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A FESTIVAL OF MYTH AND IMAGINATION AT MYTHIC JOURNEYS

Myth, conversations, workshops and performances merge at Mythic Journeys, a conference and performance festival celebrating the role of myth and imagination in modern life

ATLANTA, GA – Mythic Journeys will explore the role of myth and imagination in contemporary life through a daily rhythm of gatherings, storytelling, workshops, and performances. This unprecedented dialogue on the importance of imagination in contemporary life is set for June 7-11, 2006 at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel.

According to Honora Foah, Mythic Journeys' creative director, each day will be guided by a different theme. The main theme is Myth and Imagination. "Myth and Imagination are very important to today's society," says Foah. "Myths are the reservoirs of human wisdom, and we need to use them as a basis for re-imagining some of the ways in which we do things." There will also be a different theme for each day, a "container" for the ideas discussed and worked with throughout the day. This year's daily themes are earth, air, fire, and water. "Each day will feature images and performances that relate strongly to each of the four elements," Foah says.

A highlight of the Mythic Journeys experience will be "The Big Conversations" each

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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 “Adolescence, Initiation and Mentoring,” “From Sumer to Iraq,” “Into the Woods,” and “Time.”

The dialogue will include such notables as fantasy authors Peter S. Beagle (*The Last Unicorn*) and Charles de Lint (*Moonheart*); poet/essayist Robert Bly (*Iron John*); poet/translator Coleman Barks (*The Essential Rumi*); Alan Lee, beloved illustrator and conceptual artist of *The Lord of the Rings* films; British animator David Anderson; author, speaker, and mind body medicine expert Deepak Chopra; and renowned fantasy artists Brian and Wendy Froud.

In the late afternoon and evening, Mythic Journeys will transform into a performing arts festival with concerts, theater, dance, and music. Performances will include music by musician, poet, actor and Doctor of Arts David Gonzalez; internationally acclaimed author, journalist, DJ and music producer Derek Beres; world-renowned pianist Lorin Hollander; dynamic and dramatic readings from Coleman Barks and Robert Bly; and presentations by many other international artists.

Throughout the day, readings, stories and living room conversations will offer more interaction with authors and storytellers including Peter S. Beagle, Terri Windling, Charles de Lint, Holly Black, and many others.

Mythic Journeys will take place in two segments, beginning with a two-day In-Depth Pre-Conference June 7-8 and followed by the main weekend event June 9-11 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 or by calling (404) 832-4127.

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Organized by the Atlanta-based nonprofit Mythic Imagination Institute, the second Mythic Journeys conference and performance festival will bring together more than 100 of the world’s leading

scholars, psychologists, educators, business leaders, authors, artists, filmmakers and performers for an unprecedented dialogue on the importance of storytelling in contemporary life. The first Mythic Journeys was held in June 2004 in celebration of the Joseph Campbell Centennial.

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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.

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