

# HERE BE DRAGONS

## AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING



SCIENCE JOURNALIST BRIAN DUNNING TAKES YOU ON A 40-MINUTE JOURNEY THROUGH THE IRRATIONAL

## A Film that Brings You Back to Reality

In ancient times, unexplored regions on maps were often given fearsome sounding legends, like *Here Be Dragons*. Unknowns were frightening, and it gave some comfort to at least be able to label the unknown. Hypothesized dragons seemed a good enough

explanation for what would otherwise be ungraspable. With a made-up concept and a few words, the unknown becomes simple and satisfying.

How little things have changed since those superstitious days of old. The names we give our imagined demons

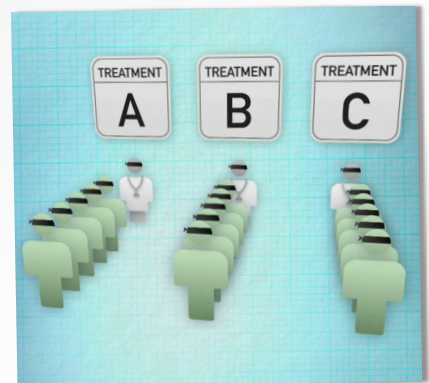
may have changed, but our fixation on the supernatural remains. *Here Be Dragons*, a 40-minute documentary by science journalist Brian Dunning, equips you with the basic tools you need to discriminate good information from bad information, and learn what's real.



LOGICAL FALLACIES



RED FLAGS



THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

# Faith in Pseudo-science is rampant.

We all believe things that aren't true.

While most of us do our best to insure that what we think is true really is, we're at a huge disadvantage. The mass media aggressively promotes pseudoscience at every opportunity; and as a result, we have a whole generation who doubt what we've learned through the scientific method.

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**WHEN WE INVEST OUR FAITH IN PSEUDOSCIENCE, WE ARE GIVING OUR PROGRESS BACK TO THE DRAGONS.**

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## **Here Be Dragons Fights Back**

*Here Be Dragons* equips you with the tools to tell good information from bad. You'll learn to recognize how fraudulent products are marketed with logical fallacies. You'll learn how everyday cognitive phenomena trick our brains into accepting what seems logical rather than what's real. And we'll even apply these tools to a couple of real world scenarios.

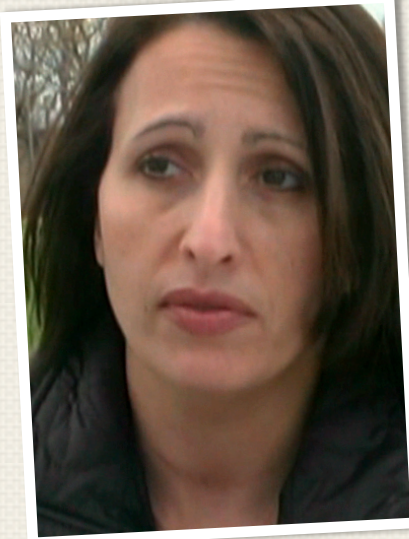
Watch this film, and you'll come out better equipped to succeed in reality.

## **For All Audiences**

*Here Be Dragons* was carefully edited to a classroom-friendly 40-minute runtime, and avoids the most charged issues (politics and religion) that might otherwise make it unpalatable to some audiences.

*Here Be Dragons* is actually required viewing in a number of high school and college classes across the country. Nearly every day, the producers receive word that *Here Be Dragons* is being shown at their school.

It is positive, non-confrontational, and imparts perhaps the most important information you'll ever learn.



## GHOSTS

"I DO BELIEVE IN GHOSTS..."



## HEALING

"I REALLY BELIEVE IN HEALING, OTHER THAN OUR CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE..."



## 9/11

"9/11 WAS AN ATTACK ON OUR OWN PEOPLE BY OUR OWN GOVERNMENT..."



# Director Brian Dunning: "Critical thinking is the single most important driver of the advancement of the human race."

Whenever we turn on the television or open a magazine, we are bombarded by irrational pseudoscience. Ghosts are presumed to be real; 5000 year old prescientific notions are considered better than anything we've learned since then; nonscientific alternatives to healthcare are unquestioningly believed more effective than modern medicine; and we clamor to accept any conspiracy theory, no matter how absurd.

This is the level of wisdom that most people use to guide the decisions they make in life. If you base your decisions on bad information, you will make bad decisions.

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FOR 500 YEARS IN THE DARK AGES, THERE WAS NO ADVANCEMENT IN KNOWLEDGE OR IN HUMAN RIGHTS

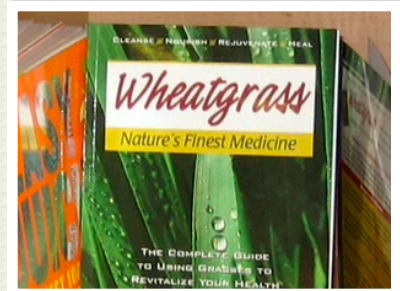
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When I first became a science journalist, I didn't realize what a hard road it would be. People much prefer the easy answers offered by Oprah and other celebrities who promote pseudoscience. Nobody cares how the world really works. They only care about how they want it to work.

Unfortunately, that path leads away from knowledge and advancement of the human condition. Only by understanding our world and our universe can we improve our knowledge. We mustn't simply accept the easy answers. We must examine them critically. Such critical thinking is the single most important driver of the advancement of the human race: While knowledge leads to advance, superstition and the disdain of science lead only to stagnation.

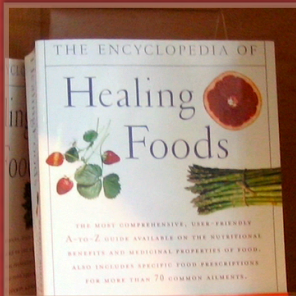
Brian Dunning  
Writer/Director, *Here Be Dragons*

## DRAGONS





# MODERN DAY DRAGONS



## SUPERSTITIONS

1. 9/11 CONSPIRACIES
2. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3. ROSWELL
4. CROP CIRCLES
5. ORGANIC FOOD
6. ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
7. VACCINES AND AUTISM
8. FREE ENERGY MACHINES
9. CREATION MYTHS
10. CRYSTAL HEALING

## More information....

Music for *Here Be Dragons* was written and recorded by award winning film and television composer Lee Sanders.  
<http://sandersmusic.net>

*Here Be Dragons* is available in nine languages and is available for free under the Creative Commons Attribution, Non commercial, No derivative works license.



For free downloads in SD and 16x9 HD of *Here Be Dragons*, visit the web site.  
<http://herebedragonsmovie.com>

To contact Brian Dunning, writer, producer, and presenter of *Here Be Dragons* for any inquiries pertaining to the film, visit the Skeptoid Podcast website. Skeptoid is a top science podcast with more than 70,000 weekly listeners (April 2009).  
<http://skeptoid.com>