



The Mystery of Love

ON PBS
Wednesday, December 13th
at 9 PM

PBS Documentary Explores the Many Kinds of Love that Give Life Meaning Two-Hour Special — December 13 on PBS Anna Deavere Smith to Host

A Production of
The Independent Production Fund
and
Joan Konner Productions, Inc.

45 West 45th Street, Suite 808
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212-221-6310
Fax: 212-302-1854

“I have again and again been faced with the mystery of love... To speak of partial aspects is too much or too little, for only the whole is meaningful.”

-- Psychologist Carl Jung

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In popular culture, one type of love — sexual romance — is prized above all. But there are many kinds of love that give shape and meaning to life, passionate connections that define what we value and who we are. Despite thousands of years of advice from philosophers and sages and libraries filled with answers, love remains as one of the immense on-going mysteries of life.

The Mystery of Love is a two-hour PBS documentary that puts love on the public agenda. *The Mystery of Love* will air on PBS stations on **Wednesday, December 13, 2006., 9:00–11:00 p.m. ET.** Please check local listings.

Hosted by author, playwright and actress **Anna Deavere Smith**, the special is produced by the team that brought Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth to PBS, **Bill Moyers** calls *The Mystery of Love* “as deep, tender, and ineffable as the subject itself, and as eye-opening, exhilarating, and beguiling as the first moment it happens to you.”

Everyone seeks love, but so often we barely recognize what love is or the countless ways it can thrive in our daily lives. Fueled by one-dimensional and misleading caricatures of love and romance in the popular media, we imagine that love is only about finding an ideal mate. But love has many more dimensions and possibilities. In a world of deepening violence and misunderstanding, we need to explore the forces that hold things together. By expanding our definition of love, we learn to honor equally the many forms of affection and connection that create a healthy life and society.

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The Mystery of Love examines the many faces of love through in-depth stories of marriage, family, friendship, divine love, altruistic love, brotherly love, the love between parents and children, and love of community. In this program:

- Meet Emily Lodine, opera singer, and Gary Overgaard, Minnesota pig farmer. Coming from two totally different worlds, they sat next to one another on flight to Europe, fell in love, and married.
- See love in action with BACA (Bikers Against Child Abuse), a national organization of bikers that works with law enforcement officials to safeguard and “adopt” abused children. We learn about the group through J.D. and Thumper, an Austin couple both formerly abused as children. Through BACA, they give of themselves to protect other children at risk, and in the process, help to heal their own childhood wounds.
- Meet 85-year-old Camilla Williams, the first African-American in a major American opera company, and 95-year-old Boris Bazala, her long-time accompanist. Both widowed, they now live together platonically in Bloomington, Indiana, where Camilla has taught in the university’s music department for 30 years. Camilla says, “I think there are all kinds of love. There’s romantic; and then there is friendship. And I thank the Lord every day for the friendship of Boris.”
- Meet Azim Khamisa, a Muslim father whose 20-year-old son was murdered by 14-year-old gang member Tony Hicks. As he dealt with his sorrow, Azim came to realize that there were “victims at both ends of the gun.” In his heart, he forgave his son’s murderer and began working with the murderer’s grandfather, Ples Felix. Together they speak with young people about the terrible effects of violence. In the process, they have become as close as brothers. Out of tragedy has developed a loving friendship.
- Meet musicians Mark and Monica. She judged herself a loser in love, and he had already been married twice unsuccessfully. After meeting on the Internet, they fell in love, but Monica was nervous. As she

says, “Married twice with a kid” was not what she had in mind for her partner. And Mark had always believed that marriage was “as long as you both shall love.” With a shift in their understanding of the meaning of lifetime commitment, the two were married with our cameras present.

- Meet the three Swann brothers of Baltimore—twins and an older sibling—who have all gone off to the Iraq war at the same time. They left their single divorced mother alone at home for the first time in her life. The separation of the brothers in a war zone and between mother and sons shows the strong bond that holds this family together.
- Meet **Dr. Frans de Waal**, director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center of Emory University, world famous research scientist and expert on the behavior of chimpanzees and bonobo apes. He shows us how friendship and connection operate in the world of primates which is quite similar to human behavior.

In a unique segment, *The Mystery of Love* explores love’s darker sides with **Dr. James Hillman**, world famous Jungian psychologist and author of *A Terrible Love of War*. Hillman discusses the feelings of community and brotherhood soldiers find on the battlefield. Hillman says of war, “The ecstasy can be the highest moment ever experienced, as many battle veterans say. That would make it in common with other kinds of passionate love: sexual love; divine love; mystical love. You become crazy, in a way, just as you do in a passionate affair. You break the rules; you break the bounds; you’re outside of yourself; you find a whole new personality in yourself. Maybe that’s a shadow of love.”

The Mystery of Love also includes insights and commentary from leading authorities who have worked with the subject of love, including **Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.; Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D.; Ethel Person, M.D.; Rabbi Alan Lew, and Frances Vaughan, Ph.D.**

“Today we are inundated with negative, destructive, even violent news. I wanted *The Mystery of Love* to explore thoughtfully and from many angles those aspects of life which connect us to one another, rather than separate us,” says Executive Producer **Joan Konner**. “As a journalist, it seemed to me that the most important element of life—love, in its many manifestations—should be openly examined and addressed in the public square.”

“I think people don’t feel that they have permission to talk about something that makes them as vulnerable as love,” says scholar and author **Dr. Betty Sue Flowers**. “So we don’t usually talk about it in public.”

As host **Anna Deavere Smith** reminds us at the end of *The Mystery of Love*: “Most of us cannot survive, and do not want to live a single day, without love. We can make a choice to live life through the lens of fear, of separation, competition, and loss. Or we can see the same world differently, through the lens of love and connection.”

KLRU-Austin is the presenting station. To bring *The Mystery of Love* to communities and classrooms across the country, the **Independent Production Fund** is working with **Active Voice** and the **National Council of Teachers of English**. The web site, www.themysteryoflove.org, is in development by **Interactive Knowledge**.

Major funding for *The Mystery of Love* has been provided by the **Fetzer Institute** and marks the start of the nationwide outreach effort called the **Campaign for Love & Forgiveness: Transforming Individuals and Communities**. Additional funding has been provided by **Southwest Airlines** and the **Betsy Gordon Foundation**.

The Mystery of Love is written by **Joan Konner** and **Christopher Lukas** who also served as Senior Producer. Executive Producer is **Joan Konner**. **Alvin H. Perlmutter** is Executive Director. *The Mystery of Love* is a production of the Independent Production Fund.



Media Advisory: Executive Producer **Joan Konner** as well as some of the program’s experts and participants are available for interviews.

Contact: Josh Baran / Baran Communications
212-779-2666 – jcbaran@aol.com

Website: www.themysteryoflove.org – for downloadable media materials