

# Effie Gray

## “Innocence, Betrayal and the Strivings of the Soul”

With Donald Rosenfeld, former President of Merchant Ivory (*Howards End*, *Remains of the Day*), recent winner of the *Palme d’Or* and 3 Oscar nominations for *The Tree of Life* starring Brad Pitt and Sean Penn.

Starring Julie Walters, Derek Jacobi, Emma Thompson, David Suchet, Dakota Fanning, Tom Sturridge, Robbie Coltrane, Greg Wise, James Fox and Claudia Cardinale, this film is about the relationships between John Ruskin, Effie Gray and Everett Millais, and the ensuing scandal.

Exquisitely shot, *Effie Gray* is a subtle but disturbing portrayal of developmental trauma, the failure by one of the giants of the Victorian era to follow the promptings of his anima, and the rite of passage of a young woman.

For all those interested in psychology, art, film and relationships – professionals and lay alike. Includes film, lunch at Gin Joint by Searcys, conversation with Donald Rosenfeld (and any actors he may bring) and presentations by leading psychoanalysts on the film’s psychological themes.

**Venue:** Cinema 1, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

**Date:** Saturday 8 March 2014

**Time:** 10.00am – 5.00p.m.

**Tickets:** Available from [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)  
Early bird £75. From 1 Feb: £85

**Further Information:** [www.citypsychotherapy.org](http://www.citypsychotherapy.org)



Emma Thompson and Dakota Fanning on the set of *Effie Gray*

barbican



SOVEREIGN  
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FILMS

## Effie Gray: the complexity of love

The film's portrayal of Ruskin's mother in relation to his father, her son and her daughter-in-law, graphically evokes the consequences of a 'mother complex' that are at the root of his cold and cruel responses to Effie. This talk reveals the emotionally harrowing patterns of such parental complexes, seen within the shadow side of John Ruskin's passion for the Ideal.

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### Afraid to be Father

In this talk the archetype of father will be described and the withering consequences of its unconscious betrayal: the father who manipulates the son to be an extension of his own ambition, who does not defend his son's individuation against the paralysing control of mother, who betrays his own role of guiding the son into maturity and expected parenthood. In turn, it is the inevitable fate of the father to be 'killed off' by the gathering power and potency of his son. When this symbolic arena is denied, then a mortal combat may have to be resolved, but through others and with deadly results.

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### Confronting the ugliness of beauty: why marrying your muse is not a good idea!

Passionately devoted to the idea that art should faithfully "go to Nature in all singleness of heart... rejecting nothing, selecting nothing, scorning nothing", Ruskin failed to apply this ideal to his own emotional life – with disastrous results! What was happening psychologically when Ruskin fell in love with, and proposed to, Effie Gray? And how was it that Effie acquired the strength to defy public morality and break free from the prison in which she found herself trapped? This talk, examines both sides of the relationship – exploring the projections which each party makes upon the other.

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### Sexing the child bride

In Victorian England, marriage was not the romantic fairytale depicted in novels of the time. Victorian women, not being formally educated, had few options as adults and fewer rights; marriage therefore offered a woman financial and social security but psycho-sexual development was scarcely expected nor even thought about. This talk explores the marriage of Effie Gray and John Ruskin through the lens of Jung's *Marriage as a Psychological Relationship*.

## SPEAKERS

CATHERINE COX  
VICTORIA GRAHAM FULLER  
MATTHEW HARWOOD  
MARTIN KNOPS  
DR JUDITH WOODHEAD



Images from the set of *Effie Gray*