

MOVIE MONDAY

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 pm – 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 usually comes isolation, poverty and a lack of opportunities to express one's self 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 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." A by-product of an integrated audience is a softening of the lines between 'the mentally ill' and those who are 'normal.' This fosters 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: 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 directions and schedule.