



The Mystery of Love

ON PBS
Wednesday, December 13th
at 9 PM

A Production of
The Independent Production Fund
and
Joan Konner Productions, Inc.

45 West 45th Street, Suite 808
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212-221-6310
Fax: 212-302-1854

Major Funding Provided By

The Fetzer Institute

Additional Funding By

Southwest Airlines
The Betsy Gordon Foundation

Presenting Station
KLRU, Austin, Texas

Selected Quotes from Experts

“I think people don’t feel that they have permission to talk about something that makes them as vulnerable as love, so we don’t usually talk about it in public. I once had the idea of having a red bench in every corporation. And the red bench would be an invitation to conversations that matter. So if you sat on the red bench, you were saying, I’m open to a conversation about love, or a conversation about truth, or something that matters to me.” – Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D., Scholar, Poet, Author

“Men and women express their love very differently. But they all want to be cared for. And sometimes men are afraid of entrapment, and women are afraid of abandonment. As one of my teachers said, a good marriage is when the neuroses mesh.” – Frances Vaughan, Ph.D., Psychotherapist, Author

“What happens in love is that you feel like you’re losing your identity. But what is really happening is that you’re gaining your identity unselfconscious of it. That is, you’re not focused on who you are, but in being who you are, you experience it, sometimes for the first time.” – Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D.

“Of all the loves that puts someone on the right foot in life, one would have to include parental love. Because to have that feeling of safety, and being embraced, and being approved of, and being taught, and having expectations, and learning to project ideas into the future, and have plans -- is so related to what one’s parents give you.” – Ethel Person, M.D., Psychoanalyst, Author

“I define the word ‘love’ as listening; as understanding; going out, reaching out and connecting to other people, and not staying in yourself. Not being me-minded. Wanting to learn more about other people. Wanting to help other people. I mean, without that want, it’s just... charity, mindless, feel-good... you get some buzz, and then you’re done. But when you involve yourself in a person’s life, and, and give them what they need, that’s enormously love.” – Mandy Inhofer, 17-year-old High School Senior

“In school, we used to talk about the atom as being the smallest particle of reality. Oh no. Love is the matrix of being. It is the energy of being and becoming. It is that which holds things together.” – Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., Senior Minister, The Riverside Church

“True love is connection. When we connect with someone; when we really feel our identity with them, I think we can’t help but love them.” – Rabbi Alan Lew

“Most people think of love primarily as romantic love, but I think that’s simply an out-come of women’s magazines.” – Ethel Person, M.D.

“Lots of people wonder about whether romance lasts. There’s not one answer to that question. Some people are married forever, and are perfectly happy. And some people regret it as soon as they walk down the aisle. Great love affairs come in different packages. My grandfather, who died a year short of a hundred and one, outlived his first wife, and had a second wife, whom he married in his seventies. And that was the great love of his life, and it was totally astonishing.” – Ethel Person, M.D.

“Why is love so painful? Now, the only way I can understand that — and I mean this in different kinds of love — is that it breaks the heart. And that the broken heart is no longer the innocent heart. So that love is the great learning of the soul.” – James Hillman, Ph.D., Jungian Analyst, Author

“We are larger than what we know. And love reminds us of that. And the other thing that love does is remind us that our boundaries don’t stop with our bodies; that we are all one, in some very profound, real sense. And love teaches us that; love reminds us that; love lures us to that, and to the experience of it.” – Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D.

“Love is a mystery because it tells me that there’s more beyond that which I see in the realm of time and space. And I’ve got to wait ‘til I get there to find out what, for heaven’s sake, is it.” – Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.

“When we think about the ancient racial hatreds in certain parts of the world; in all of the ethnic conflicts that we have witnessed in recent years; we see how difficult it is for people to let go of the past, and start over. And yet, I think that’s what we’re challenged to do, just as those of us who have had personal experiences of loss and disappointment, we have to be willing to put that to rest before we can love again; before we can find a sense of renewal. I think the same is true in the world.” – Frances Vaughan, Ph.D.

“Jesus said, ‘Greater love hath no man than this; that he gives his life for his friends.’ And friendship, Aristotle noticed, was a purer form of love than romantic love. It’s purely there for the other. It doesn’t seek to fulfill anything in itself; it seeks to give. And over time, as you get older, friendship becomes, I think, more and more important.” – Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D.

“There’s no doubt that there is a family connection between all kinds of love. And you feel it in terms of the sacrifice that you are willing to make for people you love, and your absolute commitment and devotion to them. And I think that’s the crossover between religious love; love of spouse, children, family; and also the love of friends.” – Ethel Person, M.D.

“I think unconditional love is an ideal; that we would like to be able to love unconditionally, but most of us have too much investment in what we want. Love is so often mixed with desire, and we want to be loved; we want our children, for example, to be what we would like them to be. We want them to be the best that they can be. Parental love in some ways is the closest we come to unconditional love, because we tend to love them even when they do what we don’t like.” – Frances Vaughan, Ph.D.

”People are the greatest obstacle to love. We get in our own way. Our needs; our desires; our fantasy images of how it ought to be. The requirement that it be fulfilled; that the other person meet the model that you have in your mind. Those are all big obstacles.”
– James Hillman, Ph.D.

“I think love is always accompanied by grace. A Yankee friend of mine went into a southern restaurant, and ordered breakfast. And the waitress came, and there were grits with his eggs and bacon. And he said, ‘Ma’am, sorry; I didn’t order grits.’ And she said, ‘Honey, you don’t order grits. Grits come.’ And I think that’s what happens with love. Grace comes. When there’s love, grace is there. And by grace, I mean that sense of the extra dimension, the extra gift that life brings.” – Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D.

“Love is an instinct because it pulls us into life. Love is a cultural imperative, because, as the poet Auden said, ‘We must love one another or die.’ Love is our highest destiny, so we’re always on a quest for it. There is nothing in life that love doesn’t touch, that love doesn’t expand, and that love isn’t at the root of. It’s all love. And we don’t know it, mostly.” – Betty Sue Flowers, Ph.D.

“We are, each one of us, alone in our own true being. We are born alone, and each of us dies a private death, even with loved ones at our side. But most of us cannot survive, and do not want to live a single day, without love. We can make a choice—to live life through the lens of fear, of separation, competition, and loss. Or we can see the same world differently; through the lens of love and connection. We can see the universe as the Hindus do, in their image of the net of Indra; a net of gems, where each jeweled intersection represents a spark of creation and illumination. Each jewel reflects every other jewel. Love is that jewel, that spark of connection, when we recognize ourselves in the eyes of the other—a reflection that changes the way we see ourselves, and illuminates the way of love in the world.” – Anna Deavere Smith, Host, Actress, Author, Playwright

