



DANSK PSYKOTERAPEUTISK SELSKAB FOR PSYKOLOGER
FAGLIGT SELSKAB I DANSK PSYKOLOG FORENING

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Existential Psychotherapy
The Challenge of Being in Individual and Group Psychotherapy
September 28th 2007
Copenhagen - Denmark

Welcome Speech to Irvin D. Yalom

Ladies and Gentlemen - our next presenter - for the first time speaking in Denmark - Professor Emeritus at Standford University, California - Irvin D. Yalom M.D!

Dr. Yalom! When I met you two years ago in California - asking you to come overseas - you kindly suggested to write an email. I and the board had strong hopes - and – doubts - of success - as you give few lectures and seldom travel to Europe. I can speak for everyone present - we are grateful and honoured for your willingness to appear here - at our yearly international seminar.

Your authorship has become legendary world wide - your research and classic volumes on existential and group psychotherapy - has a daily influence on the work of countless psychotherapists. You stand out in contrast to the zeitgeist of uniformity – and has for decades been a foremost proponent of the 3rd force in psychology and psychotherapy – the existential-humanistic tradition - a sovereign alternative - to cognitive-behavioural - psychoanalytic and newer schools of psychotherapy – schools and traditions which are also inspired by your work. – You have lifted the tabu of death and moved the dynamic focus - in the understanding of personality functioning - from past experiences to present and future concerns – suggesting a theoretical model of existential psychodynamics.

By writing teaching novels - you have provided us with pioneering professional and entertaining material - and by this made the eternal concerns of mankind - touchable - in new and enriching ways.

We thank you for that – and - once again – a warm welcome to our society - and welcome to Denmark.

Klaus Pedersen
Chairman – DPSP

Honouring Irvin D. Yalom
for a Lifelong Contribution to the Art and Science of Psychotherapy
- to the Benefit for Humanity.