

Lights, Camera, Faulkner

The work of William Faulkner is coming to HBO, helmed by David Milch, the creator of *Luck* and *Deadwood*, and his daughter, Olivia Milch, one of Oxford's newest residents and biggest fans.

by Julie Cantrell photographed by Edwin E. Meek

HBO Bringing Faulkner's Works to Film

The work of William Faulkner will soon come to life on the small screen. This July marks the 50th anniversary of the Nobel Prize-winning author's death, but because of his unique approach to dealing with controversial southern themes such as race relations, class divisions and religion, readers around the world continue to study his works and cite him as an American classic.

One such reader, Olivia Milch, spent her California childhood hearing her father read Faulkner's stories. Her father, David Milch, is an acclaimed writer and producer who has racked up four Emmys and many other awards for hit television series including *Hill Street Blues*, *NYPD Blue* and *Deadwood*.

His latest series, *Luck*, premiered Jan. 29 on HBO. Set around California's beautiful racehorse tracks, the show stars Hollywood heavyweights Dustin Hoffman and Nick Nolte.

Faulkner Leads Milch to Oxford

Following in her father's footsteps, Olivia attended Yale University, where she read, studied and gained an even greater appreciation for Faulkner. Her studies then led her to Mississippi for even more in-

depth Faulkner study. She first visited Oxford last summer to conduct research for her thesis, examining Faulkner's role as a historian.

"I was drawn here and felt connected immediately," Olivia said.

While in Oxford, she attended the 2010 Faulkner and Film Conference. There, she met Lee Caplin, executor of the William Faulkner Literary Estate. The two started talking, and as luck would have it, the conversation led to serious discussions between Olivia, her father and Caplin.

After some negotiations, a deal was struck. HBO gained exclusive rights to finance, produce and distribute Faulkner's works as films and television series. This includes unprecedented access to 19 novels and 125 short stories.

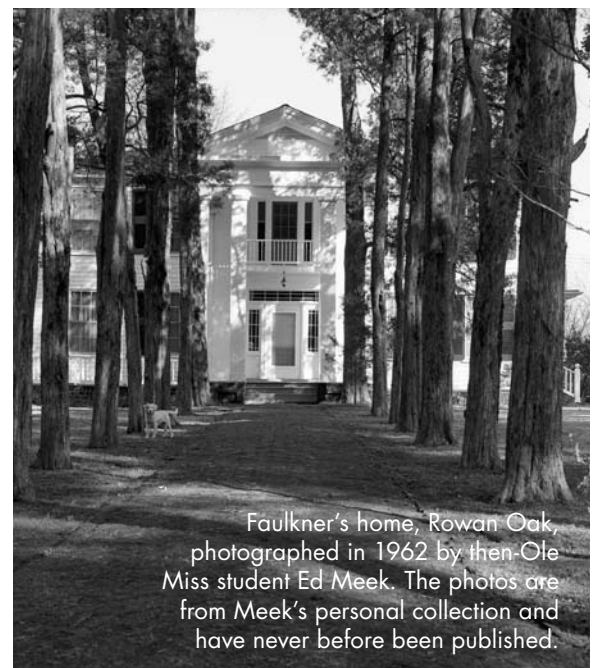
Dream Team Commits To Project

David Milch is the writer in charge of adapting the works for film while serving alongside Caplin as executive producer. Olivia is working full-time as the coordinating producer and has put this project front and center, even relocating across the country.

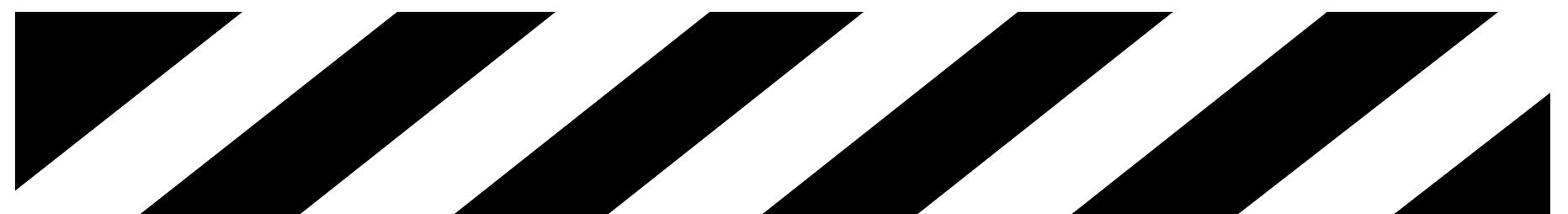
"This strikes me as a landmark agreement," said Jay Watson, Howry professor of Faulkner studies at the

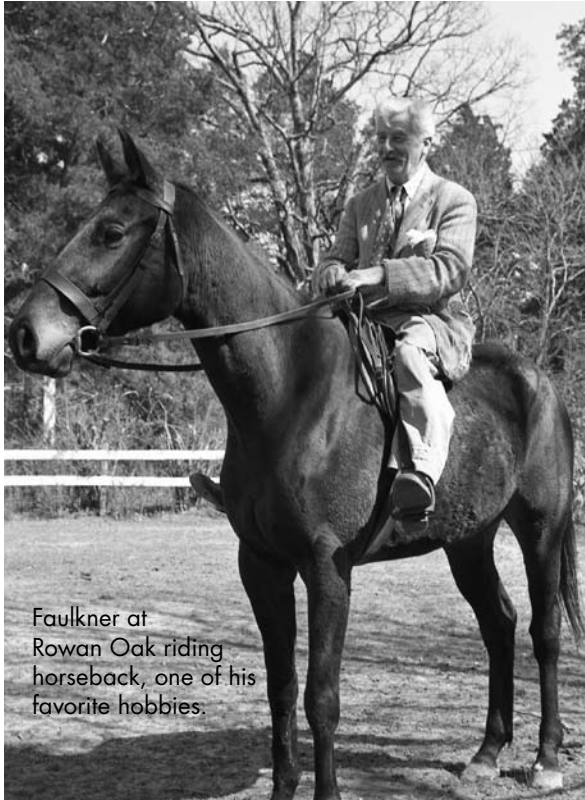


William Faulkner, photographed just before his death in 1962.



Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak, photographed in 1962 by then-Ole Miss student Ed Meek. The photos are from Meek's personal collection and have never before been published.





Faulkner at Rowan Oak riding horseback, one of his favorite hobbies.

University of Mississippi and president of the William Faulkner Society. “Until now, few of Faulkner’s major works have been adapted to film. David Milch has obviously made a significant investment to obtain these rights, which signals he must aim to take on some of Faulkner’s best works. It’s exciting for the viewing world and for the Faulkner world as his stories will reach a broader audience now.”

Encouraged by David Milch’s previous work, Watson believes the father-daughter Milch team is ideal for seeing this project through.

“In *Deadwood*, it was clear that the writers had a real love of sumptuous language,” Watson said. “That kind of verbal richness was also an important part of Faulkner’s achievement, and I suspect that Milch understands that. He has an eye and an ear for the things that are significant about Faulkner’s writings. It makes me more confident that those qualities will be honored in translation to the TV medium.”

Watson also said he appreciates Olivia’s dedication

to Oxford.

“She is on the ground in Oxford and has really developed ties to the local community, living and working here part of the year,” he said. “That says a lot about the respect she has for Faulkner’s legacy. This place means something to her.”

As the project progresses, Olivia is splitting her time between Oxford and Los Angeles. She said it is too early to announce details about the project’s timeline and the number of works that will be made into films or miniseries, but she admitted hopes to shoot some of the scenes locally and said they are looking forward to making it a positive experience for everyone involved.

“We feel incredibly humbled and grateful for the support of the Oxford community,” she said.

Olivia’s enthusiasm is evident, and she made one small confession about specifics. Her favorite Faulkner novel is *Light in August*, so maybe that’s a tiny clue for soon-to-be stars.

Fifty Years after Faulkner - William Faulkner Remembrance: July 6, 2012

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Faulkner’s death, Jay Watson, Howry professor of Faulkner studies at Ole Miss, is organizing a special event to coincide with the annual academic conference.

“This is not officially part of the conference. Instead, it will be a stand-alone day of free programming for the general public on July 6, before the actual conference begins,” Watson said. “We encourage everyone to take part, as so many did when we celebrated the centennial of Faulkner’s birth.”

Unlike the conference, the Remembrance isn’t intended to be primarily a scholarly or even academic event, but an event promoting literacy, civic engagement and an appreciation for the community’s rich cultural heritage. The program will kick off with a marathon reading of Faulkner’s last novel, *The Reivers*, on the grounds of Rowan Oak, and the public is invited to participate. There will be afternoon keynote addresses in the Lafayette County courthouse by biographer Philip Weinstein and writer Randall Kenan.

The Remembrance will conclude Friday evening with a screening of

the 1969 film adaptation of *The Reivers* at the Lyric Theater.

“We are organizing this event for Oxford, Lafayette County and the University, the local worlds that nourished Faulkner’s work and that Faulkner’s legacy has gone on to nourish in turn,” Watson said. “This will be our Faulkner event, our day, and it should provide a wonderful way to round out an auspicious Fourth of July week in which the City of Oxford will also be celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding.”

William Griffith, curator at Rowan Oak, said, “We’re excited about these anniversary events and we’re gearing up for large crowds. The recent announcement about Faulkner’s works being made into films by HBO has everyone taking a fresh look at his writing.”

For more information about the July 6 Remembrance event, contact Jay Watson at jwatson@olemiss.edu or 662-915-7671.

For more information about the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha scholarly conference, to be held July 7-11, visit outreach.olemiss.edu/events/faulkner or call the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at 662-915-5993.

Love Your Heart: Get fit in 2012



SHERRI DELASHMIT, PH.D.

DID YOU SURVIVE THE HOLIDAYS without gaining weight? If you are like the average American, those holiday cookies, office parties and eggnog put on an extra 5-7 pounds. Did you know that two thirds of Americans are over their ideal weight? Being overweight is extremely hard on a person's body. As a rule, overweight people have higher blood pressure and are more likely to have cancer, heart disease and diabetes. They have more joint and bone problems, exercise less, eat more, and have poorer attitudes than their ideal weight counterparts. It's time to keep that New Year's resolution and lose that extra baggage you're carrying around. Here are some tips for getting off the couch and changing that "yearly resolution" that seems to fade by March into a life-long commitment of healthy living.

Exercise is vitally important in this commitment. Being active has many benefits like reducing stress, encouraging relaxation, reducing weight and obesity rates, increasing circulation, fighting heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension, not to mention improving self esteem. If you are not currently exercising and made the resolution to start, a trip to your doctor for a good check-up is a wise decision. If your

physician finds nothing to indicate that you should not be exercising, start a simple walking program. Here's how to get started.

1. Walking is easy and requires no expensive equipment other than a good pair of walking shoes. Make sure shoes fit properly, supporting your arches while not rubbing blisters on your feet. Don't skimp on your footwear; spend the extra money for the proper pair of shoes before you start rather than paying medical bills for problems created by bad choices in footwear.

2. Get a walking partner. It's easy to talk yourself out of going but having a committed walking partner doubles your walking program success. Pick a place that's easy to get to and mutually agreeable. For bad weather days, pick indoor venues like the Ole Miss Coliseum or a large department store. Many churches have family life centers for the congregation and their guests to exercise in.

3. Use common sense and listen to your body. If you are sore the next day after walking you either did not stretch properly or you did too much. Warm up your muscles with a few calisthenics or stretching exercises before embarking on your walk.

4. If you fall off the proverbial wagon and quit exercising for a day or two, don't get mad at yourself for taking a respite. Get right back in the exercise routine until it becomes a habit. When it does, plan to become an exercise junky as you will not feel good on the days you skip your walk. You will need that "daily fix" of exertion to keep you feeling well.

Weight loss is the other New Year's resolution that nearly everyone makes and seems to be more difficult

to obtain, especially without an exercise plan. The only successful, long term, weight loss program is a complete lifestyle change in eating and exercise habits. Crash diets may work for a week or two but usually result in more weight gained back after getting off the diet. Research shows that people who "yo-yo" weight loss have a much more difficult time losing weight as time goes by. Contact your doctor for a medical weight loss program if you fall into the obese category. If you don't know where to start, talk with the Registered Dietitians at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi or join the Baptist HealthPlex and work with their staff to develop reasonable goals for weight loss and exercise. If finances are an issue, enroll in Healthy You, Healthy L.O.U., a free program sponsored by Baptist for improved health through fun exercise options and healthy eating classes.

Call Maggie Miller, Baptist Community Relations, 232-8109 for Healthy You, Healthy L.O.U. enrollment information.

Proper nutritional intake and physical activity are the key ingredients to more years of quality life. How many times have you heard a senior citizen say, "If I had known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."

Take that first step and renew that exercise more and eat less resolution if you have already thrown it aside. By the end of 2012, you can start thinking about the "new" New Year's resolution for January 2013.

Sherri DeLashmit, Ph.D., is the Director of the Heart Care Center at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi.



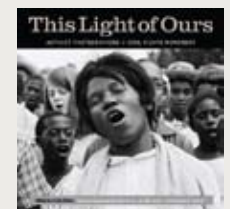
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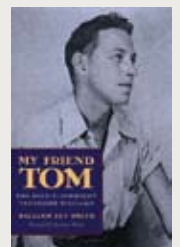


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