

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AT SALADO PRESENTS ITS SECOND ANNUAL
HARRY A. WILMER, II LECTURESHIP FEATURING THE DOCUDRAMA **PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE**
WITH DISCUSSION AND COMMENTARY BY
PAMELA MARVIN AND DR. HARRY WILMER
RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE

In 1955, Navy psychiatrist Dr. Harry Wilmer was granted permission to conduct an experiment at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. For ten days, he withdrew all restraints from a group of psychiatric servicemen and let them sample community living. This form of group therapy was revolutionary in its time and paved the way for many advances in the treatment of psychiatric patients. Dr. Wilmer's pioneering work in group psychotherapy was dramatized for television in 1961. The resulting one-hour docudrama **People Need People** was hosted by Fred Astaire. It starred Lee Marvin as the most volatile patient and Arthur Kennedy as Dr. Wilmer. The film received five Emmy nominations.

Pamela Marvin

Mrs. Marvin is the author of *Lee: A Romance*, a biography of her late husband Lee Marvin. Not long after the Marvins married in 1970, Mrs. Marvin was introduced to Dr. Harry Wilmer and his wife, Jane. Mr. Marvin had forged a close personal relationship with the Wilmers while filming **People Need People**. Mr. Marvin had also joined Dr. Wilmer at San Quentin Prison where the docudrama was adapted for the stage. Both Mr. and Mrs. Marvin served on the board of trustees of the Institute for the Humanities. In 1995, Mrs. Marvin presented a lecture and seminar at the Institute titled *Lee: Beyond the Silver Screen*. Mrs. Marvin is currently working on a book detailing her late husband's film career.



Dr. Harry Wilmer

Dr. Wilmer is known in central Texas as founder of the Institute for the Humanities at Salado. But long before he was enriching the cultural fabric of our community, he was making ground-breaking contributions to the field of psychotherapy. In 1955, Dr. Wilmer pioneered group psychotherapy in America while working at Oakland Naval Hospital. His book about this work, *Social Psychiatry in Action*, formed the basis of the television movie **People Need People**. The movie starred Lee Marvin, with whom Dr. Wilmer formed a lifelong friendship. Dr. Wilmer later worked with Vietnam veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. In 1980, Dr. Wilmer and his wife, Jane, founded the Institute for the Humanities. He served as its director until 1997. The Harry A. Wilmer, II Lectureship celebrates his contributions to the humanities and the Salado community.



Sunday, January 23, 2005 ● 3:00 – 5:00 pm ● Salado Silver Spur Theater ● 108 Royal Street

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC