



## FEATURE FILM DOCUMENTARIES AT *MYTHIC JOURNEYS*

Presented by Parabola's "Cinema of the Spirit" and  
Various Independent Filmmakers

### FILMS ON OR BY CAMPBELL

***A HERO'S JOURNEY*** (Stuart L. Brown; William Free; Phil Cousineau; & Janelle Balnicke; 58 minutes.) This biography documentary is the perfect companion to Joseph Campbell's book, *The Hero's Journey*. The film follows Campbell's own quest, a pathless journey of questioning, discovery, and ultimately of delight and joy as it follows Campbell's life from childhood to old age. **(Friday, June 4' 2004, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, in the Learning Center.)**

***SUKHAVATI: PLACE OF BLISS***. *A Mythic Journey with Joseph Campbell*. (Rochlin; 80 minutes) A journey of transcendence and illumination: whether peering through the mists of the Bronze Age or contemplating the spiritual presence of an ancient forest, pondering the mysteries of the ruins of Ajanta or Ellora in India, Eleusis and Delphi in Greece; or Stonehenge and Glastonbury in England -- Campbell's reminder that the human soul has always walked the same path in search of a place of bliss. **(Saturday, June 5. 4:00 – 5:45 PM, in the Learning Center with Robert Walter, President of the Joseph Campbell Foundation).**

### PARABOLA FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

***COSMIC AFRICA*** (Craig and Damon Foster; 72 minutes.) *"One of the most sterling accomplishments [of the South African Film Festival]... lyrical and touching... the true story of the astrophysicist Thebe Medupe who, as a child in South Africa, was enthralled by the fanciful tales of the skies that his grandfather told him...."* *New York Times*, April 2004. The film charts Medupe's spiritual and scientific quest for the roots of astronomy in the African tradition, following him from ancient monoliths in the Egyptian Sahara to prehistoric cave paintings in Namibia to towering cliff dwellings in Mali. **(Sunday, June 6. 2:00 – 3:30 PM in the Learning Center).**

**GENGHIS BLUES** (Roko and Adian Belic; 94 minutes). Nominated for an Oscar and winner of the Sundance Audience Award, this is the story of Paul Pena, a blind Creole-American blues singer's triumphant journey from San Francisco to the Republic of Tuva. Paul taught himself to throat-sing from a program he picked up from Radio Moscow on his short wave radio. When he sang for the first Tuvan throat-singers to perform in America, Paul was invited to participate in the next triennial contest of multi-harmonic singing in Siberia. *GENGHIS BLUES is one of those films that documentaries were invented for, because no fiction film could possibly have dreamed up this wonderful story.* (Roger Ebert). (Saturday, June 5. 9:00 – 11:00 PM in the Learning Center).

**A SENSE OF THE SACRED: A Portrait of Helen M. Luke.** (75 minutes).

*Wisdom consists in doing the next thing that you have to do. doing it with your whole heart and finding delight in it -- and the delight is the sense of the sacred.* (Helen Luke)

With an introduction by Thomas Moore, this film is based on interviews the Jungian writer and counselor gave during the last two years of her life to illuminate her own journey. (Friday, June 4. 2:00 – 3:30 PM in the Learning Center).

### **PARABOLA'S "CINEMA AS A SACRED ART" PANEL:THE SPEAKERS AND THEIR DOCUMENTARIES**

CINEMA AS A SACRED ART. Joseph Kulin, Publisher of PARABOLA Magazine and Producer of its "Cinema of the Spirit" will moderate this discussion with documentary producer/directors Michael Tobias, a prolific ecologist/filmmaker and Parabola Focus Awardee for 2004; Mickey Lemle who has produced a number of acclaimed biographical portraits, including *Ram Dass: Fierce Grace*; and environmentalist/filmmaker Kevin Peer, who is also the director of the School of Sacred Cinema. The panel will address questions such as: What makes an event, an artifact, or vision 'sacred? What can cinema contribute as an art form, which others cannot? What are some of the prime examples of cinema as a sacred art? What kind of cinema encourages the development of an inner spiritual life? (Thursday, June 3. 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM in the Learning Center.)

### **MICHAEL TOBIAS**

**MAD COWBOY** (Michael Tobias; 90 minutes). Ecologist/filmmaker Michael Tobias, winner of the 2004 Parabola Focus Award, offers Mythic Journeys participants a preview of his latest [and most powerful] work. Tobias follows rancher author Howard F. Lyman on his advocacy campaign to make the international public **aware** of the dangers of industrialization and abuse of livestock and poultry. As the camera accompanies the cattleman who no longer eats meat, the viewer meets many of those worldwide who are committed to a more humane treatment and growing of our food supply. (Friday, June 4, 2004. 4:00 – 6:00 PM in Centennial Ballroom IV. Showing and Q & A with the filmmaker.)

**AHIMSA: NON-VIOLENCE** (Michael Tobias; 55 minutes). Tobias, who has made over 100 documentaries, offers this study of the history and practice of the Jain religion in today's India. "Ahimsa" is the philosophy of non-violence, which expresses itself through awareness of the importance of the life of all sentient beings. (Saturday, June 5. 9:30 – 10:45 AM in the Learning Center. Film showing with Q & A may extend into coffee break).

### MICKY LEMLE

**RAM DASS: FIERCE GRACE** (Mickey Lemle; 93 minutes) Mickey Lemle, received the Parabola Focus Award for this film and his earlier biographies on His Holiness the Dalai Lama (*Compassion In Exile*) and Sir Laurens van der Post (*Hasten Slowly*). When Ram Dass "stroked" in 1997, both Lemle and Ram Dass agreed that the time had come to tell the story of the former Richard Alpert, Harvard professor, author and New Age teacher renamed by his guru in India. *A generous and inspiring film that unfolds with grace and humor and gradually becomes a testament of faith.* San Francisco Chronicle. (Friday, June 4. 8:45 to 10:45 PM in the Learning Center, includes discussion with the filmmaker.)

**COMPASSION IN EXILE** (Mickey Lemle; 60 minutes) An intimate portrait of Tenzyn Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. Inherent to the story is the plight of the Tibetan people and the brutal genocide they have endured since the Chinese occupation in 1950. For this film, the Dalai Lama personally granted Lemle unprecedented access. Music by Philip Glass. (Saturday, June 5. 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM in the Learning Center, includes discussion with the filmmaker.)

### KEVIN PEER

**WAY OF THE WODAABE** (Kevin Peer; 27 minutes). Environmentalist filmmaker Kevin Peer follows the last true cattle nomads of Africa to the remote site of their traditional rainy season celebrations where, for the first time since the devastating drought of 1984-85, the men perform their ritual dances of charm and beauty. Made for the National Geographic EXPLORER.

**CRATER LAKE STORY** (Kevin Peer; 16 minutes). Released in 1983-1984, this film dramatizes a Native American myth about the volcanic creation of Oregon's Crater Lake, and reveals how the lake has inspired people of widely differing cultures and belief systems for hundreds of years. Made for the National Park Service, Crater Lake National Park.

**MASTER ARCHER** (Kevin Peer; 12 minutes). Peer's documentary on Zen archery.

**NAVAJO SANDPAINTING** (Kevin Peer; 17 minutes) Made in 1986, this film explores the conflict between the use of sand painting as a powerful traditional healing ritual and as a profitable commercial art form that provides an income for hundreds of families on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Producer/Director for National Geographic EXPLORER.

(Mr. Peer's Workshops will be on Saturday June 5 2:00 – 3:30 PM and Sunday June 6 from 9:00 – 10:30 AM in the Learning Center.)

## "JOURNEYS" OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS

***BURNING MAN THROUGH IRISH EYES*** (Karen Koski/Sherece Lamke - 25/30 minutes). Documentary short featuring a group of Irish men and women who brought their ancient and soulful culture -- and their pub -- to the middle of Nevada's Black Rock Desert for a Burning Man gathering in August 2003. The film shares some inspiring music from Hothouse Flowers, gifts away beer and attempts to change a few perceptions. Sherece Lamke has produced and directed documentaries that explore commonalities within diverse world culture as well as music documentaries and videos. Karen Koski has spent many years in the Detroit music community. (**Friday June 4. 7:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturday June 5 11:00 – Midnight in the Learning Center, includes discussion with the filmmakers.**)

***THE JOURNEY*** (Eric Saperston; 91 minutes). In 1971, Eric Saperston loaded up his van, intending to follow the Grateful Dead. With the passing of Jerry Garcia, this band of adventurers decided to travel the country instead, asking v.i.p.s to join them for coffee and some talk. Guests include former President Jimmy Carter, architect John Portman who introduces them to the works of Joseph Campbell, Betty Sue Flowers and Henry Winkler -- the Fonz -- and many others throughout this 1,825-day odyssey. (**Sunday, June 6. 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Learning Center, includes discussion with the filmmakers.**)

***A SEAT AT THE TABLE*** (Gary Rhine; Phil Cousineau - 90 minutes). In December 1999, 7000 spiritual leaders converged on Cape Town, South Africa to participate in the 3rd Parliament of The World's Religions. Professor of Religious Studies, Huston Smith hosted one-on-one conversations with eight Native American leaders. Gary Rhine makes the case for those "*recognized the world over as keepers of a vital piece of the Creator's original orders, and yet regarded as little more than squatters at home. Gary's film features fine footage, impressive interviews, and once again, gives a voice to the voiceless.*" (Peter Coyote). (**Saturday, June 5. 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the Learning Center, includes discussion with the filmmakers and Native American leaders on the issues presented in the film**)