MAILER AT THE *Bicentennial*

THE 23RD ANNUAL NORMAN MAILER SOCIETY CONFERENCE



November 4–7, 2026
Sirata Beach Resort
St. Pete Beach, FL

This event features panels and presentations exploring Mailer's contributions to American literary and cultural history.

Visit normanmailersociety.org for membership information and much more. Scan for details about registration and accommodations.

In 1976, the United States turned 200 and Norman Mailer was in motion. *Marilyn* (1973) and *The Fight* (1975) were just behind him; *The Executioner's Song* (1979) was taking shape ahead. He was drifting away from the agitational New Journalism of the late sixties and toward the patient, ventriloquized realism that would win him his second Pulitzer. The Bicentennial moment — flag-waving and Watergate's hangover, Carter on the horizon, the country uncertain what to make of itself — found Mailer between modes, between books, and arguably between selves.

We'll explore subjects of this transitional middle: Mailer's mid-1970s work and the cultural weather around it; his shifting relationship to journalism, fiction, celebrity, and self; the books, essays, and interviews that bridge *The Armies of the Night* and *The Executioner's Song*; the America of 1976 as Mailer saw it — and as we now see him seeing it. As always, we also examine aspects of Mailer's life, work, and legacy.

1976 photograph of Mailer and son Michael courtesy of the Mailer archives. Poster design by Giles Hoover.

THE NORMAN MAILER SOCIETY