

Paul Robeson connects to these photos because although he did not start with a career in theater, it is often what he is most remembered for, along with his fight for the Civil Rights Movement. He is also pictured in the last two, one of which captures his role of Othello. He was also a football player that made it to the hall of fame, a valedictorian, and a graduate of Columbia Law School. Although he was an actor, he was not just any respected actor, he fought for rights for African Americans as well. At the time, only white Americans could act in the plays, and to play an African American, they would use black face. So for him to play Othello was a big thing at the time, he was creating a way for African Americans to have equal rights, even in theater. He was the first to be able to do so. This began his time in politics supporting the Civil Rights movement and advocate for the Republican causes of the Spanish Civil War. Just by being an actor, he was already very politically active. He starred in a few other plays but his legacy for other African Americans to be able to act in the main theater went on forever. The first photo also shows someone playing him we shows what a profound effect he had on theater and culture forever.