ASTRO Stellar

IN THE **ASTROLOGICAL JOURNAL**
May/June 2026

Melania Trump's Kitchen Sphinx Dramas

How the Enigmatic First Lady is Liberating Herself Under Uranus

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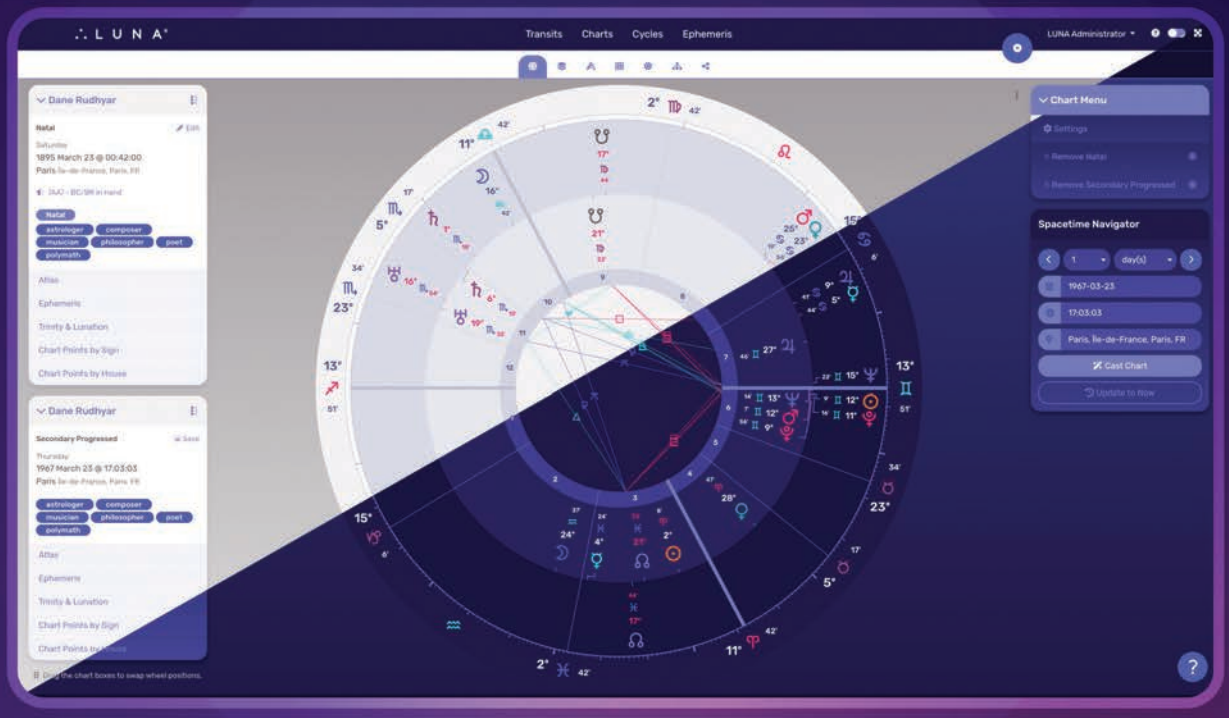

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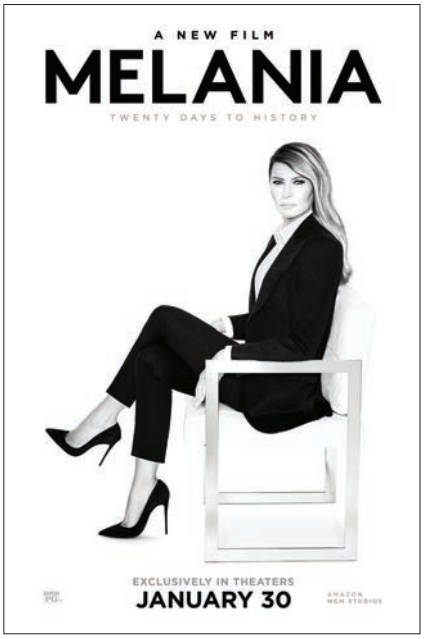
Melania Trump Taps Her Uranus

Victor Olliver



Omg! She speaks!

On 9 April 2026, at 2:07 pm Washington time (EDT), First Lady Melania Trump did a very peculiar thing and made a rare public statement from the White House. She demanded that the "lies linking me with the disgraceful Jeffrey Epstein need to end today" and insisted she was never friends with him or Ghislaine Maxwell, that she had no knowledge of his crimes, was never on his plane or island, and was "not Epstein's victim".

She added that Epstein did not introduce her to Donald Trump; they first met at a party. She even called for congressional hearings for Epstein's victims – or "survivors" as she called them.

Few had any idea why she made the statement at all. Her senior adviser Marc Beckman told the media that "her goal was to clear her good name" so that the public could refocus on her good works. Just as likely, it was a manoeuvre in her legal tussle with the author Michael Wolff who has claimed Epstein played a part in bringing the Trumps together. He has said a lot worse, too.

The Donald seemed blind-sided. He either did not know that she was going to make the statement or had no idea of its content. He has in recent times dismissed the Epstein scandal as a "hoax", "boring" and "fake news". Yet here was his missus saying the very opposite. What's going on?

When in doubt, consult the horoscope!

Let's get straight to the point. Melania is going independent. For a long time now she has played the part of arm candy sphinx to the raging ageing orange tornado. But now the haute glamorous mouse is starting to roar.

Her horoscope has been preparing us for this. We saw it coming in an earlier issue of *Stellar*. Uranus is the planet of independence, and in recent times transiting (tr) Uranus has been hovering over her Mercury (mind and words), detaching her thought processes from any kind of dependency on others.

When she made her statement on 9 April, tr Uranus was sitting on her Venus in very late Taurus. This transit encourages breaking free from outdated patterns in love and self-worth to embrace something more authentic and exciting. She made it plain to the world that she wants to protect her reputation and that she is doing so in her personal capacity.

There was no "Donald and I...". Suddenly Donald's "hoax" was Melania's battle cry, calling for victims of Epstein to be given a voice while the Trump administration has had to be compelled by law to publish the Epstein Files. Trump was, of course, a close personal friend of Epstein for many years before they fell out. There is no suggestion that he knew of or took part in Epstein's criminal activities.

It is not unreasonable to speculate that The Donald's volcanic temper erupted when he caught his chic, stern-faced First Lady on TV, standing at the podium in the Grand Foyer, contradicting his public faux dismissals of one of the worst sexual abuse scandals of our times – one that has served to confirm that the world really is still run by wealthy pale-stale-males who treat women as disposable, transactional 'gifts'.

Other things in Melania's chart point to a rebirth after decorative passivity. Tr Saturn was conjunct her Chiron in Aries when she made the statement. forcing her to confront and heal core wounds around identity, self-assertion, independence and personal worth (Aries themes). Old insecurities about being 'enough', taking the initiative, standing up for yourself or feeling inadequate in your sense of self often surface strongly. Saturn brings

Donald Trump takes the oath of office as the 47th president of the United States, January 20, 2025

structure, delays, limitations and tests – it demands you face these wounds maturely, with patience and hard work, rather than avoiding or rushing them.

And she has just experienced her third lunar nodal return – this occurs approximately every 18 or 19 years during the ages between 55 and 57 – and the Trumps have been married for just over 21 years: this marks a new era for her. Many people feel called to focus on what they want to leave behind – mentoring, teaching, creative legacy, community impact or spiritual work.

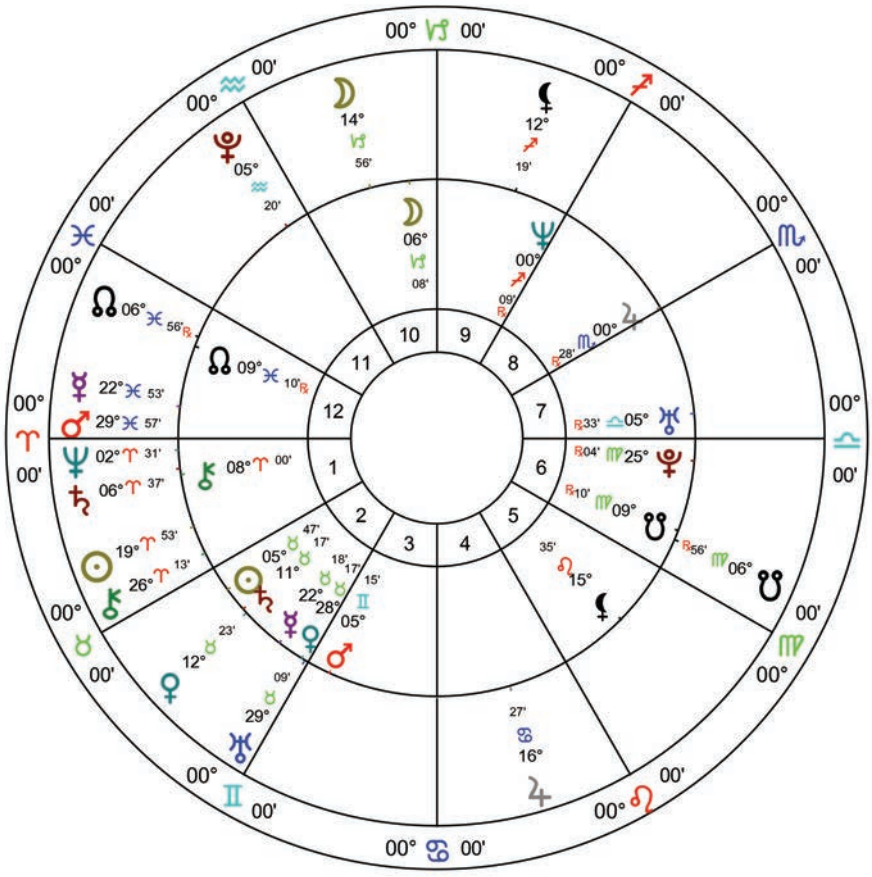
Wouldn't it be a Uranian shocker if Mrs Trump went onto to champion the women who fell victim to the abuses of Epstein and his leathery brothers while Mr Trump feigns or expresses indifference.

Melania: The Movie

Earlier, Melania had shown greater interest in her legacy when Trump won the 2024 US election – on 5 November the idea was conceived to make a fly-on-the-wall documentary movie about her, released in 2026 titled simply, *Melania*. This was the day of her lunar return (tr Moon passed over natal Moon [likely] in Capricorn [sign of government]), marking a new life chapter at the top.

It focuses on the 20 days leading up to the January 2025 inauguration and features lengthy wardrobe fittings (especially the iconic navy coat and white/black gown), planning events, the White House transition, and moving the family back to Washington. There are many scenes of her walking from door to car and back in her Christian Louboutin stilettos. She is said to have been paid $28 million from the $40 million licensing fee through her production company, Muse Films. By this time she had already released her memoir.

Stylistically, *Melania* is more like a music video crossed with *The Devil Wears Prada*. She sings along to Michael Jackson's 'Billie Jean' in the car and dances to 'Y.M.C.A.' at the inaugural ball.



Birth time unknown so ignore house positions

Inner Wheel: Melania Trump Natal Chart
26 Apr 1970, Sun 12:00 CET -1:00 Novo Mesto, Slovenia
45°N48' 015°E10' Geocentric Tropical 0° Aries Mean Node

Outer Wheel: Transits 9 Apr 2026 Event Chart
9 Apr 2026, Thu 14:07 EDT +4:00 Washington
38°N53'42" 077°W02'12" Geocentric Tropical Placidus Mean Node

There are extensive scenes of Melania with designers Hervé Pierre and Adam Lippes, showing her meticulous attention to detail, heels, silhouette and style choices.

As I wrote recently on Facebook about *Melania*: "What is striking is the preoccupation with textures, luxury, sheen, money, gold, glamour apparel. She has four planets in Taurus. Classic type. Her role as First Lady is as adornment though it would be odd if it were not given her horoscope. She has Moon (probably) in Capricorn, orienting the nature to status and materiality. She is doubtless shrewd and driven. Many critics say the film is boring, but even a mega-PR job like this (she is producer) is highly revealing on the transactional (a Taurus theme) nature of the Trump marriage. It's unintentionally riveting for reasons not anticipated, perhaps"

In Trump's second term as the 47th, Melania is gliding into a new public space with Donald not always at her side. Uranus is asserting her long-neglected authority as a solo operator. Not as someone's photo op crutch. There are risks. Her husband is intolerant of mutiny or contradiction. Will their marriage survive her transition from decorative doll to indy sol?

He is used to giving the world surprises. Now she is following his example and giving us a few of her own.

The Eighth House: The Mastery of Response

Daniel Guirchovitch

"A strong 8th house belongs to people who, by the nature of their work, need a close connection with the collective subconscious of their group or society, sometimes at the level of direct transmission of energy and information. These are intelligence officers, world-class athletes (who know how to draw on the support of their country), and diplomats," wrote Alexander Kamensky in his 'General Astrology' series.

In his lectures, he also mentioned pilots, dispatchers, ER doctors, politicians, and, of course, financiers and psychiatrists. The person with the Sun in the 8th house is described as someone as "heavily involved in social life, literally forced to be at once an ideologue, psychologist and spiritual figure for those around them". He adds: "A psychologist must always remember that God heals, and the doctor only assists a little – and receives a fee."

As an 8th-houser myself, I have felt this notion of group energy being 'channelled 24/7. I was born with birth defects and speech impediments that made every conversation a battle to be understood, verbally and almost telepathically, while I anxiously observed both my own struggle and the other person's reactions. I tried to fit into the groove of the classroom and to survive the loneliness of children's hospitals. I learned math and astrology – both universal languages of the worlds within and without. I studied film directing, another heavily 8th-house activity. Then came a borderline homeless year in the US, including work in a bathhouse and a perfume warehouse, followed by my becoming an OR/ER anaesthesia technician, this time observing and participating in intensive care through the eyes of an adult caregiver rather than a 'broken' child.

Later I became a software developer and solutions architect in a financial institution, combining strict compliance rules with creative worldbuilding, peppered with occasional nighttime troubleshooting calls in which hundreds of millions of 'other people's money' could be at stake.

In my conversations with Elias, my mentor and dear friend, I came to an understanding that encompasses all of these themes: the 8th house is the house of responses and reactions. The difference is that responses are intentionally chosen. From the literal poetry of First Responders answering an emergency – often guiding the responses of the public while managing their own feelings – to investment banking, which I see as the study of how people respond to events, how risk and loss are processed, how money responds to money, and so on, the theme is the same.

Subjects like death produce almost universally strong responses, as do other losses and endings. Morality, in the sense of right and wrong responses, causality, behavioural patterns and triggers, trauma work, counselling – all of these can be seen through that lens.

I am only beginning to unearth my own trauma, to see how deeply I need to prove myself worthy, to be understood, to succeed in the eyes of others. The need to be right, the fear of failure, the thin skin. The stuttering, mumbling child is still trying to be accepted and taken seriously. He is still trying to get out of the hospital and back to his loving family.

Elias suggested that the houses are foundations we build upon. This may have been the intention of the term 'house' all along: a thriving dominion, a work-in-progress. The work of the 8th house is to develop intentional responses – not to drown in self-observation and reaction, but to take the proverbial driver's seat. That is the seat of power, and the joy of a lifelong drive.

Daniel Guirchovitch is the author of *Old Stars, New Light*

Website: danielguirchovitch.com/old-stars-new-light/

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Madonna 'the Astrologer' Boobs on the New Moon

Madonna made a surprise appearance during Sabrina Carpenter's headlining set on Weekend 2 of Coachella 2026 (Friday, 17 April 2026, in Indio, California), performing *Vogue*, *Like a Prayer*, and a new song.

During the performance, she paused for an impromptu astrology lesson, pointing out the lunar phase and planetary alignments while teasing Carpenter (a Taurus) as "very stubborn". She called it an "auspicious evening" due to the New Moon "in Taurus" and a mega-conjunction of seven planets in Aries. She advised the crowd to improve communication and avoid confrontations (because Aries is ruled by Mars, the planet of war).

But was she right about the zodiac sign of the New Moon? She was technically incorrect. The New Moon occurred in Aries at 4:51–4:52 a.m. PDT at 27°28' Aries. This is the official 'birth' of the new lunar cycle, which is why it's called the Aries New Moon. But by the time Madonna got on stage, the Moon had moved into Taurus. So, she muddled up the exact conjunction of Sun and Moon (the New Moon) with the later placement of the Moon in Taurus. Two different things. The Moon moves very fast in a day.

The best we can say is that Madonna caught the spirit of the moment (a lot of Aries/Mars) while acknowledging the Moon's actual Taurus transit. When she was onstage that night in Coachella, the Moon was indeed in Taurus. She wasn't wrong about what the audience was experiencing under the actual sky at that hour. Got it?

A Brief Guide to Vedic Astrology

Vedic astrology, also known as Jyotish ('science of light'), is an ancient Indian system rooted in the Vedas. It interprets planetary positions to understand karma, life events, personality and remedies for challenges. It integrates sidereal zodiac, nakshatras (lunar mansions), dashas (planetary periods), and houses for detailed predictions, often including spiritual remedies like gemstones, mantras or rituals.

Key Differences from Western Tropical Astrology

Zodiac System: Vedic uses the sidereal zodiac, based on the actual fixed-star constellations. Western (tropical) astrology uses the tropical zodiac, aligned with seasons and the Vernal Equinox. Due to Earth's precession, this creates a 24-30 degree shift, so signs differ by about one month.

Vedic emphasises karma, predictive timing (via dashas), and the Moon's role more strongly, alongside remedial measures. Western astrology leans toward psychological insights, personality and personal growth through transits and progressions.

Vedic is more event-oriented and holistic with Vedic calendar elements; Western is Sun-sign dominant and symbolic.

Five major Vedic astrology social media influencers:

Jai Madaan Spiritual mentor with millions of followers, blending Vedic wisdom accessibly.

► jaimadaan.com

Astro Arun Pandit Popular for practical predictions and has a large Instagram/ YouTube presence.

► vedgurukul.astroarunpandit.org

Sundeep Kochar Life coach and astrologer known for motivational Vedic insights.

► sundeepkochar.com

Arun Kumar Vyas Face reading and Vedic expert with strong digital following.

► vyascard.com

Rahul Shastri Astrologer He focuses on making ancient Vedic astrology accessible to modern audiences.

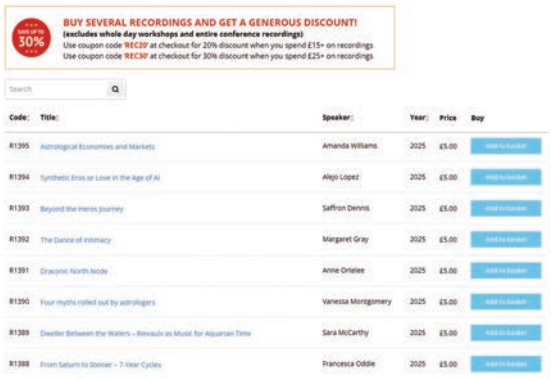
► rahulshastriastrologer.com

There are many other excellent Vedic astrologers as well. The above practitioners are prominent, and we do not make specific recommendations.

AA Recordings

The Astrological Association has built up a library of recordings of conferences and workshops, from 1983 onwards. This collection of conference talks offer a remarkable snapshot of modern astrological history; they include Charles Harvey speaking in 1983, Dennis Elwell in 1984, Melanie Reinhart's words on Chiron in 1988 as well as ground-breaking talks from Francois Gauquelin, Howard Sasportas, Bruno and Louis Huber and many more great astrologers.

www.astrologicalassociation.com/purchase-recordings/



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STEAM!

Why Prada 2 is a Water and Fire Movie

The Devil Wears Prada 2 is out and it's likely to be one of the great movie releases of the year. This time the inspiration of the high glamour fashion franchise, the former editor-in-chief of American *Vogue*, Anna Wintour, is helping to promote the sequel – so it is bound to succeed. The first *Prada* only cost $35 million to make yet made 831% on its Return on Investment – in other words it was a money-spinner.

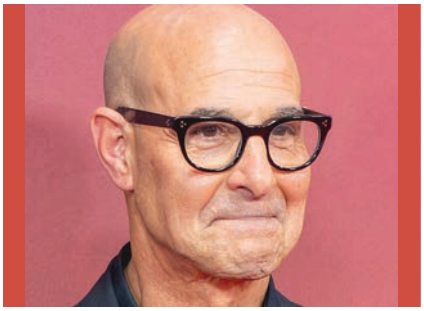
The Devil Wears Prada is based on the 2003 novel of the same name by Lauren Weisberger. It's a roman à clef – a thinly fictionalised story drawn from her own experiences working as an assistant to Anna Wintour at American *Vogue*. It was intended as a satire, yet Meryl Streep's nuanced depiction of *Runway* editor Miranda Priestly (based plainly on Wintour's reported impossibly demanding nature) drew admiration. While Priestly has a monstrous side, we also see that she cares deeply for her work and dotes on her spoilt daughters while struggling to keep a dysfunctional marriage intact and seeing off rivals and a duplicitous company boss.

But what film critics won't know is that the main members of the returning cast are all water signs – Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces. Here's the list:

Meryl Streep (Priestly): Cancer (born 22 June 1949). Cancers are nurturing yet protective, often with strong emotional intelligence – aligning with her powerhouse, layered performance style.

Anne Hathaway (Andy Sachs): Scorpio (born 12 November 1982). Scorpios bring intensity, transformation and magnetism; her chart has a strong Scorpio emphasis.

Emily Blunt (Emily Charlton): Pisces (born 23 February 1983). Pisces traits include empathy, adaptability and artistic sensitivity, matching her versatile roles.



Stanley Tucci (Nigel Kipling): Scorpio (born 11 November 1960). Another intense, charismatic Scorpio in the core cast.

Weirder, Anna Wintour (born 3 November 1949) is herself a Scorpio which is the sign of power, transformation and absolute control. It doesn't just want influence – it wants to own the game, reshape it and outlast everyone else. That's exactly what she did with *Vogue*. She took a respected fashion magazine and turned it into a cultural empire that dictates trends, launches careers and throws the most exclusive party on the planet (the Met Gala).

Water in astrology represents emotions, intuition, sensitivity and the subconscious mind. It governs the inner world – feelings, empathy, psychic abilities, dreams, memories and the unseen currents beneath the surface. A 'watery' person is a great follower of trends and fashion, sensing public mood and direction. Perfect for *Prada*.

But here's another thing. The majority of newcomers to *Prada 2* are fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius). Here's the list:

Justin Theroux (Leo, born 10 August 1971). Fire-dominant energy with charisma and flair.

Kenneth Branagh (Sagittarius, born 10 December 1960). Adding adventurous, philosophical or expansive qualities. He is a major theatre actor, too.

Anna Wintour (left) with Meryl Streep. Photographed for Vogue

Lucy Liu (Sagittarius, born 2 December 1968). Known for sharp, independent fire energy.

Simone Ashley (Aries, born 30 March 1995). Strong Aries emphasis, embodying bold, pioneering traits as Miranda's new assistant.

B.J. Novak (Leo, born 31 July 1979). Bringing confident, performative fire.

Patrick Brammall (Aries, born 30 March 1976/1977) A reported love interest for Anne Hathaway's character.

Rachel Bloom (Aries, born 3 April 1987) Enthusiastic, creative fire.

The director of the 2006 *Prada 1* and of *Prada 2*, David Frankel, is, yes, a fire sign Aries, born 2 April 1959.

Interestingly, though Wintour is a Scorpio, her horoscope is dominated by fire signs. Six of her main 10 planets are in Leo which includes her Moon (we don't have a time for her so we cannot be certain of the Moon's zodiacal placement). This explains her intense, seemingly obsessive passion (Leo) for fashion, guided by a powerful instinct and focus (Scorpio).

And by the way, *Vogue* was born on 17 December 1892 (first issue published that day in New York). That makes it a Sagittarius – a fire sign.

Fire sign people generally thrive on excitement, leadership and self-expression, inspiring others with their optimism and courage. However, they can also be impulsive, impatient and quick-tempered.

If you put fire and water together you get a steaming cauldron – or at least a whistling kettle. *Prada 2* is a movie that has immense astrological energy connected to its source (Wintour mainly and *Vogue*) and its cast. Such elemental biases gives the movie a great head start even if sequels can be a risky venture.

Prada 2 premiered in New York on 20 April 2026 (Taurus), and the official cinematic launch date was on 1 May. It's a Taurus movie, about luxury, glamour and high-end beauty: Taurus (ruled by Venus) is the zodiac's lover of beautiful things – fashion, fabrics, status symbols, wealth and aesthetic perfection. It's the sign that owns the runway, the penthouse and the perfectly curated empire. *Prada 2* is all about that world: Miranda's throne at *Runway*, the cutthroat fight to stay on top, and the sensual power of style.

Taurus is opposite Scorpio, tying luxury and aesthetics to power and perfectionism. And here's another thing: 1 May was the day of a Scorpio Full Moon. (That's when the Sun is exactly opposite the Moon.). A very auspicious release time as Full Moons denote a culmination or the finalisation of something.

Makes you wonder whether an astrologer was consulted on casting and movie release time!

(VO)

Royal Mint Launches Zodiac Bullion Bar Collection in Partnership with Astrologer Frank C. Clifford

The Royal Mint has unveiled a new Zodiac Bullion Bar Collection, blending the ancient art of astrology with modern precious metal investment. The range features finely minted gold and silver bars celebrating the 12 Western zodiac signs, developed in collaboration with renowned British astrologer, author and *The Astrological Journal* columnist Frank C. Clifford.

The collection, described as "star signs made precious in metals", offers investors and collectors personalised bullion products in 999.9 fine gold (5g bars) and 999.9 fine silver (1oz bars). Each bar showcases elegant designs by multimedia artist Dominique Holmes, incorporating the sign's symbolic motifs — such as the Ram for Aries or the Bull for Taurus — within elemental patterns of fire, earth, air or water. Options include standalone bars or premium gift boxes, positioning them as both investment assets and meaningful keepsakes or gifts.

Initial releases include Aries and Taurus, with more signs rolling out progressively. Prices reflect current metal values, with 5g gold bars around £677–£689 and 1oz silver bars from £111–£123. Complementary 886 jewellery pieces, including caustic zodiac pendants, are also available.

Clifford, an award-winning astrologer, author of multiple books on astrology and palmistry, and publisher of *The Mountain Astrologer*, contributed interpretive content for the Royal Mint's website. In his essay 'Your Zodiac Sign and Who You Were Born to Be', he explores the Sun sign as a core life purpose and character development tool, pairing opposite signs and highlighting strengths alongside shadow traits.

He observes in his essay: "If we don't attempt to actively live out the meaning of our Sun sign, we risk languishing in the negative traits of its opposite sign. I tell my students: 'Follow your Sun – or wallow in the worst of its polar opposite'."

He worked on the project in secrecy before its recent online debut.

The Royal Mint markets the collection by linking zodiac traits to investment styles, adding a playful, personal dimension to bullion. It stands apart from the Mint's traditional Chinese Lunar zodiac coins, targeting astrology enthusiasts amid growing interest in themed collectibles.

This launch reflects the Royal Mint's strategy of innovating within its bullion lineup, combining cultural symbolism, artistry, and intrinsic metal value. Full details and availability are on the Royal Mint website.

The Royal Mint is the United Kingdom's official coin maker, established over 1,100 years ago. Based in Llantrisant, Wales, it produces all circulating UK coins, commemorative coins, bullion bars and medals for the UK and many other countries worldwide. It is also a major gold and silver bullion dealer.

For more information about Frank, contact: info@flareuk.com.

More Royal Mint information at royalmint.com.

Fast Synastry

Donald Trump and Pope Leo: Not a Marriage Made in Heaven

Ooh dear. President Trump is no fan of new American Pope Leo XIV. And the feeling is mutual. The Pope described Trump's threats to annihilate Iranian civilisation as "truly unacceptable" and warned against the "delusion of omnipotence" driving conflicts. Trump responded on his Truth Social platform that the Pope is "WEAK on Crime and terrible for Foreign Policy". No love-in, then. No candle-lit dins at a McDonald's.

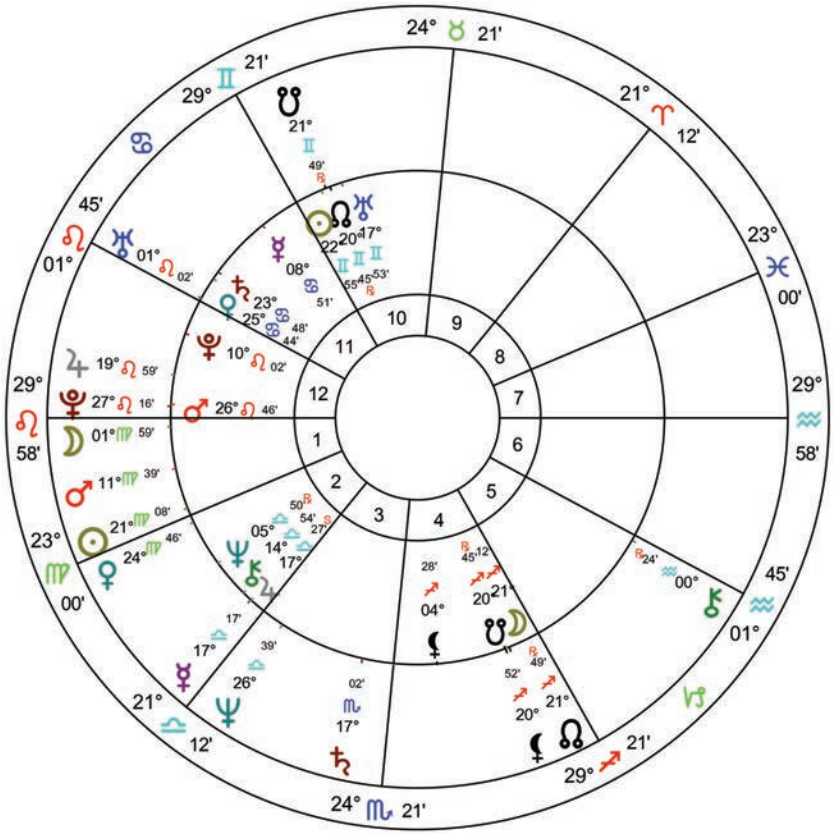
How do their horoscopes work together?

The Pope's chart We don't have a birth time for Pope Leo, but we know he is a mega-Virgo with at least three planets in that sign. The Moon, too, if born much before midday. Virgo is essence does not seek the limelight and is cautious and analytical. His destiny point is in Sagittarius, the sign of religion. Very high but not mighty.

President Donald Trump's chart Surprise, surprise: he has no planets in Virgo. With fiery Mars rising and disruptive Uranus conjunct his Sun and North Node in the 10th house he is the opposite of the Pope: aggressive, unpredictable and a master of drawing welcome attention to himself.

What could go wrong between them? Where to start! The Pope's Pluto is conjunct Trump's Mars, a highly combustible alignment. Mars, planet of war; Pluto, planet of Hell. You get the picture. AI Grok comments on this conjunction: "Expect passion, power struggles, jealousy and profound ego death/rebirth. Highly volatile yet potentially healing when handled maturely". Ah yes, 'maturely'. Good luck with that.

Anything more? It doesn't stop there. The Pope's Uranus is perilously close to Trump's Venus and Saturn which is not what you want if you seek peace, harmony and matey high fives on the golf course. Uranus has a habit of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Put another way, Trump's idea of law and order is chaos to Pope Leo.



Inner Wheel: Donald Trump Natal Chart 14 Jun 1946, Fri 10:54 EDT +4:00 Jamaica, New York 40°N41'29" 073°W48'22" Geocentric Tropical Placidus Mean Node

Outer Wheel: Pope Leo Natal Chart 14 Sep 1955, Wed 12:00 CST +6:00 Chicago, Illinois 41°N51' 087°W39' Geocentric Tropical Equal Mean Node

I repeat, anything more? Oh. Well their lunar nodes are together but upside down.

Really? Yes, the Pope's Gemini South Node (representing the past) is on Trump's North Node (destiny) whose Sagittarius South Node is on the Pope's North Node. They are kind of bonded through antagonism as each thinks he's right and the other is a complete fool.

Any good news? Any hope of reconciliation? The Pope is trying to play down the feud because as a Virgo soul he does not seek conflict. It is plain he does not care for the US President but it's hard to maintain a pacifist line if you're locked in battle. Leo's Mercury is tightly conjunct Trump's Jupiter in Libra which holds some potential for an uneasy alliance. But Libra can be the sign of hypocrisy...

Then again, their Suns are tightly square, and squares can have sharp edges. So, a bromance is unlikely

Venus for the Fashionistas

Karla Miranovic

Venus describes our sense of aesthetics, style and what we find attractive when it comes to fashion. Here's our zodiac guide.

VENUS IN ARIES

Often makes bold fashion choices which can be futuristic. There's a tendency towards a more masculine style. Strong, primary colours and 'statement pieces' are favoured. Fashion choices can involve elements of sport and military style. Suggested brands: Prada (pioneering) and Savage X Fenty (empowered, inclusive, sexy).

VENUS IN TAURUS

Favours quality over quantity in fashion, with a pronounced attraction to luxury. Often puts durability ahead of latest looks. Feeling comfortable is important, so special attention is paid to high quality fabrics. Suggested brands: Hermès (timeless) and Vivienne Westwood (sensual and romantic).

VENUS IN GEMINI

Sharp to the newest trends. Versatility is sought, demonstrating a great capacity for adapting to different occasions and purposes. Even at an older age, these individuals may dress youthfully, with considerable success. Suggested brands: Free People (airy and boho) and Gucci (vibrant prints and colours).

VENUS IN CANCER

Feeling comfortable and cozy are primary considerations. They gravitate towards lounge wear, tracksuits and hoodies. Women with this placement excel at classically feminine dressing, particularly when it comes to dresses. Suggested brands: Chanel (classic, sentimental) and Musier Paris (feminine aesthetic).

VENUS IN LEO

The drop dead glamour look. Striking clothes and accessories. Even if products are not high end, a regal attitude adds value. This Venus stands out and presents fashion choices with much confidence. Suggested brands: Versace (unapologetically bold patterns) and Fendi & Tom Ford (ultimate in glam and glitz).

VENUS IN VIRGO

Being 'put-together' and neat are of primary importance. Bold choices unlikely. Preference for neutrals in colours, simplicity in cuts, and delicate, small accessories. Capable of elegance but is more comfortable in business-casuals. Suggested brands: Ferragamo (precision, structure, order) and Jil Sander (clean and purist).

VENUS IN CAPRICORN

Serious and composed in stylistic choices from an early age, the classic style is typical. High-quality tailoring is sought as are heavier materials and darker colours. Power dresser: well-tailored suits and coats. Suggested brands: Giorgio Armani (classic tailoring) and The Row/Max Mara (quiet luxury).

VENUS IN AQUARIUS

Casual, possibly androgynous fashion. A utilitarian approach to style, usually not flashy. Interest in fashion unlikely. But if it does exist, it produces an original, unconventional style, with futuristic nods. Suggested brands: Balenciaga (street-meets-couture) and Jean Paul Gaultier (so boundary-pushing, darling).

VENUS IN PISCES

Dreamy and artistic. Flowing, textured fabrics and layering are favoured over strong cuts. May struggle with 'professional' appearances. Rules and limitations are disliked – the imagination should be allowed to flow freely, so some looks may be outré. Suggested brands: Rodarte (romantic whimsy) and Di Petsa (water-inspired designs).

NOTE: The expression of these sign placements may be considerably altered when Venus is in aspect with other planets. For example, the usually serious and stylistically conservative Venus in Capricorn may show a much greater openness to experimentation when aspected by Uranus, while the bright and bold Venus in Leo may be considerably 'toned-down' by Saturn's influence.

VENUS IN LIBRA

Perfectly dressed for every occasion, with a nous for getting the look right. Aesthetic sense is pronounced. Can excel in the fashion professions as stylists, designers and fashion editors. Suggested brands: Dior (grace and refinement) and Vivienne Westwood (romantic flair).

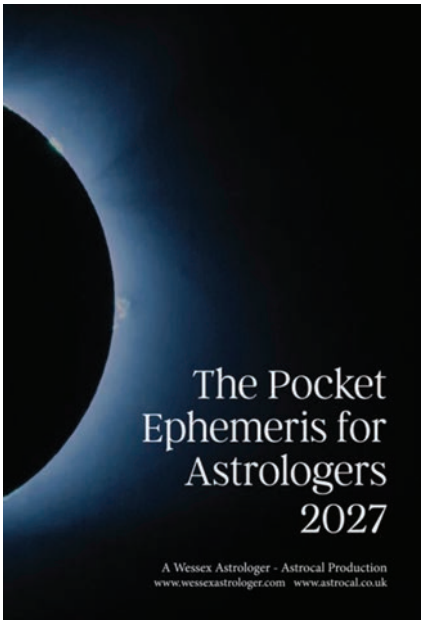
VENUS IN SCORPIO

Creates a strong impression more through what is concealed than revealed. Always an air of mystery, augmented by dark colours. Choices can shock or even be inappropriate or challenging. Suggested brands: Alexander McQueen (gothic romance and taboo-testing) and Roberto Cavalli ('dangerous' fashion).

VENUS IN SAGITTARIUS

Adventure and multi-culturalism are themes. Clothes and accessories should not stifle but allow free movement. Sports fashion. A sense of fun is present in choices. Suggested brands: Miu Miu (youthful, mischievous, sporty chic) and Etro (wanderlust look and wild ethnic prints).

A New Yearly Ephemeris is Born



Margaret Cahill of The Wessex Astrologer publishing company makes an announcement…

In response to recent events, an increasing number of customers asked if The Wessex Astrologer would consider publishing a yearly ephemeris. Initially we refused because of the huge amount of work that goes into creating one, but then we realised it could be a perfect opportunity to collaborate with our friends at Astrocal.

Tina and Ceri produce the beautiful Astrocal Moon Diary and a range of Calendars every year, so they have a lot of the data needed for the ephemeris literally at their fingertips.

At the beginning of February we decided to commit and look seriously at what was required to produce a high quality, reliable ephemeris for astrologers. The astronomical information Astrocal didn't have access to was provided by the tireless dedication of Roy Gillett and the incredible team at Astrolabe who worked hard to give Tina exactly what she needed; Alois Treindl from Astrodienst (astro.com) supplied us with the Table of Houses data.

So it seems that, maybe three months after saying we definitely wouldn't be publishing an ephemeris, we are. Just as in the old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child", we'd say it takes a community to create an ephemeris, and we hope that it will serve you well.

Thank you to everyone who has answered our endless questions in good spirits, and for the incredible support we've had along the way. *The Pocket Ephemeris for Astrologers 2027* will be on sale at the end of June from your usual bookseller.

Description of the pocket ephemeris

* Calculated in UTC at Noon * Opens flat for easy reference * Latitude and declination of Sun, Moon and all the planets * Positions for Chiron, Ceres, Pallas, Juno, Vesta and Black Moon Lilith * Phases of the Moon, including eclipses, VOC and sign ingress * Monthly lunar aspects * Full aspectarian for the year * Dailymotion of the planets * Tables of Houses for Liverpool, London and New York * Log tables (useful for students).

The International Astrology Library

In addition to the physical Astrological Association library, the Astrological Association – which publishes *Stellar* – has launched the International Astrology Library Online, where you can discover a remarkable collection of more than 400 professionally scanned out-of-print, hard-to-find astrology books and volumes of astrological periodicals, published from the late sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries. For copyright reasons, we can generally only make available those books that are out of copyright, but we have generously been given permission by the authors to add high-quality scans of Mundane Astrology by Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion and Charles Harvey.

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More details:

astrologicalassociation.com/international-astrology-library-online.

ASTRO-X-RAY

Garry Phillipson

An early interest in spirituality, astrology and other forms of divination combined with Dr Garry Phillipson's first degree in philosophy, resulting in a lifelong enquiry into the human condition, with particular reference to those liminal areas where the human and more-than-human intersect, or appear to. He is also a celebrated interviewer of other astrologers.

Q: When did you first realise that astrology had completely taken possession of you – if indeed it has?

GP: When I started trying to figure out what astrology is and how it works. My efforts on this front resulted firstly in my book *Astrology in the Year Zero* and then in my PhD thesis, *Astrology and Truth*.

Q: Where do you live and work? Which country? Briefly describe your office and the view from the principal window, if any.

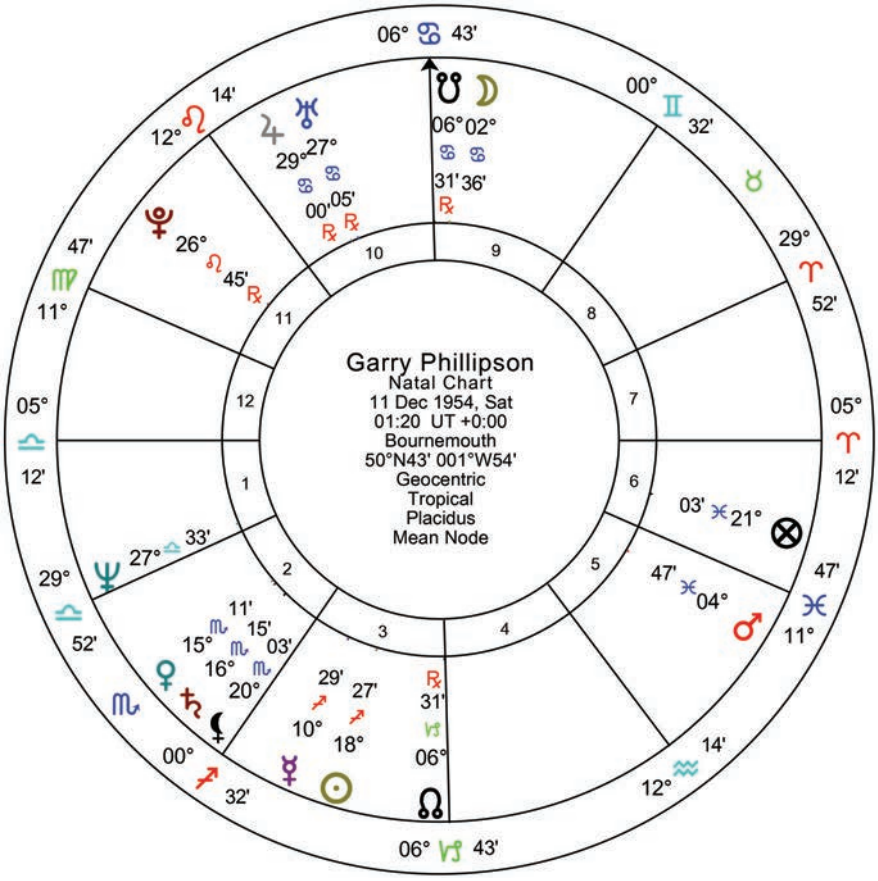
GP: Bradford on Avon, about seven miles outside Bath in the UK. My flat is in a church, up by the bell tower, overlooking the main road through the town and the Dandy Lion pub, and handy for a lot of great walking country.

Q: Name one feature of your birth chart that stands out as a major trait – and is known to loved ones, less so to acquaintances.

GP: There is virtually no earth in my chart. My relationship to physical reality is polite but distant.

Q: How did you learn the astro art/trade? Who/what inspired your interest?

GP: My grandfather was a trance medium and so (long story short) I grew up feeling curious about the nature of reality and the possibilities for connecting with whatever lay behind the quotidian world. The first time I encountered astrology as a serious craft was when I read Colin Wilson's book *The Occult*, and then the first astrology book I read was Jeff Mayo's *Teach Yourself Astrology*. This was in 1976. Needless to say I have acquired several more books in the following fifty years.



Q: Your book *Astrology in the Year Zero* was reissued recently. It features a great many prominent astrologers interviewed on many features and traditions of astrology. Is it possible to identify the astrologer who made the greatest impact on your development? Who was the most difficult interviewee?

GP: When I started work on the book I had an unexamined assumption that astrology would probably turn out to have been a science all along. Many of the encounters I had with astrologers helped pry me free from that view in one way or another. In particular I'd highlight the moment in my interview with Robert Hand when he elaborated on the meaning of 'As above so below; as below so above'. And then my interviews with Geoffrey Cornelius and Maggie Hyde and the whole idea of divination having a key role in the craft.

For 'most difficult' I have to go with Geoffrey Dean and his group of critics of astrology. Not, I hasten to emphasise, because of the way they handled the interview which was very polite and diligent. But because – as it seemed, and seems, to me - I was unable to get them to engage with the deeper philosophical issues that should have been in play. In the end I felt that if, as I believed, there were weaknesses in their approach then it should be possible to identify and critique them,

so that it was still good to present their arguments. (I attempted such a critique in the two final chapters – and indeed in my PhD.)

Q: If the elder Garry met the younger Garry, what pearl of wisdom might the former impart to the latter on astrology?

GP: Take your doubts and questions seriously and chase them down, don't feel as though you are at fault for harbouring them.

Q: Do you have clients? Or is your life dedicated to the academic study of astrological culture and history, if I may put it that way?

GP: I don't see clients. I have done at times, but nowadays – as you say – my academic work takes up all that time.

Q: Which astrological software program do you use? Ever hand-draw charts?

GP: *Solar Fire*, and Adrian Duncan's *World of Wisdom* horoscope interpretation program for anyone who wants a taste of what astrology might have to offer. When I started, you had to have an ephemeris for the right year and to calculate and draw charts by hand. I don't miss that at all!

Q: Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, please tell all.

GP: Only once, I don't have any particular psychic ability. I woke up in the night on a meditation retreat and saw a figure by the door. At first I assumed it must be one of the people I was rooming with. Then, looking around, I saw they were in their beds and so looked back at the figure with greater urgency, whereat it faded away. Nancy Spain – a journalist from the 50's and 60's who was a regular at the family séance group – subsequently claimed that it was her I'd seen. I'm sure that something real takes place in some ghost-proximate situations but try to keep an open mind about what's ultimately behind it. For anyone who wants to explore this I'd recommend Jack Hunter's book, *Manifesting Spirits*.

Q: Garry, would you say you are powerful?

GP: No in two ways. First, my idea of a powerful person is of someone who is charismatic, magical, and generally certain about things. I don't think of myself as having any of these qualities, and in particular questions always seem more convincing to me than certainties. Second, in terms of the ultimate nature of things: my experience of astrology, and of meditation and spiritual exercises, has convinced me that I'm a tiny interconnected part of a cosmos of inconceivable magnitude, and from that perspective 'being powerful' is not even on the menu!

Q: And finally, how do people get hold of you?

GP: I'm involved with two websites: *astrozero.co.uk* is mostly extra material relating to the book, and *cosmocritic.com* provides a collection of free resources relating to philosophical perspectives on astrology. I can be contacted via either.

Garry's interviews with other astrologers: skyscript.co.uk/gpip.html.

My Life After the Monastery

In an interview with Darrelyn Gunzburg on Skyscript, Garry recollected...

My return to lay life was an interesting experience. As monks, we wore what looked like dark blue karate outfits, and whenever I was outside the monastery, I was aware of people looking at me and thinking: "Why is he dressed like that? Is he a dangerous lunatic? Is he in some kind of weird cult?" However, when I emerged in ordinary clothes, nobody looked twice at me. After six years of being conspicuous when I walked down the street, it was as if I had suddenly become invisible. My 1st-house Neptune liked that very much! And another thing about returning to the world: It was like I imagine an experience of a past life would be. All of a sudden, I was back in my old clothes with some of my old things, hanging out with friends in the way I used to do. In some ways, it was as if those six years had never happened, and I had just gone back to being the previous "me." Yet, at the same time, I was clearly aware that I was no longer that person.

My first priority on leaving the monastery was to find somewhere to live and to get a job. I was offered a room in London and moved there, figuring that was as good a place as any to start job-hunting. Getting a job is interesting when you have six years as a Buddhist monk on your CV. It would probably be fair to say that prospective employers said little but thought much. However, later that year, I was offered a job with a small software company and I'm still there. After a few years, I was able to negotiate myself down to a three-day week to make space for my astrological work.

I wouldn't want to say that you need to be a Buddhist or an anything-ist in order to practise astrology well, but I think the Buddhist practice can help in some ways. In my case, it helps me to be more aware of what's going on inside me during a reading. One doesn't change as much as one would ideally like to in this life. You doubtless know the Serenity Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." Nobody seems to agree where this originally came from, but I think there's an enormous amount of practical wisdom in it. So, for example, I've tried, over the years, to change - to be better able to just read the chart without being influenced by the desires of the client. But there's no point in pretending that I've become a different person. That desire to please is still there, so another part of the equation is recognizing that - but I don't have to act on it....

The Astrological Association's
58th Annual Conference

CONFERENCE 2026

'Faith in the Future'

ONLINE RESIDENTIAL

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Eastwood Hall, Nottingham, UK and Online

With an excursion to Chatsworth House on Thursday 17th September

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Plenaries

Dorian Greenbaum, Lynn Bell, Steve Judd and a panel led by Victor Olliver

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THE ASTROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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