



## UNITED NATIONS HONORS LICHTENSTEIN CREATIVE MEDIA AND THE INFINITE MIND FOR PROGRAM EXAMINING "WAR"

---

June 25, 2004 (New York) Lichtenstein Creative Media was honored by the United Nations for its program "**War: A Special Report**," which aired as part of the national, weekly public radio series, **The Infinite Mind**.

The UN award was presented as part of this year's International Radio Awards of the New York Festivals at a ceremony in New York City. Lichtenstein Creative Media swept the New York Festivals by winning a Grand Award in the Information and Documentary category and a Gold World Medal for the program.

The special broadcast presentation, hosted by veteran broadcast journalist and author **John Hockenberry**, presents an insightful and powerful vision of war and how to prevent it, going behind the headlines to explore the social and psychological underpinnings of war. Guests include **Michael Walzer**, an expert on "just" wars; **Col. Anthony Hartle**, West Point professor of ethics; **Steven LeBlanc**, Harvard archeologist; **Chris Hedges**, New York Times war correspondent and best-selling author; and **William Vendley** and **William Tolbert** of the World Conference of Religions for Peace. The program also includes a special report on the inherent appeal of recreational war games such as paintball, a performance of a starkly different "peace anthem" and discussion with anarchist rockers **Chumbawamba**, interviews with soldiers who describes the thrill of battlefield conflict ("a part of me would certainly love to have that feeling again"), and civilians who have survived war.

The **UN Award**, sponsored jointly by the United Nations Department of Public Information and The New York Festivals, has been given annually since 1990 in recognition of radio, television and public service programming that best reflects and exemplifies the values and concerns of the United Nations.

The selection of the award is made by the United Nations Department of Public Information, the centerpiece of communications in the UN Secretariat. It is headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, reports to the Secretary-General and serves the Secretariat, agencies and programs of the UN system, delegations, regional organizations, the press, educational institutions, NGOs, along with the general public.

The program was selected from 495 shows that were submitted to the International Radio Festival and 15 finalists. Runners-up included submissions from National Public Radio the BBC, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, ABC News Radio, and Radio Netherlands. Lichtenstein Creative Media also won Best of Show honors from the New York Festivals for the program, in the Information and Documentary category.

"War: A Special Report" was produced by Macky Alston and June Peoples, and edited by Greg Seaton. Executive producer of **The Infinite Mind** is June Peoples. Senior Executive Producer is Bill Lichtenstein.

Major underwriting for the program was provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Nonprofit Finance Fund and Auburn Media, a division of the Center for Multifaith Education at Auburn Seminary. **The Infinite Mind** is a non-profit production of Lichtenstein Creative Media in association with WNYC/NY and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

**Lichtenstein Creative Media**  
One Broadway Cambridge Massachusetts 02142  
617-682-3700 Fax: 617-682-3710 LCM@LCMedia.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2005

## **Bill Lichtenstein Named Guggenheim Fellow** *President of Multi-Media Company Honored for Work in Radio and Film*

CAMBRIDGE – The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation today named Bill Lichtenstein one of this year's Guggenheim Fellows. Lichtenstein is president of the Peabody Award-winning Lichtenstein Creative Media, the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based independent media production company that works in film, TV, and radio. LCM's productions, which include the national public radio series, **The Infinite Mind**, focus on health, human rights, and other social issues.

Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. The financial awards, which totaled more than \$7 million, are intended to enable gifted and skilled people to work with more creative freedom. Fellowships are presented to professionals who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts.

In his application, Lichtenstein cited his work-in-progress, **Juveniles in Crisis**, a groundbreaking documentary film that focuses on the social welfare of young people in America. The non-profit production will be the first to collectively examine the nation's inextricably intertwined juvenile mental health, juvenile justice, education, and foster care systems, and the impact that each has on the other three. The documentary is for festival and theatrical release and is slated to air on PBS in 2007.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship Awards recently celebrated their 80th anniversary. Past fellowship recipients include Ansel Adams, Aaron Copeland, Martha Graham, Henry Kissinger, Vladimir Nabokov, Eudora Welty, Langston Hughes, Isamu Noguchi, Linus Pauling, Paul Samuelson, Philip Roth, Derek Walcott, James Watson, along with scores of Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer, and other prize winners.

In 2003, Lichtenstein co-produced **West 47th Street**, an award-winning documentary film, which follows four people with mental illness over a period of three years. **West 47th Street** was broadcast nationally on the PBS and was accompanied by a major educational outreach campaign that involved more than 100 screenings across the country. The film was winner of "Best Documentary" at the Atlanta Film Festival and the "Audience Award" at the DC Independent Film Festival. **West 47th Street** has sold out theatres across the U.S. and internationally from Vancouver to Dublin to South Korea. It was called "must see" by *Newsweek* and "remarkable" by the *Washington Post*.

The public radio program, **The Infinite Mind** is hosted by Dr. Peter Kramer and is each week heard by one million listeners in 240 markets across the nation. Lichtenstein, who produced investigative reports for ABC News, *20/20*, *World News Tonight*, and *Nightline*, founded LCM in 1990.

Lichtenstein has been a member of the faculty of the New School for Social Research, in New York City, since 1980, where he has taught courses on investigative reporting for television and documentary filmmaking. His writings and photography have appeared in such publications as the *Nation*, *Village Voice*, *New York Daily News* and the *Baltimore Sun*. Previous honors for Lichtenstein's work include a George Foster Peabody Award, TV and radio's highest honor, a Media Award from the United Nations, eight National Headliner Awards, three nominations for National News Emmy Awards and four Gracie Awards from American Women in Radio and Television. Lichtenstein is a graduate of Brown University and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and resides in Lexington, Mass, with wife June Peoples and daughter Rose. For more on LCM and **The Infinite Mind** visit [www.LCMedia.com](http://www.LCMedia.com).

###

MEDIA CONTACT: Jackie Herskovitz, (617) 269-7171, [jackie@teakmedia](mailto:jackie@teakmedia).

# The Boston Globe

## In its eighth year, public radio's 'The Infinite Mind' continues its exploration of the thought process

By Mark Feeney, Globe Staff  
May 9, 2005

CAMBRIDGE -- There being nothing site-specific about thought, the human mind is highly portable.

That's also true of "The Infinite Mind," the public radio show on brain science, mental health, and human behavior, which last month celebrated its eighth anniversary. It airs on 240 stations nationally. WUMB-FM (91.9) is its local outlet.

For its first seven seasons, "The Infinite Mind" originated in New York. That's where the show's creator, Bill Lichtenstein, and its executive producer, June Peoples, lived. Lichtenstein and Peoples, who are married and both 48, had been considering a move from Manhattan.

"I think we woke up one day," Peoples says with a laugh, "and said, 'We own the company. We can work wherever we want.' And Boston just seemed alluring."

So now they and their 5-year-old daughter live in Lexington. Their production company, Lichtenstein Creative Media, is in a Kendall Square office building, and that's where "The Infinite Mind" originates.

A Newton native, Lichtenstein has local roots. "Radio is my first love in media," he says, and that love first manifested itself at WBCN. He started volunteering at the FM station when he was 14, answering phones for legendary announcer Charles Laquidara. Soon he was doing news reports and working as a weekend overnight announcer.

At Brown University, Lichtenstein didn't give up radio. He continued to work summers at 'BCN and was program director at Brown's student-run station, WBRU.

After graduating from Columbia Journalism School, Lichtenstein switched media. ABC was just starting its prime-time television news magazine "20/20," and Lichtenstein was hired to work on investigative stories -- "very mainstream, muckraking, follow-the-buck journalism," he says.

In 1986, Lichtenstein was diagnosed with manic depression and was unable to work for the next four years. The experience changed him personally -- and professionally. He realized, he says, "There were issues out there [concerning mental health] that somehow affect everybody that weren't being addressed. To a journalist, that's a very interesting thing."

Returning to radio, he produced three one-hour documentaries for public radio, "Voices of an Illness." The documentaries won awards, including a prestigious George Foster Peabody Award, and helped pave the way to "The Infinite Mind."

Peoples's involvement in mental health issues wasn't so hard won. A native of Bucks County, Pa., she worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers and the Associated Press in New York City and upstate. She remained a print journalist after she and Lichtenstein married. "I was one of these snooty reporters who thought 'broadcast news' was a contradiction in terms," she says with a laugh.

Yet when Lichtenstein was looking for a producer for one of the documentaries, Peoples surprised herself by volunteering. He agreed, and she's been in radio ever since.

Both Lichtenstein and Peoples say that one of the things that distinguishes "The Infinite Mind" is its broad approach. "Each week, 'The Infinite Mind' takes on an issue that in some way relates to human mind," Lichtenstein says. "It can be medical, it can be social. It can be metaphysical. We spend an hour examining it from as many perspectives as we can, so that at the end of the hour you understand that subject in a way you didn't before. It can range from a medical issue, like multiple sclerosis, to something like left-handedness or dopamine or writer's block."

This season "The Infinite Mind" has a new host, Peter Kramer. A psychiatrist who teaches at Brown, Kramer is the best-selling author of "Listening to Prozac." His latest book is "Against Depression."

"I feel lucky Bill and June have put this together and the show exists," Kramer says. "The Infinite Mind' has a public health function, and it's a broad one. Just talking about mental illness is useful. I also think it's useful not to talk about it exclusively but in the context of lots of aspect of mind and brain. There's real value in making mental illness ordinary."



Lichtenstein, who also makes documentary films, recently was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship for a film on at-risk juveniles in the social-welfare system. "The Infinite Mind" remains his priority, though, and he doesn't see the show slowing down any time soon.

"We have too many ideas," he says. "Unlike other parts of the body, where the more research they do the more they understand it -- like the heart -- with the brain every time they get a new insight it opens up 10 questions."

"The Infinite Mind" is broadcast locally on WUMB-FM (91.9) Sundays at 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

© Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company



# DAILY NEWS

## Show's got ideas on the brain

The classic CBS series "M\*A\*S\*H" would have been perceived very differently, it turns out, if it had been broadcast without its laugh track.

"When you show it to people with the laugh track, which it had on CBS, they see it as light and sometimes almost silly," says Bill Lichtenstein, creator of the syndicated radio show "The Infinite Mind."

"When you show it to them without the laugh track, it becomes something very different. It becomes dark."

The "M\*A\*S\*H" producers also thought the laugh track changed the whole show, but could only convince CBS to drop it for operating room scenes.

CBS, of course, figured "light and funny" would draw more viewers than "dark," which was true. But then, part of the subtle genius of "M\*A\*S\*H" is that it worked on multiple levels.

In any case, what's interesting is that researchers would break down the difference a laugh track makes. Reporting that kind of information is the mission of "The Infinite Mind," which Lichtenstein started in 1998 and for which he just won a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The show just got a new host, Dr. Peter Kramer, and New Yorkers can check it out on WNYC (820 AM) at 7 a.m. Sundays. It won't update the Michael Jackson trial, but it can explain why we feel and act the way we do.

Take that laugh business. Turns out 70%-80% of the times that we laugh, it's not because anything was funny. We're using laughter as a social mechanism to help put someone at ease.

After Sept. 11, "The Infinite Mind" explained why "trauma and tension" debilitated many people to the point where they lost interest in food or sex.

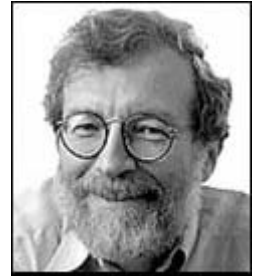
"When we feel threatened," explains Lichtenstein, "the brain channels all its resources into protection."

Soon after the Iraq war began, "The Infinite Mind" asked this: "If everyone's for peace, why do we always end up at war?"

"We looked at studies that measure people's instinctive response to, for instance, blowing things up," says Lichtenstein. "People like it. Put the data together and it becomes clear war is driven less by the geopolitical reasons that are usually cited than by primal needs of man."

As this might suggest, the goal of "The Infinite Mind" isn't to stake out a position and outtalk or outshout anyone who disagrees. The program seems to have found a place anyway, which is encouraging.

"The model for this show was 'Cosmos,'" says Lichtenstein, referring to the 1980s public television series about the universe. "We try to make neuroscience entertaining. Maybe someday we'll inspire our own 'Star Wars' or 'Star Trek.'"



David Hinckley

**Originally published on April 14, 2005**

# Newsweek

## Television—Must See: Mental Health Gets Reel



August 25, 2003 - There is Hollywood's too-perfect version of mental illness—"Ordinary People," "Rain Man," "A Beautiful Mind." And then there's the raw stuff of "West 47th Street," a documentary airing this week and next on public-television stations nation-wide.

FILMING FOR THREE years, producers Bill Lichtenstein (who has battled manic depression himself) and June Peoples follow four residents of a New York City rehab house as they struggle with joblessness, anger, drugs—or the internal voices of schizophrenia.

Shot in the tradition of cinema verite (straight dialogue, no script), the film offers a powerful lens into the world of serious mental illness. Despite their obvious demons, the four subjects are on a quest for dignity and satisfaction in their lives. They shout, they cry, they laugh—you feel their suffering, but also their moments of joy.

The film debuts at a time when the country's mental-health system is under fire. A recent presidential commission called it "fragmented, disconnected and often inadequate." For those battling mental illness, better services are critical. So is respect. As the film's Frances Olivero puts it: "I'm just trying to be accepted as one more person living on the planet."

—Claudia Kalb

# The Washington Post

## A Mindful Broadcast

Tuesday, August 23, 2005

Are we hard-wired to believe in God? Why does fire fascinate children? Those are the types of questions addressed on the public radio series "The Infinite Mind." Senior executive producer Bill Lichtenstein, who founded the show in 1997, said he traces much of his fascination with the science of the brain and human behavior to his treatment for bipolar disorder, which began around 1986. He uses medication and therapy to manage the condition, he said.

After his diagnosis, Lichtenstein said, he recognized a need for more public information on mental health and other psychosocial issues: the show, he said, "starts with the science of the mind, and then it goes out from there." Hosted by renowned psychiatrist and author Peter Kramer, the program airs Sundays in Washington at 11 p.m. on WAMU, 88.5 FM.

When it's not inviting wonder, the show shares practical advice. Recently, author Joyce Carol Oates told listeners how she wards off writer's block: "I do a lot of my work in my head while I'm running or walking. . . . I try to envision it so that when I go to actually write, I'm . . . remembering rather than inventing," she said.



This Sunday's show is called "Food and Mood." In one segment, Joseph Hibbeln, senior clinical investigator at the National Institutes of Health, discusses study findings that suggest vitamins and omega-3 fatty acids may have a calming effect on prisoners. Other upcoming shows will cover such topics as lupus and mental illness.

For archived shows, see <http://www.theinfinitemind.com> . Listeners can discuss shows by clicking on "Tell Your Story!" To find a broadcast in your area, see <http://www.lcmedia.com/stations.htm> .

-- Samantha Sordyl

## **AWARDS FOR LICHTENSTEIN CREATIVE MEDIA AND BILL LICHTENSTEIN**

---

- 2006 **National Headliner Award** for The Infinite Mind special report "Hurricane Katrina: The Road to Recovery."
- 2005 **Guggenheim Fellowship** for Bill Lichtenstein from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.
- 2005 **Cine Golden Eagle** for the documentary film, "West 47<sup>th</sup> Street."
- 2004 **United Nations Media Award** for "War," a special report, hosted by John Hockenberry, an episode of The Infinite Mind.
- 2004 **"Best of Show"** award and **Gold World Medal** from the **International Radio Awards** of the New York Festivals for "War," a special report, hosted by John Hockenberry, an episode of The Infinite Mind.
- 2004 **Media Award from National Mental Health Association** for "Between Two Worlds: Immigrant Mental Health," from The Infinite Mind public radio series.
- 2004 **Two Gracie Awards from the American Women in Radio and Television** including "Grand Award" for Domestic Violence," an episode of The Infinite Mind.
- 2003 **Unity Award in Media** for The Infinite Mind program "Golden Years? Mental Health and the Elderly."
- 2003 **National Headliner Award** for The Infinite Mind segment "Laugh Tracks."
- 2002 Member of the Planning Committee, 18th Annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, Carter Center, Atlanta Georgia.
- 2002 **Best Documentary, Atlanta Film Festival**, for West 47th Street, a cinéma verité documentary following four people with serious mental illness over three years.
- 2002 **Audience Award from the Washington D.C. Independent Film Festival** for West 47th Street.
- 2002 **Best Documentary (honorable mention) from the Woodstock Film Festival**, Woodstock, New York for West 47th Street..
- 2002 **International Radio Award from New York Festivals** for "The Infinite Mind" commentary "Resilience," by John Hockenberry for "Mental Health in Troubled Times" series.
- 2002 **Unity Awards in Media** for five-part "Mental Health in Troubled Times" series on The Infinite Mind.
- 2002 **Gracie Award from American Women in Television and Radio** for five-part "Mental Health in Troubled Times" series on The Infinite Mind, on mental health impact of September 11th and ongoing crisis.
- 2002 **National Headliner Award** for five-part "Mental Health in Troubled Times" series on The Infinite Mind, focusing on mental health impact of September 11th and ongoing crisis.
- 2002 **National Headliner Award** for "Beyond the Baby Blues" which went beyond the headlines of the Andrea Yates case to examine postpartum depression from medical, legal and social perspective.
- 2001 **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Media Award** for "The Infinite Mind" series.
- 2001 **International Radio Festival Award** from the New York Festivals for The Infinite Mind program "Pam's Story: The Hidden World of Perinatal Loss."
- 2001 **National Mental Health Association Media Award** for The Infinite Mind program on "The Bipolar Child."

- 2001 **National Headliner Award** (second place) for The Infinite Mind program on "Perfect Pitch."
- 2001 **Gracie Award** from American Women in Television and Radio (honorable mention) for The Infinite Mind program "Pam's Story: The Hidden World of Perinatal Loss."
- 2000 **Epilepsy Foundation Distinguished Journalism Award** for The Infinite Mind program on "Epilepsy."
- 2000 **Clarion Award** from the Association for Women in Communication for The Infinite Mind program on "The Closing of Haverford State: A Special Report."
- 2000 **Deadline Club Award** for "The Closing of Haverford State," awarded by Sigma Delta Chi.
- 2000 **National Headliner Award** (first place) for "If I Get Out Alive."
- 2000 **NCCD Prevention for a Safer Society (PASS) Award** for "If I Get Out Alive" from The National Council on Crime and Delinquency.
- 1999 **New York Press Club Best Feature Award** for The Infinite Mind.
- 1999 **Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism** for "If I Get Out Alive," hosted by Diane Keaton.
- 1999 **EDI Awards (three awards) from the National Easter Seal Society** for The Infinite Mind programs on "Men and Suicide: The Tragedy of J. Timothy Hogan," "Autism: Breaking the Silence," and "The Closing of Haverford State."
- 1999 **Clarion Award from the Association for Women in Communication** for "The Infinite Mind" program on "Men and Suicide: The Tragedy of J. Timothy Hogan."
- 1999 **National Headliner Award** for "The Infinite Mind" program on "Men and Suicide: The Tragedy of J. Timothy Hogan."
- 1999 **Unity Awards in Media** (three awards) for The Infinite Mind programs on "Men and Suicide: The Tragedy of J. Timothy Hogan;" "Autism: Beyond the Silence;" and special Millennium Award for The Infinite Mind series.
- 1999 **International Radio Festival Award** from the New York Festivals for John Hockenberry's weekly commentaries for The Infinite Mind.
- 1998 **Unity Award in Media** for The Infinite Mind program on "Sleep."
- 1997 **Media Award from National Mental Health Association** for "Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1997 **Broadcast Award from the International Radio Festival** of New York for "Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1997 **American Medical Writers Association Vincent Dowling Award** for Excellence in Medical Communications for "Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1997 **Robert L. Robinson Award from the American Psychiatric Association** for "Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1996 **EDI Award from the National Easter Seal Society** for "Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1996 **Media Award from the National Mental Health Association** for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1995 **George Foster Peabody Award** for Excellence in Broadcasting for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1995 **International Radio Festival** of New York: Best Health and Medical Program and Best Writing for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."

- 1995 **Outstanding Public Education Through the Media Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** for the "Voices of an Illness" radio documentary series.
- 1995 **Robert L. Robinson Award** (Honorable Mention) from the American Psychiatric Association for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1995 **Grand EDI Award from National Easter Seal Society** for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1994 **Public Service Award from National Institute of Mental Health** for "Manic Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1994 **The Health Journalism Award from the American Chiropractic Association** for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1994 **Award for Best Public Affairs Program of 1994 from the Southern California Psychiatric Society** for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1994 **Broadcast Media Award from the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of New York State** for "Schizophrenia: Voices of an Illness."
- 1993 **International Radio Festival** of New York: Gold Medal -- **Best Public Affairs Program** and Silver Medal -- **Best Writing** for "Manic Depression: Voices of an Illness." Also honors for **Best Narration** and **Best Health/Medical Reporting**.
- 1993 **National Headliner Award** for "The Secret Battle for the N.E.A." (Village Voice).
- 1993 **Unity Award in Media** for "Manic Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1993 **Health Journalism Award** from the American Chiropractic Association for "Manic Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1993 **Ohio State Award** for "Manic Depression: Voices of an Illness."
- 1988 **International Radio Festival of New York: Gold Medal** for "Vietnam: Radio First Termer."
- 1988 **Livingston Award** for "Vietnam: Radio First Termer."
- 1988 **Community Radio Award** from the National Federation of Community Broadcasters for Vietnam: Radio First Termer."
- 1984-1988 Judge for the National News and Documentary Emmy Awards.
- 1983 **National News Emmy Award nominations** (3) for "Formaldehyde--The Danger Within," "Throwaway Kids" and "Nuclear Preparation--Can We Survive?" (ABC News 20/20).
- 1982 **National Headliner Award** for Outstanding Investigative Reporting for "Throwaway Kids," (ABC News 20/20).
- 1981 **Consumer Journalism Award** from the **National Press Club** for "Pick-Up Trucks--The Safety Factor" (ABC News 20/20).
- 1979 **National News and Documentary Emmy Award** for Outstanding Program Achievement for "VW Beetle: The Hidden Danger" (Associate Producer - ABC News 20/20).
- 1978-1979 **Sigma Delta Chi** journalism society, Vice President, Columbia University chapter.
- 1973 **National Public Radio "Youth Radio Award"** for "What is News?," a documentary on the powers that be in the news industry, and how they affect American journalism.