

October 18th, 1999
Victoria, B.C.

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter in support of Movie Monday...I should say at the outset that my feature (HORSES IN WINTER) has been shown there and that also a short film of mine (THE GEOMETRY OF BEWARE); that I have donated some money to the festival of Reel Madness.

That said, I still feel objective enough to commend the efforts of Bruce (and Bruce) and his volunteers for many different reasons.
Not necessarily in this order--

Movie Monday puts a human face on the Eric Martin.

I live a block south of the EMI and walk my dog around it...it is a cold scary building.

I believe Movie Monday makes it less so--there is a door for the public to enter and this is very good.

Secondly, Bruce has done a lot to encourage and support local filmmakers; he is open to showing new work, and is ready to expand the possibilities of Movie Monday. He pursues hard-to-find films that have relevance to mental health and is not afraid of controversial subject matter...

Thirdly, Movie Monday enters the field of mental health services with this delivery of thematic material relating to broad and specific issues in the mental health area; this area remains, after 100 years, a dark science and the public and clients deserve as much information as they can absorb.

My father started a hospital in Toronto about fifty years ago (Doctor's Hospital)--he had three brothers who were doctors who could not get bed privileges then--Jewish doctors still faced quotas back in the fifties in Toronto so I know the medical profession from the bottom up--I worked as a kid in the hospital--and it is clear to me that even in the medical profession, there are good and bad services, and doctors and nurses--and I am aware there is still incredible superstition and ignorance surrounding the mental health services and its delivery.

I believe MOVIE MONDAY and the Reel Madness Festival help to dispel the darkness that surrounds the delivery of mental health services.

I believe it is a goodwill force in the community and I do not find it with a political agenda other than the showing of cutting-edge films.

I have been a cultural worker in Canada for thirty years, working at the NFB and teaching and I feel Movie Monday is a breath of fresh air in Victoria.

Thanks for your time,

Rick Raxlen

Rick Raxlen, BA, MFA

member, board of directors

Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria

President, No-Room Productions