

Celebrating 25 years

SCHOOL OF
HOMEOPATHY

The School of Homeopathy in Devon is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, but there is an extra cause for celebration for founder and director Misha Norland – his eldest son Mani is set to graduate this summer. Here, Misha talks about the beginnings of the longest established school in the UK, and Mani tells of the journey that led him into his father's footsteps.

MISHA

When I was three, my parents, refugees to the UK, changed our name from Neuschul (literally New-Schule or school) to Norland. I remember that I protested vehemently over this change, as though I had unconsciously known the direction my life would eventually take.

But before teaching, there was the path that led to homeopathy, which began in 1970. Previously I had settled on a career in film-making, but then, after a stint in Hollywood, I got married and had a son. Returning to London, I fell back into the rut of my bread and butter work: the financial security afforded by directing TV commercials. I had grown to hate prostituting my art, as I was viewing it, and I began to search for "higher truths". That search for meaning had been inculcated in me from my childhood and was a legacy left to me by my parents.

BEGINNINGS

I began informal study at John Damonte's fortnightly classes. He was in loco parentis as far as wisdom teachings were concerned as well as providing a sound basis in homeopathic philosophy. At this time, the only education for non-medics in London had been his class in the North and Thomas Maughn's in the South. As lay homeopaths, we were an underground movement. I attended with my wife, who later upped and left when our son, Mani was a little over one year of age, leaving me as a single parent overnight. When Mani began to talk, he called me "mummy". I was totally dedicated to him and thus the final coffin-nail was hammered home into my film making career.

In 1975 my homeopathic practice took off. I became the barefoot homeopath of the North London hippy community. I gained much experience and saw homeopathy bring about miraculous cures, and long-term healing too. Homeopathic philosophy was revealed to me by practical experience. I learnt that the *similimum*, over time, continues



to provide the impulse which can change the direction of folk's lives, setting their sails into the wind of self-forgetting (for what is more distracting than being taken over by one's suffering?).

In 1978 alongside a handful of Thomas Maughn's students, we founded The Society of Homeopaths, dedicated to practise according to Hahnemannian precepts, education, information dissemination and creating and maintaining a register. I was the first editor of the new Society's journal, *The Homeopath*.

I began formal teaching at the College of Homeopathy in 1979, although I had been running fortnightly study groups from my home for some years before this. In 1980 I remarried to my beloved Brigitte, soul-mate and friend. In 1981 we moved to Devonshire with



