

NORMAN MAILER IN CONTEXT

This volume offers new insight into the breadth of contexts that inform Norman Mailer's body of work. It examines important literary, critical, theoretical, cultural, and historical frameworks for Mailer's writing, highlighting the ways his work reflects the concerns of twentieth and twenty-first century America. This book traces Mailer's literary influences; his contributions to a variety of literary genres; his participation in the American political sphere; the philosophical, religious, and gendered contexts that shape his work; and the iconic American figures he profiled. The book concludes with reflections on Mailer's literary and cultural legacy, emphasizing his advocacy for literary freedom and the contemporary resonance of his work.

MAGGIE MCKINLEY is Associate Professor of English at Harper College. She is the author of *Masculinity and the Paradox of Violence in American Fiction* (2015) and *Understanding Norman Mailer* (2017), and currently serves as the president of the Norman Mailer Society.





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Contents

	otes on Contributors	page ix
Α.	Note on References and Abbreviations	xvi
	troduction aggie McKinley	I
PΑ	RT I LITERARY INFLUENCES	ΙΙ
Ι	Early Influences Raymond M. Vince	13
2	Mailer and Hemingway <i>Linda Wagner-Martin</i>	25
3	Friendships and Feuds Matthew S. Hinton	35
PΑ	RT II FORM AND GENRE	47
4	New Journalism Jason Mosser	49
5	Essays and Columns Enid Stubin	59
6	The Novel Peter Balbert	69
7	Criticism Phillip Sipiora	80

V



More Information

vi	Contents	
8	Film Justin Bozung	91
9	Modernism Jerry Schuchalter	102
10	Postmodernism Scott Duguid	113
PAR	RT III POLITICAL CONTEXTS	I 2 5
ΙΙ	Marxism and Malaquais David Anshen	127
12	JFK and Political Heroism J. Michael Lennon	138
13	The Vietnam War Ann Luppi von Mehren	148
14	1968 Political Conventions Robert Francis Saxe	159
15	Left Conservatism Kevin M. Schultz	170
PAR	RT IV PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS	181
16	Totalitarianism <i>Erin Mercer</i>	183
17	The Hipster Raj Chandarlapaty	193
18	Existentialism and Manichaeism Victor Peppard	202
19	Technology Walter Lewallen	212
20	Violence Maggie McKinley	223



More Information

	Contents	vii
21	Race Douglas Taylor	234
22	Judaism Mashey Bernstein	246
PAF	RT V GENDER AND SEXUALITY	257
23	Masculinity Brad Congdon	259
24	The Second Wave Feminist Movement Bonnie Culver	270
25	Sex and Sexuality Nicole DePolo	280
PAF	RT VI PROFILES AND LITERARY BIOGRAPHIES	291
26	Marilyn Monroe Carl Rollyson	293
27	Muhammad Ali Ronald K. Fried	302
28	Picasso Linda Patterson Miller	312
29	The Criminal Mind: Gary Gilmore and Lee Harvey Oswald <i>Mark Olshaker</i>	322
PAF	RT VII MAILER'S LEGACY	333
30	Literary Activism Heather Braun	335
31	Mailer in Translation Jasna Potočnik Topler	344
32	Letters John Whalen-Bridge	355



Selected Secondary Bibliography

Index

viii Contents

33 Mailer Studies in the Twenty-First Century
Robert J. Begiebing

34 Political Resonance
Gerald R. Lucas

Afterword: Mailer after #MeToo
Maggie McKinley

Primary Bibliography

389

391

396



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Notes on Contributors

xi

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xii

Notes on Contributors

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Notes on Contributors

xiii

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xiv

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XV

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A Note on References and Abbreviations

Writers in this volume draw from different editions of Mailer's texts, some citing from early editions and others employing more recent reissues by Random House. In each chapter, the authors indicate in the endnotes which edition of Mailer's work they have used. For ease of reference, below are in-text abbreviations used across the volume.

AD An American Dream AE Ancient Evenings

AFM Advertisements for Myself AN The Armies of the Night

BE The Big Empty BS Barbary Shore

CC Cannibals and Christians CF The Castle in the Forest

CNM Conversations with Norman Mailer

DP The Deer Park
EE Existential Errands
ES Executioner's Song

F The Fight

GS The Gospel According to the Son

HG Harlot's Ghost

MSC Miami and the Siege of Chicago
ND The Naked and the Dead

OFM Of a Fire on the Moon

OG On God: An Uncommon Conversation
OT Oswald's Tale

OI Oswala's Tale

PP The Presidential Papers
PS The Prisoner of Sex

PYM Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man

xvi



A Note on References and Abbreviations xvii

SA	The Spooky Art
SL	Selected Letters of Norman Mailer
TG	Tough Guys Don't Dance
WV	Why Are We in Vietnam?
WW	Why Are We at War?

