

STORIES OF OEDIPUS

Friday, April 24 and Friday May 29, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

“Many years have passed since Oedipus solved the riddle of the Sphinx and ascended to the throne of Thebes , and now a plague has struck the city.”

In an 1897 letter to Wilhelm Fliess, Freud advanced his hypothesis to account for “...the riveting power of *Oedipus Rex*”—namely, the child’s falling in love with the mother and jealousy of the father. Freud appropriated Oedipus’ name to describe a complex that still stands as the cornerstone of psychoanalysis. But is there more to the name of Oedipus than meets the eye? As psychoanalysis continues to evolve and include a deeper understanding of pre-oedipal and inter-subjective experience, the age-old story of Oedipus is still capable of delivering new lessons both within and beyond the interpretations Freud assigned to it. Not just one—there are many stories of Oedipus.

In these presentations, our reading group invites you to return with us to the play itself, to retrace the threads of connection between Oedipus and the complex that Freud named after him. In so doing, we hope to elaborate and discuss other oedipal themes embedded in the play including denial, loss, fate, trauma, dissociation and the triangularity of human experience.

In preparation for the evening, we ask you to read Sophocles’ play and re-experience its riveting power. Join us in ancient Thebes as we consider Oedipus’ thoughts and actions and what befalls him in his attempts to rescue his city...

*Our reading group is composed of five CTP graduates: **Kim Gilbert** (1992), **Jackie Herner** (1994), **Sharon Bedard** (1996), **Frank Cherry** (1998) and **John Gross** (2004). We have met for the past five years to read and discuss a wide variety of professional papers and literature that reflects our therapeutic interests. Over the last two years we have focused on becoming writers and presenters as well as continuing to read and discuss the work of others. Our collective history of presentations began with Kim Gilbert presenting for CTP with Philip McKenna on *Therapeutic Regression* in 2000 at the *What is Psychotherapy? Day*. Since then, Jackie and Frank have both presented at the Graduate Film Forum and at Alumni Association seminars. Sharon has presented at Alumni Association seminars and for CTP and recently at the November seminar on *Sexuality, Gender and Sexual Orientation*. John will be a panel member in the “*What I Would Not Part With*” discussion at *What is Psychotherapy? Day* on January 10. Jackie and Sharon became CTP faculty members in 2006.*