Key Personalities:
Norman Mailer, Marilyn Monroe
Norman Mailer
1923-2007

- Born New York
- Trained as an aeronautical engineer
- Drafted into the army during WWII
- Published 1st story at age 18
- Wrote stories, plays, poems, screenplays, articles for newspapers and over 30 books and won 2 Pulitzer Prizes for literature
Norman Mailer

- In his writing Mailer often critical of US society
- Critical of authoritarianism, conformity, US foreign policy, some feminists
- But also attacked the totalitarianism of the USSR
The Naked and the Dead (1948)

- Deals with his experiences in the Philippines during WWII
- Negative depiction of army life
- Attacked by some for being 'obscene'
The Deer Park (1955)

- Deals with corruption in Hollywood
The White Negro (1959)

- Originally published as a 9,000 word essay
- Some white people in 1920s and 1930s identified more with and adopted black culture (clothing, music, language) and rejected white culture
- He links this to the rejection of mainstream culture by 'hipsters' and 'beats' in the 1950s
An Open Letter to Fidel Castro (1961)

- Writes of Castro: 'You are giving us hope'.
- Did not conform to generally held view in USA regarding Cuba and influence of Castro there.
An American Dream

- Deals with a man who murders his wife in order to get ahead in life.
- Criticised for portrayal and treatment of women.

- Wikipedia summary of plot:
  The book's protagonist, Stephen Rojack, is a decorated war-hero and former congressman, a sensationalist talk-show host, and is an embodiment of the American Dream. In an alcoholic rage, Rojack murders his estranged wife, a high society woman, and descends into a lurid underworld of Manhattan jazz clubs, bars, and Mafia intrigue after meeting Cherry McMahan, a night-club singer and the girlfriend of a highly placed mobster.
Why are we in Vietnam? (1967)

The Prisoner of Sex (1971)

- Criticised the feminist movement.
- Felt some feminists suggesting that all women are good and all men are bad and that this oversimplistic analysis didn't serve the interests of feminism.
Mailer's personal life

- Married 6 times and had 9 children.
- Stabbed his wife, Adele Morales, at an all-night party in Manhattan.
- She did not press charges so he avoided prison.
Mailer in the 1960s

- Arrested for involvement in anti-war protest in 1967.
- Tried to run as candidate for Mayor of New York in 1969.
- Wrote long articles on the Moon Landing in 1969 (later published as a book with the title: 'Of a Fire on the Moon').
Mailer wrote books Muhamad Ali and Marilyn Monroe.
Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962)

- Born Norma Jean Mortenson in Los Angeles.
- Lived with mother who had mental health problems.
- Spent time in orphanages and foster homes.
- Monroe worked in a factory during WWII.
Marilyn Monroe
Start of modelling and acting career

• Spotted by a photographer and signed up with Blue Book modelling agency.

• Spotted by a 20th Century Fox executive and given a screen test.

• Around this time she changed her name to Marilyn Monroe.
Life and Time Magazine Covers

Left: LIFE Magazine, April 7, 1952
- Cover: Marilyn Monroe
- Title: There is a Case for Interplanetary Saucers

Right: TIME Magazine, May 16, 1955
- Cover: Marilyn Monroe
Monroe performing for US troops in Korea
Film career in the 1950s

- Minor roles in: Asphalt Jungle (directed by John Huston) (1950) and All About Eve (with Bette Davis) (1950)

![Image of people in a film scene](GoneMovie.com)
Niagara (1953)
Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953)
The Seven Year Itch (1955)

Directed by Billy Wilder
The Prince and the Showgirl (1957)

- Directed and starring Laurence Olivier
Some Like It Hot (1959)

- Directed by Billy Wilder
- With Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon
The Misfits (1961)

- Starring Clark Gable and Montgomery Clift.
- Screenplay by Arthur Miller.
- Problems on set during filming.
- Monroe having problems with alcohol and drugs and often late or absent.
- Sent to hospital for detox for 2 weeks during filming.
Marilyn's Marriages

- Married James Dougherty (policeman) in 1942 (divorced in 1945).
Monroe and James Dougherty
Monroe and Joe Di Maggio
Monroe and Arthur Miller
Monroe and JFK

• Monroe sang 'Happy Birthday, Mr President' at a function at Madison Square Garden to celebrate JFK's 45th birthday.

• There were rumours that JFK and Monroe had had an affair.
Struggles with mental health and addiction

- Monroe struggled with her mental health and with alcohol and prescription drugs.
- She went for therapy and psychoanalysis with a number of different psychiatrists during her life and spent some time in psychiatric hospital in 1961.
Because she was frequently failing to turn up for filming she was dismissed (and replaced by Lee Remick) during the filming of 'Something's gotta give' in 1962 with Dean Martin.
Death

• On August 5\textsuperscript{th} 1962 Monroe's psychiatrist, Dr. Ralph Greenson telephoned the LAPD to tell them Monroe had been found dead at her appartment.

• Her death was recorded by the coroner as being caused by 'acute barbituate poisoning' and a 'probable suicide'.

• Her funeral was organised by Joe Di Maggio and just 31 close family and friends were present.