

Hi everyone,

If an average picture is worth a thousand words, then Ichiro Okada's portraits of Lawrence Block in this issue add up to a magnum opus. We asked Ichiro to give us images that reflected both the man and the writer and, as you can see, the results are stunning. For more of Ichiro's work, visit his website at <[www.ichirookada.com](http://www.ichirookada.com)>.



Larry himself likes to supplement the written word with pictures and other interesting items. Be sure to read about the "Philatelic Edition" of the latest Keller novel, *Hit and Run*, in our interview; an example of the specially-printed U.S. stamp is shown here.

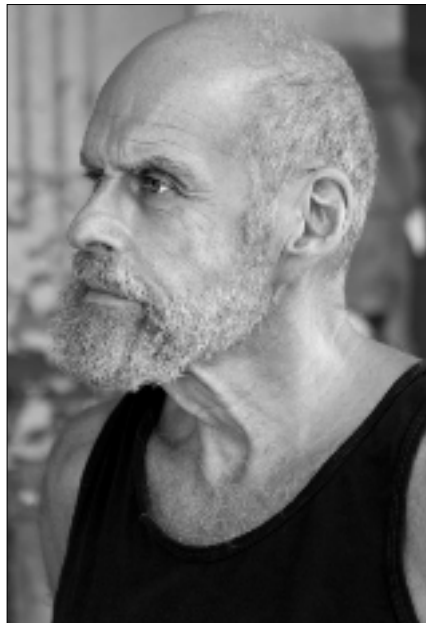
In Stanley Ellin's classic short story "The Day of the Bullet," a young boy's future—and eventual death—is determined the day he sees his idolized father humiliated by a local mobster.

A similar—albeit more positive—turning point in the life of a young Florida boy came the day he turned on the TV and found *Police Story*, Joseph Wambaugh's groundbreaking anthology series.

That day sent Jim Born into law enforcement, then into a career writing about cops, and eventually into this issue with a heartfelt tribute to his literary hero.

Other highlights of this issue include a chat with southern cozy writer Mary Saums; an appreciation of Thomas B. Dewey; and a look at what happens when lawyers go to the movies.

In the intriguing "Music, Murder & Mayhem," Kevin Burton Smith considers "The Long Black Veil"—a song which has become



Lawrence Block in a photo by Ichiro Okada.

something of an obsession of mine. Kevin calls it "timeless backwoods noir" and plumps for The Band's 1968 cover as the best ever. Well, he's right about the song but so wrong about the singer. After listening to dozens of versions—my iPod playlists are a strange brew—I'm here to tell you that nothing beats the Dave Matthews duet with Emmylou Harris. Unfortunately it hasn't been released for sale and the only way to hear it is in a TV video clip from the 1999 "All Star Tribute to Johnny Cash." Check it out on YouTube, it will give you shivers.

Best wishes,  
KATE STINE  
*Editor-in-chief*

P.S. What's your favorite crime song? Let us know and we'll create a Mystery Scene Playlist for the Fall Issue.

## Mystery Scene Online

In addition to our website, *Mystery Scene* is online at several places including MySpace and Crime-space. The *Mystery Scene* Blog offers news, events, reviews, and excerpts. Bookflings, "a blog for the promiscuous reader," is run by Brian Skupin. Please add your opinions and comments to the mix!

### MYSTERY SCENE BLOG

[www.mysteryscenemag.com/msblog/](http://www.mysteryscenemag.com/msblog/)

### BOOKFLINGS BLOG

[www.mysteryscenemag.com/bookflings/](http://www.mysteryscenemag.com/bookflings/)

### MYSFACE

[www.myspace.com/mysteryscene](http://www.myspace.com/mysteryscene)

### CRIMESPACE

<http://crimespace.ning.com/profile/mysteryscene>

## THE Docket

### 2008

**June 12-22:** International Mystery Writers Festival. Owensboro, KY. Premieres new mystery plays including Agatha Christie, Stuart Kaminsky and Ray Bradbury this year. <[www.newmysteries.org](http://www.newmysteries.org)>

**June 20-22:** Deadly Ink Mystery Conference Parsippany, NY. GOH: Jane Cleland. <[www.deadlyink.com/conference.html](http://www.deadlyink.com/conference.html)>

**July 9-12:** ThrillerFest, New York, NY GOH: Sandra Brown. <[www.thrillerwriters.org](http://www.thrillerwriters.org)>

**Oct. 9-12:** Bouchercon 2008: Baltimore, MD. US GOH: Laura Lippman; Intl. GOH: John Harvey. <[www.charmedtodeath.com](http://www.charmedtodeath.com)>

**Oct. 19:** NYC Collectable Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo. Holiday Inn, 440 West 57th St., NYC. <[www.gryphonbooks.com](http://www.gryphonbooks.com)>

**Oct. 24-26:** Magna cum Murder 2008: Muncie, IN. Sponsored by Ball State University. GOH: Louise Penny. <[www.magnacummurder.com](http://www.magnacummurder.com)>

**Oct. 31-Nov. 2:** Great Manhattan Mystery Conclave. Manhattan, KS. GOH: Eve K. Sandstrom aka JoAnna Carl. <[www.manhattanmysteries.com](http://www.manhattanmysteries.com)>

**Nov. 5-9:** Tony Hillerman Writers Conference. Albuquerque, NY, KS. <[www.wordharvest.com](http://www.wordharvest.com)>

### 2009

**Feb. 6-8:** Love is Murder, Chicago, IL. GOH: Jeffery Deaver, Alex Kava. <[www.loveismurder.net](http://www.loveismurder.net)>

**March 7-12:** Left Coast Crime, Waikoloa, HI. <[www.leftcoastcrime.org](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org)>

**May 1-3:** Malice Domestic XXI, Arlington, VA. <[www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org)>

**May 14-17:** Crimefest 2009: Bristol, UK. Featured: Karin Fossum, Jeff Lindsay, Ian Rankin. <[www.crimefest.com](http://www.crimefest.com)>

**June 5-7:** Bloody Words VIII, Ottawa, Canada. GOH: Louise Penny. <[www.bloodywords.com](http://www.bloodywords.com)>

**Oct. 15-18:** Bouchercon 2009, Indianapolis, IN. GOH: Michael Connelly. <[www.bouchercon2009.com](http://www.bouchercon2009.com)>

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