In honor of Mother’s Day, the Adler Psych Film Group will be exploring the motivations, joys, pain, and complex realities of motherhood. The film “Mother and Child” (2009) focuses on the interlinking stories of three women who each have their own greatly varying experiences being a mother and/or wanting to be a mother. In addition, they are influenced by their complex experiences of being a daughter, even to a mother who did not raise them or a mother who is enormously a source of ongoing pain and alienation.

By exploring motherhood / childhood through both biological connection and adoption, the film provides an intimate look at the complex and powerful bonds formed between mother and child through interlocking stories and characters which provide unexpected insights and haunting questions beyond cliches.

**Starring:** Annette Bening, Naomi Watts, Kerry Washington, Samuel L. Jackson, Jimmy Smits, David Ramsey, S. Epatha Merkerson, Cherry Jones, David Morse

**Directed by:** Rodrigo Garcia (son of Gabriel Garcia Marquez of Colombia and director of “Nine Lives” in 2005)

**Rated:** R for Sexuality, Brief Nudity and Language

**Psychological focus:** motherhood, adoption, attachment styles, grief and loss, marriage and intimacy, depression, lifestyle

“Exceptionally well-acted ensemble drama” ~ Videohound 2012

“Mother and Child‘ is a potent, poignant and beautifully calibrated film about the always timely issue of adoption and its effects on three strangers in Los Angeles whose lives connect in haunting and unpredictable ways. The adoption theme would seem like no big deal if the three women were happy and securely established in their homes and careers. But all three are tortured victims of frustration, their lives spun out with rising and falling dramatic impact, variations on a single theme. The result is heartfelt and mesmerizing.

~ The New York Observer (May 2010)