

## **One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest** - a M. M. Special Presentation

Last June '94 Dr. Dean Brooks visited Movie Monday from his home in Everett, Washington to present the movie in which he was deeply involved 19 years earlier. Dr. Brooks was the renowned superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital and became technical advisor on the film when that location, the same that inspired Ken Kesey's masterpiece, was chosen for the shoot. He eventually found himself in the role of Spivey, the psychiatrist attempting to evaluate Jack Nicholson's character, McMurphy.

The fascinating process of the book's metamorphosis into a very different but equally masterful film, winning the five major Oscars, is a process that he saw from the inside out. Dr. Brooks' vital part in the film brought an integrity to Spivey's character and a realism to the film that was not there in the book. It's worthwhile to compare the two!

Dr. Brooks and his wife Ulysta stayed a couple of days at a friend's B.&B., met over dinner with some of the 'pros' and 'consumers' from Victoria's community and quite won us all over. On show night he gave a vigorous and amusing talk regarding the evolution of the screenplay and his being drawn into it, the actors and action. He watched the show with us and then answered questions and spoke of some of the mental health issues and ramifications of this superb and challenging film. The main thrust of his comments was that the film was more an allegory about power and institutions than an exposé of what goes on in mental institutions. It's about what can happen in any organization.

On Saturday, October 14th., 7PM, the screening of *Cuckoo's Nest*, from laser disc, will include video tape of some of Dr. Brooks' comments and closing remarks. It makes a 3 hr.+ program so allow time to enjoy the whole experience. Coffee will be served as well as the usual refreshments.

## **EXOTICA** - a M. M. Special Presentation

Exotica, by Atom Egoyan, has won international fame for Victoria's own film maker. Atom's work has gained critical acclaim and a following, but now, with a major prize at Cannes and 8 Genies including Best Picture, and world wide distribution, this is the 'Big One'

Already Movie Monday has shown Atom's excellent 'Next of Kin' his first commercial film, made on a tiny budget - crisp, thrifty production style that took nothing away from a great screenplay. We've shown it twice. The second time Atom's father, Joseph, who lives in Victoria, spoke at length after the show about his son's career, the semi-autobiographical themes that run through much of his work, and his break-through success with Exotica, (then in it's first theatrical release). It was a wonderful opportunity for our audience to get a glimpse of the process behind the product!

I was knocked out by Exotica when I saw it. Its powerful imagery, complete control of the medium, and fascinating characterisations and plotting are inspired film making. Although it's a challenge to show a film with such strong sexual imagery in a venue such as ours, I was determined to present it. As I had done with 'Cuckoo's Nest', I wanted to set it in a constructive context - not just show, what to some would be, an overwhelming piece without a chance to work out some of the strong issues presented.

When I asked Joseph Egoyan to help me present Exotica at M. M., he agreed immediately. He will introduce the film and, after the screening, discuss the many issues that surround a film of this magnitude.

**Exotica - Saturday October 28, 1995 7 PM**

**Come early as seating is limited.**

**Donations to Movie Monday's new expense for public performances are especially welcome at these special offerings!**