



Exploring psychology

What is imagination?

Narrator

Imagination. The word has a range of meanings. It may conjure up a state of mind like daydreaming in which thoughts flow freely and particularly vivid or novel ideas occur. This kind of imagining can be purely private. It can take place unobserved inside a person's head. Imagination also invokes the intense creativity, which goes into producing works of art. In this case there is an outward expression. A product which communicates to others and may find a place within culture.

Imagination may play a role in many thought processes and creativity is part and parcel of many day-to-day activities. While imaginative activity is frequently individual, the idea of the artist working away isolated in the Garret, it also strong links to social interaction. For many adults a major source of imaginative participation may be as the audience of a film, TV programme, or drama production, but the process of engagement is no less important.

Daniel Nettle

People seem to get some kind of very basic excitement and engagement from seeing another person actually go through something imaginatively and being there in the same room and film works in exactly the same way. We draw an audience in to the imaginative world of somebody. You see in film, even in your classical Hollywood film with your million dollar location, the amount of camera time give to head shots and shots of people thinking and feeling, compared to shots of landscapes and things blowing up is quite remarkable. People want to see other people going through imaginative process, reacting, responding and feeling a particular situation.

Narrator

For a musician like Javier Negrin an unusual degree of imagination is indispensable.

Javier Negrin

Of course imagination and how I use it and how it comes to me, it's an important part and it also affects how I see, my views of music directly. I mean music is like filtered through me. I mean there is a very important role that the performer places in terms of imagination and the artistic qualities that one might be able to bring into a performance.