

Interview Questions

Blowing America's Mind

By John Selby and Paul Jeffrey Davids

QUESTIONS FOR PAUL JEFFREY DAVIDS

1. "As the co-author of BLOWING AMERICA'S MIND, did you learn what was the actual extent of the CIA's MK-ULTRA mind control program? Is that information known today? Did Congress satisfactorily investigate it when it was exposed?"
2. "Your book is based upon your and John Selby's personal experiences. Tell us what you thought you were signing up for when you volunteered for the deep hypnosis research at the New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute? Compare that to the reality of it.
3. "When did you learn that the research was funded by the CIA, part of MK-ULTRA? How did you know for sure that the program you were involved in was definitely part of MK-ULTRA?"
4. "When did you and John Selby first decide to write a book about your experiences? Why did it take so long for you to complete and release your book?"
5. "Two of the original psychedelic researchers mentioned extensively in your book are Dr. Humphry Osmond, a Canadian psychiatrist, and Dr. Bernard S. Aaronson, an American psychologist. The two men seem very different as portrayed in your book. Can you tell us about their differences and what each man's focus was with respect to psychedelics?"
6. "Your subtitle declares that this is a "True Story of Princeton, CIA Mind Control, LSD and Zen." Are the news articles you included intended to help prove it's true?"
7. "What can you tell us about how and why the New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute changed its name (to the New Jersey Developmental Center) and how and why it was finally closed down? What did you experience when returning there in 1988?"
8. Today 29 states have legalized medical marijuana and some states have entirely legalized it – marijuana possession is simply not what it was, throughout most of the country, as it was as described in your book in the late 1960's. Did you exaggerate the legal dangers of that time?"



Were students thrown out of Princeton then if caught with marijuana? Was Timothy Leary truly sentenced to 10 years in prison for possession of one joint?

9. “Timothy Leary, the psychology professor who was fired from Harvard over psychedelic drug experimentation with students, had a huge influence in this country for many years with his slogan ‘Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out.’ Paul Davids, you produced and directed ‘Timothy Leary’s Dead,’ a biographical film about Dr. Leary with his full cooperation. What can you tell us about that experience?”
10. “Paul Davids, you’re known for your controversial films, such as ‘Timothy Leary’s Dead’ and Showtime’s ‘Roswell: The UFO Cover-up’ and ‘Jesus in India’ and ‘The Life After Death Project’ and your recent film ‘Marilyn Monroe Declassified.’ How do you see *Blowing America’s Mind* as fitting into and relating to your total body of work?”
11. “Deep hypnosis continues to be used throughout the world in therapy and research, and who knows what else. We know it is used to attempt to recover buried memories, such as in cases of childhood sexual abuse. Some hypnotherapists even use it to attempt to reveal details of purported instances of alien abduction. Paul Davids, as the producer of Showtime’s film ‘Roswell: The UFO Cover-up’ and knowing of your longtime interest in the UFO phenomenon, what is your opinion of this?”
12. “By definition almost no one knows what the CIA is doing, even right now. Are you personally concerned that CIA-funded mind-manipulation research is still on-going?”

QUESTIONS FOR JOHN SELBY

13. “How do you expect Princeton University to react to the publication of your book, especially in view of the parts about your interactions with former Princeton President Robert F. Goheen? In the book, it’s clear you and President Goheen had a confrontation about psychedelic drugs and student drug use on campus. Has anyone connected with the university, or alumni groups, already reacted?”
14. Do you feel you were fair to President Goheen, who was a rather conservative administrator of an Ivy League School, who was caught in a new and difficult situation when student drug use became an issue for probably the first time?
15. “John Selby – your character in *Blowing America’s Mind*, called Jonathan, is portrayed as a social outsider – a cowboy out of place in the Ivy League – who sought insight and relevance and meaning by volunteering for work in consciousness research, which he also saw as a route to a draft deferment during the Vietnam War. In retrospect, do you respect the life choices you made then and condone your sometimes wild explorations, or were you unwisely pushing societal limits by letting yourself be a ‘testing ground’ radical experiments?”



16. “John Selby, a lot of your professional work relates to influencing states of mind for things such as reducing stress, improving the internal functions of corporations, changing habits and even attracting love. How did your experiences in hypnosis lay the groundwork for what has become a major focus in many of your non-fiction books?”

QUESTIONS FOR EITHER AUTHOR

17. “Psychedelic drug use by the younger generations has been growing steadily. What are your feelings about LSD, peyote, magic mushrooms and so on – are they helpful for waking up healthy young minds, or are they dangerous – or both?”
18. “Currently, judging from psychiatric news, there is growing interest in psychedelics and ecstasy worldwide – because using these mind-altering drugs in therapy programs has been urged by some healthcare professionals. The FDA is reportedly considering legalizing the use of Ecstasy for veterans suffering from PTSD as there is evidence for its healing properties. What will it take to have the laws catch up with what we know from the research?”
19. “Controlling other people’s mind and actions through subtle hypnotic techniques and mind-altering drugs will always be a temptation for those in power. How do you think we should protect our population against secret power-hungry plots to influence public opinion and behavior?”
20. “It seems inevitable that psych and tech will develop new effective methods for manipulating human emotion and experience so as to relieve pain and suffering. Do you welcome this new level of control over the human mind, or are we in danger of being seriously taken over by hi-tech pharma manipulators?”
21. “Princeton University is regularly rated as the best university in America – but you paint a very mixed picture of that hallowed institution at a time when it was still an all-male school. In hindsight, how well did the administration at Princeton handle the 1960’s revolutionary epoch? How do you think Princeton has changed today?”
22. “Isn’t it unique for two collaborating authors to stick with a project together for almost 50 years, without the conflicts, fighting and divorce that so often happens in such long-term relationships?”
23. “2017 is the 50th anniversary of the release of the Beatles’ ‘Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band.’ Do you think the timing of the release of your book fits in as part of the nostalgia for that part of the Beatles era, given their having embraced LSD and in effect having kicked off the widespread use of psychedelic drugs?”
24. “Apart from the darker aspects of both of your hypnosis experiences at the Institute, was there a positive side to the hypnosis experiences?”

25. “Your story documents early use of micro-dosing LSD and the news is full right now of business people taking micro-LSD and going to work, hoping to get a creative edge – especially in Silicon Valley. What are your views today about possible benefits from small doses of LSD or other psychedelics such as psilocybin mushrooms? And does current research show benefits for people with post-traumatic stress syndrome from drugs such as ecstasy?”
26. “LSD has been illegal since 1966. Should LSD, mushrooms and mescaline have been included as targets in the original War on Drugs?”
27. “There is no consistency today in terms of legalities related to marijuana. What signal does it send and what is the impact on respect for the law, given that marijuana is still listed as a Schedule 1 drug by the DEA, and Federal law is contracted by the laws of 29 States?”
28. “There has been considerable discussion over the years about whether the concept of *The Manchurian Candidate* is fundamentally true -- can mindless professional assassins be created through conditioning with hypnosis and drugs? Have the intelligence agencies ever done this? Is there any evidence that this was true of Sirhan Sirhan, who assassinated Bobby Kennedy, or John Hinckley who attempted to assassinate President Reagan?”
29. “All told – what’s the main message or lesson you hope readers take away, when finishing *Blowing America’s Mind*?”