Dear Humor / Horror, SF, Fantasy Scholar:

You are invited to submit to the Midwest Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association annual meetings being held in St. Louis, MO, at the beautiful St. Louis Union Station Hotel, from Friday through Sunday, October 11-13, 2013. More details about the association, the conference, membership, travel matters, the hotel and its rates, and the city can be found at the MPCA/ACA website <http://www.m pcaaca.org/>. The whole conference enchilada is explained here: <http://mpcaaca.org/st-louis-2013/>.

The deadline for submission is Thursday, April 30, 2013; no exceptions, no kidding. Submissions are to be sent to <http://submissions.mpcaaca.org> (though please send me a copy at <j dowell@msu.edu> as well, along with your paper’s general topic and title—plus your name, contact info, & affiliation; please also include the essence of your essay—still called a “thesis” by some—and a couple of the likely primary theoretical players you’ll be citing). Accepted panelists will be notified by me before the end of May.

Authors of accepted submissions must register with the MPCA/ACA. All registration forms, FAQs, policies, yaddayadda are here: <http://mpcaaca.org/conference/>. If you wish your presentation to be listed as Midwest American Culture Association (rather than Midwest Popular Culture Association), I suggest you include this request with your proposal.

If you absolutely cannot attend the entire conference and need your presentation scheduled on a specific day, you must let us know when you submit your proposal. All that stuff is covered on the following page …

Meantime, just remember nothing good is off-limits. As far as I’m concerned, going too far in these genre may actually just be considered a good starting point, and I am particularly interested in works which blend humor and horror in a smart/fresh way; I call it sLaughter. Is Chuck Palahniuk truly transgressive horror, a postmodern Arthur Machen, or more like Christopher Moore tweaking on meth with a beat up copy of Gray’s Anatomy in his lap? Why wasn’t John Dies at the End the next Naked Lunch? In any case, is that a good thing? Was The Cabin in the Woods a revival of “smart horror” or was it just a prequel for the revisioning of Evil Dead? Think Patton Oswalt is actually writing snarky horror or The Walking Dead is yet another tragicomic soap opera? What about the writings of “humanistic humorists” such as Vonnegut, Twain, or Carlin in the horrific subgenre? What can an “Americanist perspective” gain from the mad genius of giallo or Theatre du Grand-Guignol, or, for that matter, Alan Moore, Florence Foresti, Eddie Izzard, Roald Dahl, Peter Jackson, Aldous Huxley, or Ricky Gervais? Beyond the obvious, that is. But you don’t have to limit yourself to that humor/horror mashup if it’s not your thing. What of the classic horrific humorists/ironists such as H.H. Munro, Shirley Jackson, Washington Irving, or Dorothy Parker? Has “web2.0” (Twitter, YouTube, indie web movie sites, blogs, that stuff) significantly changed the way humor or horror/SF/fantasy gets distributed or consumed in some way that’s not just dead obvious? If so, was Serenity proof of it, or the exception? What else ya got? Straight-up humor or horror or SF or fantasy? I’m all ears, baby; lay it on me.

Submit. Don’t resist. You know you want to. You know you need to….

Best regards,
John A Dowell
Chair: Humor
Chair: Horror / Science Fiction / Fantasy

Please freely distribute this invitation for submission to all potentially interested scholars.
CALL FOR PAPERS, ABSTRACTS, AND PANEL PROPOSALS

Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference
Friday-Sunday, 11-13 October 2013
1820 Market St, St Louis, MO 63103 USA

Submit paper, abstract, or panel proposals (including the title of the presentation) to the appropriate Area on the Submissions website <http://submissions.mpcaaca.org/>. Individuals may only submit one paper, and please do not submit the same item to more than one Area. Abstracts should be 250-500 words long.

Deadline for receipt of proposals is April 30, 2013.

Please include name, affiliation, and e-mail address of each author/participant. A preliminary version of the schedule will be posted on our website around August 2013. The final version will be distributed in hard copy at the conference. For privacy reasons, we do not publish e-mail addresses in the online version of the program.

Special Notes Regarding Proposal Submissions: (1) MPCA/ACA can provide an LCD projector for presentations. You must ask for it at the time you submit your proposal. (2) If necessary, indicate and submit potential scheduling conflicts along with your proposal. (3) If you wish your presentation to be listed as MACA (rather than MPCA), please include this request with your proposal.

Please plan to attend the entire conference. Panels will run at the following approximate times: Friday 12:45pm-7:30pm, Saturday 8:30am-6:15pm, and Sunday 8:00am-1:00pm. Special events will include speakers on Friday evening and a luncheon and speaker on Saturday. These events, plus continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, will be free for conference registrants.

All participants must be members of the Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association. Membership is $50 for students with ID, retirees, and unemployed, and $80 for all others. Membership is for the calendar year through December 2013. The membership fee is separate from the conference registration fee. To join the MPCA/MACA, you may pay with your conference registration fee, or you may send a separate check at any time to Kathleen Turner, 328 N. Madison St #1, Tupelo, MS 38804. Make check payable to Midwest Popular Culture Association. A membership form may be printed from our website beginning around June 2013. If we do not receive your membership fee postmarked by September 15, 2013, you will be subject to a $15 late fee if you attend the conference. The Midwest PCA/Midwest ACA is a separate organization (with separate fees) from the National PCA/ACA and from other regional PCA/ACA organizations. The membership fee may be paid by credit card via Google Checkout or PayPal beginning in about June 2013.

All participants must register for the conference. Registration is $80 for students with ID, retirees, and unemployed, and $110 for all others. There will be a $15 late fee for registration on-site or postmarked after September 15, 2013. (This fee is waived for residents of countries other than the USA or Canada.) Payment on-site will be by cash or check. To preregister, send a check anytime to Kathleen Turner, 328 N. Madison St #1, Tupelo, MS 38804. Make check payable to Midwest Popular Culture Association. A registration-membership form may be printed from our website beginning around June 2013. The registration fee is separate from the membership fee. The registration fee may be paid in advance by credit card via Google Checkout or PayPal beginning around June 2013.

A special group rate for a limited block of rooms reserved on a first-come, first-served basis will be secured with the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, a Doubletree by Hilton. Check for details at the MPCA website. St. Louis is in the Central Time Zone.

Attendees are financially responsible for all costs related to their participation in the conference, e.g., transportation, lodging, meals, registration, membership, etc. Graduate students are invited to apply for competitively awarded travel grants from MPCA/MACA <http://mpcaaca.org/about/grants.html>. Undergraduate students should enter our undergraduate paper competition <http://mpcaaca.org/conference/undergraduate-paper-competition/>.

Cancellation Policy: If you submit a proposal (or if you accept an invitation to appear on a panel), you are promising to attend the conference if your proposal is accepted and you are promising to pay the conference registration fee, the Association membership fee, and a late fee of $15 if applicable. If your proposal is accepted and you do not attend the conference, it is expected that you will (1) notify all members of your panel, your Area Chair, and the MPCA/MACA Executive Secretary (Kathleen Turner <turner8kathleen@gmail.com>) of your cancellation; (2) provide such notification as early as possible; (3) arrange to have your paper distributed at the panel; (4) arrange for somebody else to carry out any other duties you may have; and (5) pay your membership and registration fees (plus late fee if applicable). If conditions 1-5 are met, you may file a written request, after the conference, for a refund of half your registration fee. For coauthored papers, all authors are welcome and encouraged to attend, but only one author is required to attend.

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