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978-0-521-79686-6 - Myth, Mind and the Screen: Understanding the Heroes of Our Times

John Izod

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## 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).

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# Myth, Mind and the Screen

*Understanding the heroes of our times*

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John Izod

*Stirling Media Research Institute  
University of Stirling*



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- For my beloved Sarah and Martin -  
May the future shine

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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.

(Erich Neumann, *The Origins and History of Consciousness* p. 210)



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