

# The Works and Influence of Charles Portis: A Symposium

November 2--5, 2023

University of Arkansas Fort Smith,

Fort Smith, Arkansas

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of English, Rhetoric & Writing, and Media Communication

Department of History, Social Sciences, and Philosophy

## CALL FOR PAPERS

A Call for Papers on the Works and Influence of author, veteran, journalist, bureau chief, and Arkansawyer, Charles Portis for a Symposium hosted by the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. In celebration of the May 2023 publication of the *Library of America series, The Collected Works of Charles Portis*, edited by Jay Jennings, this symposium explores the writing and cultural influence of Portis.

We welcome proposals from a wide range of disciplines, with a focus on Portis's work and literary legacy. Suggested topics include:

- **Criticism and literary interpretations of Portis's numerous novels, (*Norwood*, *True Grit*, *The Dog of the South*, *Masters of Atlantis*, and *Gringos*) short stories, essays, and articles;**
- **Film adaptations of Portis's works**
- **Approaches to historical fiction**
- **Cultural tourism, travel writing, travel and ecocriticism, travel and identity;**
- **Mid-South and Southern fiction, regionalism;**
- **Frontier studies;**
- **Portis's nonfiction and journalistic writing;**
- **Pedagogical approaches to Portis's work and films.**

Portis received numerous awards, including the *Oxford American's* Lifetime Achievement in Southern Literature and the Porter Prize Anniversary Lifetime Achievement Award, and was a contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *The Oxford American*.

This University of Arkansas Fort Smith symposium features Jay Jennings and support from Jonathan Portis, the City of Fort Smith, local museums and organizations, the Fort Smith Historical Society, ACTELA (Arkansas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts) among other statewide sponsors.

## Submissions due by June 19, 2023

Submit to: [portisportal@uafs.edu](mailto:portisportal@uafs.edu)

**Please include the following with your submission:**

- Paper title, abstract (no more than 300 words)
- Biographical summary (no more than 100 words)
- Please note any interest in panel or chairing sessions

