

SHORE FEATURED ON NPR PROGRAM

MARIAL Center Director Bradd Shore talked about Thanksgiving rituals and traditions during a special, two-hour broadcast from Public Radio International. The program, *Mythic Journeys*, included highlights from a four-day festival in Atlanta last year that marked the one hundredth anniversary of Joseph Campbell's birth.

Shore participated in the conference, which featured world-renowned artists, musicians, mythologists, folklorists, anthropologists, psychologists, CEOs, religious leaders, and storytellers. The group discussed issues that face the world, using the language and insight derived from mythology and the mythic imagination.

Shore later was invited by independent radio producer Mary Beth Kirchner to participate in the radio program. Her goal was to capture highlights of the festival in a two-hour window. The program was broadcast in December and January on about thirty NPR stations across the country, including Atlanta. It featured stirring poetry readings by Pulitzer Prize-winner Galway Kinnell, and by Robert Bly and Coleman Barks; storytelling by

Michael Meade and Sobonfu Some; and messages from theologian Matthew Fox, folk singer Janis Ian, and psychologist James Hilman, among many others.

Myth is the symbolic language of the human experience—expressed in story, ritual, dream, tradition, poetry, and art—that reveals eternal truths about our existence as its wisdom guides us toward more meaningful and fulfilling lives. “Myths are those things that cannot be, yet ever are,” said Campbell, the legendary teacher and greatest pioneer of comparative mythology of the twentieth century. “The first function of any mythology is to awaken a sense of awe and wonder in response to the unfathomable universe,” he said.

Campbell died in 1987. During the last three years of his life, he recorded a series of interviews with journalist Bill Moyers that were to become *The Power of Myth*—a series for public television that, when aired after his death, would catapult him to international fame. His mantra, “Follow your bliss,” became a catchphrase, and Campbell became a guru to thousands of new followers.

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