

THE REEL MADNESS CHALLENGE

Five years ago, when I was just a little giddy with the accomplishment of keeping my little movie program running for its first six months, I offered a challenge. It was scrawled with a felt marker, Xeroxed and posted around the hospital. It was addressed to nurses, professionals, anyone working in the field. "Be the first NURSE from E.M.P. or even mental health PROFESSIONAL to come for more than a glimpse of a MOVIE MONDAY show!" Granted it was a little rough and tumble, the frustration showed.

There seemed to be a barrier there. I thought it might be interesting for some of the pros to join us and see how a guerrilla psycho-social rehab project can work. An ex-patient's perspective. I'm gratified that a few have come, some have been encouraging and have participated beyond the call. The frustration is still there. I'm still trying to intrigue more into coming down on a Monday night to see what's going on.

That kind of challenge is a theme in our REEL MADNESS FILM FESTIVAL.

In the feature film, *Cosi*, there is a transition where the therapist has to fill in a patient's role in their ambitious opera. To me it's a significant moment. The challenge for this inexperienced therapist is to take a bigger stake in the success of the project.

Dr. Dean Brooks, the then Superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital, considered the risks of allowing his institution and its patients to become involved in making *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. He got so involved that he played a key on-screen role in the movie. That involvement produced an incredible film and a legacy of critical discussion about the issues of institutionalization. You'll have to come to our little theatre to see the "Western Canadian Public Premier" of *Completely Cuckoo* to get the whole story.

One of the questions that was explored by the panel at the Toronto RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS FILM FESTIVAL's screening of *Sybil* was, "Could *Sybil*'s recovery have been achieved without the extra-professional interest of her therapist?" Dr. Wilbur showed incredible commitment and bold risk-taking that resulted in a complete recovery from a still widely misunderstood condition. It was a fascinating discussion, one that I hope will be repeated at our presentation of *Sybil* with screenwriter Stewart Stern, Jan. 16.

There are professional boundaries that must be observed to do ethical work and to survive a career in the mental health field. But I'll keep challenging and looking for the bright lights who are willing to join in the process of recovery with people like me.

Yours, ever challengingly,

Bruce Nov. 29/98

Dec 14/93

the MOVIE MONDAY CHALLENGE

Be the first NURSE from
E.M.P. or even mental health
"PROFESSIONAL" to come for
more than a GLIMPSE of a
MOVIE MONDAY show! Next Monday!
"MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ" will be
our 6 MONTH PLUS ANNIVERSARY.
June 14 was our first show. Every
Monday but Labour Day - 26
evenings and/or afternoons of
entertainment on schedule
not too dusty for a manic/depressive
guy and his buddies!



Yours, ever
Challengingly,
Bruce

advised by
Stewart Stern, Director of the '60s '60s. He's B.C. Nursing
Commission's Tyndall's Nurse Consultant. He says "that's right!"