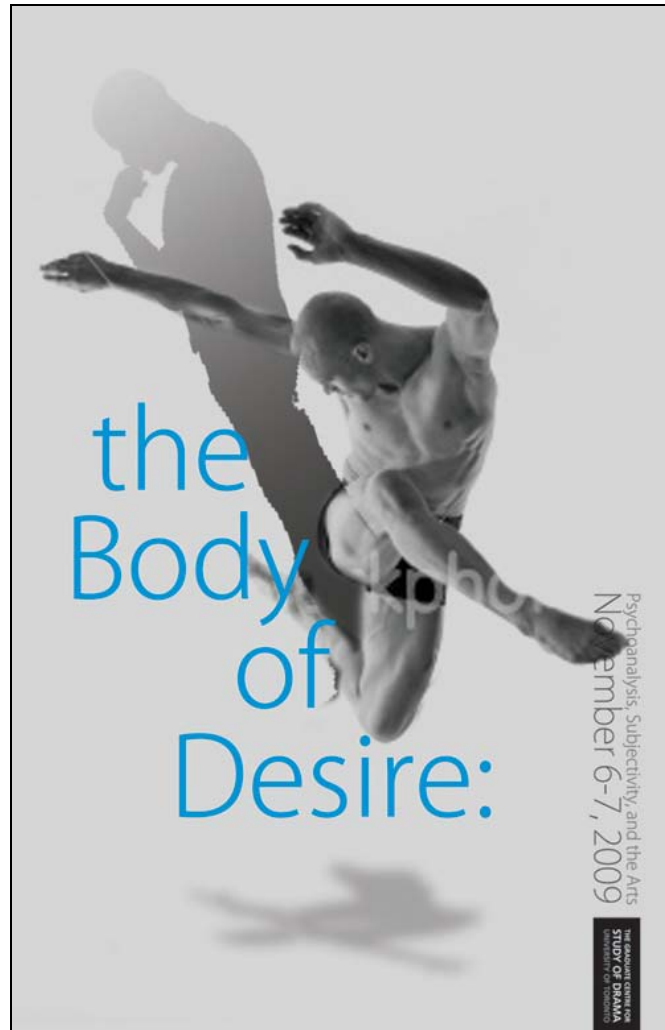


SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT



The Body of Desire: Psychoanalysis, Subjectivity, and the Arts
An interdisciplinary symposium on the complexities of the human body
and its relation to desire.

November 6-7, 2009

Graduate Centre for Study of Drama, University of Toronto
in collaboration with the
Speaking of Lacan Psychoanalytic Group
and the
Artists Health Centre Foundation

http://www.gradrama.utoronto.ca/newsEvents_desire.html

The Body of Desire: Psychoanalysis, Subjectivity, and the Arts

The body is the focal point of many, often contradictory social dynamics. An unprecedented preoccupation with body image in all forms of media is coupled with expanding options of physical ‘sculpting’ and cosmetic alteration. At the same time, for many individuals, the body is something taken for granted, its utility only noticed and appreciated when it is compromised. Yet our bodies also record our unique histories through scrapes and scars, through family traits, and through memories. A body is a locus in which sexual longings and passions circulate. And bodies are also a primary source of artistic inspiration and expression—as well as a potential cause of creative breakdown.

Across the full range of arts, works converge around the desire of a body, be it that of the artist, that of the audience, or that of the artistic process/work itself. At this unique colloquium, leading artists from the fields of music, dance, visual arts and the written and spoken word, along with distinguished Lacanian psychoanalysts, will explore the relationship between desire and creativity.

In the mid-twentieth century, French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan developed a novel school of psychoanalysis by integrating Freudian theory with the fields of linguistics, continental philosophy and the humanities. Expanding on Freud’s ideas about the *psyche* and the *soma*, Lacan discussed how it is through the body that we experience and express our desires. Lacan’s work maintains broad-based influence in spheres of inquiry ranging from psychology and history through literature and performance studies.

Symposium participants will consider such questions as: How is the body conceptualized and experienced within distinct disciplinary contexts? How does the advent of interdisciplinary practice influence these pre-existing perspectives on the body? What is the relationship between an artist as “subject” and an artist’s performing body? How do psychoanalysis and the creative arts understand the desire of the physical or metaphorical body?

This two-day program (Friday evening and Saturday) will consist of three panel discussions, each with four panelists, and each devoted to a particular theme.

Part One: **Desire and Bodies: An Exploration of Commonalities and Differences across Paradigms**

An intersection of perspectives on the body, desire, subjectivity, and *the other*

Part Two: **The Artist and Her Other**

The role(s) of the body in relationships between artists and the audience/reader/viewer

Part Three: **Psychoanalysis and the Artist**

Aiding artists suffering from a temporary block in creativity

Confirmed Participants include psychoanalysts from New York (**Paola Mieli**), France (**Jean-Michel Vives** and **Tamara Landau**), Brazil (**Denise Maurano**), and Toronto (**David Dorenbaum**, **Mavis Himes**) as well as Canadian artists from the fields of music (**Norbert Palej**

and **Russell Hartenberger**), dance (**Peggy Baker** and **Susanna Hood**), visual arts (**Mimi Gellman** and **Lyn Carter**), and theatre (**Clare Coulter**, **Marc Tellez**, **Ker Wells**, and **Bruce Barton**).

In order to allow for maximum interdisciplinary dialogue and cross-fertilization of ideas, panelists will respond to a number of pre-established questions posed by a moderator, followed by conversations amongst the panelists and between the panelists and attending symposium participants.

The symposium will conclude with a work-in-progress showing of the performance *Swimmer* (68), followed by a talkback with co-creators **Ker Wells** and **Bruce Barton**. A closing reception will follow.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION and REGISTRATION:

http://www.gradrama.utoronto.ca/newsEvents_desire.html
thebodyofdesire@gmail.com

Symposium Co-organizers:

Mavis Himes, *Speaking of Lacan Psychoanalytic Group*

Christine Ardagh, *Artists Health Centre Foundation*

Graham Wolfe and Bruce Barton, *Graduate Centre for Study of Drama*