

THE 2021 LOWRY LOUNGE



Blue plaque, New Brighton promenade, 2019.

Cover image: Lowry (right) with Manx boatbuilder Jimmy Craige at Dollarton, Canada.
Image courtesy of University of British Columbia Library, Rare Books and Special Collections,
Malcolm Lowry Collection P1010153



SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER

**AN AFTERNOON CELEBRATING
THE WRITER MALCOLM LOWRY**



THE 2021 LOWRY LOUNGE

Due to lockdown restrictions we were unable to hold a Lowry Lounge in 2020. This year we return to find out what has been happening (to adapt the title of one of Lowry's stories) *through the Pandemic*.

Author of acclaimed modernist novel *Under the Volcano*, Malcolm Lowry (1909-57) was honoured in 2019 with a blue heritage plaque in his home town, New Brighton. This local recognition, which the Bluecoat was involved in, complements our annual Lowry Lounge celebration, which this year includes a programme of illustrated talks about his life and work, alongside creative interpretations by artists.

PROGRAMME

1.00pm

Welcome and introduction

Update from **Bryan Biggs**, **Ailsa Cox** and **Helen Tookey** on Lowry happenings, including a report, *Letter from Cuernavaca*, on last year's Mexican Colloquium, and *Malcolm Lowry: Remaking the Voyage*, a collection of essays on Lowry's 'lost' novel, *In Ballast to the White Sea*.

1.20pm

Lowry: Hear Us O Lord From Heaven Thy Dwelling Place/Through The Panama

Alan Dunn introduces his research project concerning Lowry's ecological writing and current concerns over our plastic-polluted oceans, while **Rob Keith** takes us on a journey through the Panama Canal.

2.00pm

Following Lowry: Place, Text and Belonging

Helen Tookey discusses and reads from her work-in-progress creative-critical non-fiction book inspired by Lowry, reflecting on how a shared creative engagement with a (long-dead) writer can affect one's own relationship to place and help generate a sense of community and belonging.

2.20pm

Lowry/Burroughs/Cut/Up

Colin Dilnot discusses correspondences between Lowry and American writer William Burroughs, whose cut-up technique arguably echoes Lowry's collage approach, as he shares his own work towards a cut-up of *Under the Volcano*.

2.40pm Break. The Bluecoat café will be open for the sale of refreshments.

3.10pm

Lonely Vigil: sexuality and friendship in Under the Volcano

Michael Romer compares the character of Dr Vigil in the novel's first and later published versions, as he discusses Lowry's positive portrayal of a strong friendship between two men with similar or different sexualities

3.30pm

Desafinado: Malcolm Lowry and Bossa Nova

Lowry's fascination with music, especially 'hot' jazz', is well documented, Perhaps a lesser-known musical connection is to Brazil's own take on jazz, the bossa nova. **Mark Goodall** reveals all as he explains what links morbid poetry with breezy songs such as 'The Girl from Ipanema'.

3.50pm

Open Malc: Through the Pandemic

An opportunity for audience members to pay personal tribute to the writer, perhaps what he has meant to them through the pandemic.

4.30pm

Lowry toast

To end the afternoon, a celebratory drink and opportunity to purchase some Lowry-related books and CDs.