

remembering mr. faulkner

Oxford is setting the stage for a hometown tribute to one of literature's most beloved authors with "A William Faulkner Remembrance" on Friday, July 6, which marks the 50th anniversary of his death.

"Shortly after Faulkner's death in 1962, President Kennedy eulogized him as the most important American novelist of the 20th century, along with Henry James," explains Jay Watson, the event's organizer and Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies and Professor of English at the University of Mississippi. "Half a century later, that verdict still holds true. Faulkner's works continue to speak to contemporary readers, and are widely taught in schools and universities, because they are formally innovative and challenging and because they tell a still-compelling story of a traditional, underdeveloped rural world facing the challenges of the modern age."

The day-long Remembrance program is free and open to the public, and the agenda includes a variety of ways to "encounter Faulkner and his legacy," explains Watson. Learn about his life and his works, enjoy a marathon reading of Faulkner's final novel, "The Reivers," at his home, Rowan Oak, and hear commentary from author Randall Kenan and scholar Philip M. Weinstein.

"And for those interested in how Faulkner's genius as a storyteller translates to the film medium," adds Watson, "we'll conclude the Remembrance day events with a 'movie night' screening of the 1969 film adaptation of 'The Reivers,' starring Steve McQueen, at the historic Lyric Theater in Oxford," which was also the venue in 1949, for the world premier of "Intruder in the Dust," another film adapted from one of Faulkner's novels.

"The Remembrance program is designed not primarily for scholars, but for lovers of literature, and lovers of Oxford and north Mississippi who want to learn more about Faulkner's life and world."

The city of Oxford is celebrating its 175th anniversary that week, and July 7-11, the 39th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, "Fifty Years After Faulkner," will draw visitors from around the world. —S.M.B.



Contact Jay Watson at jwatson@olemiss.edu or visit www.facebook.com/faulknerremembranceday for more information.

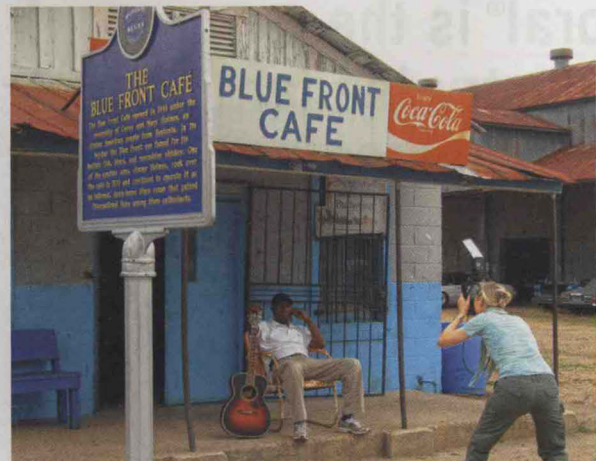
blues @ home

Documenting the Mississippi blues is what artist H.C. Porter set out to do with the "Blues @ Home" project. She traveled across the state, photographed bluesmen, and recorded their stories in their own voices—all while experiencing an unforgettable brand of culture that left Porter even more proud of her home state.

Blues @ Home is designed to be a nationwide tour, showcasing a collection of one-of-a-kind paintings of 29 living blues legends, all of whom call Mississippi home, paired with their oral histories.

"The legends run the gamut as far as age, race, and life experience, and they really represent the current landscape of the blues in Mississippi," says Porter. "We have white and black, young and old, men and women." It is varied and shows the many faces and stories of the blues.

"My first photo shoot for Blues @ Home was December 2010 at the home of T Model Ford in Greenville," says Porter. "Kicking it off in the living room of a 90-year-old, knife-wielding Delta bluesman was the perfect way to begin this journey. T Model had just come home from a gig in Alabama, and he was ready to go back at it. You could tell that nothing made him happier than playing the blues."



She was inspired. "That's the spirit I hope my paintings and the collected oral histories will reflect in this series. Their music is like storytelling of their personal lives."

Porter is currently creating the portraits by using the signature mixed-media process that she has incorporated into her artwork for nearly 26 years. "I use my original photograph to create a high-contrast ink image, which is silkscreened onto paper, and then I hand paint on top of the silkscreened image, using acrylic paint and Prismacolor pencils."

Porter, a Jackson native, moved to Vicksburg six years ago to open the H.C. Porter Gallery. —S.M.B.

Visit www.hcporter.com/bluesathome for more information on the Blues @ Home project as well as the artist, artwork, and gallery.