

some thoughts on Movie Monday's Third Anniversary

Another year gone around. Another 55 or so shows, each one a special event, each one a highlight for one reason or another in the circuit of the week. Each one is represented by a sheet of foolscap notes I fill out at the end of each Monday night before retiring - what we showed, music played, attendance and donations in the jar, but also special things that happened, usually how I felt about how the show was received, feedback from the audience, maybe how I felt.

Some of the shows were just fun*Babe, some terrific cinema, a treat to share with others*Bridges, Commitments, some inspired a voyage of discovery, delving into the background books and stories that go way beyond the 100 minutes or so on the screen *100 Short Films, only a couple have been a little embarrassing over these years, only a couple I've regretted. The best evenings for me have been the ones when we've stayed after to talk about a particularly meaty film (as we will after *"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf") Some are challenging dramas, wondering whether they'll fly, whether they'll draw a crowd, whether they'll upset a few but not wanting to settle for bland.

* coming up

Some events have been challenges of organization and technology. Last Feb.'s "Children of a Lesser God" involved searching around the country for a wonderful documentary film "In The Land of The Deaf", (not available through normal sources), making a deal with a small distributor in Toronto, finding and involving Kevin Braun of Island Deaf And Hard of Hearing, deciding to show "Children" as well, and getting Kevin a spot to publicize the events on Community TV. As the date arrived, the hospital announced we needed to cancel these events so they could pull the seats for re-upholstering and waxing floors. Well, we didn't cancel, but then I had to find solutions to promised infra-red sound system and tricky closed captioning....then we video taped the presentations! Did anyone notice?

Sometimes the difficulty might be fatigue or flat mood - just getting it up to haul those seats out for the 157th. time, set up the M.M. sign and twinkle lights, enough popcorn bags?, cue them tapes up and do the *Movie Monday Thang* again in spite of it all.

Carrying through on a plan conceived and then gelled in copy two months before has always been the biggest challenge for me. It's tough for anyone dealing with the uncertainties of everyday life to publicize and carry out a program like this on a shoestring budget and volunteer time - but throw in a mood disorder that by definition makes life less predictable and you do have a challenge!

It's SHOW TIME again, and off my faithful family goes, having rushed down another Monday supper, pot of melted butter trying to spill itself in the trunk as we pull up outside the theatre to meet our trusty helpers, Ellen and Aaron, and a few early birds. I think once again "Nice to be just visiting this hospital, running my own program", - instead of doing time as a patient, as I was just over three years ago.

It's great to be involved, even in a small way, in the most exciting industry in the world. There's something special that happens every time we get together. see *Cinema Paradiso on our anniversary.

Cheers,

Bruce

Thanks to all
who have helped:

- my family
- volunteer crew
- suppliers: Safeway
- Food Forum. Yo Video
- Nancy - Auxiliary GHS
- BC Sound
- artists • musicians
- presenters
- Norm - for those pop
- VGHS for the opportunity
- + those who have:
- donated
- enthused
- helped clean up.
- especially blessed
- are those who've
- donated

Ta.