

A WAY OF SEEING IN THE MEANTIME: BENEATH AND BEYOND

Films featuring Extraordinary People

"In the meantime

There are bills to be paid, machines to keep in repair,

Irregular verbs to learn, the Time Being to redeem

From insignificance." W.H. Auden FOR THE TIME BEING

Many Films, Art, Music, and Books explore, with eyes wide open, the outer reaches of human possibility and the multiple environments that have nurtured the creative human spirit in some very unlikely people and places.

Format: 10 sessions, once a week for 3 hours each session

Films to consider:

Why Man Creates?	Where All Things Belong	Who Are the DeBolts & Why Do They Have 19 Children? Dorothy DeBolt			
My Left Foot Christi Brown	Gaby Gaby Brimmer	Door to Door Bill Porter	A Test of Love Annie McDonald <i>ANNIE'S COMING OUT</i>	Joni Joni Eareckson Tada <i>JONI</i>	
With Eyes Wide Open Richard Wawro	Journey of the Heart Tony DeBlois	An Island of Genius Leslie Lemke	Portraits of Emotion Jonathan Lerman		
The Elephant Man John Merrick	KISS OF GOD Marshall Ball	Learning Channel Wawro & DeBlois	First Do No Harm Meryl Streep	Brainman David Tammet	
Son Rise Raun Kaufman	The Acorn People & B-Ball Ron Jones	A View From Here Taylor Crowe	I'm Tyler Tyler, Ability Awareness	The Horse Boy Movie Rowan	
Radio Robert 'Radio' Kennedy	Dominick & Eugene	Best Boy Philly	Best Man	The Other Sister <i>RIDING THE BUS WITH MY SISTER</i>	
Renaissance Man	October Sky Homer Hickam, Jr.	Dead Poets Society	Music of the Heart Roberta Gauspari	Forrest Gump	Life in a Jar Irena Sendler Holes
Molly	Rain Man Kim Peek	Miracle Run Sue Rubin	"Autism is a World"	Mozart and the Whale Jerry Newport	Keeper of the Kohn Peter Kohn
Beyond Silence	Children of a Lesser God	Nell	What the Bleep Do We Know?	Murder Ball	
Awakenings Dr. Oliver Sacks	A Beautiful Mind Dr. John Nash	Charlie "Flowers for Algernon"	Rory O'Shea Was Here	Darius Goes West	
Darmok Star Trek, The Next Generation	Hasten Slowly Sir Laurens van der Post	Shine	The Boy Who Could not Fly John Dennis <i>THE BOY WHO COULD NOT FLY</i>	The Mighty	
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly Jean-Dominique Bauby	Snow Cake	The Eighth Day	Beautiful Son	Recovered	

Basic suggested readings: REACHING OUT: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life, by Henri J.M. Nouwen (with special emphasis on movement #2 from Hostility to Hospitality)

JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

by Doris Klein (artist and writer) card selections from Heartbeats

WHAT WE ACHE FOR: Creativity and the Unfolding of Your Soul, by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

Films featuring people with autism are in bold type.

Basic Assumption: *“The mind and spirit are ultimately subject only to their own limitations, not those imposed by society or science. Throughout history true stories of people from all circumstances of life provide us, who take the opportunity to see, a fitting embodiment of the quality and persistence of the human spirit.”* Laurence A. Becker

Guiding Principle: *“The quest for understanding requires that we give up the search for certainty and go on a voyage of discovery.”* John Dunne

The course will explore themes of creativity, communication, education, disability, environments, sexuality and faith.

There will be ample room for individual exploration of visual and printed material and for group discussion and sharing. Creative responses to the material will be encouraged. There will be handouts for each session, which will enable further exploration of the topics. Learners will have input on which films, art, and books will be viewed and discussed and will participate fully in the growth of the resources by sharing from their own vast individual life experiences.

Folio: Due by the end of the course: A Folio of art, music, film, poetry containing

- a) something old, b) something new, c) something borrowed, & 4) something original.

Sample resources:

Savants: www.savantsyndrome.com, Dr. Darold A. Treffert; *The Real Rain Man* by Fran Peek

“How Environments Nurture Creativity” Laurence A. Becker, Ph.D.

<http://www.rcmautismnotebook.com/WADD-PhotoGallery.html>, Dr. Rosa Martinez

Rethinking Education Conference see www.rethinkingeducation.com

Educating for Human Greatness, Lynn Stoddard; *Waiting—Trust the Process*, Shawn McNiff

The Writing Life, Annie Dillard; “A Model of Creative Behavior,” James G. Vargiu

“Creativity,” Gordon McKenzie; “You and Creativity,” Don Fabun

“Scorned as Timber, Reaching for the Sky,” art by Emily Carr

“Mother is Gentle and a Child Sleeps in Her Arms” sculpture by Shigenori Matsui

How Can I Make What I Cannot See? Shiro Fukurai; *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, film

“Long Live the Weeds” poem by Theodore Roethke; *A Sleep of Prisoners* by Christopher Fry

“For the Time Being” (poem) by W.H. Auden; “Persons Are Gifts.....Wrapped” (poem)

“The Cow Manure Hypothesis of Creativity,” Bernard Rimland, Ph.D.; *Splodges*, Malcolm Carrick

Consciousness and Creativity & Risk, Trust, Love: Learning in a Humane Environment Bill Romey

No Excuses, Kyle Maynard; *deaf child crossing* Marlee Matlin *I’m Tyler* www.imtyler.com

The Giver, *Gathering Blue*, & *Messenger* Lois Lowry; *Some Kind of Genius* Janice BeBlois & Antonia Felix

the curious incident of the dog in the night-time Mark Haddon; *Son Rise* www.autismtreatmentcenter.org

Al Capone Does My Shirts Jennifer Choldenko; *Send in the Idiots* Kamran Nazeer

Don’t Stop the Music & Show Me No Mercy Robert Perske & Sprout Film Festival www.GoSprout.org

The Horse Boy Movie www.horseboymovie.com; *Healing: A Sacred Path* Robert Keck

The Essential 55, Ron Clark; *The Excellent 11*; *Nature’s Gambit* David Henry Feldman

Touch the Top of the World Erik Weihenmayer; *Farther Than the Eye Can See* (DVD)

A Sense of the World: How a Blind Man Became History’s Greatest Traveler Jason Roberts

The Adversity Advantage Paul G. Stoltz and Erik Weihenmayer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF9wo9sVn2c>, Tony Melendez, English subtitles, vd.selfip.com

Mountains Without Barriers (DVD) www.NoBarriersUSA.org www.disabilityisnatural.com

Team Everest ’03: Shattering Stereotypes on Mount Everest Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

If You Fall...It’s a New Beginning, Karen Darke; *Back in Action*, Captain David Rozelle

Darius Goes West (DVD) www.dariusgoeswest.com; *The Station Agent* (DVD)

Artists: Christophe Pillault, Ping Lian, Richard Wawro, www.savantsyndrome.com

Rohan Sonalker, www.pathfinders-helpline.com; *Life in a Jar*, www.irenasandler.org

KISS OF GOD & A GOOD KISS Marshall Ball, www.marshallball.com *Beautiful Son*, www.beautifulson.com

Living in the Spectrum: vol. 1 Autism & Asperger’s (CD) www.mindscapeproductions.com

Riding the Bus With My Sister: A True Life Journey Rachel Simon

Autism and the God Connection & The Soul of Autism William Stillman

BACK IN MY ARMS Kim Marie Lesso, www.autismguru.com

Resources in bold type feature people with autism

Laurence A. Becker, Ph.D. CREATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
507 Park Blvd. Austin, Texas 78751 512-454-4489 rbecker64@aol.com