

THE WAY OF THE PSYCHONAUT

MAY 2020: FACING OUR CURRENT CHALLENGE

Thursday May 7, 3pm EST: Mariavittoria Mangini, PhD, MFN - Midwife, Educator

Mariavittoria Mangini explains how her Catholic upbringing gave her the psychological framework to have a spiritual epiphany during a psychedelic session; an experience that provided direction for the rest of her life. Her work with Stan, and his theory on the impact of the birth process, inspired her to become a midwife and research the use of psychedelics throughout history. She offers insights on what drives addiction and how psychedelics can be helpful in overcoming compulsive behavior. During this latter part of her life, she has turned her focus towards helping people to see death as a transition, not an ending.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday May 14, 3pm EST: Sean Kelly, PhD - Author, Educator

Sean Kelly explains transpersonal psychology as going beyond the materialist paradigm of current psychology, and back to the origins of the field. He notes how Jung's exploration of the deep psyche resulted in the use of archetypes – ideal forms – to describe the foundational dimensions encountered there. The need for rites of passage to “bring us into the web of life,” is mirrored in Stan's theory of perinatal matrices. Surviving these transitional rituals allowed participants to feel held in a larger reality. He closes by explaining how principles from quantum physics can help make sense of what is experienced with psychedelics, and also to clarify concepts from ancient spiritual traditions and philosophers.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Sunday May 17, 1pm EST: Ralph Metzner, PhD - Researcher, Author Conversation w/ Stan

Grof Ralph Metzner, describes his research with DMT and the challenge of studying an experience that often lasts less than thirty minutes. Both men note the paradox of the illegal status of psychedelics at a time when humanity needs the transformative experiences they provide. Substances and protocols are discussed, including Ketamine and MDMA. Ralph acknowledges the spiritual core dimension that is foundational to reality, and that should be included when developing therapeutic uses for psychedelics. He and Stan question current studies that prohibit researchers from having their own experiences, challenging this intellectual approach.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guests **Stan & Brigitte Grof**

Thursday May 21, 3pm EST: Rick Tarnas, PhD - Author, Educator, Cultural Historian

Rick Tarnas explains humanity's sense of separation from the natural world through a philosophical and historical perspective. This disconnect has resulted in the destruction of the Earth's ecosystem, which Rick refers to as a crisis of consciousness for both individuals and the collective. He observes how Stan's work with psychedelics and exposure to Eastern philosophies allowed him to see the archetypal nature of non-ordinary experiences, and note the similarities to ancient spiritual traditions.

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This rendered Stan's approach "psychiatrically grounded and spiritually informed." Seeing how the traumas underlying Stan's 4 Basic Perinatal Matrices are reflected in humanity's fear of mortality, the fear of the feminine, and our need to control nature, Rick believes humanity is poised for a collective death/ rebirth experience.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday May 28, 3pm EST: George Sarlo, Venture Capitalist

George Sarlo describes his upbringing during the Holocaust and how the horrors that he and his family endured marked him profoundly. Finally in his 80s, he had a chance to experience Ayahuasca and was able to make peace with some of his most painful memories. Ever since, he has dedicated his life to supporting efforts to legalize psychedelic substances and make them available in therapeutic settings.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Sunday May 31, 1pm EST: 'Sneak Peek' screening of *The Way of the Psychonaut*

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guests **Stan & Brigitte Grof**

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JUNE 2020: NOVEL SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS

Thursday June 4, 3pm EST: Robin Carhart-Harris, PhD - Psychedelic Researcher

Robin Carhart-Harris was inspired to study the therapeutic potentials of psychedelics after reading Stan's book *Realms of the Human Unconscious*. He describes the impact of psychedelics on brain function by first detailing the hierarchical nature of brain organization that determines what receives the most attention – resulting in a “broad brush” representation of reality that is shallow and limited. Psychedelics open neural pathways that override the hierarchical structure, flooding the mind with stimulus and opening new perspectives. Importantly, challenging experiences reveal the dark material within the individual, and help prevent people from projecting those feelings into the world. ECT offers a similar scrambling of brain function, but the patient is unconscious. Whereas during a psychedelic session, the person is fully awake and participating in the process.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday June 11, 3pm EST: Paul Grof, PhD - Professor of Psychology

Paul Grof explains how he and Stan chose different paths – Paul focused on the biological causes of mental illness while Stan focused on the psychological causes. Eventually though, Paul's research into mood disorders brought him to the same conclusion as his brother – consciousness is the ground of all being, and the ability to integrate awareness of subtle dimensions determines how well someone functions in life. The case histories he describes bring attention to the problems of misdiagnosis and medications that can cause more harm than good. Paul also recounts the synchronicities that aligned to keep Stan out of prison and make possible both of their medical careers.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday June 18, 3pm EST: Bill Melton, MA - Verifone Founder

Bill Melton provides a historic understanding of the split between the mind and the heart. He speaks about the need to gain faith in our inner wisdom and connection to the universe, as well as to expand our sense of self beyond a materialist worldview through a better understanding of brain science. Stan's work with psychedelics inspired Bill to have his own inner sessions, which allowed him to experience how everything is connected by an energetic flow. Such an understanding holds tremendous potential for humanity, and can change how we value ourselves and each other, making possible a more compassionate world.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday June 25, 3pm EST: Fritjof Capra, PhD - Physicist, Systems Theorist

Fritjof Capra recounts how his blending of quantum physics and Eastern philosophies was paralleled in Stan's merging of psychology and spirituality. The resulting collaboration between the two men brought scientific grounding to Transpersonal Psychology. Fritjof describes the interrelated nature of the universe, and how Stan's work provided an experiential opportunity to explore this reality. He also notes how the new understanding of emergence validates Stan's perspective on mental illness – as an inability to integrate experiences that can be resolved if fully explored. Fritjof ends by emphasizing the need to shift away from a mechanistic world view to one of networks that cooperate and seek novelty.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

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Sunday June 28, 1pm EST: 'Sneak Peek' screening of *The Way of the Psychonaut*

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guests **Stan & Brigitte Grof**

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JULY 2020: TECHNIQUES FOR NAVIGATING THE PARADIGM SHIFT

Thursday July 2, 3pm EST: Becca Tarnas, PhD - Archetypal Astrologist

Becca Tarnas explains archetypes and how multiple perspectives can be used to define them. Each planet in our solar system represents archetypal forces and by tracking the planetary transits around the Earth, cultural shifts can be understood. Becca describes them as themes and energies playing out. Reviewing historical transits in relation to world events helps us to understand what we are currently moving into. This approach can show us how we might work with these forces to avoid destructive tendencies and instead, open to the transpersonal.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday July 9, 3pm EST: Yvonne Smith Tarnas, PhD - Jungian Analyst

Yvonne Smith Tarnas shares her study on the astrological similarities between patients and therapists, revealing how patients are attracted to therapists who share the very challenge they are seeking to heal. Additionally, she notes how the astrological chart for the day of their first session reflects this dynamic. Her description of depth psychology presents a partnership between client and therapist, during which both undertake a healing journey into their inner worlds. The bond that results provides safety and anchoring for what may be an arduous process that leads to ultimate transformation.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Thursday July 16, 3pm EST: Brigitte Grof - Psychotherapist, Breathwork Facilitator

Brigitte Grof describes holotropic breathwork, the importance of honoring the breather's inner wisdom, and the use of body work to intensify the experiences and clear blockages. Although originally interested in psychology, she eventually incorporated breathwork into her approach because of the amazing potential it holds for individual healing. Brigitte notes how the expanded cartography of the psyche that Stan introduced – which includes the transpersonal, birth process, and one's experiences after birth – allows facilitators to make space for breathers to go deep and fully immerse themselves in the process.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Brigitte Grof**

Sunday July 19, 1pm EST: Stan Grof, MD, PhD interviews

Stan Grof provides additional information about archetypes and the psyche to add another layer of understanding to the concepts introduced.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Stan Grof**

Thursday July 23, 3pm EST: Rupert Sheldrake, PhD - Biologist, Author

Rupert Sheldrake recounts how his professional career was impacted when Stan invited him to participate in an International Transpersonal Association conference in Bombay. This introduction to a world of consciousness research resulted in his later participation in month-long programs at Esalen. In addition, Stan's understanding of the collective unconscious resonated with Rupert's work in morphic resonance – the collective dimensions shared by species. His theory recognizes a transfer of information across space and time, a collective memory held in a field that informs the way species develop and evolve. He expands his theory to describe a field theory of the mind, which helps explain how Stan's patients were able to access memories during pregnancy and birth.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Rupert or Dennis**

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Sunday July 26, 1pm EST: 'Sneak Peek' screening of *The Way of the Psychonaut*

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guests **Stan & Brigitte Grof**

Thursday July 30, 3pm EST: Jill Purce, MA - Voice Teacher, Family Constellation Therapist

Jill Purce discusses how she and Rupert met at a conference in India, and describes the years during which she also offered workshops at Esalen. Her work focuses on the use of sound to influence form and transcend the limits of time. Using sound she leads groups into past experiences, some rooted in ancestral memories that remain in our unconscious. She describes how accessing these dimensions dissolves boundaries that keep people locked in limiting behavior. She feels that we have evolved into silent cultures that don't participate in collective music, and her hope is that we will recover these healing opportunities.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Jill Purce**

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AUGUST 2020: HISTORICAL / POLITICAL / SPIRITUAL

Thursday August 6, 3pm EST: Michael Murphy, Esalen Co-Founder, Author

Michael Murphy covers historic information about the Esalen Institute and the thinking behind its formation – providing a place where an expanded understanding of the human project might be explored. Stan's background in psychology and psychedelics made him a perfect scholar for Esalen in the late '60s, while his month-long workshops invited a broad scope of experts in fields ranging from spiritual traditions to the new sciences. Great anecdotes about Esalen's history, and its influence on the consciousness movement.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Dennis McKenna?**

Thursday August 13, 3pm EST: Rick Doblin, PhD - MAPS Founder

Rick Doblin discusses what led him to work on legalizing psychedelics for creative and healing purposes. His psychedelic experiences in college inspired him to become a psychotherapist, but criminalization of these substances compelled him to work towards their legalization. He offers a historical understanding of the war on drugs, the omissions of negative experiences in Leary's Good Friday Experiment, and the need to embrace the challenging experiences that lead to lasting transformation of world views. He suggests that psychedelics can help people work through their fears to find new ways of thinking about the challenges we face, including generational conflicts and healing deep traumas.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Rick Doblin**

Sunday August 16, 1pm EST: Michael Harner, PhD - Anthropologist Conversation w/ Stan Grof

Michael Harner, PhD & Stan Grof, MD, PhD recount how they met decades earlier at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur. Stan encourages Michael to recount how he introduced Carlos Castaneda to the Esalen community, and to share some of the insights he gained during his extensive work with indigenous cultures and their practice of shamanism. Michael makes a point of acknowledging the existence of spiritual dimensions that are ontologically real, and reveals the pressures academics experience when they dare to challenge the status quo.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Stan Groff**

Thursday August 20, 3pm EST: Susan Mokolke, JD - President, Foundation for Shamanic Studies

Susan Mokolke describes the work of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies, which Michael Harner founded with his wife, Sandra. As its President, Susan works to bring the core shamanic practices Michael developed from his extensive travels and research to people interested in finding their connection to spiritual dimensions. The resulting access to one's teachers and their animal spirits provides wisdom and guidance for those who seek to be of service to the world.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **Susan Mokolke**

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Thursday August 27, 3pm EST: Ervin Laszlo, PhD, Amit Goswami, PhD & Stan Grof

Systems Theorist and philosopher Ervin Laszlo, joins physicist Amit Goswami and Stan Grof for a conversation during a break at the Prague 2017 Transpersonal Conference. Their discussion covers a wide range of subjects – reincarnation, the unitive nature of the universe, the Akashic field, and much more. The differences in perspective that the two men bring to the conversation provides valuable insights into the mysteries of the universe.

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guest **TBD**

Sunday August 30, 1pm EST: ‘Sneak Peek’ screening of *The Way of the Psychonaut*

Live Q&A: Filmmakers Susan Hess Logeais & Mitch Schultz w/ Special Guests **Stan & Brigitte Grof**