William S. Burroughs, often called the “Godfather of the Beats,” was the author of perhaps the most infamous novel in American literature: *Naked Lunch*. He was also an artist, photographer, performer, satirist and collaborator with Beat writers Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. The character of Old Bull Lee in Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road* was based on William S. Burroughs. *Burroughs: The Movie* was the first feature length documentary on William S. Burroughs. Filmed over a five-year period and completed in 1983, it captures much about the life, work and sensibility of its subject. *Naked Lunch* is a 1991 film loosely based on William S. Burroughs’ novel of the same title. It was directed by David Cronenberg and stars Peter Weller, Judy Davis, Ian Holm and Roy Scheider.

Norman Mailer said of William Burroughs, “I think that William Burroughs is the only American novelist living today who may conceivably be possessed by genius.”

Exterminate all rational thought.—William Burroughs