

*The Reel Thinking Series of the  
Alliance for Psychoanalytic Thought (aPt) Presents...*

## Psychoanalysis and Psychic Trauma

# MAD TO BE NORMAL

**Date:** Sunday, March 3, 2019  
**Discussant:** Thomas Bartlett, MA  
**Time:** 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm



David Tennant offers a remarkable portrayal of RD Laing as a wildly spirited hero of antipsychiatry in the heyday of the 60's counterculture. Elisabeth Moss plays Laing's (composite-fictional) partner Angie, and Gabriel Byrne and Michael Gambon are excellent as his patients: old men who in a later era might be overlooked as care-in-the-community homeless.

Laing (*Divided Self*, *Sanity, Madness and the Family*, *Politics of Experience*, *Knots*) was an existential psychiatrist/psychoanalyst who sought to make madness intelligible and who opposed what he saw as the profession's barbaric prison-hospital ethos of tranquilizers and ECT. He described psychosis as an attempt to deal with mad circumstances, a sort of 'metanoid' awakening, with healing potential, that could and often did go horribly awry for being badly met. In Kingsley Hall, where this film takes place, Laing and colleagues undertook an experiment in communal living, where psychotic patients could be allowed to "work through their madness" or act out their traumas in a setting freed from enforced psychiatric medication or the constraints of conventional morality.

**Discussant:** [Thomas A Bartlett, M.A](#) is a psychoanalyst and member of the faculty at PCOP, who practices in Center City. He holds graduate degrees in Continental philosophy, phenomenological psychology, and clinical psychology. In the 1970's, Tom studied existential phenomenology and psychoanalysis in the seminar program of Laing's "[Philadelphia Association](#)" (in London), while living several years in Archway, a [therapeutic community](#) following after Kingsley Hall, which was featured in the documentary [Asylum](#).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This series will present films that portray psychological trauma and consider the myriad of ways that psychoanalytic thought contributes to our ways of understanding psychological trauma and its sequella in both children and adults.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe at least three ways that psychological trauma is presented in film and how this presentation affects the audience.
2. Describe the ways psychoanalytic thought contributes to our understanding of trauma and its mechanisms of action on the human mind.
3. Describe the ways psychoanalytic thought contributes to our understanding of the sequella of psychological trauma and how it differs in children and adults.

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **Continuing Medical Education (CME):**

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS:** None of the planners and presenters of this CME program have any relevant financial relationships to disclose.



### **Continuing Education for Psychologists (CE):**

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Every session of this program offers CE credit for psychologists.

**Continuing Education for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (CE):** In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of PA dated 12/23/06 [PA Code: Title 49, Ch. 47-49], The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors recognizes the American Psychological Association (APA) as a preapproved provider of continuing education programs for social workers and clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors in the State of Pennsylvania. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education programs.

### **For more information, please contact the administrative office of the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia:**

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#### **Location of All Events**

Rockland –  
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215-235-2345

3 CE/CME credits available per film

**Free for PCOP Members**

**Free for Non-Members not Seeking Credit**  
**\$75 for Non-Members Seeking Credit (per film)**

Register online at [www.philanalysis.org](http://www.philanalysis.org)