



Media Alert: 1 August 2022

Mind Medicine Australia announces an exclusive screening of acclaimed film: *The Way of The Psychonaut in Byron Bay*

Following the success of last year's *Fantastic Fungi* screening, Mind Medicine Australia is thrilled to announce an exclusive screening of ***The Way of the Psychonaut: Stanislav Grof's Journey of Consciousness***, at **Byron Bay Theatre** on Thursday 25 August at 6:30pm followed by a Q and a Panel, hosted by Mind Medicine Australia's Byron Bay Chapter.

Mind Medicine Australia is Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation working towards the use of medicinal psilocybin and MDMA-assisted therapies to treat a range of mental illnesses. Mind Medicine Australia exists to help alleviate the suffering caused by our accelerating mental illness epidemic, through expanding the treatment options available to medical practitioners and their patients.

Unlike current treatments such as anti-depressants, which only manage the illness and can have nasty side effects, psilocybin and MDMA-assisted therapies have been scientifically proven to be a safe and effective cure for anxiety, depression, end-of-life stress, addictions and PTSD after just a short treatment program. These medicines are also currently being researched for dementia, eating disorders, OCD and a number of other conditions. Both medicines have been granted Breakthrough Therapy status by the FDA in the USA to fast-track their approval. This designation is only given to medicines which are highly likely to be vastly superior to existing treatments.

Mind Medicine Australia's Byron Chapter are excited to host ***The Way of the Psychonaut: Stanislav Grof's Journey of Consciousness***. This exciting film showcases Stan Grof's groundbreaking work in human consciousness with psychedelics, Holotropic Breathwork and Transpersonal Psychology. Dr Grof famously commented that: ***"Psychedelics, used responsibly and with proper caution, would be for psychiatry what the microscope is for biology and medicine or the telescope is for astronomy."***

Stan's quest for knowledge and insights into the healing power of non-ordinary states of consciousness influenced the disciplines of psychiatry and psychology and profoundly changed many individual lives. One of those transformed by Stan is **filmmaker Susan Hess Logeais**. The documentary utilises Susan's personal existential crisis as a gateway to examine Grof's impact, from the micro to the macro.

Following the screening, there will be a Q & A panel with the Mind Medicine Australia's founders **Tania de Jong AM** and **Peter Hunt AM** and other panel members from the Northern Rivers region. This will be an incredible opportunity to engage and discuss psychedelic-assisted psychotherapies for mental illness broadly, and what Mind Medicine Australia and other local organisations are doing to develop this new paradigm.



Tania de Jong AM, Mind Medicine Australia’s Executive Director, says, *“Unlike conventional treatments, which often require patients to endure years of daily medications and weekly support from a mental health professional, medicine-assisted psychotherapy can be effective after just two to three clinically supervised sessions with these medicines. All the research indicates that the medicines are safe and non-addictive when administered within a medically controlled environment. There have been no adverse events in over 160 trials globally.”*

Board member and Executive Director of the Ethics Centre, **Dr Simon Longstaff AO** says, *“We should not allow the prejudices of the past to deny relief in the present. If these medicines are safe and effective when applied in a clinical environment, as current research suggests, then Australian governments have an obligation to make them available.”*

EVENT DETAILS

Movie: *The Way of the Psychonaut: Stanislav Grof’s Journey of Consciousness*

Date: Thursday 25th August 2022

Time: 6:30 PM sharp – 9:30 PM (includes Q&A Panel)

Location: Byron Theatre, Byron Bay

Ticket Price: \$35 General / \$25 Concession

For tickets to the Byron screening of *The Way of The Psychonaut* on Thursday 25th August please click here: https://byroncentre.com.au/event/the-way-of-the-psychonaut-with-ga-panel-presented-by-mind-medicine-australia/?instance_id=26795

Enquiries: (03) 8679 6015 or 02 6685 6807

For more information please visit: www.mindmedicineaustralia.org

Please note the following are available for interview:

- Peter Hunt AM (MMA Chair)
- Tania de Jong AM (MMA Executive Director)
- Dr Simon Longstaff AO (MMA Director)

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Ilan Hayman ilan@mindmedicineaustralia.org or Tania de Jong tania@mindmedicineaustralia.org

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