

2014 Conference of the Norman Mailer Society Program

Thursday, October 9th, 2014

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The Wilkes Ballroom at Gennetti's Hotel with hot and cold heavy appetizers and bar. Come meet, have a drink, and say hello. The hotel will provide a buffet and drinks. Registration materials will be available.

6:00 p.m. – midnight. Showing of *River of Fundament*, the film by Matthew Barney based upon Mailer's *Ancient Evenings*. Shown at RC 14 Theatres, 24 E Northampton St, Wilkes-Barre. Co-sponsored by RC 14 and Wilkes University. **Invitation only showing. All conference attendees are.**

Friday, October 10th, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. REGISTRATION IN FOYER OF BREISETH HALL. Books will also be for sale. Cash or check purchase only.

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wilkes University Reader's Theater group: Marathon reading of the entire novel — *An American Dream* — in a day. CW alums, faculty, and other special guest readers will read the novel in its entirety. Come sit in between sessions or bring your lunch to hear sections of the novel read aloud with a multimedia presentation. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 106

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Mailer Society Business Meeting. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 107

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. "Remembering Two Special Mailer Friends: Robert Lucid and Deborah Martinson." Special retrospective with Barbara Mailer Wasserman, Philip Bufithis, J. Michael Lennon, Denise Pappas, and Bonnie Culver. Panelists will share their experiences and we ask that you come ready to share your memories as well. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 107.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "The Digital Mailer Project (DMP): A Proposal." This prospectus outlines a plan for the Digital Mailer Project: a Digital Humanities project that could lay the foundation for a vast, accessible, and ever-expanding digital collection centered on Norman Mailer's life and work. Discussion led by Gerald Lucas. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 107.

Lunch on your own or purchase a sandwich in Breiseth Hall Foyer and sit in on *An American Dream* marathon reading. Breiseth 106.

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. "Editing Mailer." A discussion of the challenges and rewards of working personally with Mailer on various manuscripts among three individuals who had this privilege. Panelists: J. Michael Lennon (moderator), David Ebershoff, and Veronica Windholz. Breiseth Hall Rm. 107.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. "*Tough Guys Don't Dance*, the Novel and Film." A discussion on both works and Mailer as writer/director, theme and subtext/critical reactions to each work will be part of this panel presentation. Panelists: Justin Bozung (moderator), Chris Busa, Michael Chaiken, Aaron Graham, John Buffalo Mailer. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 107.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. "Mailer in Contrast." This panel explores "The White Negro," Mailer's exploration of Satan and Hitler, and a new lens on *An American*

Dream. Panelists: Nicole Depolo (moderator) Jason Mosser, Walter Lewallen, Jacob Hebda, and Aaron Botwick. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 219.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. “A Dialogue About Boxing and Mailer.” Panelists: Barry Leeds (moderator), Bill Lowenburg, and Ron Fried. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 219.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. “Finding Mailer in Contemporary Pop Culture.” This round-table will explore the resonances of some of Mailer’s most salient and controversial ideas within contemporary pop culture, with a particular focus on the television shows and online culture that have arguably become part of this generation’s zeitgeist. Participants: Maggie McKinley (moderator), Jerry Lucas, Nicole DePolo. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 107.

5:15 p.m. – 7:30 **Dinner on your own. List of restaurants in your packet.**

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. “Extending the Legacy.” Panel of scholars, all of whom have written extensively about Mailer. Participants: J. Michael Lennon, Phil Sipiora, Phil Bufithis, Barry Leeds, Moderated by Mark Olshaker, past Mailer Society president. Henry Student Center Ballroom, 2nd Floor, Frank and Dorthea Henry Student Center. Books for sale at panel. Cash/check purchase only.

9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Welcome to Wilkes reception and celebration. Wine and cheese welcome reception in Kirby Hall. An evening of special toasts, sponsored by The Wilkes University Graduate Creative Writing Department. Kirby Hall, 1st Floor Salon.

Saturday, October 11, 2014

PAPERS AND PANELS

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. “*Ancient Evenings: Thirty Years After*.” Panel will combine paper-related topics and a wider discussion of the novel, including commentary on the newly released film *River of Fundament* (loosely based upon Mailer’s novel). Panelists: Philip Bufithis (moderator), Alex Hicks, Nicole DePolo, and John Buffalo Mailer. Breiseth Hall, Rm. 106.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. “Yes, Norman Matters.” Panel presentation of personal observations and testimonies of Wilkes University CW students who participated in the Mailer Center summer workshops/fellowship programs in P-town and NYC, funded by the Mailer Center. Participants: Dawn Leas (moderator), Patricia Florio, Bill Lowenburg, Matthew Hinton, and Vicki Mayk.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. “A psychopath and/or hipster in *An American Dream*.” Papers exploring comparisons of Mailer’s hipster with Nabokov’s Psychopath, *An American Dream* as a “romantic nightmare,” and the lasting legacy of *An American Dream*. Panelists include: Phillip Sipiora (moderator), Heather Braun, Victor Pepsard, and Bernard Horn. Breiseth 219.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Mailer’s run for NYC Mayor. Michael Lennon (moderator), John Buffalo Mailer, and Joe Reubens talk about Mailer’s feisty run for the mayoral seat in NYC. Breiseth Rm. 106.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mailer’s Brooklyn: A panel will discuss the influence of Brooklyn, where Mailer lived most of his life, on his life and work, with sidebars on the other writers who lived there. Barbara Mailer Wasserman, Mark Noonan, Tim Nolan, J. Michael Lennon (moderator). Breiseth Hall, Rm. 106.

10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. “Teaching and Talking about Mailer” in Afghanistan, Boston, China, and the college classroom.” Paper presentations followed by a discussion on how to teach Mailer, in general, with audience participants and an introduction to the DMP (Digital Mailer Project). (AVAILABLE TO REGIONAL COLLEGE FACULTY HERE for the day). Panelists: Bonnie Culver (moderator), Matthew Hinton, Raj Chandarlapaty, Albert LaFarge, Walter Lewallen, William Thelin, Jerry Lucas, and Wang Gang.

WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL PAPER/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS. These are free and open to regional college students and their faculty. These workshops will include samples of writer/teacher’s work:

ROOMS TBA.

- Writing a Screenplay – Ross Klavan and Ken Vose
- Writing the Novel – Taylor Polites and Robert Mooney
- Poetry: Prosody and Performance – Christine Gelineau and Laura Moran

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Luncheon: with Danielle Mailer as special guest speaker. A celebratory lunch and last session of the conference. Henry Student Center Ballroom, 2nd floor, Henry Student Center.

Sunday, October 12, 2014

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Board breakfast and conference debriefing. Gennetti’s Oyster Bar Restaurant.

ONGOING

Tour of the Mailer room and holdings at Wilkes University (room will be listed on the campus map provided in conference packet).