

Know thyself

Ruth Ostrow

I'M intrigued by the scandal surrounding New Zealand-born film-maker Lee Tamahori, who made the respected *Once Were Warriors* before being lured to Hollywood to make big-budget films including the James Bond movie *Die Another Day*.

If the allegations against Tamahori are true, it would seem he's been living a double life. While enjoying all the fruits of his highly successful career, including a swanky home, beautiful girlfriend and the respect of his peers, he's been walking on the wild side.

He was recently arrested in a red-light district, dressed in drag, after allegedly offering oral sex to a male undercover cop in exchange for money. In court on February 23, prostitution and loitering charges were dropped but Tamahori was put on probation for criminal trespass. Meanwhile, stories have emerged about a proclivity for kinky sex.

Perhaps more than any other industry Hollywood tolerates excess and deviation, providing stars put bums on seats.

But the story isn't about Hollywood, rather our secret inner lives. We all have alter egos. As Carl Jung proclaimed: "It is a frightening thought that Man also has a shadow side to him, consisting not just of little weaknesses and foibles, but of a positively demonic dynamism."

I came across many people who lived double lives in my years as a sex writer. Judges who liked being tied up (S&M often alleviates the anxieties of high-pressure jobs); a businessman who liked being trampled on under a carpet which he took to parties; and a prominent person who loved being locked in a cupboard in a nappy.

There are always the high-profile cases of lewd behaviour – singer George Michael, caught soliciting in a public toilet; actor Hugh Grant with prostitute Divine Brown.

Of course, not everyone's "shadow side" is sexual. Some enjoy watching violence; others are cruel – to themselves, if not to others; many fancy the forbidden, even while being model citizens or parents. But all humans have a dark underbelly – which Jung believed was normal, and not necessarily a bad thing. Many artists have created great works from their repressed inner world. Others are quietly, happily and discreetly kinky.

The point is, we have to admit to our alter egos and deal with them in a sensible fashion, lest they become destructive or out of control. The lesson of the Tamahori saga is this: "Know thyself" before we all get to know you – a little too well.

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