

Introduction



Why do we have an overwhelming fascination with the intimate lives of people we will never know? How do ordinary people become extraordinary - endowed with magical properties, which we then crave and desire? What is it like to be famous? Why do we take interest and even pleasure in the misfortunes of celebrities? Why has voyeurism, until recently a taboo, become a daily event in British culture?

At this one-day symposium we will be examining the human desire for ideal objects and heroes, the role of the screen in the production of these images, the ambiguously defined social codes by which famous people are judged, and the cultural agenda of reality TV.

The Speakers

Tessa Adams

Tessa Adams Phd is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Visiting Fellow of Goldsmiths College, University of London, and Director of Studies of the Society of Psychology and Healing. She is an art theorist and practicing psychoanalytic psychotherapist, holding professional membership with both the Site of Contemporary Psychoanalysis and the Guild of Psychotherapists. She has published widely on psychoanalysis and contemporary art practice. Her most recent book *The Feminine Case: Jung, Aesthetics and Creative Process* offers a collection of papers, which debate the role of the feminine from a Jungian perspective.

David Baddiel

David Baddiel, comedian and writer, first became known in 1988, on Radio 1's *The Mary Whitehouse Experience*, which went on to have two series on BBC2. Since then he has written and starred in a number of TV shows, including *Newman and Baddiel in Pieces* (BBC2), *Fantasy Football League* (BBC2/ITV), *Baddiel's Syndrome* (Sky) and *Baddiel and Skinner Unplanned* (ITV). With Frank Skinner and Lightning Seeds, his football anthem "Three Lions" topped the charts a record-breaking three times. He is the author of two best-selling novels, *Time For Bed* and *Whatever Love Means*, and, having spent last year as a Booker prize judge, is presently writing his third. He lives in North London with his partner and daughter.

Peter Bazalgette

Peter Bazalgette is Chairman of one of Britain's biggest television and new media production companies, Endemol UK which produces *Big Brother* and *The Salon* for Channel 4, and

Fame Academy for the BBC. The group also supplies five daily shows to four terrestrial networks every weekday. Peter devised BBC 2's *Food & Drink*, the UK's longest running food show, and in the early eighties and in the nineties came up with a number of innovative leisure shows including *Ready Steady Cook*, *Changing Rooms* and *Ground Force*. Peter has received The Indie-vidual Award for Outstanding Personal Contribution to the Independent Sector at the Indies 2000, and was awarded The Fellowship by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in 2000, and Fellowship of the Royal Television Society in 2002. He gave the MacTaggart Lecture at 1998's Edinburgh Television Festival and The Wheldon Lecture for the Royal Television Society in 2001. He received The Judges Award from the Royal Television Society, 2003. He is a regular commentator on media affairs via television, radio and newspapers such as The Guardian and the Financial Times. He is a non-executive director of Channel 4, Victoria Real, Zeppotron and Brighter Pictures. He serves as Deputy Chairman of the National Film and Television School.

Roz Carroll

Roz Carroll is a body psychotherapist and member of the Society for Neuro-psychoanalysis. She teaches at the Chiron Centre for Body Psychotherapy and is running a seminar series for Confer on 'Emotion and Embodiment'. Her recent work and writing is focused on the implications of neuroscience for contemporary psychotherapy. www.thinkbody.co.uk

Sue Cowan-Jenssen

Sue Cowan-Jenssen is a psychotherapist and founder member of the London Association of Primal Psychotherapists. She has done interviews, reviews and articles for psychotherapy journals and web sites, particularly around the themes of fame, the media, and the relationship between individual problems and social pressures. She is currently working on a book about celebrity and the body with Lucy Goodison.

Philip Dodd

Philip Dodd is Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts. He was co-curator of the Hayward Gallery's 1996 art and film exhibition, *Spellbound*, an award winning broadcaster and author, deputy editor of the New Statesman, founding editor of the BFI's award winning Sight and Sound and a consultant to Alan Yentob (1986/9) at BBC Music and Arts. Among his books are studies of art and value and of autobiography, as well as two influential arguments on British national identity, *Englishness: Politics & Culture* (1986) and *The Battle Over Britain* for the political think tank Demos. He was formerly an academic for 13 years, and is Visiting Professor, King's College, London, where he is Director of a postgraduate programme in Cultural and Creative Industries. Two years ago Philip Dodd launched a cultural entrepreneurs' club at the ICA, providing a monthly networking and support structure for

more than 300 young creative companies based in London. He has written for newspapers and magazines and continues to be consultant on various art series on the BBC and Channel 4. He is a regular presenter of the arts programme *Nightwaves* on BBC Radio 3.

Lucy Goodison

Lucy Goodison PhD, started work in the media, writing and directing films for BBC-TV. Her career has followed two trajectories: firstly, as an academic specialising in the symbolism of death and then in therapeutic body work. She has written widely on a variety of issues taken from her clinical practice and personal experience and has lectured internationally. Her books include *Moving Heaven and Earth: Sexuality, Spirituality and Social Change; Death, Women and the Sun: Symbolism of Regeneration in the Early Aegean* and (with Christine Morris) *Ancient Goddesses: the Myths and the Evidence; In Our Own Hands: A Book of Self-Help Therapy* (with Sheila Ernst) and *The Dreams of Women: Exploring and Interpreting Women's Dreams*

Philip Hill

Philip Hill is a Lacanian analyst and author of *Lacan for Beginners* (Writer and Readers), *Using Lacanian Technique, an Introduction* (Press for the Habilitation of Psychoanalysis, 2002). He is currently writing two books: *Structure in the Clinic and Psychoanalysis: Freud and Lacan's contribution to psychoneuroimmunology* and *Psychoanalysis as a History of Science and Ideas: feminine sexuality as essentially indeterminate*.

Susie Orbach

Susie Orbach's work as a psychotherapist and writer is centred on the therapy relationship, the construction of femininity and rethinking the relationship between body and mind. She has published extensively on these themes. She was co-founder of the Women's Therapy Centre (London) and the Women's Therapy Centre Institute (New York) and is currently Visiting Professor in the Gender Studies Institute at the London School of Economics. Her recent books include *The Impossibility of Sex, Towards Emotional Literacy* (Virago) and *On Eating* (Penguin).

Valerie Sinason

Valerie Sinason is a poet, writer, child psychotherapist, and adult psychoanalyst with the British Psychoanalytical Society. She is currently Director of the Clinic for Dissociative Studies where she specialises in work with abused/abusing and dissociating patients, including those with a learning disability. She has written over 10 books and 60 papers, and lecture nationally and internationally.

Confer in association with the **ICA**
Presents

Celebrity Unravelled image, icon and obsession

Psychotherapists, cultural critics and TV producers
come together to examine our fascination with
famous people

Icon

Obsession

Heroes

Schadenfreude

Hidden

S e l f

Identity

Quest

Big Brother

Mortality

Lens

A Symposium

ICA, Sunday, 28 September 2003

Booking Form

Please check the booking conditions before returning this form

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Tel _____

Email _____

I am:

Paying for myself (£70.00)

Funded by an institution (£120)

A member of ICA (£50)

Membership Number

A member of Confer (£50)

Membership Number

Joining confer now

I enclose £ for tickets

If you are buying a ticket for another person please give

their name(s) _____

Please deduct £ from card number

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Master Card Visa Switch

Expiry date ____/____ Issue number _____ (Switch only)

Today's Date ____/____/____

Cardholder's signature _____

Please return this form with payment to:

**Confer, 36a Mildmay Road,
London N1 4NG**

Information

Venue Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1

Date Sunday 28 September 2003

Start time 11.00

End time 18.00

Refreshments will be available at the ICA restaurant/cafe

Conference Fee per person:

If paying for yourself £70

If funded by an institution £120

Confer and ICA Members £50

Parking Limited street parking

Tube Charing Cross

To book

Please complete the booking form and return it with payment to:

Confer, 36a Mildmay Road, London N1 4NG

A ticket will be sent to you to confirm your place

Booking Conditions

The place you book is for your own use only. It cannot be transferred to another person or event. Should you wish to cancel regrettably we cannot give a refund in any circumstances. Confer reserves the right to alter the programme if a speaker is unable to attend.

Further information

Confer: Telephone 0207 254 2323

Email: ryan@confer.demon.co.uk

www.confercpd.com

copies of this flyer can be downloaded from the site

Programme Director Jane Ryan

Programme Advisor Brett Kahr

Performer Mark Rattigan

Programme



11.00 am

Tessa Adams

Celebrity: The ego ideal and the unreachable sublime

Dr Tessa Adams, artist, art critic and psychoanalytic psychotherapist, will explore the issue of our narcissistic attachment to the celebrity as both ego ideal and the unreachable sublime. She will discuss both the construction of celebrity and its purposeful deconstruction from a psychodynamic perspective, going on to consider the individual need to become a celebrity as well as our dependency on those who carry the status for us. Her focus will be on the adrogenous, heroic functions of celebrity with reference to our continual search for beauty.

12.00 Break

12.30

Roz Carroll

Image, idealisation and the distorting effect of the lens

Body psychotherapist and author, Roz Carroll, will consider how the vehicle of the culture of celebrity is image, manipulated by teams of publicists and style supporters, and framed by the lens. We'll look at how photographic images potently lock onto the innate human responsiveness to form, face and feature - appearing to capture essence, instant character and a summing-up of what it takes to succeed. Delivered by the lens, the image of the celebrity is like a drug, briefly connecting us to a heightened moment and holding us in a chronic voyeuristic relation to the world. With reference to what we now know about the brain, we'll take a look at how this relationship between unconscious processes and image is constructed.



13.15

Sue Cowan-Jenssen and Lucy Goodison

Celebrity and the Flight from Mortality.

This joint presentation by co-authors Sue Cowan-Jenssen and Lucy Goodison will explore the tension between two worlds: the physical world of the body which is vulnerable, imperfect and mortal and the world of celebrity which is intangible, symbolic and extraordinary. They will examine how our bodies have become the theatre for this tension, expressing our aspirations, sacrifice and despair.

14.00 Break for Lunch

15.00

Valerie Sinason

Celebrity Addiction, Cultural Malaise and Schadenfreude

Psychoanalyst, author and poet Valerie Sinason will consider the roots of 'celebrity addiction' in the weakening of our social and emotional connection with others, and the resulting epidemic of depression and loss in our culture. She will consider how this may also explain our delight in the suffering and destruction of others, and how the celebrity or reality TV contestant – only ever a distant representation of another person – can serve our desire for a scapegoat who, voted out, will carry our own unwanted sense of failure or dejection.



15.30

Philip Dodd in conversation with Peter Bazalgette

Unravelling Reality TV: needs, desires and heroes

Philip Dodd, Director of the ICA and broadcaster, talks to Peter Bazalgette, Chairman of Endemol UK and producer of Big Brother, The Salon and Fame Academy about reality TV. On the panel will also be Lacanian analyst **Philip Hill**, who believes that we are forced to try to get the measure of each others' complex and often secret demands and desires, and that watching reality TV is a safe and realistic way to practice your analyses of others' demands and desires; and **Valerie Sinason** who will talk about the human needs that make reality TV so compelling.

16.30 Break

17.00

Susie Orbach in conversation with David Baddiel

Susie Orbach talks to comedian and novelist David Baddiel on the complexities of fame and celebrity

18.00 End