
WHERE WE ARE: JUNGIAN
ANALYSTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY. A
FILM BY STEPHEN WITTY

Reviewed by Chie Lee

The central focus of Stephen Witty's film is a thoughtful and sensitive piecing together of interviews with nine Jungian analysts in Colorado. The film also includes "a brief primer of Jung Speaks," which describes basic Jungian concepts such as anima, animus, and archetype. *Where We Are* is an excellent introduction for someone newly interested in Jungian psychology or for candidates in any psychological training program. As a Jungian analyst who had not met many analysts outside of my own community, I found this film to be a wonderful introduction to some of the Jungian analysts in Colorado and how they work.

The film begins with a dinner gathering of 20 or so Jungian analysts. When each described what drew him or her into Jungian psychology, the common thread that emerged was the numinous experiences of the unconscious through dreams. After the gathering, the analysts who agreed to be interviewed were Laura Dodson, Jeffrey Raff, Gary Toub, Galin McGowan, Glen Carlson, Annie Meyer, Lara Newton,

Jean Carlson, and Stephen Witty (when he turned the camera on himself).

Each analyst had taken different paths in his or her training, but all shared, as one analyst put it, an experience of answering the call "to live in a certain way." I felt a sense of recognition as each analyst spoke about his or her growth, personal and professional struggles, and creative processes. I empathized with the struggle many in the group expressed about how hard it is to hold a balance between the yearning of the inner life and the demand of outer realities. This must be a continuous inner and outer dialogue that ripples through every Jungian organization.

The fundamental Jungian theories are still deeply valued and "work" for this group of analysts. But some, through their experiences, have found their perspectives changed and would like to expand the basic Jungian model of the psyche. Also expressed were feelings that some aspects of Jungian theory are still "incomplete"; for example, the need for a better description, in Jungian language, of the early developmental processes.

I was most interested and engaged when each analyst talked about his or her area of interests,

how he or she is "keeping the flame alive" and "pushing further." Some of these interests included painting, writing stories, creating sand-play objects, studying the Kabbala, deepening the psychoid archetype, activating the fourth dimension, and writing about the inner experiences of old age.

In watching this film, I felt admiration for these Colorado Jungian analysts; it takes courage to speak so openly about the path they have chosen in life. They have allowed the audience a small peek into the interior landscape of both their inner and professional worlds. And for Stephen Witty, it must have been quite a challenge to create a safe space that allowed this group of rather introverted and private people to be so real and present. At the end, I felt my differences, but more importantly, I had the experience through this film that we all shared a deep commitment to a relationship to the unconscious and to the symbolic way of living our lives.

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