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MYTHIC JOURNEYS 2006 CELEBRATES IMAGINATION AND THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

Deepak Chopra, Robert Bly and Coleman Barks are among a diverse slate of speakers and performers at the second biennial international conference and performance festival

ATLANTA, GA – Mythic Journeys 2006 will gather some of the world’s leading scholars, psychologists, educators, business leaders, artists, authors, filmmakers and performers to continue a significant interdisciplinary dialogue on the key role storytelling and imagination play in contemporary life from June 7 – 11, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Mythic Journeys embraces the notion that “myths” reveal truth through fiction. These stories, which have stood the test of time, provide vibrant insight to navigate life’s journey in any time. They facilitate cross-cultural understanding. And they are reborn and reinterpreted every day from the hero’s journey in *Star Wars* to the multiple versions of individual experiences on 9-11.

“In today’s complex world, people increasingly are seeking a renewed sense of purpose, meaning, context and creativity,” says Michael Karlin, co-president and co-founder of the Mythic Imagination Institute, the non-profit arts and education corporation that organizes the event. “Mythic Journeys’ mission is to help people reconnect to the fundamental foundation for a meaningful life that such stories provided for millennia.”

(more)

James Hillman, the father of archetypal psychology, called the first biennial Mythic Journeys, held in June 2004 in honor of the Joseph Campbell centennial, the first-ever “spiritual Spoleto” festival. Merging roundtable conversations and workshops with a multicultural art exhibit, marketplace, theatre, music and dance performances, the 2004 conference and performance festival expanded the discourse started by Joseph Campbell (1904 – 1987), the great authority on mythology and subject of the popular “Power of Myth” PBS-TV series.

Mythic Journeys 2006 program participants include bestselling author and spiritual leader **Deepak Chopra** (“Peace is the Way”), poet/essayist **Robert Bly** (“Iron John”), poet/translator **Coleman Barks** (“The Essential Rumi”), mythologist **Michael Meade** (“Men and the Water of Life”), cultural ecologist and philosopher **David Abram** (“The Spell of the Sensuous”), **Betty Sue Flowers** (director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum), artist **Brian Froud** (“Fairies”), cutting edge jazz musician **David Gonzalez**, African spiritual teacher and author **Sobonfu Somé**, director/producer/tenor **James Flannery** (founder of the Yeats International Theatre Festival in Dublin), and novelists **Peter S. Beagle** (“The Last Unicorn”) and **Charles de Lint** (“Moonheart”).

Event partners and sponsors also include the National Black Arts Festival, Joseph Campbell Foundation, Pacifica Graduate Institute, *Worthwhile* magazine, the Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life (MARIAL) at Emory University, Journey Into Wholeness and The Alliance for a New Humanity, a global non-profit organization seeking pathways to world peace co-founded by Deepak Chopra and Nobel Prize Laureates Oscar Arias and Betty Williams.

Mythic Imagination Institute, The Alliance for a New Humanity and Emory University also presented “War, Peace and the American Imagination,” a conversation between two of the world’s most prominent thinkers, Deepak Chopra and James Hillman, moderated by Dr. Jean Houston at Emory on September 20, 2005.

A complete list of Mythic Journeys 2006 program participants, as well as registration rates and a program overview, is available at www.mythicjourneys.org or by calling (404) 832-4127.

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About the Mythic Imagination Institute

Mythic Imagination Institute is an Atlanta-based non-profit arts and education corporation that seeks to activate imagination and intelligence by increasing mythic literacy. Through conferences, performances, art exhibitions, publications and other programs, the Institute builds bridges between disciplines: artists, business professionals, scholars, scientists and anyone who loves stories. Mythic Imagination Institute endeavors to bring the wisdom waiting inside the great myths, folklore and stories of the world to a wider audience in the hope of creating a world with more tolerance, passion, wonder and creativity. For more information, visit www.mythicimagination.org.

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