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# SYNERGY

JAWNTS | JAKE BLUMGART

## Celebrating the noir side of life

### NOIRCON

Literature, film, art and poetry will be celebrated. Topics will include the Black Dahlia and Bruce Springsteen's music.

► **Wednesday:**  
Noir at the Bar, 9 to 11 p.m.  
Misconduct Tavern, 1511 Locust St.

► **Thursday:** "The Prowler," 1 to 4 p.m., International House, 3701 Chestnut St.; panels, 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Mausoleum of Contemporary Art, 531 N. 12th St.

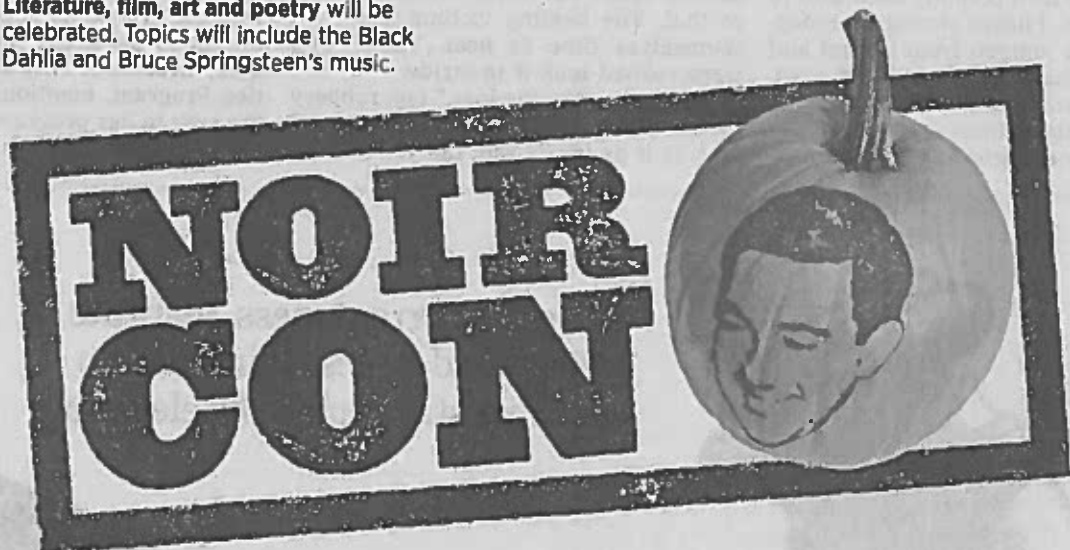
► **Friday:** Panels and interviews, and Halloween party, 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Society Hill Playhouse, 507 S. Eighth St.

► **Saturday:** Keynote speaker, panels, interviews, and award dinner, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Society Hill Playhouse.

► **Sunday:** Closing ceremony, Port Richmond Books, 3037 Richmond St.

► **Registration** is \$250 for five days. Prices vary for individual days.

► For more information, visit [www.noircon.com](http://www.noircon.com).



This week, noir fans are advised to flock down the mean streets of Philadelphia for the fourth iteration of the biannual NoirCon. From Wednesday through Sunday, writers and fans will have their pick of panels, movie screenings, and lectures on the arcane mysteries of that most stylish of genres.

The first attempt at this literary gathering occurred in 2007, when fans of local author David Goodis gathered to celebrate his neglected legacy. Most of Goodis' novels are uniformly grim tales of working-class heroes and shabby gangsters set in an unnamed industrial city (it's Philly). With Goodis' low profile, NoirCon was created to expand the convention's appeal. Previous guest stars have included Lawrence Block (2012), George Pelecanos (2010), and Ken Bruen (2008).

"We have a cast of characters coming from all over the world," says Lou Boxer, one

of NoirCon's organizers. "There is a core group of people who keep coming and it grows year after year. It's a great way to meet authors."

This time the star turn is provided by Fuminori Nakamura, a young writer who won numerous awards in Japan before the release of his U.S. debut, *The Thief*, which was featured on a lot of year-end "Best Of" lists. On Saturday he will be interviewed by Tom Nolan, who reviews crime fiction for the Wall Street Journal.



NoirCon begins Wednesday night at Misconduct Tavern in Center City, where a pack of crime writers will read selections from their work at the boozy Locust Street locale. The next day at International House, there will be a presentation of *The Prowler*, a highly regarded (but since forgotten) 1950s thriller about a man's twisted efforts to win a woman's heart, and a shot at the American dream. "Czar of Noir" Eddie Muller will also

be interviewed about the film's tumultuous history.

That night the Philadelphia Mausoleum of Contemporary Art will host a number of panels, including "Veering Off the Highway: How Springsteen's Music Shapes Crime Fiction" and "Dr. Seuss' Noir."

On Friday the action moves to the Society Hill Playhouse, featuring author panels with the likes of ex-L.A. detective Steve Hodel and regional panels, ranging from Louisville to Boston. That night, there will be readings by Nakamura and other authors at Rembrandt's Bar & Grill, an appropriately ghoulish way to spend Halloween. The interview with Nakamura is Saturday at the Playhouse, where Eric Miles Williamson, a gritty Oakland, Calif.-centered author, will give the keynote speech.

For a complete schedule, visit [www.noircon.com](http://www.noircon.com).

Have an event for Jawnts?  
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