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## **A FESTIVAL OF THE IMAGINATION AT MYTHIC JOURNEYS**

*Stories, conversations, workshops and performances merge at interdisciplinary, multicultural conference and performance festival celebrating the role of myth and imagination in modern life*

ATLANTA, GA – Mythic Journeys 2006, MYTH AND IMAGINATION, is excited to announce its programming schedule. Over 100 of the world's leading scholars, psychologists, educators, business leaders, artists, authors, filmmakers and performers will continue a significant interdisciplinary dialogue on the key roles myth, storytelling and imagination play in contemporary life from June 7-11, 2006, at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Through a daily program of performance, storytelling, conversations and workshops, Mythic Journeys enlivens all the senses and activates the life of the emotions through powerful ideas, images and personalities in order to widen our capacity in the crucial, foundational realm of imagination, creativity and story.

Brought to popular attention by the explosive success of Bill Moyers' interviews with Joseph Campbell, a cross-cultural involvement with myth has become a connecting point in contemporary life, says Honora Foah, co-president of the Mythic Imagination Institute, Inc., the nonprofit arts and education corporation which organizes the event.

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“Myths are the reservoirs of human wisdom, and we need to know them,” she adds. “The wisdom in myth is the resource needed for the re-imagination of a sustainable world. From science and invention to relationships and meaning, the role of metaphor and story is central to our ability to make sense of our lives. This is supported by the latest linguistic research into brain structure.”

Each day at Mythic Journeys will begin with the “Big Story,” a theater piece or a presentation by a master storyteller and musicians. After workshops, contemporary issues such as War, Money, The Perception of Time, The Mindset of Iraq and The Function of Dream will be highlighted in “The Big Conversations,” spontaneous discussions including a mix of artists and thinkers from a variety of disciplines.

The dialogue will include such notables as bestselling author and spiritual leader **Deepak Chopra** (“Peace is the Way”), poet/translator **Coleman Barks** (“The Essential Rumi”), mythologist **Michael Meade** (“Men and the Water of Life”), internationally known psychiatrist **Jean Shinoda Bolen**, cultural ecologist and philosopher **David Abram** (“The Spell of the Sensuous”), **Betty Sue Flowers** (director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum), Guatemala’s Minister for Food and Nutrition **Andres Botran**, former Coca-Cola Company President **Jeff Dunn**, radio personality **Ellen Kushner** (“Sound and Spirit”), artist **Brian Froud** (“Faeries”), African spiritual teacher and author **Sobonfu Somé**, director/producer **James Flannery** (founder of the Yeats International Theatre Festival in Dublin) and novelists **Peter S. Beagle** (“The Last Unicorn”) and **Charles de Lint** (“Moonheart”).

Throughout the day, hands-on workshops, stories and living room conversations will offer close interaction with over 100 presenters and performers. In the evening, Mythic Journeys transforms into a performing arts festival with concerts, theater, dance and music. Performers will include “Jazz at the Smithsonian” artist **David Gonzalez**; internationally acclaimed concert pianist **Lorin Hollander**; dancer and martial artist **Chungliang Ai Huang**; Celtic rock stars **Emerald Rose**; Atlanta’s own singer/songwriter **Sheri Kling**; and **Ekiwah**, the young Mexican poet recently featured on “60 Minutes.”

Mythic Journeys will take place in two segments, beginning with a two-day In-Depth Pre-Conference June 7-8, limited to 250 attendees, and followed by the main weekend event June 9-11.

The first Mythic Journeys was held in June 2004 in celebration of the Joseph Campbell Centennial.

A complete list of program participants and sponsors, including registration rates and online forms, is available at [www.mythicjourneys.org](http://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 nonprofit 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 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](http://www.mythicimagination.org).

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