

These are just a few of the emails and notes I received on the announcement that Movie Monday is closing.

Feb 22

Sad to hear Movie Mondays are over, but what a run! I wish I'd been able to get to more shows; every one I did attend was memorable in many ways. The guests were from so many areas of expertise. Of course, one of my favourites was the night Bill Maylone presented the story of his career in film making. Thanks Bruce and Laurel.
Greg [Windwick]

Hi Bruce. Read about your retirement in the newspaper. You'll be missed. What a wonderful event you brought to life. A good service to patients and to the public. Excellent choice of movies and interesting discussions following the show. And so much dedication on your part.

**Thank you for Movie Monday
Paddy Kirk (Miller)**



posted by someone outside the theatre

Dear Bruce - you are so generous and the note that you sent saying you were closing down MM is just so sad - even though necessary. You've served our community in such a profoundly healing way all these years. I have a very big thank you for you. I have learned so much from your offerings and

that you offered us time with the film makers/actors etc provided something in life that is a rare treat - - to truly be able to interact with the creators of films. — The whole experience has been a WoW. Thanks for still sending out movie ideas to us - - and may the world flow back to gathering together again. Hugs, Ann Jacob and Stan Tomandl

— and that you opened up the floor for the community to discuss and hear itself - - - we need this everywhere in our world. A truly healing gift. thank you again. xo ann

Hello Bruce,

I read (and heard) your news about closing Movie Monday - totally understandable but sad nonetheless.

I want to commend you (and your wife and other volunteers) for all the years of providing so many excellent viewing and learning opportunities. Movie Monday, Cinecenta and The Vic have been my "go to" theatres for many many years. Intelligent programming is what I appreciate. The bonus at Movie Monday were your thoughtful introductions & commentaries, as well as the in person or real-time phone chats with guests related to the film. So rich an experience!

My thanks to you Bruce for establishing Movie Monday way back when... and growing it into a high ranking film viewing experience.

I see on the MM website that you are continuing to offer online suggestions - YAY!

Sincerely,
Wendy Wimbush

Feb 21

Hi Bruce

Just listened to you and Gregor Craigie discussing the end of Movie Monday. Sad news, but sadly not surprising. I'm glad to hear you're maintaining your online presence. What an amazing run you've had! Something to be very proud of for sure.

Best wishes to you and your family, and thanks for living that dream. It has always inspired me.

Joan O'Connor - psych nurse

CBC article posted based on the radio interview -

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/movie-monday-victoria-ending-1.5919706>

Well, I'm glad the recognition is there albeit too late for promotion. MM and you deserve all and any kudos 🍌🍌🍌🍌

Jude [Sommers]

(proud to have been on the team)

Feb 20

Hey Bruce,

You don't know me but i just wanted to thank you and acknowledge all your effort and time and generosity. I enjoyed movies through the years at Movie Monday. You contributed a lot to our community and for this I thank and honour you.

Laureen Belland

Hi Bruce,

The city will miss your adventurous excursion into the world of cinema. Your eclectic taste in movies opened hearts and minds for the past 30 years -- quite a run. I regret that I wasn't able, because of date conflicts, to see more of your Monday Movie offerings.

Having taught film and presented various series for 35 years myself in Southern California, I know the satisfaction in turning people to the magic of good movies.

It's fun.

Thanks for taking such great care of us. I hope that we see more of your artful recommendations in the future.

Your friend in the dark

Beck Peacock

Hi Bruce,

I also saw this announcement in the Times Colonist this morning. This must be an emotional time for you and a major change in your life. Movie Monday touched the lives of many many people. Through MM you are a kind of hero in the mental health field as an advocate, support, and guide. With this loss, undoubtedly, there will be a space for new growth.

Take care Bruce and thank you!

Alan Jones

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Sept 3, 2020

Bruce - I wrote a short appreciation of you and Movie Monday and put it on my Facebook site - see below. Got a great response.

Good Work !

Dave Barber programmer for Winnipeg Cinematheque

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Twice a year I usually visit Victoria, BC to see my brother Steve and his family. One of my favorite things is having a coffee with Bruce Saunders, programmer of a screening series he has organized for the last 26 years called Movie Monday. Located in the back of a hospital called the Eric Martin Pavilion the series is dedicated to supporting new independent works and mental health films. As Bruce wrote on his website, "MOVIE MONDAY started as a sparky idea from a guy recovering from a severe depression and second suicide attempt. While still in the hospital I had discovered a 100-seat lecture auditorium with a video projector, and the idea of showing films there for patients and ex-patients had captured my imagination."

And so with hutzpah and eventually Canada Council funding he assembled a screening series which grew over the years. He often phoned directors at the end (as he once phoned me) and engaged in a discussion about various films. He arranged a Q&A with psychiatrist Dr. Dean Brooks head of Oregon State Hospital when One Flew Over Cuckoo's Nest was shot there. Bruce was progressive and supported a lot of great independent Canadian work. He often tipped me to films I wasn't aware of. As he says, "Really powerful movies grab us and involve us, convince us. They take us by the ears and make us hear and see it their way. It can be the best of experiences to be involved so thoroughly. Das Boot, Ordinary People, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Fearless, Straw Dogs, and King Lear are just a few of the movie experiences that absolutely involved me."

When the COVID19 virus hit Movie Monday had to shut down like all independent theatres around the country. Bruce told me to reopen he would have to reduce the seating capacity to 12-16 and he just couldn't see it working anymore so he has decided to close. So here is a toast to Bruce who overcame hard times and dedicated many years to use his creative vision to make a difference in his community and a difference in people's lives.

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Followed by sweet feedback from across the country.....