

Massachusetts Institute For Psychoanalysis and
The Psychoanalytic Couple And Family Institute Of New England (PCFINE) present:

**“Working Through Trauma: The Healing Power of Narrative in Psychoanalysis
and Film”**

Saturday, April 11, 2009, 9:00AM – 4:30PM

Arsenal Theater of the Arts – The Charles Mosesian Theater, Watertown, MA

Symbolization through the construction of an affective narrative has been fundamental to the theory of emotional healing since psychoanalysis began. This process is particularly difficult with patients who have sustained traumas that shatter their sense of safety, psychic integration and values, such as war trauma. This full day program, featuring renowned documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, explores the common goals of psychoanalysis and documentary films to create links between words and images that begin to heal trauma. Film clips, papers, and personal reflections will address the ways that narratives are constructed to contain and transform both personal and collective traumas.

PRESENTERS

Ken Burns has been making films for more than thirty years, producing and directing some of the most celebrated historical documentaries ever made. Among his films—twenty in total—are the highly acclaimed series *The Civil War*, *Baseball and Jazz*, as well as his most recent film, *The War*, which tells the story of the Second World War through the personal accounts of nearly 40 men and women from four quintessentially American towns. Burns’s films have received dozens of major awards, including seven Emmy Awards and two Oscar nominations.

Donna Bassin, psychoanalyst and filmmaker, is a member and faculty at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research in New York City as well as Assistant Professor in the Department of Creative Arts Therapy, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. She is the author of numerous papers and reviews on gender, mourning and trauma. Her pinhole photography has been shown in galleries. She is in private practice in New York City.

Sue Grand is Faculty and Supervisor, NYU Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, Supervisor, Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis, and Faculty, Psychoanalytic Institute for Northern California. She is an Associate Editor of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, and the author of *The Reproduction of Evil: A Clinical and Cultural Perspective* and the forthcoming *Re-Conceiving the Heroic: On Terror and Resistance*.

Gerry Stechler is Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine, and former Chairperson of the Dept. of Child Psychiatry. He is Past-president of the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis, and currently serves on the faculty and as a supervising analyst. He is a founder and current Chairman of the Board of the Psychoanalytic Couple and Family Institute of New England.

Jaine Darwin is a supervisor and faculty member of MIP, Harvard Medical School, and the Cambridge Health Alliance. She is Co-Director of SOFAR, Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists, past president of Division 39 of the American Psychological Association and winner of the Paul Myerson Award from MIP. She is currently serving as Representative to the APA Council of Representatives.

Learning Objectives:

1. To identify the common elements between documentary film and psychoanalysis in addressing and healing psychic trauma.
2. To show how the development of a personal narrative in the context of a human relationship (analyst-patient or film maker-audience) provides a symbolic scaffolding for previously unbearable memories and affects.
3. To demonstrate how this narrative enables the individual patient of the collective national audience to remember, repeat, and work-through trauma.
4. To show how trauma created by war must be addressed both on the intimate, personal level as well as that of the collective consciousness.

Suggested Readings:

- Bassin, D. (2003), A Not-So-Temporary Occupation Inside Ground Zero, In *9/11: Trauma at Home*.
Ed. J. Greenberg, University of Nebraska Press.
- Burns, K. (2007), The War, National PBS Broadcast, September 2007.
- Freud, S. (1917). Mourning and Melancholia, *Standard Edition*, XIV.
- Grand, S. (2000). *The Reproduction of Evil: A Clinical and Cultural Perspective*, Analytic Press.
- Stechler, G. (2003). Affect: The Heart of the Matter, *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13:711-726.

Continuing Education

Psychologists: The Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis (MIP) is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. MIP maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Social Workers: As of this publication, MIP has submitted an application for obtaining continuing education units for social workers.

Physicians: The Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis designates this educational activity for a maximum 6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s) TM. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis is accredited by the Massachusetts Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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