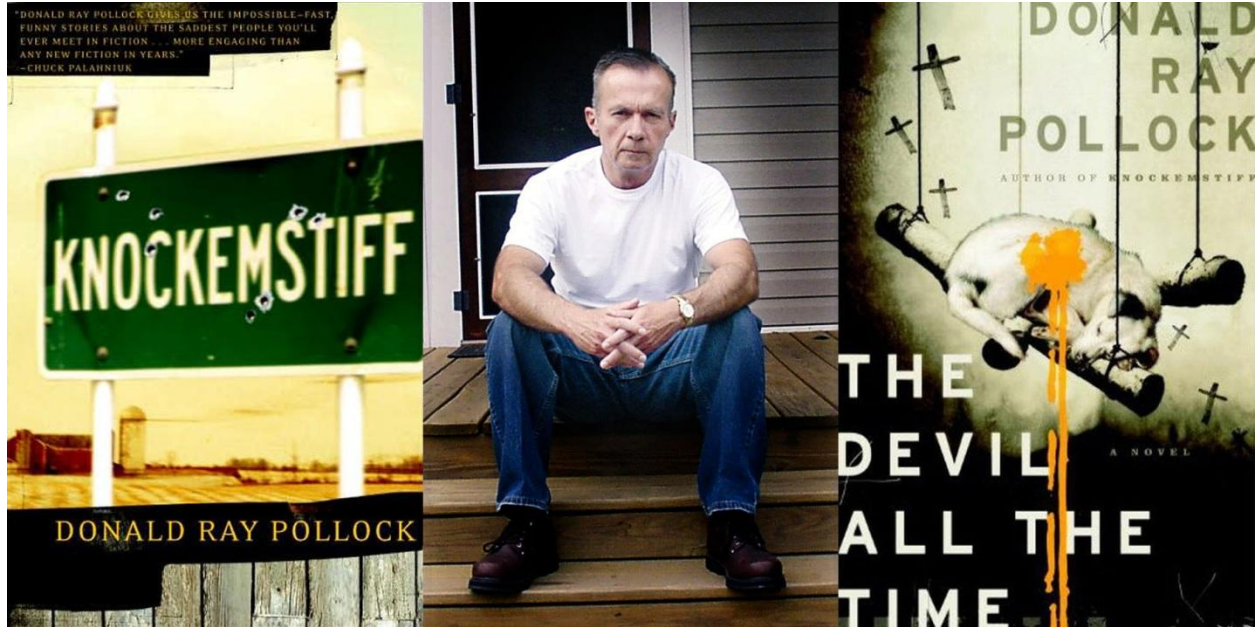


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SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
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CUTLINE: Donald Ray Pollock, award-winning author of “Knockemstiff” and “The Devil All The Time,” will kick off Southern State Community College’s Reading Series with a Nov. 8 event.

## ‘Knockemstiff’ author to kick off SSCC Reading Series on Nov. 8

Award-winning author Donald Ray Pollock will kick off the new Reading Series at Southern State Community College with a tour stop 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, in the Lecture Hall on the college’s Central Campus, 100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro. The event is free to the public and will include a reading, book-signing and meet-the-author reception.

Pollock’s short story collection, “Knockemstiff,” garnered the 2009 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize and the 2009 Devil’s Kitchen Award in Prose, while his follow-up novel, “The Devil All The Time,” was listed on the 2012 Publisher’s Weekly Top Ten Books of the Year and helped earn its author a 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Born in 1954 and raised in Knockemstiff, Ohio, Pollock has lived his entire adult life in Chillicothe where he worked at the Mead Paper Mill as a laborer and truck driver until age 50, when he enrolled in the English program at Ohio University and followed up with an MFA program at The Ohio State University. While Pollock was a student at Ohio State, Doubleday published “Knockemstiff” and the *New York Times* regularly posted his election dispatches from southern Ohio throughout the 2008 campaign. His work has appeared in various literary journals, including *Epoch*, *Sou’wester*, *Granta*, *Third Coast*, *River Styx*, *The Journal*, *Boulevard*, and *PEN America*.

Spanning a period from the mid-’60s to the late ’90s, the stories in “Knockemstiff” feature a cast of recurring characters who are woebegone, baffled, and depraved—but irresistibly, undeniably real. Rendered in the American vernacular with vivid imagery and a wry, dark sense of humor, these thwarted and sometimes violent lives jump off the page at the reader with inexorable force.

Set in rural southern Ohio and West Virginia, “The Devil All the Time” follows a cast of compelling and bizarre characters from the end of World War II to the 1960s. There’s Willard Russell, tormented veteran of the

carnage in the South Pacific, who can't save his beautiful wife, Charlotte, from an agonizing death by cancer no matter how much sacrificial blood he pours on his "prayer log." There's Carl and Sandy Henderson, a husband-and-wife team of serial killers, who troll America's highways searching for suitable models to photograph and exterminate. There's the spider-handling preacher Roy and his crippled virtuoso-guitar-playing sidekick, Theodore, running from the law. And caught in the middle of all this is Arvin Eugene Russell, Willard and Charlotte's orphaned son, who grows up to be a good but also violent man in his own right.

For more information about the Nov. 8 Pollock event or the Southern State Community College Reading Series, please contact Jason Reynolds at 1-800-628-7722, ext. 4694, or [jreynolds@sscc.edu](mailto:jreynolds@sscc.edu).

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