

Telling the People's Story

From Tape and Transcript to Public Programs

a conference for persons and organizations
who want to share their valuable oral history collections with the public
through exhibits, publications, multi-media presentations, and theater

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2004
PORT GIBSON, MISSISSIPPI

sponsored by



Cultural **C**rossroads

and the

Mississippi Humanities Council

in cooperation with the
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
and the
USM Center for Oral History and Cultural Documentation

- *Don't let your collection lie buried in an archive*
- *Find inspiration and practical help in the work of others*
- *View demonstrations of projects that have been done locally*
- *Listen to nationally recognized experts who have walked the walk*
- *Experience the theater performances based on ordinary people's lives*
 - *Share your questions and answers with others*

Guest Speakers and Presenters

**Paul
Hendrickson**

Paul's most recent book, *Sons of Mississippi: A Story of Race and Its Legacy*, won the 2004 National Book Critics Circle Award for general non-fiction. It is based on copious interviews with friends and relatives of seven sheriffs pictured in a famous photograph made at Ole Miss during the attempts to stop James Meredith from enrolling. His previous books, about Robert McNamara and Marion Post Wolcott, were also nominated for prestigious awards. He was a long-time staff writer with the Washington Post and now teaches at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Alan
Trachtenberg**

Alan is considered one of the founders of American cultural studies. His 1989 book, *Reading Photographs: Images as History, Mathew Brady to Walker Evans*, has become a classic in the field. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation. His writing covers wide areas of American cultural history and literature. As professor emeritus at Yale University, his current research focuses on representations of American Indians in the literary, political, and popular culture of the U.S. in the early 20th century.

**Marsha
MacDowell**

Marsha is a professor of art and art history as well as curator of folk arts at the Michigan State University Museum. Her passion is textiles, and she has published books on both Native and African-American quilting traditions. She has recently returned from South Africa where she studied and lectured on women's arts. One of her current projects is "Quilt Treasures," a web-based collection of videotaped oral histories of quilters and quilt preservationists.

**Alison
Carey**

Alison is the co-founder of Cornerstone Theater Company, which has produced over 40 community-based theater pieces in small rural towns and ethnic neighborhoods in Los Angeles. One of her earliest and most important projects was an inter-racial *Romeo and Juliet* produced in collaboration with Mississippi Cultural Crossroads and the people of Claiborne County. She has also written and adapted plays for the Mark Taper Forum, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival, the Long Wharf Theatre, and the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theatre. She won the 2001 Garland Award for playwriting and received an Emmy nomination.

**Roland
Freeman**

Roland is a photographer who has been documenting the African diaspora for over 40 years. His published work includes *Folkroots*, *Something to Keep You Warm*, *The Arabbers of Baltimore*, and *A Communion of the Spirits: African-American Quilters, Preservers, and their Stories*. His quilt exhibits have traveled the world, and one of them, the *Mississippi Panel Exhibit from A Communion of the Spirits*, is on permanent display at Mississippi Cultural Crossroads.

Many other important researchers, curators, scholars, folklorists, writers, poets, dramatists, and presenters have also agreed to share their work at the conference. They include poets and playwrights Jo Carson and Nayo Watkins, Civil Rights historian Emilye Crosby, Civil Rights activist James Miller, theater director Maya Gurantz, folklorists Larry Morrissey and Deborah Boykin, museums director Lucy Allen, and oral historian Charles Bolton.

This conference is financially assisted by the Mississippi Legislature through the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and by the Mississippi Humanities Council.