

Misha Norland

Founder of the School of Homeopathy

Misha was born in 1943 of central European parents (both artists) who emigrated to UK in 1939. His father was Jewish, from Bohemia and his mother was from Brandenburg, Germany. In common with many families in 20th century Europe, Misha's family had resolved racial tension in a bond of love. However, this racial tension was politically exploited in the prevailing climate of prejudice in the 1930s to 40s. In the UK, being Jewish was questionable, while being German was almost unforgivable.

Misha lived with his family in Mumbles on the Gower and would recall remembering the night sky illuminated as Swansea was under siege. However, his strongest memory of that time was a sense of safety and security within his loving family.

As soon as the war ended Misha's parents purchased a run-down house in the London suburb of Hampstead. They also changed their name from Neuschul (literally New-Schule or school) to Norland, although Misha protested and wept over the change. His parents were busy as never before, renovating the house but young Misha was unnerved by the changes and by the ubiquitous evidence of war - the bomb sites. Misha began to have recurrent nightmares of a volcano erupting, lava flowing and having to run for his life.

Misha could recall the excitement of his first day at school. Specifically, he wanted to see Sulphur, as he had heard that it was associated with volcanic eruptions. In 1948 an afternoon siesta was a rule, but it was a rule Misha resisted. Escaping the classroom during lunch break, he would sprint across the playing fields and sneak into the chemistry labs. It was there that he had the good fortune to meet an un-harassed teacher, who, rather than shooing him back to the kindergarten, lifted a large reagent jar from a high shelf. Uncorking it, she withdrew a chunky fragment of yellow stuff and placed it in an excited Misha's hands. "Is that all?!" he exclaimed. In young Misha's mind the lump should have been as hot as flowing lava but, much to his disappointment, it wasn't. This unfortunate incident set the scene for a couple of turbulent years in which Misha got into a lot of trouble a lot - so much so, in fact, that he was asked to leave.

Misha's legacy is immense, his footprints carved in stone in a myriad homeopathic nooks and crannies. He left a wealth of riches for every student, every homeopath, for every school - and so he will be remembered with the greatest of ease. Above all he left his sons to carry on his healing traditions.

Miranda Castro, Patron

Misha said that the nipping of this tender bud of enthusiasm reconfirmed an ancestral stamp, a mark of the Jewish refugee: from then on he changed schools at regular, two-yearly intervals, during which time he rejoined this school. At 14 years of age he was struggling to find his way academically. He was searching for inspiration, which he found in the study of biology as well as in the theatre. Although he was not particularly skilled at remembering his lines, he delighted in the thrill of declaiming the few he did manage to commit to memory. He went on to write an end of term production in which he played an alchemist while his best friend dressed up as a nobleman, his sponsor. Unfortunately, this production turned out to be something of a fiasco, in which the alchemist's vessel burst into unruly flame and smoked out the audience.

Misha would count these incidents as small markers along a track of discovery that led him in three distinct directions. He was fascinated by Plato and Pythagoras and later by the existential philosophers. He delighted in discovering Freud, and later Reich and Jung. His mind flew on wings of Hindu mysticism and during his late teens he attended weekly Yoga and meditation classes. This, then, was the first

direction.

The second direction was reportage photography, an abiding love of listening to music and writing poetry. He put his feelings into verse and participated in a North London group who gave poetry recitals set to jazz. He interviewed for drama school and gained a place at the London School of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), but his nerve failed him before the first term began, so he didn't attend.

The third direction was science. He believed that God was also to be found in the equation but, not having a natural aptitude for maths, he found Him more readily in nature. And so, following the trail of the largest manifesting in the smallest in bio-chemistry, he spent almost a year as a laboratory assistant at the Medical Research Council's establishment annexed to Hammersmith Hospital. Misha greatly enjoyed the detective work and the spirit of discovery amongst scientists who, free from financial constraints, could pursue 'pure' empirical enquiry. During this time he attempted to interest them in researching psychotropic substances, but the director of the team for whom he worked was dubious about finding approval amongst his peers. Nonetheless, Misha was astonished and gratified that his proposals were properly considered and his voice was being listened to. It was a relief to him to be away from the school environment, where he had been treated as a nuisance at best and as a menace at worst.

"Students from the School of Homeopathy are enriched with the possibility to develop themselves as homeopaths and on a truly personal level. New Homeopaths coming from the school are advantaged as they have well integrated 'mythos' and 'logos' in their prescribing."

Alize Timmerman

However, Misha was shocked and dismayed at the methods used by most of the other scientists in the name of cancer research and he remained glad that the team he was working with had no part in it.

The sub-basement of the research building, a tower block of some 30 stories, was dedicated to irradiation. It boasted a massive X-ray unit, a small cyclotron particle accelerator, a Van De Graaf high voltage source, radio-active Cobalt and other means of producing rays and sub-atomic particles. The top story of the building housed a zoo. Here ill-fated creatures such as albino rats and mice, rabbits, monkeys and pigs awaited a macabre fate. The approach to cancer research at that time was to induce growths in an animal using carcinogens. At various stages of cancerous infiltration the animals were taken to the sub-basement and subjected to one or another type of ray or accelerated particle. The object being to ascertain which mode of 'treatment' would be 'effective'.

This level of debasement of the sanctity of life by those very scientists whose enquiry was to uncover its secrets, horrified and disillusioned Misha. Also, there was an issue of a major impediment to the fatty acid metabolism research that his group were beset by: the issue of in vitro experiments being different from those conducted in vivo. The age-old and knotty problem is that what occurs in test-tube experiments in vitro, is likely not to be replicable in the living organism. Or, put another way, even a collection of all the parts in vitro (were it possible to do this) would not make up the living in vivo whole.

After gaining 6 'A' level GCE's in various subjects and after almost a year as a laboratory assistant and more than another year of foreign travel, it was time for Misha to settle down. He decided that it was also a time for a major career turn-around. So, he chose film making, working up through film editing in documentaries, to script writing, cinematography, TV commercials, feature film editing and directing. Then, after a stint in Hollywood, he got married and had a son. Returning to London, he fell back into the rut of his bread-and-butter work: the financial security afforded by directing TV commercials. But he became disillusioned and he grew to hate prostituting his art, as he saw it.

Misha began to search for 'higher truths' - and his search led him to homeopathy.

"Fortunately for me, Misha Norland was one of my first homeopathy teachers. He explored and navigated the deeper aspects of homeopathic philosophy and materia medica, gently reminding us there is more to homeopathy than merely matching symptoms. Misha was a wonderful and experienced teacher, full of playfulness, serenity, wisdom, and insight – his work continues through the School for all to benefit from."

Jeremy Sherr, Patron

Misha always felt that he owed a debt of deepest gratitude to his beloved teacher, John Damonte. John entered Misha's life in 1970 when he prayed for direction. Misha said that John gave freely and generously of his heart and from the font of his wisdom. Misha found his anchor in the philosophy of healing and homeopathy and his love of psychology and the hermetic wisdom teachings was reawakened. John put the teachings of the classical Greek philosophers into a modern context of healing. His knowledge embraced astrology, theosophy, Jung and the teachings of the four elements, as well as the chakra system of the orient and its connection with the endocrine system in our bodies. These teachings help to integrate our understanding of spirit, mind, emotions and body.

In 1975 Misha's homeopathic practice took off and he became the barefoot homeopath of the North London hippy community. He gained much experience in the treatment of children's epidemic diseases and acute prescribing. He saw homeopathy bring about miraculous cures and also long-term healing in chronic cases and learnt that an acute is often best treated (in that the patient does not relapse) by a constitutional remedy. Homeopathic philosophy was revealed to Misha by practical experience. People with serious conditions would often undertake long journeys to consult him and, because of this, follow-ups were infrequent. Misha learnt that the similimum, over time, can provide the impulse which can change the direction of peoples' lives, setting their sails into the wind of self-forgetting (for what is more selfish than being taken over by one's own suffering) and thus they become able to receive and give more love and express more creativity in their lives.

In 1978 alongside other students of the older homeopaths (such as Thomas Maughan) Misha co-founded The Society of Homeopaths, dedicated to practice according to Hahnemannian precepts; education; information dissemination and creating and maintaining a register. Misha was the first editor of the new Society's journal, 'The Homeopath'.

Misha began formal teaching at the College of Homeopathy in 1979, although he had been running fortnightly study groups from his home for some years prior to this.

Misha remarried in 1980. His beloved Brigitte was his soul mate and friend. Their four sons, together with his first born from his first marriage completed Misha's family.

In 1981 Misha and his family moved to Devonshire and founded The School of Homeopathy. David Mundy began teaching in 1982 and Janet Snowdon began in 1984. Murray Feldman was a frequent teacher while Jeremy Sherr, Joanna Daly and David Curtin also contributed.

In 1984 Misha established himself at Yondercott House where the family and the School lived side by side. In 2005 his eldest son Mani Norland became involved in the School and joined the School Core team in 2006. Then in 2009 the School was moved to larger premises at Hawkwood College, near Stroud in the Cotswolds, where it is still based. Misha was proud that the current faculty including his son and many former students who cooperate in creating and maintaining the friendly atmosphere and the educational ethos of the School as well as its cutting-edge culture of discovery and invention. Misha continued to teach at Hawkwood into his 70's.

"Misha Norland had a sixth sense regarding homeopathy. He knew his remedies very well and in their essence. His lectures were always bright and to the point."

Jan Scholten, Patron

In 2017 Misha stepped down from teaching on the School of Homeopathy attendance course, but continued to be involved with many School projects. Working on articles, books, provings and movie lectures and delivery of 'Moments with Misha' a discussions group just for School of Homeopathy students, conducted via Zoom. He also maintained contacts with educators across the world through a regular teaching group.

In 2019 Misha was proud to see another of his son's Luke Norland join the School teaching faculty and then in 2020 the School Core team.

In 2021 Misha and his eldest son Mani embarked on an ambitious filming project setting up a studio in his home and filming new movie lectures to accompany every module of the attendance and home study programme.

In Nov 2021 Misha passed away peaceful at night in his sleep. His legacy lives on.

Misha was one of the finest, most affectionate and one of the most amazing beings I have met. Our 35 year old 'love story' has been the greatest support in my life. He had a very very large heart, and a very open beautiful smile. He had space for everyone and touched the lives of all those he met. His very presence brought harmony. His work in Homeopathy is very valuable. His house in Devon was a haven for me as it was for many others. His genuine hospitality and openness brought many to his door. Our travels together have been delightful and we have shared everything from the mundane to the spiritual. I will miss him deeply.

Rajan Sankran, Patron

Misha was a good friend and teacher to all of us. But he was more than that. Misha was our father, our grandfather, our beacon. Misha was the last bridge between the old and new eras of homoeopathy, yet always a pioneer. Misha was the founder of our schools. Misha was the face of peace and tranquility, the heart of love and poetry, the mind of metaphor. Misha was a warm glass of mulled wine on a chilly autumn evening, a walk with the dog in an English field, a late-night chat, an early morning meditation. Misha launched new provings to light our way, flew the seas of philosophy, wrote magnificent books and poems. Misha is and will always be unique to us all. He filled our profession with light, thought and love for so many years. Now he leaves a great gap and a giant shoulder to stand on. We love you Misha, we thank you for being. Because being is what you were best at.

Jeremy Sherr, Patron

*We lost a stepping stone and mostly a beautiful soul.
I'm sure he will be a perfect healer for the angels.*

Massimo Mangialavori, Patron