

MR. JONES -

A movie about a man dealing with manic-depression prompted these program notes:
This portrayal of manic-depression is very clever - exciting to see it portrayed so well -- and yet it cannot be described as typical. The longer I'm involved in this steep learning curve about mental illness - particularly steepened with the discussion around the movie, 'Benny and Joon', the more I realize that nothing is typical - nothing is more dangerous than to generalize about someone because of the label that one might be given.

As for 'Mr. Jones':

Manic Depressives are not all so clever, charming, debonair when we're high - but many of us are.....

Not all psychiatrists are as gorgeous, sensitive, shapely, fit as 'Mr. Jones' - but mine swims like a torpedo every day at the rec. centre , ' to Hawaii and back' several times a year!
One of the least likely things about this movie is the love affair between patient and psychiatrist - but I suppose it could happen....it does.

Not all M/D's are spend-easies when they're high - not a lot have the money and the possibilities money can afford - but I've heard some hair-raising tales and personally have loosened up considerably while under the influence....

Not all buddies (spouses, doctors, lovers) are so kind and understanding / involved as Mr. Jones' buddy - but some of you are. It's a great help and asset for anyone with this disorder to be understood and stood by beyond the usual boundaries.

Not all hospitals have such pleasant living areas and therapeutic programs as some of those portrayed in this movie.

Not all survive - suicide is a very common outcome of this illness. Some statistics say one in four m/d's die that way.

Not all of our experiences are this dramatic - but, here again, m/d is an extraordinary condition and it often leads in extraordinary directions

SO....watch this movie not as a description of a typical m/d but as a provocative piece that shows what m/d can be - and after the show and a short refreshment break I hope you'll stay to join our panel in a discussion that will round out and balance this portrayal.

As Dr. Brooks said when he talked at M. M. about 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest', it's not a true story - but it speaks to truth.....

After the performance we had a [panel discussion](#) involving three people who had the illness and a psychiatrist commenting on the movie and inviting audience participation.