

-- Notes made while first watching and to introduce  
'MR. JONES' -- @Movie Monday Feb. 27, 1995 --

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 realise 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'

- M/D's 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....

- 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....

Bruce Saunders Feb. 12, 1995.