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N E W S R E L E A S E

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“Politics and Press of Fear” is subject at Book Fest

Nebraska journalist Don Hollenbeck will be the focus of a session, “The Politics and Press of Fear,” on Oct. 18 at the Nebraska Book Festival in downtown Lincoln.

According to biographer Loren Ghiglione, Hollenbeck was a “pioneering press critic who has been portrayed as a one-dimensional figure, a victim of McCarthyism who killed himself after being red-baited. But he was a fascinatingly complex human being—an impulsive, compulsive truth-teller who survived alcoholism, his mother’s suicide, three failed marriages, and firings by NBC and ABC to become a symbol of the best of broadcast journalism.”

A fictionalized Hollenbeck figures in George Clooney’s 2005 movie, “Good Night, and Good Luck.” Clips of the film will be shown and discussed during the free 3 p.m. session at the Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P streets.

Ghiglione will describe Hollenbeck’s life in Lincoln and Omaha, his work as a broadcast journalist for CBS after World War II and his experiences as a reporter in the Joe McCarthy era.

Ghiglione is the author of “CBS’s Don Hollenbeck: An Honest Reporter in the Age of McCarthyism.” His latest book, “Radio’s Revolution: Don Hollenbeck’s CBS Views the Press,” a collection of transcripts of Hollenbeck’s best radio broadcasts, will be published in November by the University of Nebraska Press.

“A similar politics of fear is alive and well in the era of terrorism,” Ghiglione said. “We can learn from Hollenbeck’s life the cost and courage of being an honest reporter in an age of partisan politics and media.”

Professor of media ethics at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, a four-time Pulitzer Prize juror and former president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication, Ghiglione is former president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the editor and author of several books on journalism.

The Nebraska Book Festival is a two-day celebration of books, readers and writers. It begins Oct. 17 with a keynote address by Kent Haruf in the Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol. The film “Trumbo” will later be shown at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center. The film details the life of award-winning Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, who was blacklisted in the 1950s. The festival concludes Oct. 18 with a reception honoring Paul Johnsgard, noted Nebraska biologist, ornithologist and author of 50 books on natural history.

For more information, visit www.nebraskabookfestival.org.

The Nebraska Book Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and Nebraska Library Commission. Other funders include the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Arts Council and the “We the People” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.