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

*Myth, conversations, workshops and performances merge at Mythic Journeys,  
a conference and performance festival celebrating Joseph Campbell Centennial*

**ATLANTA, GA** – Mythic Journeys will explore the legacy of noted mythologist Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) through a daily rhythm of gatherings, storytelling, workshops, performance, film and roundtable conversations. This unprecedented dialogue on the importance of imagination in contemporary life is set for June 3-6, 2004 at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel.

According to Honora Foah, Mythic Journeys' creative director, each day's diverse offerings will flow together to create a coherent experience reflective of "journey."

Guided by a specific theme—Creation, Metamorphosis, Yin, Yang—each day will begin with "The Big Story," told by master storytellers Michael Meade; Caitlin Matthews; flutist Ulla Suokko (Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year) who will open the four-day event with creation stories from the *Kalevala*; and Kennesaw State University's Department of Theatre and Performance Studies performing *The Hero's Journey: Mythic Stories of the Heroic Quest*.

A Mythic Journeys highlight will be "The Big Conversations" each afternoon—interdisciplinary discussions about contemporary issues through the lens of mythic imagination. Focusing on the daily theme, these roundtables will cover a range of topics, including "Aging as Metamorphosis," "Body: Warrior and Wound," "Violence in Fairy Tales" and "Images of Return, Resurrection and Renewal."

*(more)*

The spontaneous dialogue will include such notables as literary powerhouse Joyce Carol Oates and poet/essayist Robert Bly (*Iron John*); James Hillman, father of archetypal psychology, Wendy Doniger, world-renowned expert on the history of world religions, and Sam Keen, co-producer of the award-winning PBS documentary *Faces of the Enemy*; Jungian analyst Marion Woodman and Coleman Barks, poet/translator of *The Essential Rumi*; Scott Livengood, president/CEO of Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corporation, and Alan Lee, beloved illustrator and conceptual artist of *The Lord of the Rings* films.

In the late afternoon and evening, Mythic Journeys will transform into a performing arts festival with concerts, theater, dance, film, music and even a rock opera. Performances will include a concert by Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Janis Ian; a one-man show on C.S. Lewis by Tom Key, noted actor and artistic director of Theatrical Outfit—one of Atlanta’s most prestigious theater companies; readings from ecstatic poets Coleman Barks and Robert Bly, accompanied by Armenian musicians; and presentations by many other international artists.

Participants also can choose a different workshop each morning and afternoon, with topics ranging from “The Reimagination of the Corporation” with Scott Livengood to mask-making with Brian and Wendy Froud; from exploring gnosis with Richard Smoley to viewing films by guests Michael Tobias, Mickey Lemle or Kevin Peer, who will discuss “Cinema as Sacred Art.”

Throughout the day, readings, stories and living room conversations will offer more interaction with authors and storytellers including Joyce Carol Oates, Galway Kinnell, Peter S. Beagle, Jane Yolen, Chief Jake Swamp, Rabbi Yossi New and many others.

The hope for Mythic Journey participants, Foah says, is the activation of imagination.

“There are many meanings and levels to everything in our world; every story, every dream, every experience in our lives is radiant...each is a great sun,” she adds.

“As the imagination is wakened, the heart is wakened; that’s empathy,” Foah says. “And out of that awakened heart comes a capacity for moral action. That’s what I see as our purpose.”

Mythic Journeys will take place in two segments, beginning with an intimate two-day In-Depth Pre-Conference June 3-4 and followed by the main weekend event June 4-6 for a larger number of attendees.

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.