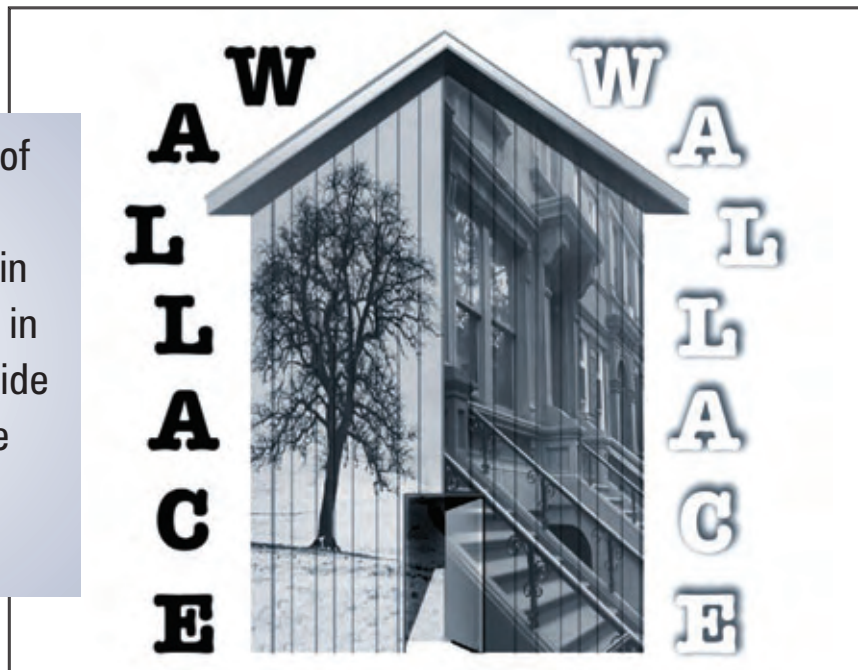
Wallace Thurman was a driven man and a perfectionist. He was never satisfied with his own work or that of his contemporaries. He was painfully aware of his own and others' shortcomings.

He came out of all-white Utah at a time when the Ku Klux Klan was

reviving itself across America and the West, thanks in large part to D.W. Griffith's "Birth Of A Nation." (At the Salt Lake premiere of the film, Utahns came out dressed in antebellum regalia, posing in front of the theatre alongside mounted horseman, replete with the white capes and hoods of the KKK.) A

those glittering lights, Thurman used those lights to illuminate himself and his culture through three devastating literary portraits in what would become the short, dark but luminous life of Wallace Thurman.

In 1929 as the nation and Harlem plunged into the depths of the



pre-med student at the University of Utah, the young Thurman first went to California, where he edited and wrote for numerous literary and poetical magazines, prior to succumbing to the siren call of the Harlem Renaissance of 1920s New York.

Not content merely to bask in

Great Depression (which would extinguish those glittering Harlem lights), his first novel was published. "The Blacker the Berry" explored the issue of color and racism within the African-American community. Neither black nor white America wanted to hear that.

In his second novel, "Infants of

the Spring," Thurman took on the intellectual, literary and artistic giants of the Renaissance: Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Countee Cullen, Aaron Douglas, James Weldon Johnson, Rudolf Fisher, Alain Locke, Eric Walrond and others—and bitch-slapped them all; told them they hadn't accomplished anything yet and they should quit preening in those dazzling lights and get back to the real work—to produce an artistic body of work that would stand the test of time. He satirized all of them in this novel and referred to his apartment, which was the center of intellectual life in Harlem and some really wild parties, as "Niggeratti Manor."

His third and final novel, "Interne" (a collaboration with Abraham L. Furman), was an Upton Sinclair-like expose of City Hospital on Welfare Island in New York. Ironically, Thurman himself, near the end of his life, was incarcerated there after an all-night session of boozing, and was fated to die there. Childhood tuberculosis and a lifetime of alcoholic excess led to an early grave at age 32.

Little is known of Wallace Thurman's Salt Lake years. He was born in Salt Lake City in 1902 to Oscar and Beulah Peterson; his father abandoned the family while Wallace was still an infant. He met his father only once in his adult life, and the normally effusive Thurman had nothing to say to him.

He was largely raised by his grandmother, his beloved "Ma Jack," who took in Thurman's somewhat shiftless mother as well.

Despite a marriage of sorts to Louise Thompson in 1928, he left no descendants and no one now living in Utah has any memory of him. But Wallace Thurman's short life left behind it an important, literary legacy, and an uncommon literary connection between the city of salt and the streets of Harlem. ♦

"Wallace": Plan-B Theatre's world premiere by Jenifer Nii & Debora Thredy

March 4-14

\$20 (\$10 students)

801-355-ARTS or PLANBTHEATRE.ORG

Part of the Edward Lewis Black Theatre Festival.

Wallace Stegner (portrayed by Richard Scharine) is the dean of western writers. Wallace Thurman (portrayed by Carleton Bluford) was the heart of the Harlem Renaissance. Both men called Salt Lake City home. Their lives intertwine in this rumination on the power of place and the meaning of home.

"Uconoclasts": visual portraits by Trent Call; word portraits by Ken Sanders

February 19-March 14, Rose Wagner Art Gallery: regular business hours; before and after performances of "Wallace" (March 4-14, also at the Rose); and during the 15th Annual Stegner Symposium (March 12-13, also at the Rose).

"Uconoclasts" began with Ken Sanders' discovery that Wallace Thurman was born in Salt Lake City, yet seemingly no one in Utah had ever heard of him. The project has since expanded to include some of Utah's most famous, beloved and controversial literary figures whom all, in one way or another, have gone against the grain, sharing a quality Ken calls "uconoclastism."

Suite 1: Literary Utah—the first 12 portraits: Edward Abbey, Fawn Brodie, Juanita Brooks, Neal Cassady, Bernard DeVoto, Raymond F. Jones, Charles Kelly, Dale Morgan, Wallace Stegner, May Swenson, Wallace Thurman and Maurine Whipple (Suites II & III coming later in 2010)

Free film screenings

Monday, March 8, 7pm. Tower Theatre: "Brother to Brother," the 2004 Sundance Film Festival selection that examines the Harlem Renaissance through a contemporary lens. In partnership with LGBT Film Series.

Tuesday, March 9, 7pm. Tower Theatre: "Wallace Stegner," the 2009 PBS documentary. In partnership with KUED.