Myth, Mind and the Screen
Understanding the heroes of our time

*Myth, Mind and the Screen* is a systematic attempt to apply Jungian theory to the analysis of films (including *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Silence of the Lambs* and *The Piano*) as well as a variety of cultural icons and products such as Madonna, Michael Jackson and televised sport. Through these and other examples, John Izod shows how Jungian theory can bring new tools to film and media studies and new ways of understanding screen images and narratives. He also demonstrates how Jungian analysis can provide us with fresh insights into the psychological dimensions of contemporary mythology and the subjective experience of audiences. Perhaps most controversially, he argues that in the Western world cinema and television bear much of the responsibility for collective emotional mediation that in previous centuries was borne by organised religion. A valuable resource for students of film and media studies, cultural studies and psychoanalytic studies.

**JOHN IZOD** is Professor of Screen Analysis in the Department of Film and Media Studies, University of Stirling. He is the author of *Reading the Screen* (1984), *Satellite, Cable and Beyond* (with Alastair Hetherington, 1984), *Hollywood and the Box Office* (1988), *The Films of Nicolas Roeg: Myth and Mind* (1992), and *An Introduction to Television Documentary: Confronting Reality* (with Richard Kilborn, 1997).
Cambridge Studies in Criminology

Editors:
Alfred Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University
David Farrington, University of Cambridge

This series publishes high quality research monographs of either theoretical or empirical emphasis in all areas of criminology, including measurement of offending, explanations of offending, police, courts, incapacitation, corrections, sentencing, deterrence, rehabilitation, and other related topics. It is intended to be both interdisciplinary and international in scope.

Also in the series:

J. David Hawkins (editor), *Delinquency and Crime: Current Theories*
Austin Lovegrove, *A Framework of Judicial Sentencing: Decision Making and Multiple Offence Cases*
Joan McCord (editor), *Violence and Childhood in the Inner City.*
Don Weatherburn and Bronwyn Lind, *Delinquent-Prone Communities*  
Alfred Blumstein and Joel Wallman, *The Crime Drop in America*  
Denise Gottfredson, *Schools and Delinquency*  
David Weisburd, Elin Waring and Ellen Chayet, *White-Collar Crime and Criminal Careers*  
Terrie E. Moffitt, Avshalom Caspi, Michael Rutter and Phil A. Silva, *Sex Difference in Antisocial Behaviour: Conduct Disorder, Delinquency and Violence in the Dunedin Longitudinal Study*
Myth, Mind and the Screen

Understanding the heroes of our times

John Izod

Stirling Media Research Institute
University of Stirling
- For my beloved Sarah and Martin -
  May the future shine
The reality of all culture, our own included, consists in realizing these images which lie dormant in the psyche. All art, religion, science, and technology, everything that has ever been done, spoken, or thought, has its origin in this creative center.

Contents

Acknowledgements xi

Introduction 1

1 Jungian theory, textual analysis and audience play 15
2 Archetypal images: signification and the psyche 33
3 Archetypal images: symbols and the cultural unconscious 47
4 The Piano, the animus and colonial experience 57
5 The pop star as icon 79
  Androgyny and stardom: cultural meanings of Michael Jackson 80
  A goddess who comes? Madonna as trickster 90
6 The quest of a female hero: The Silence of the Lambs 105
7 Television sport and the sacrificial hero 124
8 The polycentred self: The Passion of Darkly Noon 143
9 Haunted: searching for the whole self 160
10 Transforming the final ghost: the god within 185

Conclusion 204

Filmography 209
Glossary of Jungian and related terms 214
References 223
Index 231
I wish to thank several of my friends and colleagues, including Raymond Boyle, Pamela Calvert, Jeremy Carrette, Tony Cryer, Don Fredericksen, Harriet Margolis, Peter Meech, Catriona Miller, Kathleen McHugh, Helen Ogilvy, David Punter, Philip Schlesinger, Tim Thornicroft and Kay Weaver, for their warm and constructive advice. Special thanks to Jane Ryan for her enthusiastic support and engagement with the book’s ideas.


Passages from The Collected Works of C.G. Jung are reprinted by kind permission of Routledge and Princeton University Press.