June 8-10, 2022

19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Norman Mailer Society



Monmouth University, Long Branch, NJ

19th Mailer
Conference Program

Wednesday June 8, 2022

All sessions will be held on 2nd floor of Pozycki Hall (205/206) unless otherwise indicated

10-11: Business Meeting

11:15-12:15: Louis Menand and "The White Negro"

Panel Chair: Nicole DePolo
Jason Mosser
Maggie McKinley
J. Michael Lennon

12:30-1:45: Lunch on your own

2-3: "The Prisoner of Sex" and *Town Bloody Hall*

Panel Chair: Matthew Hinton
David Mikics, "The Flesh of Mystery in Mailer's *Prisoner of Sex*"
Bonnie Culver, "Revisiting *The Prisoner of Sex*"
Enid Stubin, "*Town Bloody Hall*: The Making of Norman Mailer™"

3:15-4:15: Mailer and Marilyn Monroe

Panel Chair: Raymond Vince
Carl Rollyson, "Norman Mailer and the Word: How He Changed the Trajectory of Marilyn Monroe Biography and Why It Matters to Biography"
Christine Fouirnaies, "Myths, Thieves, and Artists: Norman Mailer's Identification with Marilyn Monroe"

4:30-5:30: Writing Memoirs of Mailer

Panel Chair: Mashey Bernstein
Susan Mailer
J. Michael Lennon
Barbara Wasserman

5:30-7:00: Welcome Reception
(**Erlanger Gardens - Outside Great Hall**)

Thursday June 9, 2022

All sessions will be held on 2nd floor of Pozycki Hall (205/206) unless otherwise indicated

9-10: Mailer and Politics

Panel Chair: Gerald Lucas
Raymond Vince, "*The Naked and the Dead* and the Rhetoric of War"
Walter Lewallen, "Norman Mailer's Vietnam Complex"
Gordon Rayfield, "*Fun City* and Mailer's 1969 Mayoral Run"

10:15-11:15: *The Two Mailers*

Panel Chair: Maggie McKinley
Ronald K. Fried
John Buffalo Mailer

11:30-12:30: "In the Red Light"

Panel Chair: Enid Stubin
Jason Mosser, "'In the Red Light' and the Elements of Mailer's Campaign Journalism"
Salvatore Fallica, "Mailer Confronts Candidate Goldwater, the Demagogue of Sincerity"

12:30-1:45: Lunch on your own (NMS Board Lunch Meeting in Pozycki Conference Room)

2-3: Mailer's Jewishness

Panel Chair: Mark Olshaker
David Denby
Mashey Bernstein
Ezra Cappell

3:15-4:15: Mailer and the Fragility of Democracy

Panel Chair: Jason Mosser
J. Michael Lennon
John Buffalo Mailer
Saladin Ambar
Mark Olshaker

4:30-6:30: Screening of *Flaubrucht, A Celebration of Life* (Pozycki Hall Lecture Hall 115, 1st Fl)

Introduced by writer/director Stephen Mailer

Friday June 10, 2022

All sessions will be held on 2nd floor of Pozycki Hall (205/206) unless otherwise indicated

9-10: Mailer's Short Fiction and Poetry

Panel Chair: Marc Triplett
Phillip Sipiora, "Coming of Age in Mailer's Early Short Fiction" (*Via Zoom*)
Gerald Lucas, "Mailer's Transitional Short Fiction"
Matthew Hinton, "*Deaths for the Ladies* at 50"

10:15-11:15: Teaching Mailer

Panel Chair: Maggie McKinley
Nicole DePolo
Matthew Hinton
Gerald Lucas

11:30-12:30: Wilkes Readers' Theatre featuring Bonnie Culver and Matthew Hinton (Pozycki Hall Lecture Hall 115, 1st Fl)

1-3: Luncheon and Keynote Address delivered by David Denby (Anacon Hall A)

This year's keynote address is funded by a generous donation from Mashey Bernstein.

19th Mailer Conference Presenters and Participants

Saladin Ambar is Associate Professor of Political Science and Senior Scholar at the Center on the American Governor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. He is the author of *Malcolm X at Oxford Union: Racial Politics in a Global Era* (Oxford University Press 2014), which was nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for best non-fiction book by an African American author. Ambar's latest book, *American Cicero: Mario Cuomo and the Defense of American Liberalism* (Oxford University Press 2017) is the first to examine the entire political career of former New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo. Ambar's research interests include the American Presidency, American Political Development, American Political Thought, and Race and Ethic Politics.

Mashey Bernstein holds a PhD in American literature. He has written extensively on Norman Mailer, with articles appearing in *The Mailer Review, Studies in American Jewish Literature, The San Francisco Review of Books,* and the *London Jewish Chronicle.* His most recent article was on Mailer's Judaism in *Mailer in Context* (ed. Maggie McKinley). He also writes on film, especially Jewish aspects of the media. He maintained a close friendship with Mailer from 1978 till the author's death.

Ezra Cappell holds a joint appointment at the College of Charleston as Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of English. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Cappell was Professor of English and Director of the Inter-American Jewish Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Cappell holds degrees from NYU (M.Phil and Ph.D.) as well as City College (M.A.) and Queens College (B.A.). His publications include *American Talmud: The Cultural Work of Jewish American Fiction* (SUNY Press, 2007) and a co-edited volume (with Jessica Lang): *Off the Derech: Leaving Orthodox Judaism in the Modern World* (SUNY Press, 2020).

Bonnie Culver's twenty plus plays have been produced nationwide in community theaters, colleges, universities, regional theaters, and New York City. Her one-woman show *A Ticket to the Circus,* based upon the memoir by Norris Church Mailer, is scheduled for streamed productions in May, 2022 and live performances in the fall at the Edgemar Center for the Arts, starring Anne Archer directed by Michelle Danner. She has had three screenplays optioned, including *Raining Rainbows* by Solo One Productions, Marlee Matlin's film development company. In 2020, she was named *professor emerita* at Wilkes University where she served as the co-founder and director of the Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program, a former dean, and Associate Professor of English.

David Denby is a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and is working on a group biography of Leonard Bernstein, Betty Friedan, Norman Mailer, Mel Brooks, and Pauline Kael. He was film critic of *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *New York*, and a film critic at *The New Yorker*. His books include *Great Books* and *Lit Up*.

Nicole DePolo is Associate Professor of English at Fisher College in Boston, MA. She holds a PhD in Editorial Studies from the Editorial Institute at Boston University, an MFA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University, and a BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her doctoral dissertation, *Norman Mailer's Book of the Dead,* is a critical companion to *Ancient Evenings* that includes an annotated edition of "The Book of the Gods." Her chapter "Sex and Sexuality" is included in *Norman Mailer in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Salvatore J. Fallica was born in Brooklyn, NY and teaches in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at NYU. He is the recipient of the "Excellence in Teaching," award from the Steinhardt School of Education at NYU. He has published work on Bob Dylan and is now working on a project tentatively entitled "Norman Mailer and Celebrity Culture."

Christine Fouirnaies is currently a lecturer in the English Department at the University of Chicago. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of Oxford in 2019 and received a Dissertation Fellowship in 2015 to work in Norman Mailer's archive at the Harry Ransom Research Center. Her book project, *Double Exposure*, studies photographic illustrations in novelistic life-writing.

Ronald K. Fried's fourth book, *Frank Costello: A Novel*, will be published in December. Production of his play, *Two Mailers*, has been postponed due to the pandemic.

Matthew S. Hinton (MA, MFA) was born in the back seat of his great grandmother's taxi in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He is a playwright and poet, and teaches at Misericordia University. His account of getting a tattoo of Norman Mailer appears in the Summer 2018 issue of *Provincetown Arts*. He dreams in analog.

J. Michael Lennon is the author of the forthcoming memoir, *Mailer's Last Days: Remembrances of a Life in Literature*. He reviews regularly for *TLS*, and his work has appeared in *Mailer Review*, *Paris Review*, *NYRB*, *New Yorker*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Lifewriting Annual*, *Chicago Tribune*, *New England Review*, *Hippocampus*, and *Provincetown Arts*. He teaches in Wilkes University's Maslow Graduate Creative Writing Program.

Walter Lewallen teaches Anglo-American modernist literature and composition at UNC Pembroke and has been a member of the Norman Mailer society for nine years.

Gerald R. Lucas is Professor of English at Middle Georgia State University and the editor of Project Mailer. He serves as Vice-President of the Norman Mailer Society, the Digital Editor of *The Mailer Review*, and the Society's webmaster.

John Buffalo Mailer is an award-winning screenwriter, journalist, playwright, actor, and producer. He is currently Creative Director for Mailer Tuchman Media, a development and production company based out of New York. He has been published in three books of collected essays, has published two plays, has had four feature screenplays produced, and has been an editor for three national magazines – *High Times*, *Tar*, and *Stop Smiling*. As a journalist he has freelanced for *Playboy, New York Magazine, ESPN Books, Provincetown Arts, Lid Magazine, Corriera De La Sera, The Mailer Review, The American Conservative, Vector,* and *Inked Magazine*. He is a member of *The Screen Actors Guild* and a lifetime member of *The Actors Studio*. He has lectured at the University of Notre Dame, Wesleyan, the University of Athens, Syracuse University, The New York Society for Ethical Culture, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Long Island University, NYU, and has appeared on *Fox News, Air America, Democracy Now, WNYC, TheBigThink.com, CSPAN's Book TV, WPIX New York,* and *HuffPost Live* among others. John is currently Executive Producing a feature *Showtime* documentary about the life of his father, Norman Mailer, directed by Emmy Award-Winner Jeff Zimbalist (*Remastered*). He is also creating a dramatic scripted series of his father's life with James Gray (*Ad Astra, Lost of City of Z, Little Odessa*) based on the authorized biography by J. Michael Lennon, *Norman Mailer: A Double Life,* as well as co-editing a new book on Mailer's writings on Democracy with Lennon titled, *The Mysterious Country: The Grace and Fragility of American Democracy,* coming out on January 31st of 2023.

Stephen Mailer has been acting professionally since he was 14 years old. His favorite credits include playing Baldwin, the pop song crooning villain, in John Waters *Cry Baby*, originating the role of Lucas Brickman in the Broadway production of Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, a benefit performance of Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten* for the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum, and, most recently, a scene with Meryl Streep in Steven Spielberg's *The Post*. After developing a compassionate relationship with his father's dark shadow, as part of a 17-year Jungian men's group journey, Stephen was finally able to embrace his father's bright and glorious golden shadow.

This intensive work produced 3 plays, 2 television series pilots, and 2 screenplays, the latter of which, titled *Flaubrucht*, was produced and directed by Stephen, who also played the lead character, Steven Blucht. He is married to the beautiful and brilliant actress, artist, celebrant, and chef, Elizabeth Rainer, and is the ridiculously proud father of Cal and Teddy Mailer, who joyfully embrace their lives with great zeal and unabashed aplomb.

Susan Mailer, a psychoanalyst, is co-founder of the Psychoanalytic Association of Santiago where she is also a faculty member. She has a private practice and supervises in Santiago, Chile. Her memoir *In Another Place, with and without My Father Norman Mailer,* was published in 2019, and the Spanish translation will be published in November 2022.

Maggie McKinley is Professor of English at Harper College, where she teaches courses in composition and American literature. She is the author of *Masculinity and the Paradox of Violence in American Fiction, 1950-75* (Bloomsbury 2015) and *Understanding Norman Mailer* (U of SC Press 2017), and the editor of *Norman Mailer in Context* and *Philip Roth in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

David Mikics is Moores Distinguished Professor of English and Honors at the University of Houston, as well as a regular columnist for *Tablet* magazine. His current book project, an appreciation of Norman Mailer the untimely thinker, pays particular attention to Mailer's friendships with James Baldwin, Diana Trilling, and Jack Henry Abbott. Mikics's recent books include *Stanley Kubrick: American Filmmaker* (Yale UP, Yale Jewish Lives Series), *Bellow's People: How Saul Bellow Turned Life Into Art* (W.W. Norton and Co.) and *The Annotated Emerson* (Harvard UP). He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 2017. He lives in Brooklyn and Houston with his wife and son.

Jason Mosser is Professor of English at Georgia Gwinnett College. A native West Virginian, he received his B.A. and M.A. in English from West Virginia University and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia. He has taught at WVU, UGA, Georgia Tech, the Atlanta College of Art, Rockford College, and the University of North Georgia. His primary areas of interest is contemporary American literature, especially literary journalism. His most recent articles and reviews have been published in *The Mailer Review* and *Literary Journalism Studies*. His book on the New Journalism of the 1960s and 70s was published in 2012. He published a chapbook, *Salvage and Other Poems*, in 2018.

Mark Olshaker is an Emmy winning documentary filmmaker and author of thirteen nonfiction books and five novels, including *Einstein's Brain* and *The Edge*. His books with former FBI Special Agent John Douglas, beginning with *Mindhunter* (basis for the Netflix series), have sold millions of copies worldwide. *Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs,* with Dr. Michael Osterholm, was published in 2017 and they are currently writing a book about pandemic preparedness. Olshaker is past president of the Norman Mailer Society and a life member of the Writers Guild of America. He was a contributor to *Norman Mailer in Context*.

Gordon Rayfield is a screenwriter and playwright. He wrote the Showtime film, *Our America*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won the prestigious Humanitas Prize for best Long-Form Television writing, as well as an Emmy award and a Writers Guild Award. He previously won Emmy and Writers Guild Awards as co- producer/ writer of *Stand Up*, for CBS School-break Specials. Mr. Rayfield has also written for *Law & Order*, HBO *Life Lessons*, and other series. His plays, *Bitter Friends*, *Living Proof*, *Banksters* and *Fever of Unknown Origin*, all premiered off-Broadway in New York City, and have been produced across the U.S., in Canada, Europe and Israel. *Bitter Friends* was published by Samuel French. He is currently writing an audio comedy series for Audible Originals.

Carl Rollyson is the author of *Marilyn Monroe: A Life of the Actress*, *Norman Mailer: The Last Romantic*, and an essay on Mailer and Monroe in *Norman Mailer in Context*.

Phillip Sipiora is Professor of English at the University of South Florida. He is the author or editor of five books and has published approximately fifty scholarly essays. He has lectured nationally and internationally on twentieth-century literature and film and is the founding editor of *The Mailer Review*.

Enid Stubin is Associate Professor of English at Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York, where she teaches courses in composition, literature, and Shakespeare. Her interests include the intersection of politics, culture, and writing in the seventeenth and twentieth- and twenty-first centuries.

Marc Triplett is a lifetime member of the Norman Mailer Society and has served as Secretary of the Executive Board since 2006. He has a B.A. from the University of Delaware and J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama. He now lives in Bellefontaine, Ohio, where he practices law with Triplett McFall Wolfe Law, LLC.

Ray Vince has taught American Literature & Writing for about thirty years—at the University of Tampa, University of South Florida, Hillsborough Community College, and other places. He has degrees in English, Theology, and Logic & Scientific Method from the University of Bristol, Kings College, London, the London School of Economics, and the University of South Florida. He has nine articles in *The Fitzgerald Review* and *The Mailer Review* and was a contributor to *Norman Mailer in Context* (Cambridge, 2021).

Barbara Wasserman is Norman Mailer's sister. She has worked as a researcher for film and television documentaries, and as a book editor. In 1967 she published *The Bold New Women*, an anthology of contemporary women writers. Her memoir *Love of My Life* was published by Arbitrary Press in 2021.



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