

Jung and Film

A discussion forum for exploring the paradoxical nature of love through the medium of film



PRESENTERS: John Gosling, Renee Ramsden,
Grace Reid

Venue: C G Jung Centre, 87 Main Road,
Rosebank, Cape Town 7700

Time: Friday evenings at
18h00 for 18h30

*Archetypal symbols penetrate the emotions at a deep level and give the cinema its power to bypass the conscious state and go into the unconscious. Immersion in film viewing distracts the ego so that it disengages from its usual function as the primary filter of awareness...the unconscious, stimulated by symbols in the film, releases archetypal energies in the spectator's psyche. (John Izod and Joanna Dovalis in **Cinema as Therapy**)*

This year we will be reflecting on what Jung refers to as “the incalculable paradoxes of love”, as it relates to the archetype of the Self, the central organizer of the human psyche, and which synchronizes the growth of the human being, from conception and birth, through all the phases of life, from youth to old age, and finally, death. Jung says of the archetypal influences in our psyches: we are compelled to act by these energies, but are also free to reflect and thus make choices in terms of our actions.

Through the medium of film, we can reflect on the drama of life as it is played out by the various characters in the films who are often gripped by archetypal energies that compel them to action. This gives us the opportunity to observe the archetypal energies that often determines our fate while also becoming aware of the human capacity for reflection that, through increasing awareness, allows for choice and hence the determination of our destiny within the parameters of our fate. In the movies we have chosen, we will explore the origin of love as expressed in various mythologies and also see the paradoxical nature of this archetype in action, both in its destructive and healing aspects.

These evenings are open to all who are interested. A panel discussion based on each film/documentary will be offered to participants by the above 3 analysts.

Dates and topics

9 March: Lars and the Real Girl



In this heartwarming story set in a small midwestern town in the USA, Lars Linstrom (played by Paul Giamatti) is a painfully shy young man living in the garage behind the home of his mother. Unable to approach a human, yet yearning for relationship, Lars orders a life-sized doll from the internet and introduces her to the townspeople as his girlfriend. Eventually, his sister-in-law asks the town doctor and psychologist for help. The doctor diagnoses her with low blood pressure and asks Lars to bring her for treatment once a week. She also asks the townspeople to treat Bianca as a real girl. During the course of the "treatments" Lars's story gradually unfolds. A crisis and resolution in the relationship with Bianca take place alongside this process. These brilliantly illustrate the power of projection, and the way in which it can be instrumental in a healing and transformation journey.

4 May: A Beautiful Mind



This is a human drama about the struggle of a true genius, inspired by events in the life of John Nash, Jr., a talented mathematician who has been compared to Newton, Mendel and Darwin. Nash becomes a victim of schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is the most chronic and disabling of mental illnesses and it distorts the way a person thinks, acts, expresses emotions, and relates to others. The movie stars Russell Crowe as Nash, and Jennifer Connelly as Alicia, who is pregnant with their child when the first symptoms of his disease begin. The film sheds light on the life and suffering of a person living with schizophrenia, as well as highlighting the burden a psychiatric illness can put on loved ones. It is a moving portrayal of how, through the love and support from his wife and colleagues, he is able to manage his illness and return to living a normal life.

15 June: Never Let Me Go



Three young people (Cassie Mulligan), Tommy (Andrew Garfield) and Ruth (Keira Knightley) grow up together at a boarding school in the English countryside. However, all is not as it appears to be. Their lives are complicated not only by intense sexual tensions and betrayal, but also by the fact that their lives are to provide the means of survival for other members of their society. Adapted by Nobel Prize-winning British author Kazuo Ishiguro (which was a surprise), Never Let Me Go grapples with fundamental questions of identity and the power of projection to determine the course of human lives.

3 August: Appointment with a wise old dog



This is a documentary about the inner world of David Blum, author and internationally renowned composer/conductor of classical music. Diagnosed with cancer and the age of 52, he discovered that drawing images from his dream helped him cope with his illness and death in a profoundly unexpected way. This film documents the miraculous

power of the human spirit and demonstrates movingly how in times of serious crisis, when we question mortality, we can depend on deep inner resources we all have – to listen to and trust them can bring us comfort and even transcendence. (Jutta von Bucholtz) I have studied and meditated on David Blum’s extraordinary documentation of his dreams and inner work – the immense gifts that were given to him from his unconscious and poured into images and music. We are intrigued on all levels – emotional, imaginal, intellectual. Our hearts are split open as we watch the process of the inner marriage. (Marion Woodman)

21 Sept: Venus Uncovered: Ancient Goddess of Love



“Venus Uncovered” is the remarkable story of one of antiquity’s most potent life forces. In this documentary, Professor Bettany Hughes, an English historian, author, and broadcaster, embarks on a voyage of discovery to reveal the truth behind the Venus depicted in the famous painting by Velazquez, the “Rokeby Venus”. Beginning in Cyprus, the goddess’s mythical birthplace, Hughes decodes Venus’s relationship to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, and, in turn, Aphrodite’s complex origins both as a Cypriot spirit of fertility and procreation but also as a descendant of the prehistoric war goddesses of the Near

and Middle East, Ishtar, Inanna and Astarte. Hughes meets world experts who reveal the mysterious and obscure ways this ancient goddess was imagined and worshipped. She remains a beguiling force in our psyches – complex, dangerous, compelling, and worthy of our respect. We trivialise the power of this archetypal force at our peril. We will encounter aspects of this archetypal energy again in our next film, “Wonder Woman”.

16 November: Wonder Woman



In this film, director Patty Jenkins redefines how the world sees women. No woman has ever directed a more successful live-action film. The film tells the story of Princess Diana, who grows up on the Amazon island of Themyscira. After American pilot Steve Trevor crashes offshore of the island and is rescued by her, he tells the Amazons about the ongoing World War. Diana then leaves her home in order to confront and end the conflict. Jenkins creates a world in which women take for granted that they have the power to fight back, a universe in which a strong, aggressive, sensual, and ambitious woman can be admired and followed. “It is aggression from a woman’s point of view,” says Jenkins, that women feel but that is seldom seen on screen.

Even though Wonder Woman is a goddess and therefore has special powers, in the course of the film she also undergoes a coming of age process. There are several archetypal themes underpinning this film that offers us a fascinating and compelling viewing experience. As the #MeToo campaign has unfolded and with the increasing awareness of the negative impact of the patriarchy on all of us, this film about a woman that can stand up to the negative destructive masculine and win is timely and inspiring.

About the presenters

RENEE RAMSDEN: is a clinical psychologist and a Jungian analyst working in private practice in Wynberg, Cape Town, for 29 years. She is a founder member of the Southern African Association for Jungian Analysts (SAAJA) and a training analyst. She specializes in dream-analysis and has been studying alchemy and psychology as presented by C.G. Jung for

25 years. She has a longstanding interest in ancient goddess cultures and their relevance for the feminine in our current world.

JOHN GOSLING: is a psychiatrist and Jungian analyst. He trained at the C.G. Jung Institute of New York and returned to Cape Town in 2004. He is a past- president of SAAJA and is also a training analyst. He has a special interest in dreams, complexes, archetypes and how psychoneurobiology informs our work and approach to psyche. He is also interested in exploring how the principles of analytical psychology can be applied in helping children in traumatised communities and how these principles can be applied to help us better understand politics, films, literature, and the opera.

GRACE REID: Grace Reid is a psychologist and Jungian analyst who practices psychotherapy, psychoanalysis and supervision in Kenilworth. Her training and education took place mostly in the United States, where she was in private practice for five years before moving to Cape Town in 1990. She is currently the secretary of SAAJA's Exco and is also a training analyst.

**CPD points applied for: 1 point per evening
For 6 evenings: 6 points**

**Fee: R200.00 per film evening
Light supper, drinks, coffee/tea, and sweets included
Numbers are limited to 25.
Booking essential**

**Bookings and payments need to be made 3 days before each event for catering purposes.
Your proof of payment is your entrance ticket. No Refunds.**

Booking through Lynda Blanchard at saaja@mweb.co.za

SAAJA banking details

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ACCOUNT NO.: 072975059
BANK CODE: 025-009

Please note: PARKING

Please park at the Baxter Theatre or along Woolsack Drive. The parking at C G Jung Centre is reserved for presenters and caterers who have equipment and goods to unload/load.

Entrance to the Centre is via the gate on Main Road or via the gate on Linray Road

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to welcoming you at these film evenings.