

The Department of Psychology and Education  
Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA  
&  
The Freedom Center  
Northampton, MA  
Are pleased to present the Spring 2005 film series  
**EXPERIENCING MADNESS**

**Where and When**

Tuesday Evenings, 7:00 PM  
Room 302, Reese Psychology and Education Building  
Mount Holyoke College

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
DISCUSSION FOLLOWING EACH FILM  
Call 413-538-2338 for directions

[www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/psych/](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/psych/)

[www.freedom-center.org](http://www.freedom-center.org)

**March 22 Placebo: Mind Over Medicine? (51 min; 2002)**

This Discovery Channel film critically explores the use of placebos in medicine and the profound effects that beliefs can have on both mental and physical symptoms. Exclusive footage reports on recent scientific studies documenting the effect of placebos in the treatment of depression, knee pain, skin conditions, and multiple sclerosis. The film includes interviews with noted psychiatrists, psychologists, and surgeons from UCLA and Baylor College of Medicine, and challenges many of our fundamental assumptions about illness and treatment.

**April 5 A Brilliant Madness (60 min; 2002)**

This PBS documentary tells the true story of John Nash, the brilliant mathematician/psychiatric patient portrayed in the Hollywood film *A Beautiful Mind*. Nash was a mathematical prodigy, hailed as one of the most important contributors to his field, until he suffered a devastating breakdown at the age of thirty. He started claiming that aliens were sending him messages, and became obsessed with secret numbers and conspiracies. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Nash spent a decade in and out of mental hospitals, surviving with the support of his wife and colleagues. Despite these challenges, Nash won the Nobel Prize and his work has had a profound influence on many fields. The Hollywood version of his life story makes it seem as if psychiatric medication helped him to recover from schizophrenia; actually, Nash refused to take any medication (except during one brief period) and renounced psychiatric treatment as barbaric. If you saw *A Beautiful Mind*, you need to see this film to hear Nash's real story.

**April 19 Friends and Family (35 min, 2001) and Behind the Behaviour (32 min, 2001)**

These two short films, created by the survivor-run production company in London, Mental Health Media, offer a viewpoint on mental health issues different from those typically presented in the US media. *Friends and Family* is intended to help those who are supporting someone with mental health difficulties. It offers suggestions for both crisis and everyday situations, and is intended to help build confidence among carers. It shows people experiencing mental distress and those who support them -- parents, partners, roommates -- talking about what they have found difficult and how they have helped to make their relationships work. *Behind the Behaviour* focuses on the role teachers can play in dealing with emotional problems in children and actively promoting their mental health. It shows new initiatives in UK schools, and describes ways of preventing children's behavioral problems from becoming longer-term mental health issues. Teachers and other education professionals who work with children between the ages of 4-11 years will find the film of special interest.

**May 3 Man Facing Southeast (105 min; 1987, Spanish dialogue, English subtitles)**

This feature film by Argentinean director Eliseo Subiela tells the tale of a lonely psychiatrist and a mysterious new patient named Rantes, who appears in a Buenos Aires psychiatric hospital claiming to be an alien visitor. Rantes has extraordinary gifts and spends long hours in the yard facing southeast, where he claims to receive communications from his home planet. The film uses gentle humor and stark contrasts to evoke the inherent problem of distinguishing between the normal and the pathological, thereby raising profound questions about the plausibility of psychiatric diagnosis.