

**This pitch did result in a short professional doc piece being made:**

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Vision T V,

I have an idea, a really good one, and I've been playing it out to the max for the last 2 1/2 years. It's a self-directed program, the core of which is showing movies weekly at the local psych hospital, the same one that I 'graduated' from after a near fatal suicide attempt.

I have documented my endeavours from the start, 135 events ago, realising from it's inception that Movie Monday could do a lot for me and the mental health/general community. I have good quality 8mm video, journals, event records, slides, radio and T.V. interviews - the works.

It could be a documentary/bio tracing my personal travails, my 'opportunity', revelations and sometimes precarious / amazing current life - still dealing with a challenging illness, manic-depression, and other disabilities.

I have been operating for these 2 1/2 years now in a relative void - following an ideal and gradually achieving my ever-reaching goals. I am committed to my story being a cautious example for others in the mental illness/health field and would like to get my story told.

It would be visually interesting, - movies and art and even mental illness are high interest topics and the personal growth/hope-where-the-hope-had-run-out aspect still impresses me!

We're even observing the copyright rules now so can talk about it to a large audience. I'm working with Rogers and Shaw in Victoria which could be an asset but would like to find a skilled and objective documentary film maker who could handle a complex tale.

Please check out our home page for detail about Movie Monday

Yours truly,

Bruce Saunders

From the home page:

## 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 expose 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!**

## **Movie Monday - Yer Best Deal**

**Movie Monday is the Best Deal in Town. A  
quality movie projected on a Big 15' screen, in a comfy  
theatre, every Monday at 6:30 - FREE.**

The idea to use the theatre at the Eric Martin Pavilion as a resource for people who have had direct experience with mental illness

came from an ex-patient, Bruce Saunders, a 44 year old gardener who has manic-depression.

With mental illness often comes isolation, poverty, and a lack of opportunities to express oneself creatively. "I see the use of this facility as more than just a physical door opening. In partnership with the hospital, consumers of mental health services can have, not just some free entertainment, but can have a forum to express their abilities". The Movie Monday T-shirts Saunders has designed and produced say "Be a Producer!" - a challenge to people to go beyond their description as consumers of mental health services.

The project has been evolving. When not overwhelmed with movie goers, the mandate was broadened to include the general public with ads in calendars of all the local print media. "Any entertainment works best when it has a capacity audience. 10-20 people in a 100 seat theatre just doesn't cut it -- a full house, full of expectation and reaction, really makes you feel you're in the right place at the right time". And a by-product of an integrated audience is a softening of the lines between "the mentally ill" and those who are "normal" and fostering a healthier attitude in all who come, toward the institution and the people who sometimes have to use it

It's a nice little theatre. Pop, popcorn etc. are available at very reasonable prices, an eclectic selection of movies are shown and cartoons, video shorts and "consumer" art enrich the evenings.

"I'm attempting to create a friendly, interactive, thriving weekly event. Movie Monday has been instrumental in my staying well and exploring new possibilities for myself and I hope it will be so for others."

Phone **595-FLIC** for information directions and schedule. ***M.M.now has a Home Page Address***  
***<http://www.islandnet.com/~dsaunder/MM.html>***