

Seventh Annual Conference of The Norman Mailer Society

October 23 and 24, 2009

Members Room, Library of Congress (October 23rd)

U.S. Capitol Building, Room HC5 (October 24th)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Library of Congress, 10 First Street, SE Members Room, 1st Floor, LJH162

8:00 Conference Registration / Check-In and Receive Materials

8:30-9:00 Business Meeting

9:00 Welcome, Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii)

9:15-10:15 **Conference Kick-off Panel # 1 Mailer Legacy: Books and Blurbs**

Moderator: Michael Lennon

Allen Ahearn "Collecting Books by Norman Mailer"

Matthew Hinton "Advertisements for Others: The Blurbs of Norman Mailer"

Donald Kaufmann "Courtly Norman: The Legacy Derby"

10:30 – 11:30 **Panel # 2 Mailer in Washington: *The Armies of the Night***

Moderator: Robert Begiebing

Laura Adams Dunham "*The Armies of the Night* and the Transformation of Consciousness"

Phillip Sipiora "Ethos and Ethics: Rhetorical Force in *The Armies of the Night*"

Katharine Westaway "A Weekend in Washington: Mailer Takes His Message to the Streets"

11:45-1:15 **Catered Luncheon, Library of Congress. Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Professor Camille Paglia, author of *Sexual Personae* and other important studies**

- 1:30-2:30 **Presentation Panel # 3 Mailer the Tough Guy**
Moderator: Barry Leeds
Bill Lowenburg “Hooking Off the Jab: Norman Mailer and Boxing”
James Fleming “The Byronic Hero Reborn: Mailer’s Reformulation of Byronic Heroism in “The White Negro,” *An American Dream* and *The Armies of the Night*”
Alex Hicks “*Harlot’s Ghost*: Bildungsroman Picaresque”
- 2:45: 3:45 **Readers Theater, Wilkes University MFA Program** (Bonnie Culver, Juanita Rockwell, Ken Vose, James Warner, Ross Klavan and Matthew Hinton)
- 4:00-5:00 **Presentation Panel # 4 Mailer in Journeys and in Space**
Moderator: Marc Triplett
Alan Green “Shades of Film Noir: *Tough Guy’s Don’t Dance* and *L.A. Confidential*”
Jason Mosser “Mailer and Thompson on the Campaign Trail, 1972”
- 6:45 **INFORMAL MEETING Teaching Mailer—talking, sharing, devising, drinking—at Old Europe Restaurant before dinner. Bonnie Culver convening.**
- 7:30-9:30 **Cash Dinner at the Old Europe Restaurant** (Wisconsin Avenue in Upper Georgetown)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

U.S. Capitol, Corner of Independence and New Jersey Avenue, SE, Room HC5

- 8:30-9:30 **Presentation Panel # 5 Mailer in Medicine and Machines**
Moderator: Deborah Martinson
Maureen Hooker “Norman Mailer’s Theory That Impotent Emotion Causes Cancer and Schizophrenia Provides Protection Against It, Examined”
Sara Cohen “Aquarius and Cancer: Re-reading Mailer’s “Cancerphobia””
Mary Stockwell “*Of a Fire on the Moon*: The Many Intersections of the Space Race”

9:45-10:45 **Presentation Panel # 6 Religion, Philosophy and Politics**

Moderator: Raymond Vince

Gerald Lucas "Mailer and the South: Reflected Politics and Religion"

Erik Nakjavani "Existentialist Ethics: Norman Mailer's Challenge to Jean-Paul Sartre"

Marc Triplett "Mailer and the Political Ego"

11:00-12:00 **Stephen Mailer "Remembering a Father"**

12:00-1:30 **Lunch on your own or Box Lunch at U.S. Capitol**

LUNCH PROGRAM: *Oswald's Tale* Revisited: A Conversation. Gus Russo, Lawrence Schiller and Mark Olshaker

1:45-2:45 **Presentation Panel # 7 Mailer: Good and Evil and The CIA**

Moderator: Constance Holmes

Victor Peppard "Norman Mailer's Portrait of the Soviet Union in *Harlot's Ghost* and *Oswald's Tale*"

Raymond Vince "Spooks, Identity, and Betrayal in a Dark Time: Mailer's *Harlot's Ghost* (1991) and John Le Carré's *A Perfect Spy* (1986)"

Michael L. Shuman "Two Castles, One Forest: Norman Mailer and Mikhail Bulgakov"

3:00-4:00 **Presentation Roundtable # 8 50th Anniversary: *Advertisements for Myself***

Moderator: Phillip Sipiora

Michael Lennon, Bob Begiebing, Deborah Martinson and Marina Rosenthal