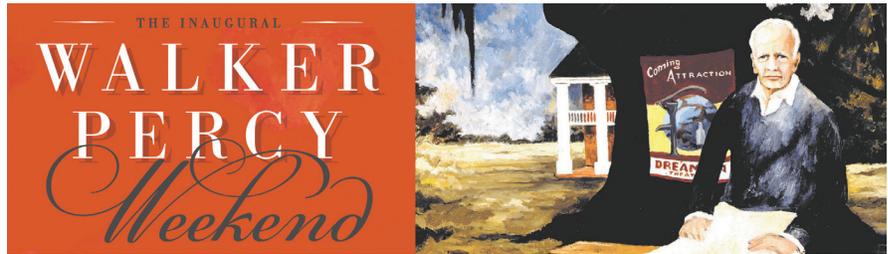


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2014

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A Literary Festival Celebrating the Writer and his Works
June 6—8, 2014 • St. Francisville, Louisiana

Good food, craft beer and bourbon, live music, and a great time talking about books and Southern culture under the live oaks! The Walker Percy Weekend—a literary festival celebrating the acclaimed novelist’s life and work—invites fans of Southern literature to St. Francisville to explore Percy’s ideas and writing while attending presentations and panel discussions with renowned Percy scholars.

Tickets are limited and selling fast. www.walkerpercyweekend.org for details and reservations.

PRESENTERS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Friday Evening, 6 pm–9 pm

“WALKER PERCY: A DOCUMENTARY FILM”

Win Riley, the New Orleans-based documentary filmmaker and writer, will introduce a screening of his film, *Walker Percy: A Documentary*. Presented in conjunction with a Crawfish and Craft Beer Dinner beneath the live oaks in Parker Park.

Saturday Morning, 9:30 am–11 am

1: “CINEMATIC CATECHISM: MOVIEGOING AND THE MEANING OF LIFE”

In *The Moviegoer* Binx Bolling manages his gnawing spiritual hunger by consuming movies, which tell him how to behave and what’s real. How do media shape—and distort—our understanding of who we are and what we are to do with our lives?

Panelists:

- **Ari Schulman** is executive editor of *The New Atlantis*, published by the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
- **Patrick Connelly** is associate professor of history and director of the honors program at Montreat College in Montreat, N.C.
- **Benjamin Bergholtz** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at Louisiana State University.

Or

2: “LOST IN THE COSMOS: IS SCIENCE ENOUGH WITHOUT RELIGION?”

Walker Percy was troubled by “scientism,” the belief that science is the only authoritative way of knowing. Science, divorced from Judeo-Christian morality, leads to the gas chamber, he thought. Was he an alarmist—or a prophet?

Panelists:

- **Peter Augustine Lawler** is a political philosopher who serves as Dana professor of government at Berry College in Georgia, a former member of the president’s Council on Bioethics, and the author of fifteen books.
- **Micah Mattix** teaches literature at Houston Baptist University. His reviews and commentaries on literature and culture have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *First Things*, *Books & Culture*, and other prominent publications.
- **Leslie Marsh** is a research associate on the University of British Columbia’s faculty of medicine. A political philosopher, he founded the Michael Oakeshott Association and holds advanced degrees in humanities fields, computer science, and artificial intelligence.

Saturday Afternoon, 1:30 pm–3 pm:

1: “WILL PERCY’S WORLD: STOICISM AND THE SOUTHERN ARISTOCRACY”

After his parents’ deaths Walker Percy moved to Greenville, Miss., to live with his second cousin William Alexander Percy. A lawyer, planter, and poet, Will Percy was a cosmopolitan man of letters whose worldview extended far beyond his Mississippi

hometown. How did Uncle Will's worldview influence Walker? How does Will's aristocratic stoicism stand apart from Christianity—and how does it reflect Southern culture? Can small Southern towns still produce people like Will Percy?

Panelists:

- **Ralph C. Wood** is professor of theology and literature at Baylor University and teaches in the college's religion and English departments, as well as in its Great Texts program. He has written extensively on Southern literature and Christianity.
- **Emily Erwin Jones** is the university archivist at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. A native of Greenville, Miss., she has studied the life and times of William Alexander Percy and the Percys of the Mississippi Delta.

Or

2: "PLACE AND NON-PLACE: WALKER PERCY AND THE SEARCH FOR HOME"

Why do we crave rootedness, yet find it so difficult to achieve? Many of Percy's characters define themselves by their places and cultures, yet struggle to live within them. What does Percy have to teach us about this restlessness?

Panelists:

- **Wilfred McClay** is a cultural historian who holds the Blankenship Chair in the History of Liberty at the University of Oklahoma. He served on the National Council for the Humanities from 2002—2012.
- **Peter Lawler** is a political philosopher who serves as Dana Professor of Government at Berry College in Georgia, a former member of the president's Council on Bioethics, and the author of fifteen books.
- **Judge Caleb Stegall** is a justice on the Kansas Court of Appeals. He was also chief counsel to Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback. Stegall has written about religions and the humanities and was a founder of the online cultural journal *The New Pantagruel*.

MORE SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

- A Friday evening **Crawfish Boil and Craft Beer Dinner** in St. Francisville's Parker Park catered by Chef Cody Carroll of Hot Tails Restaurant in New Roads.
- A Saturday-afternoon **Progressive Front-Porch Tour** and Bourbon Tasting with readings, inspired by Percy's essay, "Bourbon, Neat."
- A **digital recording project** encouraging attendees to contribute their observations of Walker Percy the LSU Libraries T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History's archive of stories about Louisiana's unique history and culture.
- A **Saturday Night Gala Dinner** in Parker Park catered by Hot Tails Restaurant. (Think cochon de lait and an oyster-grilling station.) With music by Ben Bell & the Stardust Boys.
- A **series of tours** to visit sites familiar to fans of Percy's fiction: Entergy's River Bend Nuclear Plant and Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola (*The Thanatos Syndrome*) and a driving tour identifying Percy family sites in the Felicianas; and a stargazing event from Catholic Hill (*Lost in the Cosmos*).



Tickets are limited and selling fast. For a complete schedule and registration visit www.walkerpercyweekend.org.

Festival proceeds support the Julius Freyhan Foundation—an organization dedicated to restoring the historic Freyhan School building to serve as a community and cultural center for the town of St. Francisville.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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