

Park School of Communications
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ITHACA COLLEGE CONFERENCE TO HONOR TELEVISION WRITER ROD SERLING

The Park School of Communications at Ithaca College will sponsor a two-day conference honoring one of television's best-known writers. THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROD SERLING will be held on campus March 28-29, and will feature presentation of academic papers as well as panel discussions, screenings and results of a nationwide Rod Serling scriptwriting competition.

Following the success of a similar **event** in 2006, this year's conference is expected to draw writers, researchers and Serling enthusiasts from around the country. The creator of the groundbreaking series "Twilight Zone" lectured on creative writing at Ithaca College, and several of this year's conference sessions will examine Serling's role as a teacher -- featuring some of his colleagues and students from the early 1970's. Topics for other sessions include: **the writer's** earliest work as a struggling writer in Cincinnati, Ohio; Serling's critically-acclaimed screenplay for "Seven Days in May" as a prophetic exploration of the roles of the U.S. military and the legislative branches of government in times of political stress; his frustrating attempts to dramatize the murder of Emmett Till -- an experience that would sharpen his views on sponsor censorship and network interference; the "twilight zone" as a philosophical concept; "The Rod Serling Archive" at Ithaca College --

(MORE)

one of the largest collections of the author's creative work; and, a multimedia presentation which combines "Twilight Zone" dialog, familiar soundtrack music, and images from the series to explore the show's influence on American pop culture. In addition, a popular event from the 2006 conference will, like the series itself, have a "rerun." During a live "Twilight Zone Marathon" episodes from the original series, which aired on the CBS television network from 1959 to 1963, will be shown -- **including introductions and analysis of each script's themes.**

The two-day conference will conclude with a **table read** of Serling's script "Noon on Doomsday." In cooperation with Ithaca's Department of Theater Arts, this never-before-produced work will be brought to life in a fitting tribute to THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROD SERLING.

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Conference registration details are available on the event website at: <http://www.ithaca.edu/rhp/serling>

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