

# My Love Affair with the Brain: The Life and Science of Dr. Marian Diamond



US broadcast premiere - March, 2017 PBS  
Educational streaming and DVD available now

How can you not fall in love with a woman who carries around a human brain inside a floral-decorated hatbox? Meet Dr. Marian Diamond ... and prepare to be smitten. Follow this remarkable woman over a 5-year period and get introduced to her many scientific accomplishments as well as the warm, funny, and thoroughly charming woman herself. Experience for yourself why she describes her 60 year career researching the human brain as "pure joy."

It is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Diamond changed science and society in dramatic ways over the course of her career. Her groundbreaking work is all the more remarkable as it began when so few women entered science at all. Shouted at from the back of the conference hall by

noteworthy male academics as she presented her research, and disparaged in the scientific journals of a more conservative era, Dr. Diamond simply did the work and followed where her curiosity led her, bringing about a paradigm shift (or two) in the process. As she points out, in order to get to the answers that matter, you have to start by asking the right questions.

## SCIENTIFIC HIGHLIGHTS of MARIAN DIAMOND'S CAREER

- **One of the founders of modern neuroscience.** Her pioneering research preceded the very term "neuroscience".
- **Enrichment and brain plasticity** (how the brain changes due to experience and environment) are concepts we now take for granted, but they were a scientific battleground where Dr. Diamond decisively challenged the old view of the brain as fixed and unchangeable. She was the first to find actual evidence of plasticity in a brain, forever changing our understanding of the brain ... and ourselves.
- First to publish **a study of Albert Einstein's brain** – fueling yet another paradigm change, a renewed appreciation of glial cells, the 80% of the brain that, previously, was said 'to do nothing.'
- **4.6 million views of her YouTube Anatomy lectures**, making it the 2nd most popular college course in the world, and inspiring the NY Times to call her "one of the tweedy celebrities of cyberspace."



Part biography, part scientific adventure story, part inspirational tale; this is a story of a worthy role model - a woman who has lived joyously at the forefront of scientific exploration and education, finding and sharing fact-based good news about the brain.

NARRATED BY TV-star MAYIM BIALIK

(Amy on **Big Bang Theory**, Blossom on **Blossom**)

The actress who not only plays a neuroscientist on TV, but is one in real life, Dr. Mayim Bialik, a PhD in Neuroscience from UCLA.



## FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

- **Best** in Festival, Audience Award, *RiverRun International Film Festival*,
- **Best** Film, *American Psychological Association Film Festival*
- **Best** Documentary, Audience Award, *Durango Film Festival*
- **Best** Documentary, *Indigo Moon Film Festival*
- Audience **Favorite** Award, *Mill Valley Film Festival*
- **Best** Documentary, Audience Choice, *High Falls Film Fest, NY*
- World Premiere, AAAS Annual Meeting, Closing Night Event

## ABOUT THE LUNA PRODUCTIONS and the FILM MAKERS

Directors Catherine Ryan and Gary Weimberg are five-time Emmy Award nominees, 2-time Emmy Award winners, and were short-listed for an Academy Award nomination. As independent documentary producers at Luna Productions, they have had 8 primetime documentaries broadcast on PBS, ABC, WB, Fox, and others worldwide.



Short trailer & info <http://lunaproductions.com/brain/>  
Luna Productions 510 526 9500 [info@lunaproductions.com](mailto:info@lunaproductions.com)

## QUOTES AND BLURBS



“... a must see for every student, teacher, parent, community member, and higher education teacher prep program!”

**PEGGY BROOKINS**, *President and CEO, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*

“Science has a soul, an intangible passion of the human spirit driven by wonder and delight in discovery of nature’s beauty and mystery. **My Love Affair with the Brain** reveals the soul of science through the remarkable life of Marian Diamond. Her passion to explore the brain, her keen insights into how it responds to our experiences, and her drive to share her enchantment and discoveries with a new generation shines in this inspirational documentary.”

**R. DOUGLAS FIELDS**, *Neuroscientist and Author of The Other Brain, and Why We Snap*

“Marian Diamond has made two major contributions to Neural Science that have stood the test of time. First, she has documented the dramatic consequences on brain development of an impoverished environment compared to an enriched one. Second, she has developed a new way of teaching students about the anatomy of the brain that is both highly original and very exciting. Bravo!”

**ERIC R. KANDEL M.D. Nobel Prize Recipient**, *Professor, Columbia University*



“A brilliant, buoyant, enlightening and beautiful film that achieves just the right balance between the ‘personal’ and the ‘scientific.’”

**JOYCE CAROL OATES**, *Author; Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Princeton University.*

“Marian Diamond is to the brain like Julia Childs is to French cooking. Celebrated, beloved, one of the most popular teachers in the world who brings to you thru this documentary her passion about the brain.”

**MARILYN BANCEL**, *Exploratorium Science Museum, Director of Development, (retired)*

... **should be required viewing for all students and professionals in gerontology, geriatrics, and adult development and aging.** It offers an intimate introduction to Dr. Marian Diamond, *one of the most important contributors to our understanding of the growth potential of the aging brain.* Today’s “New Gerontology” paradigm descends directly from Dr. Diamond’s scientific and instructional efforts to nullify false stereotypes of aging.”

**RICK J. SCHEIDT**, *College of Human Ecology, Kansas State University*

“Marian Diamond is a true trailblazer, the entire field of Neural Rehabilitation owes her a debt of gratitude ... This film is not only an important archive of the history of Marian Diamond’s ground-breaking work during a time when very few women could be found in the upper echelons of science, but it also is a reminder of how one person can have a profound effect on enhancing knowledge and the quality of life across the globe. Her life serves as an inspiration to millions and likely will continue to do so for years to come.”

**ALISON L. MCKENZIE**, *Crean College of Health and Behavioral Science, Chapman University*



“Not only a wonderful film about an amazing scientist, but also an illuminating journey into the skills and techniques of an extraordinary teacher. As a teacher trainer in the Department of Applied Linguistics at UCLA for over twenty years, I strongly urge college/university teacher training programs across the country to use this film as an example of effective classroom instruction for future secondary and post-secondary teachers.”

**LINDA JENSEN DARLING**, *University lecturer, UCLA / UC Berkeley*

“Any library would be well served to have this in their collection.”

**SUSAN KOSKINEN**, *Head, Life & Health Sciences Library Division, University of California, Berkeley*

“A must see movie for anyone with a curiosity about the brain and the history of brain science..”

**LOUANN BRIZENDINE MD**, *Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Lynne and Marc Benioff Endowed Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, University of California, San Francisco*

“A GREAT film! I couldn’t stop watching it: engrossing, fun, romantic, super-clear in explaining her plasticity breakthrough on effects of enrichment, the glia revelation, and the vivid insights into her inspiring teaching methods, .....”

**DAVID PERLMAN**, *S.F. Chronicle Science Reporter*

