

Note: descriptions started consistently in November 2000

A full list of titles and attendances in the document:

archives_alphabetical or archives_chronological

Archives 1997-2020 (before Sept 1997 descriptions were not included)

Monday 29 Sep 1997

Waiting For Guffman

A gentle comedy in the mockumentary style of a MM favourite "This Is Spinal Tap". 'Corky' St. Clair lends his inspired theatrical talents when a small, very American town, (the Stool Capital of the World), decides to celebrate its 150th anniversary with a pageant.

Monday 6 Oct 1997

Amadeus

This winner of 8 Oscars depicts the life and times of W. A. Mozart and the intense admiration and jealousy of his contemporary, Salieri. "a stunning film full of great music, drama, and wit."

Monday 13 Oct 1997

Outrageous

A 1977 Canadian cult classic I've been wanting to present for a long while. A special relationship between a female impersonator, Craig Russell (in an amazing tour de force, not only for his incredible impressions), and his best friend, a young woman who is on the lam from a "home for the insane" who is plagued by disturbing voices. It's a challenging movie about marginalized people who truly care for each other. A small movie with a big heart. May be disturbing to some.

Monday 20 Oct 1997

A Night At The Opera

Mark's Birthday Special! The 'Infamous' Mark Idczak, film historian extraordinaire and MM movie presenter, chose this Mark's Brothers comedy masterpiece and promises to embellish our presentation.

Monday 27 Oct 1997

The Man Who Planted Trees

A lyrical 1/2 hr. animated feature about a solitary man who created an ecological phenomena in Europe. Something special. and...

Zelig

A Woody Allen experiment in pseudo-documentary style. Travelling through history, Gump-like, around WWII, a human chameleon pops up in some key situations. I find it particularly intriguing in our venue for it's psychological angst and in light of Woody's own fall from grace and recent restoration.

Monday 3 Nov 1997

Monster In A Box

Comedian Spalding Gray's second filmed monologue about his adventures from L.A. to the Soviet Union (where's that?) that interrupt his attempts to write a monster autobiographical novel. Funny, profound, and extremely compelling.

Monday 10 Nov 1997

The Great Escape

For Remembrance Day The true WWII story of a massive breakout from a Nazi prisoner of war camp designed especially for prisoners with a history of escaping: "putting all our bad eggs in one basket". Almost 3 hour running time, but boisterous root-for-our-heroes entertainment the whole way through.

Monday 17 Nov 1997

Big Night

A highly praised new release. Brothers, trying to save their Italian restaurant from bankruptcy, plan an extravagant feast for band leader Louis Prima. Complications ensue.

Archives 2000

Monday 6 Nov 2000

CUP

A charming new film about Tibetan monks living in exile in an Indian Buddhist monastery - and obsessed with soccer, particularly the World Cup. Written and directed by Khyentse Norbu, a pre-eminent lama who studied filmmaking in New York and apprenticed with Bernardo Bertolucci.

Monday 13 Nov 2000

SHELTERING SKY

Of special interest to those who saw our presentation of the Paul Bowles biography LET IT COME DOWN. This 1990 adaptation, by Bertolucci, of Bowles' existentialist novel, starring Debra Winger and John Malkovich, explores the same exotic physical and emotional landscape of American travellers in North Africa. Bowles hated it, I liked it. Read the book and let's talk about the pros and cons.

Monday 20 Nov 2000

JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR ***** THE SING ALONG *****

Hey, The Sound of Music was great fun so we're doing it again. I heard that JC Superstar, the play, is 30 yr. this month - isn't that a good enough reason to dress up and sing along to all those great tunes? We'll set up Jewison's classic film version karaoke style and offer rewards for best dressed.

Monday 27 Nov 2000

GENGHIS BLUES

This new Oscar nominated doc has won awards and hearts everywhere it plays. It's about a blind blues player who learns throatsinging and, with the help of some buddies, travels to remote Tuva to compete in a remarkable competition. It's about taking chances, the universal power of music and the resilience of the human spirit.

Monday 4 Dec 2000

RESCUERS

Disney's colourful and fun animated feature from 1977, full of beautiful art and great characters like Madame Medusa, Orville the albatross, and Evinrude the dragonfly.

Monday 11 Dec 2000

HITMAN HART: WRESTLING THE SHADOWS

A 93 min. doc from NFB that takes us into the sweat and dazzle fantasy world of pro wrestling. The film goes behind the scenes to reveal the personal story of

Canadian star Bret Hart and a backroom WWF double-cross that threatened his career.

Monday 18 Dec 2000

TOKYO POP

Take a break in the Christmas mayhem to be charmed by Carrie Hamilton (Carol Burnett's daughter) starring in a sweet 1988 tale of a punk-rock singer trying her luck in Japan's exotic culture. A Movie Monday audience-discovered gem that's a real crowd pleaser.

Monday 25 Dec 2000

A CHRISTMAS STORY

A charming memoir about a boy's desire for a BB gun for Christmas. Set in 1940's America, it is a wonderful evocation of family life through a young person's eyes. Come out and see some family entertainment during that flat spot on Christmas Day.

Archives 2001

Monday 1 Jan 2001 2:30 Matinee

TOY STORY 2

The new sequel that even improves on the original brilliant computer animated classic. Great fun to start the New Year.

Monday 8 Jan 2001

THE STORY OF THE COAST SALISH KNITTERS

I'm thrilled to have Christine Welsh, filmmaker and UVic prof, (whose previous films include WOMEN OF THE SHADOWS and KUPER ISLAND: Return to the Healing Circle), return to MM to present her latest project. It's a well made doc about the history and economic/social significance of this world famous local tradition, the "Indian Sweater".

Monday 15 Jan 2001

SHIRLEY VALENTINE

A saucy, middle-aged married woman who feels life has passed her by has a chance to live life a little more exuberantly on a holiday in Greece. A great mid-winter film get-away. Adapted from a hit play, wonderfully acted by the original Shirley, Pauline Collins.

The REEL MADNESS FILM FEST JAN 18-22, 2001

Monday 29 Jan 2001

FAST CHEAP AND OUT OF CONTROL

Errol Morris' amazing portrait of four extraordinarily inspired, driven individuals. A lion tamer, an elderly gardener maintaining a huge topiary landscape, a designer obsessed with creating the ideal environment for naked mole-rats, and an engineer at UCLA creating robots for remote exploration - all enthuse about their passions.

Monday 5 Feb 2001

GIRL INTERRUPTED

This film, adapted from a book by the same name by Susanna Kaysen, describes a two year "interruption" in a young woman's life when she entered the nether world of a psychiatric hospital. The year her journey began was 1968 but the experience is not dated. The insight through a young woman's eyes of survival in an institution is as provocative as "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" and "The Snake Pit" in the lexicon of films about mental illness. Eating Disorders Awareness Week is Feb.4-10.

Monday 12 Feb 2001

CHICKEN RUN

This latest from the creator of the "Wallace and Gromit" series, is an amazing claymation feature film starring chickens with teeth and much intrigue about the hen house.

Monday 19 Feb 2001

HURRICANE

Norman Jewison's latest release is based on the life story of Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter, a prize fighter who was wrongfully imprisoned for 20 years. It's a great tale of redemption and of the way people can support and inspire one another to overcome personal obstacles.

Monday 26 Feb 2001

RUNAWAY BRIDE

I got cornered on a plane with this "star vehicle" for Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, and was surprised to find it a thoroughly delightful film, one I think the MM crowd will enjoy. She's a girl who has earned a rep for bolting at the alter. It's less predictable than you'd think.

Monday 5 Mar 2001

MY FAIR LADY - The Sing Along And Dress Up

The third in our fun series of sing alongs, this classic laced with wonderful singable tunes will surely raise the roof. What will you wear? Free popcorn for those in costume. MM first screened this the "Winter of the Great Snow", the first Monday in Jan 1997, for a small but hardy audience that mushed out through the suddenly quiet streets of Victoria. We didn't realize then how much fun could be had by singing along!

Monday 12 Mar 2001

INTO THE GREAT SOLITUDE

Robert Perkins' unique and intimate film of a solo canoe journey in Canada's far north. He records his impressions of a strangely beautiful landscape and in that solitude reflects on change and death and searches for new perspectives on his relationship with his aging father. Robert Perkins is a very interesting person living in Cambridge MA, a writer and filmmaker about several odysseys of body and soul and expects to be on hand for next year's Reel Madness Film Festival, if not before.

Monday 19 Mar 2001

LONE STAR

One of my favourites in this genre, this modern Western mystery from 1995 uncovers a Texas borderline intrigue that has 40 years of back history. John Sayles deftly and gracefully reveals a web of rich characters, plots, and a love story. Great story telling! Chris Cooper, Elizabeth Pena, Kris Kristofferson.

Monday 26 Mar 2001

ME, MYSELF, AND I

Pamela is a hip, single, award winning journalist but there's something missing. What would have happened if she'd married Robert Dickson, her first love, and had kids? This sweet little Australian romantic comedy asks the question "What about the road not taken?" Unlike the rest of us, Pamela gets to find out.

Monday 2 Apr 2001

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

From 1952 one of the all-time great musicals - an affectionate spoof of the turmoil that afflicted the motion picture industry in the late 1920's transition from silent to sound production. Singin' and dancin' with Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Jean Hagen, Debbie Reynolds, Syd Charisse.

Monday 9 Apr 2001

ART OF PEACEMAKING

This documentary, by Victoria's Gumboot Productions, follows the creation of a monumental anti-war sculpture. Artists Sandra Bromley and Wallis Kendal painstakingly constructed the massive prison cell-sized installation from thousands of deactivated weapons from around the world. The sculpture itself and the documentary are now travelling the world. We'll have one of the filmmakers, Penny Joy, with us to discuss both the projects (sculpture and film), their message, and their impact.

Monday 16 Apr 2001

JESUS OF MONTREAL

A vagrant young actor is hired by a Montreal priest to produce a fresh interpretation of an Easter passion play. He produces a contemporized literal telling that captivates audiences, inflames the clergy, and wins the player's faith. One of Canada's great films, in French with English subtitles.

Monday 23 Apr 2001

AFTERLIFE

A spell-binding film from Japan that poses the question to its cast as well as the audience: If you could choose one memory and that memory alone would remain with you forever, which would you choose? For the films characters their choosing comes at the end of their lives - we, happily, get to ponder that concept now.

Monday 30 Apr 2001

HAIR

Now, by request, here's a period piece that strikes a cord for all us Boomers! Made in 1979, but wonderfully evoking the mood of the late Sixties, this offbeat drama has a few memorable tunes (Hair and The Dawning of Aquarius) and a surprisingly effective anti-war message.

Monday 7 May 2001

ALMOST FAMOUS

This new release won Best Screenplay for Cameron Crowe at this year's Oscars. That was great because it was his own experience portrayed in the film. He's since become a well known writer in Hollywood but this was his first assignment - following a rock band on tour for Rolling Stone Magazine. He was just 16 and green as grass, surrounded by the substances being abused, hedonistic rock stars-on-the rise, determined groupies and Great Music.

Monday 14 May 2001

DOCS NIGHT - VALLEY OF THE BOYS

This little documentary tells the tale of the engineers and programmers who populate Silicon Valley in Northern California and who are shaping the future of the technology industry. The director, a former programmer turns her camera on this ultimate boy's club where the demented and somewhat infantile games and hobbies of these techno-geeks is a marvel to behold. & BREAKAWAY A really well made, provocative, and inspirational film about two guys in Nova Scotia who have had life changing injuries, one pretty much recovered helping the other to maximize his recovery.

Monday 21 May 2001

DRESSER

Marvelous 1983 adaptation of Ronald Harwood's play, adapted by him as well. It's about an aging actor/manager, Albert Finney, his dresser, Tom Courtenay, and the colourfully seamy theatre company touring England during WWII. Marvelous showbiz tale is lovingly told, superbly acted. A classic!

Monday 28 May 2001

SAVING GRACE

Unusual characters and plot turns make this horticultural tale a winner. Starring the brilliant Brenda Bleyn (Secrets and Lies) and a cast of curious villagers conspiring to grow our protagonist out of debt with a high value cash crop.

Monday 4 Jun 2001

WORKING GIRLS

This movie from 1987 portrays a day in the life in a New York City brothel - a look at workers motivations, practical and business aspects, its humour and risks and emotional toll. This film is unblinking in its portrayal of the subject material and therefore includes suggested sex, nudity, language, violence. We'll be discussing the realities of Victoria's sex trade with a panel including women who've been there and are currently working to support people who are in and getting out of the business.

Monday 11 Jun 2001

JOURNEY TO KAPASSEN

A Refugee's Gift documents the efforts of a Victoria refugee couple, Joseph and Perpetua Alfazema to raise money to build a school and a community well in

Joseph's childhood village of Kapasseni in Mozambique. It's a miraculous story of ordinary people (both work in custodial service in the Victoria hospital system) achieving world changing results by pursuing a dream. The Alfazema's Mozambique Choir, Gettin' Higher Choir, friends, and local filmmakers brought this project and film to fruition and MM is thrilled to present the whole story and the choir's live music to promote their further fund raising efforts. This will be an awesome event!

Monday 18 Jun 2001

BEST IN SHOW

The third in a trilogy of brilliant and silly "mockumentaries". (don't miss "This is Spinal Tap" and "Waiting for Guffman") This time it's a gentle sendup of the dog-showing community, folks that take their animals and the competition very seriously indeed. About the funniest and best spirited comedy of manners you're ever going to find. Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara.

Monday 25 Jun 2001

THE HOLIER IT GETS

A great new documentary about a Victoria family on a real life quest - to take their father's ashes to the waters of the Ganges. Daughter Jennifer Baichwal (maker of Paul Bowles - Let It Come Down) edited the footage that documents not only the perilous journey and deep impressions of a very foreign country, but also the personal story of their parents' "mixed marriage" with ramifications on both sides of their Indian/English family tree. Family members will be on hand to expand at our screening.

Monday 2 Jul 2001

WONDER BOYS

Michael Douglas plays an aging prof and one-hit novelist having a really, really bad weekend. His wife's left him, his mistress has a surprise for him, his voracious editor is in town looking for a long awaited second book and a mordant and brilliant writing student becomes a catalyst for even more mayhem. Terrific ensemble crew with Frances McDormand, Robert Downey Jr., and Toby McGuire.

Monday July 9, 2001

THE HANGING GARDEN

MM Celebrates Gay Pride Week with ,this little miracle of a film from first time Halifax feature director/writer Thom Fitzgerald. Somewhat autobiographical, somewhat surreal, very insightful and completely original, this film speaks eloquently about acceptance and the damage we do when we are unaccepting of differences. R Note: watch for a double feature on the same theme in our venue later this week.

Monday July 16, 2001

THE DARK CRYSTAL

I've long been meaning to include this classic animatronic marvel in our program. Jim Henson and Frank Oz created this elaborate fantasy with imaginative, often grotesque characters on a Tolkien-like quest. Pg warning: A treat for kids but some creepy Scecksies along the way!

Monday July 23, 2001

THE SING ALONG GUYS AND DOLLS

Join Sinatra, Brando, Stubby Kaye, Jean Simmons for another of our famous dress-up-and-sing-alongs. Come and belt out irresistible tunes like "Luck Be A Lady Tonight" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat" G

Monday July 30, 2001

ULEE'S GOLD

A beekeeper finds himself in unfamiliar territory when he tries to help his estranged daughter-in-law. Peter Fonda, almost 30 years down the road from Easy Rider, deserved his Oscar nomination in 1997. "Slow and steady, like the the leading character, but rewarding entertainment, with Fonda a tower of strength in the best part he's ever had." Maltin's Guide R

Monday Aug 6, 2001

TRAFFIC

This blockbuster, (the Hollywood version of a great European mini-series about the heroin trade, TRAFFIK) spins a complex plot that investigates the unwinnable "War on Drugs", particularly cocaine, in the West. Absolutely gripping! Rated Pg 13 - but every 13 year old should see it.

Monday Aug 13, 2001

DOING TIME, DOING VIPASSANA

A profound, moving documentary set in an Indian prison - but with global humanitarian significance. An innovative woman administrator incorporates Vipassana meditation practice into her institution's culture, not just for prisoners but also for her staff, with profound positive results. The technique is being used in local prison settings where concepts such as Restorative Justice are being explored. We'll have special guests to enrich our presentation. Pg.

Monday Aug 20, 2001

MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO

This remarkable Japanese animated film by the legendary Miyasaki is strikingly sweet tale of two young sisters in rural Japan and their magical encounter with a giant furry forest creature. Gorgeous art direction, excellent English dubb and gentle storyline make this film a wonderful experience for all.

Monday Aug 27, 2001

BULL DURHAM

We don't show a lot of sports films at MM but summer is baseball season and this is the first and finest of Kevin Cosner's sports films. Susan Sarandon plays a

dedicated groupie who, in her own special way, coaches her minor league "pick of the year" to maturity. Tim Robbins is outrageous as a wild young rookie. Fun, sassy, sexy.

Monday Sep 10, 2001

SING!

This local documentary advocates people rediscovering their voice and using it. Leader Shivon Robinson and The Gettin' Higher Choir (also guests at the memorable MM June event Journey To Kapasseni) who are featured in the film will be on stage to encourage you to find yours. Come Sing!

Monday Sep 17, 2001

CHOCOLAT

New release, special items in our concession. The delicious tale of a beautiful stranger and her daughter who appear in a dour God-fearing village and open a chocolate shop - just before Lent. The results are almost magical. Starring Canadian actor Juliette Binoche. "A rich and dreamy quality and thick with plots and intrigue. On one level about temptation and good over evil. Love abounds around the giving and receiving of chocolate, its making, its presence, its consumption."

Monday Sep 24, 2001

BREAKAWAY

A multi-award winning, provocative, and inspirational documentary about two guys in Nova Scotia who have had life changing injuries, one pretty much recovered helping the other to maximize his recovery. I've been in touch with Robert and Doug and have more of their story and an update to answer your curiosity.

Monday Oct 1, 2001

BEAUTIFUL DREAMERS

This drama depicts a real life meeting in 1880 of a Maurice Bucke, a physician in charge of the Insane Asylum in London, Ontario, and American poet Walt Whitman. They share an idea that more compassionate attitude could revolutionize psychiatric treatment. Gail Simpson, Director of Canadian and Capital Mental Health Associations will join us for an insider's (oldtimer's) perspective of the history of mental illness treatment on this opening day of Mental Illness Awareness Week.

Monday Oct 8, 2001

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

From 1988, Michael Caine and Steve Martin at the peak of their craft as, respectively, sophisticated con man and crass American upstart competing to bilk rich female tourists on the French Riviera. "A genuine laugh riot"

Monday Oct 15, 2001

Will Shakespeare's ROMEO AND JULIET

Description This exciting 1996 version of the oft told tale is set in the future - same script but with guns and cars and cell phones, Claire Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio, and the extraordinary direction of Baz Luhrmann (Strictly Ballroom and Moulin Rouge). This is a brilliant opportunity to showcase two clever shorts in the Shakespearean style; "Much Ado About Puberty" and "The Taming of the Shrink" by Seattle filmmaker Ken Boynton.

Monday Oct 22, 2001

PROTECTION

This extraordinary first feature from Canadian filmmaker Bruce Spangler comes from his previous career as a child protection worker and his realization that situations, paradoxes and the stress of the work are seldom realistically portrayed. He's nailed it here. It's a gritty, documentary style drama about the decision to take kids from a household with drug addicted parents. The social worker is on the verge of burnout herself. The decisions are never black and white, but they can mean life or death. Stay for the post-film discussion. The evening is co-sponsored by the B.C. Association of Social Workers and the UVic School of Social Work. R

Monday Oct 29, 2001

ED WOOD

Halloween's coming. Time to repeat this fun portrait of the man many consider the worst director of all time. Both hilarious and touching, it focuses on Wood's single-mindedness and misplaced optimism, and his relationship with the fading Bela Lugosi (a deserved Oscar for Martin Landau). Johnny Depp is brilliant. Pg 13

Monday Nov 5, 2001

"AH.THE MONEY, THE MONEY, THE MONEY" - The Battle for Saltspring

When the roar of chainsaws shatter the quiet of Saltspring's idyllic setting, director Mort Ransen and other residents awake to an unexpected intrusion. A logging operation is underway in a central pristine valley. The award-winning director of "Margaret's Museum", Mort Ransen, turns his camera on his own community to document a lively and provocative debate. Mort Ransen will join us for a Q&E about the film and the issue. G

Monday Nov 12, 2001

BRIDGET JONES' DIARY

Bridget Jones is 32 years old and can't seem to find the right man. Her mother keeps setting her up with dorks, she and her boss have a sexual attraction, but his character seems less than admirable. She resolves to try harder. Renee Zelweger is wonderfully plucky and vulnerably funny in this sweet romantic comedy PG13

Monday Nov 19, 2001

EXOTICA

Atom Egoyan's favourite film, and his most successful, (my opinions as well). Exotica is a complex mystery set in a steamy Toronto strip club, pulsing to the music of Leonard Cohen. R

We'll be using Yo Video's crisp widescreen DVD and Atom's father, Joseph Egoyan, will be with us to discuss this film and Atom's career including his current project, ARARAT, about the Egoyans' Armenian roots.

Monday Nov 26, 2001

STILL LIFE GIVING - A Journey Into Outsider Art

A new film from Victoria's Nora Aarj and Across Borders Media introduces us to four artists in our city, exploring the visual range and the inspirational depth of Outsider Art. Q&E with Nora Aarj and WILD WHEELS returns to MM. This brilliant film shows the same range and depth as above and is definitely "outside" as filmmaker Harrod Blanc follows folks who use their cars as their canvases. G

Monday Dec 3, 2001

STAR TREK - Insurrection

I'm not a big sci-fi fan but this tale is fun and has some high minded themes running through it that make it a worthy MM choice. The age-old sci-fi problem of intervening in another civilization

Monday Dec 10, 2001

Memento

Are you ready for a challenge? This is a tough thriller with a twist. We get into the mind's eye of a man who has lost his memory but is determined to avenge his wife's murder. It's not spoiling the experience by telling you ahead of time that it starts at the end and works toward the start, except for the bits that go the other way. R Warning: some violence, there may be lots of discussion after the credits roll.

Monday Dec 17, 2001

The Perfect Son

A Canadian classic, not fancy stuff, just a well crafted film, strong thoughtful story that leaves you looking at life and death and assumptions about people in a different way. A solid first feature by Leonard Farlinger whose own brother died of AIDS. Some sex and strong language.

Saturday Dec 22, 2001

Billy Elliot

Step away from the Christmas frenzy and join us for this warm hearted story of a lad from a coal mining town in England who swapped boxing shoes for dancing slippers. A crowd pleaser! some coarse language.

Saturday Dec 29, 2001

Traffik

The Marathon This is one of the first films I tried to find when I first began MM. Now that the American version is out the complete original 5 hr mini series is finally available. It's a completely engrossing story that, like TRAFFIC, describes the world of illegal drugs. In this case it's the opium/heroin trade involving the Britain / Germany / Pakistan triangle. The human toll it takes and the perplexing legal and political challenges it poses. A riveting script, solid cast, exotic places and a haunting sound track. It's five hours long, six episodes. We'll start at 4 pm, pizza break (not included in admission) half way through. Some coarse language, subtitles, violence.

Archives 2002

Monday 7 January 2002

MOULIN ROUGE

A whiz-bang start to the New Year! This extraordinary new film from Baz Luhrmann (Strictly Ballroom & Romeo and Juliet) has even more amazing energy and fabulous art direction. Add great performances by Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman and crazy combinations of pop song and dance routines to 1800's Paris. Hang on to your seats!

Monday 14 January 2002

THE DISH

A gentle look back to 1969 when Man first walked on the moon. This story revolves around the crew manning the receiver that pulled in the faint radio waves on the New Zealand side of the World on that momentous occasion. Pg

Monday 21 January 2002

O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU

Another in the Coen Bros. string of hits, this one zanier than most, Oh Brother romps, to tunes by the Swampy Bottom Boys, through the deep south in a plot loosely based on Homer's Odyssey. We'll show it from the DVD version with a fascinating extra on the digital recolouring of the film that changed it from lush southern greens to dirty thirty dust bowl Pg13 some language and violence and irresistible sirens!

Monday 4 February 2002

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO

The 1965 adaptation of the novel that won the Nobel Prize for Boris Pasternak was a Cold War coup for the West. It captured (and criticized) the Bolshevik Revolution and rise of Communism in Russia in an epic historical romance featuring Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Tom Courtenay, Rod Steiger. Gorgeous photography and memorable score. How could I be showing films for 8 1/2 years and not done this classic? We'll put that to rights. Perfect for a Late Winter's Night. Pg13

Monday 11 February 2002

TOY STORY 2

When Woody is stolen by a greedy toy collector, Buzz and his friends vow to rescue him. But Woody finds the idea of immortality in a museum tempting. Amazing state-of-the-art (1999 at least) computer animation, fun characters, and inventive scenarios. G

Monday 18 February 2002

THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

Lilly Tomlin's one-woman stage show adapted for this 1991 film presents her as a bag lady, who is our guide and narrator, and a multitude of others; male, female, swaggering, girlish, with interwoven stories in an amazing tour de force performance. Where else will you see a little gem like this? Added short film: Busk

Monday 25 February 2002

BRUBAKER

1980 Robert Redford came out of a 4 year hiatus to star in this project. This plot (Oscar nominated for Best Screenplay) is called as "predictable" but I found it gripping and a stretch above the usual prison drama. Based on true events it follows an idealistic warden attempting to reform a southern US prison. The universal story, like "The Insider", of a person with integrity challenging an entrenched system. We'll have a special guest or two to ground this film in further reality. R for some violence, language etc.

Monday 4 March 2002

MADAME ADA and LADIES IN WAITING

A special program for International Women's Day. Lulu Keating (one of "the Moody Brood") is back with her documentary about a famous Halifax madame who, when she died in 1986, was honoured by a moment of silence at the Legislative Assembly. Also Lulu's short film about modern mature women discussing over a luscious feast what they want from a relationship. And, by special request, WHY? by Carol Halstead. Her life story in a wonderful, colourful 13-minute rant.

Monday 11 March 2002

FLY AWAY HOME

A family classic about a real Canadian story. But the real story didn't stop here. Bill Lishman's novel idea of teaching birds new migration routes has matured and his team has gone on to work with Sandhill and Whooping cranes.

Monday 18 March 2002

waydowntown

A very Canadian feature that won "best of" at all the fests in 2000 and gives a whole new tilt to the term "Sick Building Syndrome". Director Gary Burns muses on Calgary's system of interconnected buildings, meant to protect its inhabitants from the elements, becoming a darkly comic "Habitrail" when co-workers challenge each other to see who can stand staying inside longest. A cinematic exercise in building atmosphere and shot mostly DV, this is indeed a cool film to experience.

Monday 25 March 2002

THREE BIRTHDAYS: MIDDLE CHILD, THE FAMILY IMAGE, STROKE

A trilogy of inventive films by Vancouverite Mark Sawers uses pseudo home movies and the video idiom to tell family stories that would make Atom Egoyan green with envy. Quirky, sometimes dark, very funny. Mark will join us for a discussion of his work.

Monday 1 April 2002

SHREK

Another great leap ahead in the advance of computer generated animation (and fun), this film has a great story with heart and makes the most of the rich fabric of fairy tale telling that has preceded it. Another treat for kids and everybody with a little whimsy. We'll be showing it from a fabulous DVD version with a feature on the technical and creative process that brought it to the screen.

Monday 7 April 2002

IRIS - AT STAR CINEMA, SIDNEY

Starring Judi Dench, Jim Broadbent, Kate Winslet, Hugh Bonneville, Penelope Wilton.

Monday 8 April 2002

ALL THAT JAZZ

A classic song-and-dance-routine-filled ode to "SHOWTIME!" Roy Scheider is brilliant as Bob Fosse, the choreographer/director who concocted this sometimes bazaar scenario of his own life and death. Hard living/hard dancing/hard loving life and death creatively captured on film in 1979.

Monday 15 Apr 2002

STRICTLY BALLROOM

For this auspicious event we picked the most fun, upbeat quirky, romantic film we could think of. This by Australian Bas Lurmann (Romeo & Juliet & Molin Rouge) is about the dangerous move to perform steps that were not within Down Under ballroom judging rules (Australian rules?!)

Starring: Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice, Bill Hunter, Barry Otto, Pat Thompson, Gia Carides.

Monday 21 April 2002

A BEAUTIFUL MIND - AT STAR CINEMA, SIDNEY

Starring Russell Crowe, Ed Harris, Jennifer Connelly, Christopher Plummer, Paul Bettany, Adam Goldberg. Directed by Ron Howard.

Monday 22 April 2002

BIG DANCE & LINES I DRAW ON MY BODY

Big Dance tells the story of a modern-dance troupe of big women from Victoria who celebrate their size, strength and new sense of self-esteem with their families and their audiences. As one dancer explains, Big Dance is all about changing stereotypes that say dance is only for "skinny little things"-"dance is for

everybody." Through Big Dance, with Lynda Raino, these women have found a confidence and grace they never knew they possessed.

Preceded by Lines I Draw On My Body a 5 minute film, also about body image, a deeply personal account of one woman's twenty-year struggle with eating disorders. Images from her childhood and her modeling career, as well as medical slides, are projected onto her body as she reveals her story.

Monday 29 April 2002

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE & GREENFINGERS

Gumboot Production's short film, Journey To The Centre, on the construction of Christ Church Cathedral's Labyrinth involving men on day parole.

It's a good fit with an English feature, Greenfingers, about prisoners who took up gardening and went on to ace some really big gardening shows. Followed by discussion with special guests. Pg13

Clive Owen, David Kelly and Helen Mirren.

Monday 6 May 2002

K-Pax

A fascinating film featuring Kevin Spacey as: a) maybe a delusional psych patient, b) maybe an alien among us. A film with many plot faults but told so compellingly and with such style, it works for Movie Monday. We'll have to talk about it.

Starring: Kevin Spacey, Jeff Bridges, Alfre Woodard, Mary McCormack, Aaron Paul.

Monday 13 May 2002

THE MAN WE CALLED JUAN CARLOS

An extraordinary doc by Victoria's Heather MacAndrew and David Springbett follows a Guatemala farmer for 25 years through his metamorphosis from subsistence farmer, to horticultural teacher, to activist, to guerrilla, to Mayan priest. "About human rights, life choices, and the cost of commitment"

Discussion with filmmakers follows the film.

Monday 20 May 2002

SPIRITS OF HAVANA

We could show you Buena Vista Social Club again, but here's another great feature doc with fabulous music and all the colour of Cuba. Canadians Jane Bunnett(flute & sax) and Larry Cramer (trumpet) have been traveling there and interacting with the fabulous music scene, old pros and students, for 20 years. 90 min.

Monday 27 May 2002

Man Who Wasn't There

A dark but beautifully realized film by the Coen Bros follows a small town barber who yearns for a better future. The cinematography is wonderful and reminds one how gorgeous black and white can be. R some violence and language

Monday 3 Jun 2002

My Left Breast

This self proclaimed "unusual film about breast cancer" is a homemade, firsthand experience, told with sensitivity and humour by Newfoundlander Gerry Rogers. We'll have her with us for a Q&A by the "miracle" of our telephone conferencing device. Apparently Gerry's a great talker and is feeling great!

Monday 10 Jun 2002

Himalaya

This incredible film was filmed high in the Himalayas by Natl. Geographics' photographer author and now filmmaker Eric Valli. The stunning landscape, exotic soundtrack, novice actors, and gripping story are all the authentic thing. A movie so wonderful I'm showing it for my birthday! Yo video's gorgeous DVD version has a "making of" doc you're going to want to see right after.

Monday 17 Jun 2002

Living Museum

The Living Museum is an art community in a downsized New York mental institution (Creedmoor Psychiatric Center) where every inch of the 40,000 square foot space is treated like a canvas. The Living Museum illuminates the life and work of artists who are patients and graduates of the Creedmoor. Dr. Janos Marton, charismatic director co-founder and seven of his patients/artists illustrate how it works and how art can be so necessary in the lives of many who are "afflicted " with mental illness. By Academy Award winning filmmaker Jessica Yu.

Monday 24 Jun 2002

Waking Life

A new and beautiful kind of animated film unlike anything I've ever seen vividly coloured and manipulated real but abstracted images. "It tracks a young man through a series of encounters with slackers, hipsters, scientists, philosophers and characters from [director] Linklater's other films. " Eye Candy!!

Monday 1 July 2002

Bread and Tulips

A middle aged woman is left behind by her tour bus and embarks on a whole new life, sans family. Shirley Valentine - Italian style. A warm hearted film with a rich and eccentric cast of characters. Italian with subtitles.

Monday 8 July 2002

Harry Potter And The Philosopher Stone

Movie Monday will be transformed into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for one night only. Our own Dumbledore, Bruce Saunders, welcomes all muggles, witches and wizards. Special Bertie Botts Everyflavour Beans will be served at Platform 9 3/4.

Monday 13 July 2002

Squarewheels D.I.R.T.

SQUAREWHEELS presents it's latest D.I.R.T. video in an All Ages World Premier. It's features amazing stunt dirt bike riding made by riders from Duncan.

Monday 15 July 2002

Shower, About Face And Pursuit / Flight

Marilyn Cherenko, old friend, filmmaker, artist, and teacher at Emily Carr College of Art, will show two of her brilliant animated films - ABOUT FACE (5:30 min. 2000) and PURSUIT/FLIGHT (4:30 min. 1984) - and talk about her art.

And the Chinese feature SHOWER to the evening. It's a gentle film about a son reluctantly returning to his hometown and his dad's old fashioned bathhouse. Rich with humanity, humour and wisdom. Pg subtitled Another event supported by Canada Council For The Arts.

Monday 22 July 2002

A Beautiful Mind

This breakthrough film, that itself won Best Picture and Best Director Academy Awards, takes us right into the experience of schizophrenia and the remarkable life of John Nash, an elite mathematician who was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Economics after a life ravaged by the illness.

Monday 29 July 2002

Amelie

This French film is a treat to the eye from start to finish, made by a director who loves rich imagery. One of the Best Foreign Film nominees this year.

Monday 5 Aug 2002

Rare Birds

A rare Canadian pop romantic comedy, beautifully and colourfully located on the Newfoundland coast by director Strula Gunnarsson.

Monday 12 Aug 2002

Aladdin

Undoubtedly one of the best full-length cartoon features, Aladdin is terrific piece of entertainment. What pushes it over the edge and is likely one of the most memorable characteristics is Robin Williams` terrific job as the voice of the genie. At last a character that can keep pace with Robin William`s antics!

The story has romance, action, comedy, musical numbers, and lots of fun and excitement. Aladdin must battle with villains and win the heart of a beautiful girl.

Monday 19 Aug 2002

Crimes Of Compassion

This solid, new documentary from Victoria's May Street Group about the "Compassion Clubs" that make medical marijuana available to those who need it. It's a film that solidly made the case for me, and I've been suspicious of the validity of that position and cautious of "the slippery slope" and dangers of pot use. Interviews with, among others, the recently vindicated Philippe Lucas and then Health Minister Allan Rock and the Oak Bay Constabulary. Director Jennifer Pickford and Philippe Lucas will be our special guests.

Monday 26 Aug 2002

Cannes Man

This "mockumentary", in the order of Spinal Tap and Best In Show, takes us to the festival-of-film-festivals where a Pygmalion-like challenge to make a lowly courier from L.A. the "buzz" of the fest is undertaken by a seasoned promoter. Great cameos by John Malkovich, Johnny Depp, Jim Jarmusch and a bunch of film folks playing themselves doing the Cannes scene. You'll love this good hearted MM discovery!

Monday 9 Sep 2002

The Shipping News This rich film adaptation of a favourite Canadian book follows a misfit, Quoye, (Kevin Spacey) in mid-life stumble, returning to his ancestral Newfoundland port town with his little girl and Aunt Agnis (Judy Dench) and eventually a job with the local paper.

Cast: Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore, Cate Blanchett, Dame Judi Dench, Scott Glenn, Gordon Pinsent.

Monday 16 Sep 2002

Iris

September is "Coffee Break Month", awareness raising and awareness raising the fund push by Canada's Alzheimers Societies. Our "Coffee Break" will be a screening of this great film with a discussion including educators and family members from our local branch. The film captures the remarkable relationship of acclaimed writer, Iris Murdoch, and her husband, soulmate, and also writer/teacher, John Bayley.

Cast: Judi Dench, Jim Broadbent, Kate Winslet, Hugh Bonneville.

Monday 23 Sep 2002

The Street

A film with the homeless "Six years in the making, this 1996 film is an intense and intimate study of three homeless Montrealers. Transcending the statistical and emotional haze which surrounds most mediated commentary, the film reaches deep inside a complex social issue, inviting audiences to experience the human side of homelessness." Cinematographer Richard Boyce, now living and filmmaking in Errington, BC, joined us for a Q&A.

Monday 30 Sep 2002

Gosford Park

This new film has it all: violence, mystery, sex, and murder, thick with big stars and Robert Altman directing. What's not to like? In 1932 wealthy guests with their trusty servants arrive at an estate and a murder mystery is gradually revealed. We'll subtitle it as many have trouble with the accents and overlapping dialogue.

Cast: Michael Gambon, Kristin Scott Thomas, Eileen Atkins, Bob Balaban, Alan Bates.

Monday 5 & 7 Oct 2002

West 47th Street

This feature doc sold out both screenings at last year's Van. Film Fest and won the Audience Award for Most Popular Documentary. It's about folks with mental illness coming off the streets in New York City through a place now famous for its work in that line, Fountain House. The film follows just four of them. You really get to know them over a long period and the effect of the film is to humanize these people who don't often get that treatment. Bill Lichtenstein who made W47th is a journalist who has recovered from mid-life career-stopping bipolar illness and has since made hundreds of radio programs in a series called The Infinite Mind.

Monday 14 Oct 2002

Taste Of Cherry

Our second in a trilogy of films that address suicide, this 1997 Iranian film that won the Cannes' Camera D'Or looks at this topic with a calm and unblinking eye. A middle aged man is searching for an accomplice to fill in his grave after he takes a planned overdose of sleeping pills. In his travels he finds people have their own reasons to turn down his request and also some advice that may dissuade him.

Monday 21 Oct 2002

The Commitments

A replay of a favourite at MM. Maltin says, "Enormously satisfying tale of an ambitious young Dubliner who takes on the challenge of assembling a band made up of working class Dubliners who sing '60's-style blues! Disarmingly engaging from the word go, with an charismatic cast of unknowns; filled with irresistible music. A real treat."

Monday 28 Oct 2002

Monsters Inc

The latest computer animated feature from Disney/pixar features monsters whose job it is to create goose bumps in children, a hitherto unknown an energy source. You may have heard of this film!

Monday 4 Nov 2002

Divided We Fall

To observe the upcoming Kristallnacht, the "Night Of Broken Glass" of 1938 and our Remembrance Day. This was the most moving film I saw from last year. Under WWII Nazi occupation ordinary Czech citizens find themselves making impossible choices for survival. Luck, unexpected alliances, and a tremendous force to live come into play.

Monday 11 Nov 2002

Rock 'N' Roll High School

The infamous Roger Corman produced this high energy, anarchistic ode to the corrupting influence of Rock and Roll in our schools circa 1970. The Ramones are the unlikely cult superstars. Songs include Ramones' "Teenage Lobotomy" and "I Want To Be Sedated" Cult classic fun.

Monday November 18 2002

OFFICE SPACE

Here's a clever comedy about white collar Silicone Valley culture that reminds me about why I love being a self employed gardener.

Monday November 25 2002

DOGTOWN & THE Z-BOYS

A new feature documentary, narrated by Sean Penn, about Venice Beach, California's surf culture and the birth and evolution of skate boarding.

MOVIE MONDAY'S 'FIRST' FIRST NATIONS FILM FESTIVAL.

Friday 29 November 2002

Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner), an acclaimed Inuit film that has made their great tradition of story telling accessible to the world.

Saturday 30 November 2002

Qutuwas: People Gathering Together about the historic rebirth of the northwest coast canoe culture, with filmmaker Barb Cranmer Ernest Voyageur and his wife from Nanaimo will be our special guests.

Sunday 1 December 2002 7 p.m.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: Healing from losses from HIV/AIDS This new documentary, made for the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, explores the particular challenges faced by First Nations communities in recovering from losses from HIV/AIDS. Also Singing Our Stories, by Annie Frazier Henry, is a tribute to the power of song in aboriginal cultures.

Monday 2 December 2002 7 p.m.

Cherry Kingsley: Recognizing The Person about an ex-street youth who has become an advocate with filmmaker Penny Joy

Saturday December 7 2002

When Billy Broke His Head and other tales of wonder

This is probably my all time fave documentary and has lessons for us all about recovery and acceptance - with the Head Injury Society.

Monday December 9 2002

Ice Age

Twenty thousand years ago, the Earth was being overrun by glaciers, and creatures everywhere were fleeing the onslaught of the new Ice Age. In this time of peril, we meet the weirdest herd of any Age: a fast talking but dim sloth named Sid; a moody woolly mammoth named Manny; a devilish saber-toothed tiger named Diego; and an acorn-crazy saber-toothed squirrel known as Scrat. This quartet of misfits unexpectedly, and reluctantly, comes together in a quest to return a human infant to his father. Braving boiling lava pits, treacherous ice caves, freezing temperatures and a secret, evil plot, these "sub-zeros" become the world's first heroes!

Monday December 16 2002

I Am Sam

Sam, who has the mind of a 7-year-old, watches his daughter being taken away from him by social services. He seeks the assistance of a workaholic lawyer and inadvertently teaches her that family is more important than career. With discussion.

Monday December 23 2002

Baran(In Persian with English subtitles.)

Young Latif works on a Tehran construction site is given heavier tasks to accommodate new Afghan worker Rahmat. He resents his displacement and treats Rahmat cruelly. After one of his pranks, though, Latif discovers Rahmat's secret -- he is a girl. When government inspectors force all Afghans to be fired from the site, Lateef discovers he cannot bear to be without her. With intro and discussion with my Iranian neighbours.

Monday December 30 2002

Importance Of Being Ernest

This is based on one of the greatest plays of all time. Strange how they felt they needed to change it so much, it was not a good idea. Still I enjoyed it. It is short and the actors all do a good job. But the rewrite loses much of the wit and does not add anything. A "stagier" adaptation would have been better. My guess is that the director/writer was afraid his direction skills were not up to a more faithful version. Still it has some chuckles.

Archives 2003

Monday 6 January 2003
MAGNOLIA

Magnolia is a complex story of nine interconnected lives during one day in San Fernando Valley, California. 'An autopsy of the human condition' by writer/director P.T. Anderson. A great film for a long winter's evening, an epic 3 hour 15 minutes that will surely not bore you. .

Stars: John C. Reilly, Tom Cruise, Melora Walters, Julianne Moore, Philip Baker Hall, Jason Robards.

Monday 13 January 2003
49 DEGREES

A terrific doc about surfing Van Isles' West Coast. "Dogtown & Z-Boys North". 49 Degrees - which refers to the 49th parallel and the Fahrenheit water temperature at Sombrio Beach. I'm sure many Victorians know the surfer culture and squatter community and the beautiful part of the world that this film very ably portrays.

Monday 20 January 2003
MEN WITH BROOMS

Men With Brooms chronicles the reunion of a near-championship curling team from the fictional town of Long Bay, Ontario. The team - a drug dealer, a mortician, a guy with a single digit sperm count trying to impregnate his wife and a leader who calls himself a naked cheater. Their mission: win curling's coveted Golden Broom trophy and keep their collective lives from getting knocked through the ice.

Stars: Paul Gross, Molly Parker, Leslie Nielson, Michelle Noldan, Peter Outerbridge.

Monday 27 January 2003
MONSOON WEDDING

"Monsoon Wedding is a colorful, exuberant celebration of modern-day India, family, love, and life." I loved this film, especially the wonderful hand-held photography that shows you amazingly just what you need to know and also the serious subplot that gives this otherwise light film real substance.

Stars: Naseeruddin Shah, Lillete Dubey, Vasundhara Das.

Monday 3 February 2003
RUNAWAY TRAIN

Two escaped convicts and a female railway worker find themselves trapped on a train with no brakes and nobody driving tearing up the rails through the Alaskan winter. Based on a screenplay by Akira Kurosawa, this has been described as an existential action movie. Tough, some violence, but a totally engrossing ride!. Stars: Jon Voight, Eric Roberts, Rebecca De Mornay, Kyle T. Heffner, John P. Ryan, Kenneth McMillan.

Monday 10 February 2003
ON GOLDEN POND

Warm, reflective, touchingly basic human drama, with Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn in their only screen roles together and Fonda in his last. They spin a tale of two cranky strong-minded seniors facing the challenges of old age, the modern world, frailties, feuds and forgiveness. Here's an invite to spend a couple of hours in their summer cabin world when the family drops by. Stars: Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda, Jane Fonda, Dabney Coleman, William Lanteau.

Monday 17 February 2003
About A Boy

A refreshingly unpredictable new film starring a remarkably untwitchy Hugh Grant as a mid-life guy who is pleased to report he does "nothing, nothing really." Life gets more involving as he attempts to exploit what he perceives as a pool of hungry single mothers looking for uncomplicated relationships.

Monday 24 February 2003
From Grief To Action

From Grief To Action follows families in Vancouver's Kerrisdale area whose kids have fallen victim to addictions. Ironically, there it's said to be easier to order drugs than a pizza. They don't even take your return phone number, they just deliver. Members of the From Grief To Action support/advocacy group will join us for this important topic.

Monday 28 February 2003
Standup Samurais

STAND-UP SAMURAI is a documentary about the "farm team" comedians that do the small town circuit in Western Canada. Picture a Seinfeld-in-an-'85-Hyundai-heading-for-a-\$75-gig-in-Fort St. James or Alert Bay. With their participation we'll look at the connection between mental health and comedy. It's a sparky and delicate balance.

Saturday 1 March 2003

rollercoaster

rollercoaster takes place on the deserted midway the the PNE and broaches the topic youth at risk and suicide. Filmmaker Scott Smith will join for a Q&A. The story was inspired by a real incident. The film's web site www.rollercoasterthemovie.com wonderfully describes the film and creative process.

Monday 3 March 2003

Fix: The Story of an Addicted City

Nettie Wild's powerful feature documentary about the Vancouver Downtown Eastside has much for Victoria to consider as our city faces losing "The War On Drugs". Five characters; an addict, an activist, a mayor, a businessman, and a cop on the most discouraging beat in Canada all struggle with the issue of opening a safe injection site. Warning: scenes of drug use, this is happening in Victoria.

Monday 10 March 2003

Remembrance & Life's a Twitch

Remembrance is another special new Canadian medium-short film, currently nominated for a Genie. It's a period piece based on a true story about a man with a special talent for remembering, a glimpse into a pivotal moment in his life.

Duncan McKinlay has Tourette Syndrome. Life's a Twitch is a brilliant new film about a young man who has been challenged with Tourette Syndrome and has just received his PhD. He's boisterously leading the campaign to educate about the condition. Twitch is film that beautifully fits it's subject.

Monday 17 March 2003

Ocean's Eleven

It's a slick heist movie, a fun adventure to lift a huge amount of money, cleverly, from someone who doesn't deserve to have it anyway, a really nasty Vegas casino czar.

Monday 24 March 2003

Pitch

Two guys from Canada with a film script to sell make an impressive film about their process. Forget the script, the journey is the story. Everything from Mom's recipe, The Red Elvises, to a kitchen gadget salesman embellish this Quixote-like quest that takes them from the Toronto film Fest to Hollywood.

Monday 31 March 2003

Windhorse

A MM encore of this special film for Human Rights Month. A gripping drama shot partly in secret in Tibet and Nepal that tackles the issue of China's oppression of the Tibetan people. With discussion including Falun Gong practitioners and the

Canada Tibet Committee. It's interesting in our venue to consider China's use of "psychiatric treatment" for the oppression of Falun Gong.

Monday 07 Apr 2003

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

A small film that has had a huge reception. Tom Hanks bankrolled this one-woman show to star its Canadian creator, based on her own experience as a Greek woman in a predominantly Caucasian society and industry.

Monday 14 Apr 2003

My Name Is Walter Cross

A new, realistic film about schizophrenia. Walter most reminds me of Spalding Grey's SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA. Our rumpled protagonist tells us what his experience is like, how he feels about the pills, his brushes with the system, the isolation, where he finds comfort - his life from his perspective. No terrific effects, phoenix-like turn around, or Spider-like creepiness. Just what it's really like for many.

MY NAME IS WALTER CROSS is a film that portrays schizophrenia. The star of this piece is not a Nobel Prize winner. Nor is he a mumbling, stumbling, monochromatic, dangerous stereotype used (Spider-like) to advance a creepy plot.

The film Walter most reminds me of is Spalding Grey's SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA. Just a guy sitting at a table, most of the 51-minute running time, delivering a spellbinding monologue about his life. If Spalding Grey had schizophrenia

He lines up medication containers in front of him and talks about the trials of coping with the "zines and the peens", talks about the loneliness, the voices, poverty, estrangement, pills, and paranoia that haunt his life.

In a tour de force actor Marcel Aymar portrays a weary middle-aged man, straw hair, stubbled chin, rumpled sports coat. The remarkable thing about the piece is that this man's rambling soliloquy is not interrupted by a voice of authority or cutaways to other helpful information, but stays with him. Hears him out. He's allowed to say his piece, to complain about the meds and the unhelpful 'help' he's received from "the System", the loss of friends to suicide. He also talks about where he does find peace and people who give him comfort in his uncomfortable world. It's the view from his perspective.

By the end we have a very real picture of this man's life. It's not a pleasant one. But we admire his intelligence, his spirit, and his perseverance. He's real and we care about him.

I think writer/director David Dawson has achieved something quite special with this project. It was a breakthrough moment when the world-wide audience realized they were sharing John Nash's delusion in A BEAUTIFUL MIND. Nash's is a one of a kind story. Anyone will come away from watching WALTER with an equally intense impression of what schizophrenia can really be like. Unfortunately Walter's experience is a more common one. And so all the more important for us to share.

This is an excellent film to provoke discussion, and to help others understand at least one example of the reality of living with schizophrenia. Walter would be an ideal film for any mental health related library.

David Dawson is a psychiatrist, (born at our Jubilee Hospital, past Chief of Psychiatry at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital), and is determined to present the real experience lived by many who live with this difficult condition. Walter's character is built from real people he has worked with, one individual particularly. Building on the strengths of this first modest production Dawson has produced a feature film DRUMMERBOY, that premiered in in his home town April/03.

At Movie Monday we screened Walter April 14/03 with a short film about a local artist named Hans Fear presented by his friend Jay Rathore. Hans had schizophrenia and struggled with the illness before succumbing to suicide in 2001 at age 31. The two films sparked a lively and balanced discussion on the condition and treatment.

On Monday Aug 25 /03 we'll be screening My Name is Walter Cross again, this time with Dr David Dawson with us in person for what promises to be a most engrossing Q&A. I hope we'll get some glimpses of his new feature DRUMMERBOY that has been submitted to the Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver Film Festivals.

Monday 21 Apr 2003

A Company Of Strangers

A classic NFB film about a group of elderly ladies stranded at a deserted farmhouse with only their thoughts and memories to sustain them. Through the long days and nights, they share their innermost thoughts and feelings - turning the crisis into a magical occasion. A book written after the filming by one of the non-actors that made up the cast will add to our presentation.

Monday 28 Apr 2003

Bottle Rocket

An odd, small movie that grew from a B&W 13 min short to a feature with encouragement from the Sundance film fest, follows a pair of misfits who wanna-be outlaws. It's hard to succeed at that profession but real-life brothers Owen & Luke Wilson did make a film that's off-beat and surprisingly warm hearted, the kind of film you'll think about for days after.

Monday 05 May 2003

Far From Heaven

A married couple in Connecticut in 1957 whose relationship becomes strained when he realizes that he's in love with another man. She looks to her gardener for support, but befriending an African-American man causes tension in her conservative community. Pg13

Monday 12 May 2003

The Producers

A 1966 Mel Brooks romp that's recently been a huge hit on Broadway. This classic farce follows Zero Mostel as a con artist and Gene Wilder as his hapless accountant attempting to stage a flop that, of course, backfires. Way over the top acting by everyone, with memorable songs like "Springtime for Hitler". The film stumbled out of the gate but became a huge hit with Peter Sellers endorsement as the funniest thing he'd ever seen.

Monday 19 May 2003

Obachan's Garden

For Asian Heritage Month This documentary with dramatized sequences tells the story of the filmmaker's 103 year old grandmother who came as a "picture bride" to Steveston, B C and made a new life there, but was haunted by the life she left behind in Japan. Culminating in a reunion with a long lost daughter (and a long lost garden) this film is an intensely personal reflection of Japanese-Canadian History and a testament to one woman's incredible endurance and spirit. Pg

Monday 26 May 2003

Post Concussion

POST CONCUSSION also special for Asian Heritage Month. I've been tracking it down for years, and worth the wait! It's a brilliant and entertaining film and a great third film on the topic of head injury for MM (after When Billy Broke His Head and Breakaway) Daniel taught himself film making and made this first-person dramatized account of his life-changing accident and recovery Pg 13

Monday 2 Jun 2003

Into The Thunder Dragon

Mountain unicycling in Bhutan! You've gotta see this! Dazzlingly camera work and editing, unbelievable prowess in a new sport by B C riders, with an off-beat travelogue to this exotic Himalayan country - all rolled into one. G

Monday 9 Jun 2003

Catch Me If You Can

A new release that dramatizes a true story of a con artist who, while evading a dogged FBI gum shoe, convincingly slips into the roles of pilot, doctor and lawyer. The opening animated title sequence is a bonus treat! With Tom Hanks and Leonardo DiCaprio Pg13

Monday 16 Jun 2003

Cannery Row

Still a MM favourite. Our first event (June 14 1993), our first and fifth anniversary shows and now for our 10th ANNIVERSARY!! I love this film for its off-beat, almost surrealistic setting and characters, based on John Steinbeck stories. The yarn is about a brooding ocean biologist (Nick Nolte) and a girl (Debra Winger), a novice at the 'oldest profession', a group of creative ne'er-do-wells and a few thousand frogs. PG

Monday 23 Jun 2003

Rabbit Proof Fence

This Australian film dramatizes a true story of some aboriginal girls who were in 1931 separated from their family and against the odds found their way home by foot over 1500 miles through the Aussie Outback. Another example of the sadly world-wide plight of original inhabitants being displaced and "civilized". Powerful soundtrack, incredible cinematography, a haunting visit to a foreign landscape and time. Pg

Monday 30 Jun 2003

Standing In The Shadows Of Motown

Forty-one years after the "Funk Brothers" played their first note together and three decades since they were all together, these masters of the Motown Sound reunite in Detroit to play their music and tell their unforgettable story. Pg

Monday 07 Jul 2003

Lucky Break

A prison break film of a different nature. A pair of hapless robbers plot to escape from a massive UK prison during the staging of an musical written by the warden, a nice turn by Christopher Plummer. A musical, an unlikely love story, all in the always intriguing setting of men doing hard time.

Monday 14 Jul 2003

Last Detail

Here's the young Nicholson in one of his great roles from 30 years ago, a primer for About Schmidt. Two hardboiled petty officers decide to show a young sailor, who's headed for a long stint in the brig, a final good time.

Monday 21 Jul 2003

Miss Congeniality

Sandra Bullock has fun with the role as a reluctant beauty pageant participant, a federal agent undercover, (uncovered?) with Michael Caine and William Shatner (as the corny pageant emcee).

Monday 28 Jul 2003

About Schmidt

A surprisingly, refreshingly "real" film from Hollywood! Nicholson is restrained but brilliant in his portrayal of a retiree trying to find value in his life. The sweetest, funniest and most poignant moments are his naive voice-over correspondences with an off-camera adopted Nigerian boy, Nubagu, as he clumsily negotiates his way through unfamiliar family relationships on a Winnebago road trip.

Monday 04 Aug 2003

Road To Eldorado

This is a really fun and clever animated feature for the whole family from Dreamworks. I loved the great characters, brilliant artwork, and inventive scenarios as our protagonists, a couple of Spanish tricksters become the "first contact" for the legendary Lost City Of Gold.

Monday 11 Aug 2003

Flawless

A tough, conservative cop suffers a stroke during a robbery. His recovery requires voice lessons from his drag queen neighbor. The unlikely pair learn to look beyond their differences and find a common ground in friendship.

Monday 18 Aug 2003

Ararat

Atom Egoyan's new film of the Armenian genocide by the Turks - with Joseph Egoyan on hand for a Q&A, this is their family's story. R some violence.

Monday 25 Aug 2003

My Name Is Walter Cross

A repeat of a one of our most important film/discussion events, premiered last April at Movie Monday - about the realities of living with schizophrenia - this time presented by filmmaker/psychiatrist David Dawson.

Monday 08 Sep 2003

Spirited Away

The Japanese anime that took the Oscar this year for best animated film. In the middle of her family's move to the suburbs, a sullen 10-year-old girl wanders into a world ruled by witches and monsters, where humans are changed into animals.

Monday 15 Sep 2003

Bowling For Columbine

Mike Moore takes on the right to bare arms and several other US institutions. With his signature sense of angry humour, this activist filmmaker sets out to explore the roots of the ensuing bloodshed and misery. In doing so, he learns that the conventional answers of easy availability of guns, violent national history, violent entertainment and even poverty are inadequate to explain this violence when other cultures share those same factors without the equivalent carnage.

Monday 22 Sep 2003

Spider

David Cronenberg's latest film. "A mentally-disturbed man takes residence in a halfway house. His mind gradually slips back into the realm created by his illness, where he replays a key part of his childhood." Here's a film with a lot to talk about. Many people thought it brilliant. Some of us didn't. How do you feel about it?

Monday 29 Sep 2003

Chicago

Murderesses Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart strive for fame at any costs including scandal and lies - singin' and dancin' in 1920s Chicago.

Monday 06 Oct 2003

Back From Madness

A documentary about 4 individuals seeking treatment for schizophrenia, suicidal depression, manic depression and obsessive-compulsive disorders at Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital. Archival footage also gives historic perspective on mental health conditions and treatment of the insane. Includes graphic footage. Produced, directed and narrated by Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg. (some disturbing scenes of surgery)

Monday 13 Oct 2003

The Hours

The story of Virginia Woolf's "Mrs. Dalloway" as told from the perspectives of the author, a lonely '50s housewife reading the book, and a New York hostess who is a modern-day interpretation of the book's lead character.

Monday 20 Oct 2003

Stairway To Heaven

(Originally A Matter Of Life And Death) Fantasy/Romance/Comedy A British wartime aviator who cheats death must argue for his life before a celestial court. An amazingly big concept film that helped heal the wounds of WWII. (1946)

Monday 27 Oct 2003

Nightmare Before Christmas

Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king of Halloween Town, is bored with doing the same thing every year for Halloween. One day he stumbles into Christmas Town, and is so taken with the idea of Christmas that he tries to get the resident bats, ghouls, and goblins of Halloween town to help him put on Christmas instead of Halloween -- but alas, they can't get it quite right. some creepy images.

Monday 03 Nov 2003

Barber Shop

A smart comedy about a day in the life of a barbershop, inhabited by eclectic and hilarious cast of characters, on the black, south side of Chicago. Calvin (Ice

Cube), who inherited the struggling business from his deceased father, views the shop as nothing but a burden and waste of his time. After selling the shop to a local loan shark, Calvin slowly begins to see his father's vision and legacy and struggles to retrieve it. It's about an institution that holds a community together, like MM, a lot like MM actually (any offers?).

Monday 10 Nov 2003

Quiet American

Saigon, 1952, a beautiful, exotic, and mysterious city caught in the grips of the Vietnamese war of liberation from the French colonial powers. London Times correspondent Thomas Fowler (Michael Caine) is an observer until he gets swept into the intrigue. An engrossing adaptation of Graham Greene's classic and prophetic story of love, betrayal, murder and the origin of the American war in Southeast Asia.

Monday 17 Nov 2003

Post Concussion

A repeat MM presentation, this time with Toronto filmmaker (writer, cinematographer, editor and star) Daniel Yoon with us in person. It's an engaging film about Daniel's own experience of a serious head injury. Think of a hybrid between MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING and ABOUT SCHMIDT made on a shoestring.

Monday 24 Nov 2003

Zoot Suit

Part fact and part fiction, Zoot Suit is the film version of Luis Valdez's critically acclaimed play, based on the actual Sleepy Lagoon murder case and the zoot suit riots of 1940s Los Angeles. Henry Reyna is the leader of a group of imprisoned Mexican-Americans. The amazing Edward James Olmos stars as the mythical "El Pachuco" in a blend of action, music, and excitement.

Monday 1 Dec 2003

Criminal Acts: Inside Prison Theatre

Members of William Head on Stage, (WhoS), an inmate owned and operated theatre society, have performed for thousands of theatre fans over the past 21 years from inside William Head penitentiary, near Victoria, British Columbia.

Criminal Acts challenges us to rethink the purpose of prison and the transformative power of theatre by juxtaposing scenes of rehearsals, stagecraft and creative collaboration with lockdowns, bed checks and other jarring realities of prison life. Pg13 Tony Snowsill Veteran Victoria filmmaker and director of C A will join us

Monday 8 Dec 2003

Finding Nemo

A father-son underwater adventure featuring Nemo, a boy clownfish, stolen from his coral reef home. His timid father must then search the ocean to find him.

Another hit from Pixar.

Monday 15 Dec 2003

Whale Rider

On the east coast of New Zealand, the Whangara people believe their presence there dates back a thousand years or more to a single ancestor, Paikea, who escaped death when his canoe capsized by riding to shore on the back of a whale. From then on, Whangara chiefs, always the first-born, always male, have been considered Paikea's direct descendants. Pai, an 11-year-old girl in a patriarchal New Zealand tribe, believes she is destined to be the new chief. But her grandfather Koro is bound by tradition to pick a male leader. Pai loves Koro more than anyone in the world, but she must fight him and a thousand years of tradition to fulfill her destiny.

Monday 22 Dec 2003

The Second Greatest Story Ever Told & Salvation

The Second Greatest Story Ever Told What would happen if an immaculate conception occurred in modern times? It's Brooklyn, 1960, a nice Jewish girl. 33min

Also NFB's Salvation - A documentary about the frontline street workers who serve the needy under the umbrella of the Salvation Army. Shot on the streets of Toronto at Christmastime it chronicles the small hopes and tiny victories of life lived in the shadows of destitution.

Monday 29 Dec 2003

The Endurance

Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Journey. A retelling of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated expedition to Antarctica in 1914-1916, featuring new footage of the actual locations and interviews with surviving relatives of key expedition members, plus archived audio interviews with expedition members, and a generous helping of the footage and still photos shot on the expedition. The double length version of the brilliant IMAX film, narrated by Liam Neeson.

Archives 2004

Saturday 3 Jan 2004

Jurassic Park & Jaws

On a small island off the coast of Costa Rica exists a most unusual animal preserve by the name of Jurassic Park. Operated by dinosaur lover John Hammond, Jurassic Park is the first of its kind. Its population of creatures includes brachiosaurs, dilophosaurs, triceratops, velociraptors, and a Tyrannosaurus Rex, each of which has been cloned using the latest technology that takes DNA from dinosaur-biting prehistoric insects preserved in amber, and uses that DNA for the re-creation. When the consortium funding Jurassic Park become concerned that all is not as it should be, Hammond is forced to call in three experts: paleontologist Dr. Alan Grant, his partner, paleo-botanist Dr. Ellie Sattler, and the brilliant-but-cynical mathematician Dr. Ian Malcolm. When the trio arrives at Jurassic Park, they are astonished by what it represents. It doesn't take long, however, for astonishment to turn to horror.

Admit it, the first time you saw this movie, it made you afraid to go in the water. Jaws has a very simple story: Great White shark begins terrorizing small town in Maine, so three different personalities try to hunt it down. What makes the story worthwhile are the characters, which are each very dynamic and distinct.

The acting here is wonderful. Steven Spielberg could not have asked for a better cast for this: Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw are all great in their roles (recently hired and still untested ex-New York cop who's terrified of the water, young Marine researcher from a wealthy family, and grizzled deep-sea fisherman with an Ahab complex). They play off each other wonderfully, even if it did create some animosity on the set.

Monday 05 Jan 2004

Marion Bridge & Wormhole

A reprise of my best movie-going experience of 2003. "Daniel McIvor has written an extraordinary family drama involving three sisters trying to deal with their dying mother (who has an alcoholic habit) and the shared secrets of their past. Surely a recipe for mawkish, formula family drama, MARION BRIDGE succeeds wonderfully thanks to McIvor's sharp, funny screenplay, strong performances by Molly Parker, Hollis McLaren, Stacy Smith and youngster Ellen Page, and an assured directorial hand by first-timer von Carolsfeld. MARION BRIDGE is filled with laugh-out-loud humor and powerful emotion as middle sister Agnes (Parker) returns to her rural, Cape Breton hometown after living wild in Toronto. Her two sisters Theresa and Louise view her return skeptically, but Agnes insists she's given up the booze and drugs she once played heavily with, and takes charge of their mother's care. Yet as in any family drama, those secrets preferred left undiscussed rear their ugly head. The sweeping Nova Scotia landscape echoes the arc of emotions of this troubled family dredged once more to the surface. A stand out film." I agree! MARION BRIDGE won the Outstanding Writer Award at the

2002 Atlantic Film Festival & the Best First Feature Award at the 2002 Toronto International Film Festival.

Also WORMHOLE An amazingly condensed short film about a young family's reaction to one of the children's disappearance. Pg13

Monday 12 Jan 2004

Protection

This extraordinary first feature from Canadian filmmaker Bruce Spangler comes from his previous career as a child protection worker and his realization that situations, paradoxes and the stress of the work are seldom realistically portrayed. He's nailed it here. It's a gritty, documentary style drama about the decision to take kids from a household with drug addicted parents. The social worker is on the verge of burnout herself. The decisions are never black and white, but they can mean life or death. With filmmaker Bruce Spangler.

Monday 19 Jan 2004

Shooting Indians - A Journey With Jeffery Thomas

This documentary has a provocative title but refers to photography, as in Edward Curtis and a modern native photographer. There lots of grist for a discussion, the first of a number of films I have coming about the role and ethical considerations of the photographer. It has a great BC hook with a visit to Barb Cranmer in Alert Bay and as well as to the lady who played the princess in Curtis' film Land of the War Canoes (or Headhunters), in the film we see a segment of looping in the RBC Museum.

Monday 26 Jan 2004

The Journey Of Lesra Martin & The Hurricane

THE JOURNEY OF LESRA MARTIN (1hr documentary) The story of the black kid from the ghetto who was inspired to free the Hurricane and who went on to be a lawyer and inspirational speaker, living in BC's interior. Also THE HURRICANE The movie based on that true story of Hurricane Carter. Rated R for language and some violence.

Monday 2 Feb 2004

The True Meaning of Pictures: Shelby Lee Adams' Appalachia

A toothless man holding a pig's head. A gnarled old woman smoking a pipe. A long-bearded man sitting on his rickety bed, holding a banjo. Evangelical snake handlers. Poverty. They're images that haunt. But is it art or exploitation?

Described as one of the hottest documentary filmmakers in Canada, director Jennifer Baichwal probes the prickly question: at what point is art exploitation? Here she introduces us to the black and white photography of Shelby Lee Adams, whose gritty, controversial portraits of poor Appalachian families elicit both praise and criticism. Is he perpetuating the age-old hillbilly stereotypes that Kentucky folk would like to erase?

In addition to showing us stills of the photos themselves, Baichwal takes us behind the scenes, deep into Appalachian Kentucky, to flesh out the portraits for which Adams is so famous, and in the process, steers us straight into the heart of the issue for all those who document life on film. Jennifer Baichwal's other documentaries include *The Holier It Gets* and *Let it Come Down: The Life of Paul Bowles*. This time she'll be with us.

Monday 9 Feb 2004

The Frisco Kid

Gene Wilder plays a hapless rabbi from Poland heading overland through the Old West on his way to lead a synagogue in San Francisco. Obstacles that only Gene Wilder can find and poignant moments too. A film with a rhythm all its own. A hot tip from a "Frisco Kid" in our audience.

Monday 16 Feb 2004

Spellbound

SPELLBOUND follows eight teenagers on their quest to win the 1999 National Spelling Bee. Wonderful, warm and intelligent documentary. It'll spellbind you!

Monday 23 Feb 2004

Hofmann's Potion

When LSD was first discovered it was investigated for its uses as a clinical tool, perhaps to give insights into schizophrenia and to treat alcohol addiction. A group of researchers in Saskatchewan including Victoria's Dr Abram Hoffer were pioneers in the medical uses while at Harvard Timothy Leary and others were exploring its other possibilities.

Monday 1 Mar 2004

Flower And Garnet

A portrait of love and loss, hope and heartbreak in small-town British Columbia, *Flower & Garnet* is also a love poem forged between a sister and brother, both of whom are on the verge of life crises. Sixteen-year-old Flower is the daughter of a broken-down man whose wife died giving birth to a son, Garnet, nine years earlier. When Flower becomes pregnant, her decision to have the baby threatens the family she has worked so hard to maintain. But it is her brother Garnet who is the catalyst: he has now reached the age at which the questions he's asking are nowhere near as important as the answers he's being denied.

Monday 8 Mar 2004

A Mighty Wind

Old folkies never die. we can only hope! A gentle sendup from the folks that brought you *This Is Spinal Tap*. Pg more . Cast: Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara and Parker Posey

Monday 15 Mar 2004

The Life of Me

B.C. Premiere [60 mins.] 2003 (Canada)

"It is 30 minutes to curtain time for Rachel Manning and George Vukojevic. But this is no ordinary play and Rachel and George are not your average actors. A decade ago, both Rachel and George had promising careers in acting cut short by mental illness, (bipolar illness and schizophrenia respectively). Since then, they have barely been able to keep their lives together. But in less than half an hour they will enter the stage for the first time in a decade.

In mid-March 2003, six actors met in Toronto for the first time, when they had 10 days of rehearsals to combine their parts into one cohesive play. On March 30th, the last day of the 'Madness and Arts 2003 World Festival1, the six performed the results of their collaboration. These performers challenged their audience to abandon their assumptions of mental illness. They also wanted to turn their own lives around. Our cameras were there to witness whether they achieved their goal. Combining performance, process and character study, THE LIFE OF ME is a strong documentary about a powerful subject."

I liked this film a lot. It focuses particularly on two people sticking their heads way out, risking to see if they can accomplish something. If they can succeed it'll be a major hurdle overcome. This is a theme that many of us challenged by mental illness struggle with. Do I play it carefully, or go for the gusto? These folks are skating very near the edge. We're on tender hooks as the moment of truth is upon them.

Monday 22 Mar 2004

Expiration

A delightful discovery from the Victoria Indie Film Fest. A fresh new Montreal filmmaker's no-budget film that outclasses most big budget projects. Every shot is beautifully composed, memorable characters you really care about, and each scene has a reason and depth. Gavin Heffernan wrote and directed and co-starred as the reluctant protagonist in a journey "amidst the chaotic, yet seemingly predestined events of a Fall Montreal night". It is a labour of love project and it worked!

Monday 29 Mar 2004

Owning Mahowny

Brian Mahowny was a rising star at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. At twenty-four he was assistant manager of a major branch in the heart of Toronto's financial district. To his colleagues he was a workaholic. To his customers, he was astute, decisive and helpful. To his girlfriend, he was shy but engaging. None of them knew the other side of Brian Mahowny--the side that executed the largest single-handed bank fraud in Canadian history, grossing over \$10 million in eighteen months to feed his gambling obsession.

Cast: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Minnie Driver, John Hurt, Maury Chaykin.

Monday 5 Apr 2004

American Splendor

Wherein Harvey Pekar ordinary, downtrodden guy demonstrates that "Ordinary life is pretty complex stuff". He became a comic book writer using his own miserable life as the topic and amazingly became a media star! A sweet, absolutely original story, told in a wonderfully innovative way. And the DVD has some great extras!

Monday 12 Apr 2004

Blue Crush

Feminist coming of age tale or guilty pleasure? I had fun watching this flick. Great surfing scenes in Hawaii take me back to my surfer days (you didn't know about my surfer days?).

Monday 19 Apr 2004

Off the Canvas

Now that we have gallery track lighting installed in our lobby we can better present the work of artists like James Picard and continue our discussions about the source of creativity. James is an incredibly hard-working guy, all the more productive because of his chronic insomnia.

Monday 26 Apr 2004

Dick - The Unmaking Of A President

An irreverent rewriting of history around the time of the Watergate scandal. Two very spinny girls meet Richard Nixon, are at first thrilled, then realize they can be instrumental in effecting policy and finally in his downfall. Clever and hilarious.

Monday 3 May 2004

BEAT TRUTHS and SAY I DO

BEAT TRUTHS is a portrait of Graeme Kirkland - a short by Carolyn Wong about Toronto street bucket drummer. Also SAY I DO chronicles the stories of three 'mail-order brides' from the Philippines now living in BC.

Saturday 8 May 2004

LAGAAN Once Upon a Time in India (2001)

Here's an epic that embodies the great tradition of Bollywood. Great song and dance sequences, wonderful camera work and innovative story telling. The Plot? Well it's a kind of a "Seven Samurai meets Fiddler On The Roof" taking place on a dusty cricket pitch in 1800's India. A nasty British Captain forces a community to risk paying triple "lagaan" (a userous tithe) to the Brits against a seemingly impossible win in a cricket game against the seasoned British team. Unfortunately cricket still remains an incomprehensible game! The length? Three and 3/4 hr with intermission, a break for eats. In Hindi and English with great subtitles.

Monday 10 May 2004

SLICE OF PRIMAL PIE & YINYIN/JADE LOVE & CHOW DONG HOY

A SLICE OF PRIMAL PIE and YINYIN/JADE LOVE with director Carolyn Wong - a fascinating portrait of a Chinese resident of Victoria by her granddaughter whose life interweaves and challenges the margins of the immigrant experience.

Also CHOW DONG HOY - Portraits from the Frontier. This documentary chronicles this Chinese immigrant's extraordinary life - from Vancouver in 1902 to the gold mines, forts and ranches of early British Columbia. As well as running general store in the Cariboo, from his photography side line, Hoy left an invaluable archive of the people of early BC. Many of his subjects were Asian immigrants and Native Indians in their ordinary roles as workers, cowboys, housewives - an invaluable insight to life in our early West.

Monday 17 May 2004

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Americans abroad, almost innocents. Charlotte, fresh out of Yale with a degree in philosophy, is in Tokyo with her husband, a photographer whose work takes him away that week. She's adrift, her soul on ice. Bob, mid-50s, a semi-retired movie star, is there to make \$2 million doing a Scotch ad. At home are a wife and young children, but he's jaded and melancholy. Both are jet-lagged, and Tokyo's culture and language push them further off kilter. When they meet in the hotel bar and spend their free time together for a few days, possibilities arise amidst the losses. Their friendship becomes an experience: does he have something to teach; can she reconnect him to life?

Monday 24 May 2004

SCHOOL OF ROCK

A wannabe rock star in need of cash poses as a substitute teacher at a prep school, and tries to turn his class into a rock band.

Monday 31 May 2004

FALLING ANGELS

Scott Smith's second directorial effort, FALLING ANGELS, is a gem of a film, based on Barbara Gowdy's acclaimed novel. Set against the backdrop of sixties' free love, the Cold War, LSD and the dawn of feminism, the film is a sardonic look at what really goes on beneath the surface of suburban harmony and bliss. From Volkswagen vans to home economics classes, FALLING ANGELS exquisitely captures the mood of an era.

Monday 7 June 2004

AMANDLA: A Revolution In Four Part Harmony

Interviews, archival footage, and filmed performances highlight the role of music in the South African struggle against apartheid. An inspiring look at music as a catalyst for change.

Monday 14 June 2004

Say Anything

Cameron Crowe's winning 1989 film starring fresh-faced John Cusack as a charming underachiever who sets out clumsily but determinedly to win the heart of the seemingly unreachable a beautiful valedictorian.

Monday 21 June 2004

Reduce Speed & From Grief To Action

Two locally made films, informed cautionary tales, especially for young people anticipating tinkering with illicit drugs, about the consequences. Here's what it's really like straight from local people who've been there.

Monday 28 June 2004

Un Crabe Dans La Tete

This film from French Canada intrigues me. Those people seem so sophisticated and cool! This slick and quirky tale follows an underwater photographer whose life is turned upside down by a near death diving accident. R (French with excellent subtitles)

Monday 5 July 2004

Insomnia

An LAPD cop (Pacino) and his partner (Donovan), are sent to Alaska to help solve the murder of a 17 year old girl. They're helped by a young, eager policewoman (Hilary Swank). Problem is that Pacino can't sleep, things start going horribly wrong and the killer is playing games with Pacino's mind. Featuring Robin Williams and shot in Alberni (The Land Of The Midnight Sun?) Directed by Christopher Nolan of MEMENTO fame. R (some violence, language, etc)

Monday 12 July 2004

Star Dreams

Crop circles are explored by someone who believes. I'm a sceptic, in case you're wondering, but find this a fun film and it'll drive some of our fans wild. Beautiful images of exquisite patterns created by aliens - or clever engineering students. We'll have the director, Robert Nicol, call in for a Q & A. He has a long list of films to his credit, many for NFB. Star Dreams is a pilot for a series OUR HOME IN THE STARS - a 6 part documentary series on E.T. contact.

Monday 19 July 2004

People Say I'm Crazy

"a mind is a terrible thing to lose - this is the story of how I got mine back" John Cadigan

The real life story of an artist's 10 year struggle with schizophrenia. This film shows a different side of schizophrenia from recent Hollywood presentations. Here a typical young man, seriously ill, tackles the long haul, the setbacks, the small triumphs with an amazingly supportive family and therapist. An honest and

moving film. That family includes a sister who is a documentary filmmaker and encouraged him to keep a video diary of his journey.

Monday 26 July 2004

Step Into Liquid

Surf the BIGGEST Waves in the World! The 4th in MM's series of surfer films, this one by the son of the Bruce Brown who made our first, the classic 1966 doc, ENDLESS SUMMER.

Monday 2 Aug 2004

The Triplets of Belville

Fabulous, quirky, animated film. When her grandson is kidnapped during the Tour de France, Madame Souza and her beloved pooch Bruno team up with the Beleville Sisters - an aged song-and-dance team from the days of Fred Astaire - to rescue him. An exciting new vision, this co-production between France, Belgium, Canada & UK, was brought to life over 5 years by Quebec resident, animator Sylvain Chomet.

Monday 9 Aug 2004

Drummer Boy

A feature film by Dr David Dawson (who was with us at MM last August with his film MY NAME IS WALTER JAMES CROSS about a young man experiencing the onset of schizophrenia. An amazing performance is turned by 22 year old Dominic Zamprogna best known for his lead in CBC tv series 'Edgemont'. Dr Dawson will present the film in person.

Monday 16 Aug 2004

Barbarian Invasions

Denys Arcand's provocative new comedy about sex, friendship, death, and all other things that invade our lives. Winner of many awards incl Oscar for Best Foreign Film and Genie for Best Homemade Film. Now here's a film to provoke some interesting discussion about something that the boomers are facing in a big way these days - Dying - how to face it, how to manage a part of living we try to deny. We'll have people join us who know the territory.

Monday 23 Aug 2004

The Station Agent

A film you'll wish would never end. When his only friend dies, a man born with dwarfism moves to rural New Jersey to live a life of solitude, only to meet a chatty hot dog vendor and a woman dealing with her own personal loss. R (officially, for some language and drug use but a minor factor)

Monday 30 Aug 2004

Seducing Doctor Lewis

A doctor must be lured to a tiny isolated village to ensure a company commit to establishing a factory there that will in turn ensure the community's survival. The

cunning villagers set out to seduce the young doctor. Sounds like a typical setup but the film has won over everyone who sees it. Cleaned up at Sundance and the Genies. French with subtitles G (I'd say Pg)

Saturday 11 Sep 2004

Outfoxed

Rupert Murdoch's War On Journalism (July 2004) 77 min A new, searing point-of-view doc that, like Mike Moore's tirades, entertainingly chops away effectively at the ankles of the Republicans' re-election expectations this fall. Watch this film and you'll never watch the "news" uncritically again. Fox's "Fair And Balanced" and "We Report and You Decide" tags look like the most Orwellian Newspeak when juxtaposed with montages of fragrant examples of journalistic bias. <http://www.outfoxed.org> We'll put it into our local context with presentation by Stan Fox(!), mover and shaker behind the West Coast Media Society - www.wcms.bc.ca/ In Victoria we've just had a media group dump most of it's commitment to local programming as soon as it got roots down in our community. - By donation - to continue our subversive work - with a brighter projector.

Monday 13 Sep 2004

The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam

Ann Marie Fleming explores her famous grandfather's life and times using an amazing technique of animating still photographs. Sam was a renowned, world-travelling vaudevillian with a company of acrobats magicians who included the filmmaker's parents. Filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming will join us by phone to speak about her work and famous ancestor.

Monday 20 Sep 2004

Stormy Weather: The Music Of Harold Arlen

The life of the composer of many of our most memorable standards, (Stormy Weather, Over The Rainbow, It's Only A Paper Moon, I've Got The World On A String, Come Rain Or Come Shine) was one of great success and personal sadness as his wife succumbed to mental illness. His music and life story are brought to us through a series of Chicago-like inventive performances by a star spangled cast including: Rufus Wainwright, Hawksly Workman, Jimmy Scott, Sandra Bernhard and many more. ".great, gorgeous.another stunner from Rhombus Media. Like many previous Rhombus productions, Stormy Weather is.in a class of its own." Globe & Mail

Never heard of it? Well, it's Canadian, directed by Larry Weinstein who's consuming interest is bringing music stories to life on screen. His current project is Beethoven's Hair. For over 25 years Rhombus Media, in which he's a partner, has brought us films like The Red Violin and Last Night and a long, elegant series of productions focussed on dance and music.

Wednesday 22 Sep 2004

When Billy Broke His Head and other tales of wonder

When Billy Golfus, an award-winning radio journalist, became brain injured in a motor scooter accident, he became one of the forty-three million Americans with disabilities - the nation's largest and most invisible minority. But this video, as he says, "ain't exactly your inspirational cripple story." It's a documentary with attitude, which will entertain, enlighten, and even enrage its viewers.

Monday 27 Sep 2004

Stuck On You

A surprisingly touching comedy. Don't look at the box. Don't think about it being made by the Farrelly Bros (except that it's very funny). Don't be put off by the fact that it's a comedy about co-joined twins who share a liver (they insist they're American, not Siamese) and that they re-locate to Hollywood so one can pursue a film acting career. I took this lovely little film as a wonderful fun way to illustrate how people can adapt to what the world deals them. These guys and all their variously abled buddies are winners! PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, and some language (there again, trust me on this one).

Monday 4 Oct 2004

People Say I'm Crazy

By popular request, and a fit for MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK Oct 4-10 - a co-presentation with B.C. Schizophrenia Society, Victoria Branch - 3a mind is a terrible thing to lose - this is the story of how I got mine backy John Cadigan.

The real life story of an artist's 10 year struggle with schizophrenia. This film shows a different side of schizophrenia from recent Hollywood presentations. Here a typical young man, seriously ill, tackles the long haul, the setbacks, the small triumphs with an amazingly supportive family and therapist. An honest and moving film. That family includes a sister who is a documentary filmmaker and encouraged him to keep a video diary of his journey.

Monday 11 Oct 2004

Elling

Norway's highest grossing film of all time is a winning Odd Couple comedy with an interesting twist: Felix and Oscar's Norse counterparts are both outpatients at a state-run mental health facility. Off-beat, charming, funny, the film deftly manages to avoid many of the usual condescending stereotypes while bringing home the importance of a safe and independent housing and a supporting community. Something to consider on Thanksgiving day!

Monday 18 Oct 2004

Calendar Girls

A Women's Institute chapter's fundraising effort for a local hospital by posing nude for a calendar becomes a media sensation. Sound familiar? We have some

local examples and some we'll have special guests. The fascination with nudity is great way to draw attention and funds to a cause.

Wednesday 20 Oct 2004

Breakaway

The second in a series exploring brain injury co-hosted by psychology professor Dr Ron Skelton whose specialty is Cognitive Neuroscience. A multi-award winning, provocative, and inspirational documentary about two guys in Nova Scotia who have had life changing injuries, one pretty much recovered helping the other to maximize his recovery. With discussion including special guests. I'm in touch with Robert and Doug and have more of their story and an update to answer your curiosity.

Monday 25 Oct 2004

Dracula: Pages from the Virgin's Diary

Now for something different. "This silent, black and white film (with touches of red!), adapted from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's interpretation of Bram Stoker's Dracula, is Guy Maddin's dramatic masterpiece (now joined by The Saddest Music in the World). It is an atmospheric, gothic work full of dance and eroticism, accompanied by Gustav Mahler's music. Clearly a modern film that has been styled to mimic the earliest works of cinema, Dracula: Pages from the Virgin's Diary is grainy and its light is often distorted. It uses large, emphatic title cards that introduce the characters, give loose plot structure, and serve as ironically comic punctuation to the action. With Dracula, Maddin has created a truly inspired work that successfully combines ballet, film, and horror."

Monday 1 Nov 2004

Winged Migration

An amazing film that grew from an early MM discovery - Canadian Bill Lishman's realized dream to fly with geese. It inspired the film Fly Away Home and now crews are flying with and filming flocks all over the world. The result is a gorgeous meditation on the wonder and persistence of birds and their survival on our troubled planet, shot over the course of three years on all seven continents.

Monday 8 Nov 2004

Europa Europa

A Jewish boy separated from his family in the early days of WWII poses as a German orphan and is taken into the heart of the Nazi world as a 'war hero' and eventually becomes a Hitler Youth. A kind of a Polish "Little Big Man" goes survives Nazi Germany and Russia. This film won Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film and Oscar nomination for screenplay, a fit for upcoming Remembrance Day R (Nudity/Adult Situations)

Monday 15 Nov 2004

The Snow Walker

A new film from our North based on Farly Mowat's 'Walk Well My Brother'. Against the rugged Artic Tundra landscape a bush pilot has crashed with a young Inuit woman passenger and the two have to use their wits to survive. It's a classic setup but a refreshingly well made film with a strong transformation theme. Pg

Wednesday 17 Nov 2004

Memento

Are you ready for a challenge? This is a tough thriller with a twist. We get into the minds eye of a man who has lost his memory but is determined to avenge his wife's murder. It's not spoiling the experience by telling you ahead of time that it starts at the end and works toward the start, except for the bits that go the other way. R Warning: some violence, there may be lots of discussion after the credits roll.

Monday 22 Nov 2004

Style Wars

"Filmed in New York in 1982, when hip hop was still in its infancy, STYLE WARS documents a number of young graffiti artists who were transforming the city with their unique art. These artists created a new visual language that was borne out of the hip hop subculture and, using the city's dilapidated subway system as a canvas, let the rest of New York know about it. Unfortunately, graffiti meant vandalism to Mayor Ed Koch, the NYPD, and the MTA, all of whom did their best to oppose the burgeoning movement. STYLE WARS has become a cultural emblem and ranks among the best hip hop films ever made. Embraced by the culture it depicts as well as by mainstream America, STYLE WARS was one of the first shots fired in the hip hop revolution that took the country by storm." Winner of the Grand Prize for documentaries at the Sundance Film Festival.

Monday 29 Nov 2004

Republic of Love & Rendevous

REPUBLIC OF LOVE Deepa Mehta's latest film "This enchanted romance set in the coldest city on earth is a contemporary look at the awkward road to love. As quickly as the protagonists meet, nerves tear them apart. Will they be able to abandon themselves to love, to something greater than they know?"

Also: RENDEZVOUS - a short film by Victoria's Passia Pandora "A woman's passion is awakened when her waiter invites her to tango." One clever 6 min continuous take.

Monday 6 Dec 2004

Imagine

With a hanging of Gerry Deiter's photos from the Montreal "Bed In" Just a few days before the anniversary of John Lennon's death and 35 years after the famous Bed In in Montreal, we'll show this great 1973 documentary of John's life.

Our guest will be Gerry Deiter who was a photographer back in those heady days in Montreal, hanging out with the bedding couple, capturing a wonderful, intimate series that will be on display in our gallery for the evening. Imagine!

Monday 13 Dec 2004

Jay Silverheels - The Man Behind the Mask & Survival in the Bush

JAY SILVERHEELS - THE MAN BESIDE THE MASK 60min "Me do, kemo sabe." Who knew that the Lone Ranger's faithful sidekick cringed every time he said those words? In 1949, at age 35, Mohawk actor Jay Silverheels became the first Aboriginal actor to play a Native American on television. He played the stoic, monosyllabic Tonto with poker-faced perfection, becoming the symbolic "Indian" to a generation. [He was also a boxer, lacrosse player and had harness race horses too] Jay Silverheels: The Man Beside the Mask will take viewers into the life of a man who was determined to make it big in Hollywood and leave his home Reserve and Indian heritage behind him. In later life, Silverheels changed direction and fought for better, more realistic roles for Natives in film and TV. He founded the Indian Actors' Workshop, and helped train other Native actors but he didn't live to see the results of his labour. Full of interviews with Jay's family, friends and colleagues, and hundreds of rare photos, Jay Silverheels: The Man Beside the Mask is an intimate look at the real man behind the larger-than-life character.

Also: SURVIVAL IN THE BUSH a quaint 1954 30 min NFB film wherein a reporter gets dropped in the wilds with a native woodsman who finds food, builds a birch bark canoe, kills a marauding bear, all equipped with only an axe(!) - basically saves his ass, while the reporter blabs away, 1954 style, about what's going on. - I think it's a nice 'Boomer Combo' with our 1950's hero Tonto's story.

Monday 20 Dec 2004

Love Actually & Christmas in Moose Factory

LOVE ACTUALLY Follows the lives of eight very different couples in dealing with their love lives in various loosely and interrelated tales all set during a frantic month before Christmas in London, England. A quirky romantic comedy for the season.

Also: NFB CHRISTMAS IN MOOSE FACTORY In their own words and drawings, Cree children show how their Christmas looks in this NFB 1971 short (13min) (Not all kids hanging out in malls this season)

Monday 27 Dec 2004

Shaolin Soccer

"'Soccer' is a bouillabaisse of comedy, action, romance, and dazzling soccer footage, forming an irresistible package to those looking for something they haven't seen before. .breathhtaking.deliriously inventive filmmaking skills".

Archives 2005

Monday 1 Jan 2005

TOUCHING THE VOID

The true story of two climbers and their perilous journey up the west face of Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes in 1985. This film will inspire your New Year! You'll never forget it.

Monday 3 Jan 2005

THE DELICATE ART OF PARKING

A sly Canadian mocumentary about the perils and triumphs in the daily battle over curbside real estate. This screening dedicated to the kind folks at City Hall who allow us to park free on Lee Avenue, and the determined commissionaires who ticket us sometimes anyway, and those folks at C H again who kindly cancel those tickets.

Monday 10 Jan 2005

GARDEN STATE

"Andrew Largeman is a depressed, out of work actor eking out his existence in Los Angeles. But a fateful call from his father has Andrew heading back to his home state of New Jersey. As he's about to confront the personal demons in his life, Andrew just may find that life is worth living." Writer/director/lead actor Zach Braff and Natalie Portman do a nice job on this film.

Monday 17 Jan 2005

MONSTER ROAD

A fascinating portrait of an outsider artist in Seattle, claymator Bruce Bickford, and his elderly father, George. In the elder Bickford's day he was an aerospace engineer, now losing his abilities to the onset of Alzheimers. The younger once did some animation for Frank Zappa but now works along making sequences of complex animated scenes that will probably go unseen, except for this doc. He believes the world would be a better place if everyone worked their stuff out in little animated films. With a telephone Q&A with director Brett Ingram calling in from North Carolina.

Monday 24 Jan 2005

THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON

From Canada's Robert LePage. After the death of his mother, a man tries to discover a meaning to his life, to the universe and to rebuild a relationship with the only family he has left: his brother. Quirky and thoughtful.

Monday 31 Jan 2005
THE FESTIVAL EXPRESS

The filmed account of The Great Canadian rock festival train tour. Performances by Janis and The Band are incredible! The 2nd of MM's music on film series for 2005!

Monday 7 Feb 2005
MY FLESH AND BLOOD

A very moving film about a tumultuous year in the life of the Tom household in Fairfield, California. A single mom is managing a vibrant adopted family of 11 special needs children. Exhausting, challenging, a study in self and mutual acceptance. I think it's the kind of film that can change the world!

Monday 14 Feb 2005
METALLICA: SOME KIND OF MONSTER

The film that redefines group therapy. Even if you avoid Heavy Metal music this film will draw you in. This feature documentary is about life off the road, and off the rails, for the mega-selling metal rock band. The filmmakers worked for almost two years, during a turbulent and disturbing time in the group's long career. When egos clash during the recording of a new album, the group's label hires a high-priced therapist to sort through the conflict (as time goes on the therapist takes himself so seriously he ostensibly becomes part of the band). The movie captures sometimes funny, sometimes uncomfortable scenes of the creative process, and also includes interviews with old and new band members, as well as the lead-singer-in-rehab scenario.

Monday 21 Feb 2005
Shark Tale

When a son of a gangster shark boss is accidentally killed while on the hunt, his would be prey and his vegetarian brother both decide to use the incident to their own advantage. The DeNiro shark is brilliant. A lively and colourful story with a classic Disney moral. Pg

Voices of Robert Deniro, Will Smith, Renée Zellweger, Angelina Jolie, Jack Black, and Martin Scorsese

Monday 28 Feb 2005
Shattered Glass

The true story of a young journalist who fell from grace when it was found he had fabricated over half of his articles in "The New Republic". MM loves true stories - and stories about cons are great too. Here's a beauty. PG13

Cast: Hayden Christensen, Peter Sarsgaard, Chloë Sevigny, Rosario Dawson, Melanie Lynskey & Hank Azaria

Monday 7 Mar 2005

Being Cariboo

A documentary made by a couple who followed the caribou migration in the Yukon and Alaska for a season. A film that brings us the powerful beauty and sacredness of the caribou and their habitat just as their ancient existence is threatened in current U.S. land use legislation. Pg We'll be talking with the protagonists Leanne Allison and Karsten Heuer from their home in Dunster BC, west of Jasper.

Monday 14 Mar 2005

WHITE BALLOON

A little girl wants a fat goldfish for the Iranian New Years celebration instead of the skinny ones in her family's pond at home. After many attempts she and her brother convince their mother to give them her last bit of money. On her quest she has many adventures, navigating her way through a world of adults (including a brush with snake charmers) in a culture where the young are to be seen, but not heard. The film takes us into the exotic world (to North Americans) of everyday Teheran through the eyes of this winning little girl.

Saturday 19 Mar 2005

HIDE AND GO HOMELESS

At the Movie Monday Theatre at the Eric Martin Pavilion the local documentary HIDE AND GO HOMELESS. Made by local young people it addresses issues related to community-based and global poverty with interviews from the people who work with Victoria's homeless and the people themselves.

Created with an old video camera, and a microphone found in the bottom of an old filing cabinet, this film was controversial even before it was finished. When the non-profit agency who sponsored the film put forward the ultimatum of removing political content from the film or losing their production funding, the filmmakers refused to compromise and reached into their own pockets to make it.

Monday 21 Mar 2005

HE WON'T GET FAR ON FOOT & CRUMB

Documentaries about two notorious cartoonists, John Callahan (26min) and Robert Crumb (119min). Both have had difficult lives. Both successful outsider artists who have entertained us and challenge us as well.

"This [classic] film by Terry Zwigoff is an eye-popping shocker, delving unflinchingly into questions of Crumb's hatred of females, questions of racism, his traumatic childhood, and his extremely twisted family. Crumb makes no apologies. There's no cohesive plotline here, only slow and inexorable revelations about the artist's life, filmed over a 6-year period. Despite the meandering story line, the film is [totally] engrossing, not so much due to the extensive parade of Crumb's work that is displayed, but more to the cast of characters inhabiting this

strange, strange world." Warning: Some politically incorrect and downright disturbing images.

Monday 28 Mar 2005

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE

A nerdy film about a nerdy family that, if you stay with it, becomes a surprisingly satisfying crowd pleaser.

Monday 4 Apr 2005

Ram Dass: Fierce Grace 93min USA

"Harvard professors Richard Alpert and Timothy Leary made countercultural history in 1963 when they were fired for conducting controversial psychedelic drug research. In the purple haze aftermath, Alpert journeyed to India and found his guru Maharaj ji, who renamed him Ram Dass ('Servant of God'). Best known for his 1971 bestseller *Be Here Now*, which was a spiritual touchstone of the era, Ram Dass became an inspiration to people across the globe. Filmmaker Mickey Lemle, who has known his subject for more than twenty-five years, intersperses vivid archival footage from hippiedom's glory days with intimate glimpses of Ram Dass today, as he continues to remake his life since being—in his words—'stroked' in 1997."

A great film about adjusting to challenges of disability and aging.

Monday 11 Apr 2005

Out Of The Shadow

A labour of love and guts, Susan Smiley's film follows the ups and downs of her mother, Millie, diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic and, although scarily "high-functioning" in many ways, increasingly unable to maintain a home or stay on her medications. As Millie has no love of the state, she refuses to provide information when she is "kidnapped" by police or paramedics and then hospitalized. Susan and sister Tina have often been unable to locate her within the Illinois medical system and fear she will end up homeless and on the streets. We follow Millie as she moves from an institution to a group home and then to a hospital psychiatric ward before her fear of ending up in a nursing home comes true. When her daughters become her guardians, Susan herself becomes increasingly proactive particularly when she notices that with each move her mother's doctor and medications change.

Family photographs and Super 8 home movies provide a telling visual history of Millie and her children. A striking young woman, Millie's glaring eyes suggest that the stories told by Susan and Tina of the abuse they suffered at Millie's hands after they were abandoned by their father are indeed true. A powerful and emotional documentary, this is both a portrait of a woman of great insight despite her disability, and a universal picture of family healing.

Monday 18 Apr 2005

Story of the Weeping Camel

Part documentary, part drama with a dash of magic, this unique film casts a spell on Western audiences used to a frenetic pace on the screen, (The Incredibles being the epitome in that direction). A baby camel is born in a Mongolia Desert community and crisis ensues when the mother rejects her colt. A quiet, observant, gentle film, much like the culture we're visiting. A treat!

Saturday 23 Apr 2005

My Son the Tattoo Artist

Tattoos used to be the mark of sailors, evidence of excesses in foreign ports. Or the brands of tough guys in biker gangs. These days everybody, especially young people, but even the middle-aged nurse in my mum's extended care facility, is sporting tattoos. And then there's the piercings! Why would you deface and stick rings through perfectly fine bodies? To an unmarked, unpierced old fellow like myself this looks like a bizarre trend.

Toronto filmmaker Laura Sky and Movie Monday present MY SON THE TATTOO ARTIST, her most personal film made to date. In this feature documentary Laura focuses her camera on her son, well-known Vancouver tattoo artist Adam Sky and his world. An emotional film about the choices our adult children make and a great look at the work of tattoo artists in Vancouver, what informs their creative work, and the function of tattoos in people's lives. (Canada 1999)

Sunday 24 Apr 2005

Crisis Call at St Johns Church Hall

By Laura Sky (who made one of MM's favourite docs "WORKING LIKE CRAZY" - Sky Works Charitable Foundation, Toronto) this 90 min documentary asks, "What happens when the boundaries between policing and mental health care disappear. when the police become our new frontline health care workers?" We'll have a discussion following the screening to bring the topic into Victoria's context.

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Monday 2 May 2005

Who the Hell is Bobby Roos?

This indy film is a psychological portrait of a life -- the story of an impressionist who loses his sense of self and descends into madness when his alter characters take over. The film came to my attention through its clever alternative distribution model: inexpensive pricing and internet word of mouth to sidestep the

conventional distribution system. It proved to be a clever script, well executed and showcasing a talent reminiscent of Craig Russel's in *Outrageous*.

Monday 9 May 2005

Elling

Norway¹s highest grossing film of all time is a winning *Odd Couple* comedy with an interesting twist: Felix and Oscar¹s Norse counterparts are both outpatients at a state-run mental health facility. Deeply neurotic, 40-year-old Elling (Per Christian Ellefsen) is sent to the facility after his mother¹s death. His roommate there is Kjell (Sven Nordin), a lumbering gentle giant with two things on his mind: food and sex < despite the fact he¹s still a virgin at the age of 40. After two years of peaceful cohabitation, the unthinkable happens: Elling and Kjell are deemed fit to rejoin the world at large, and are set up in a state-funded apartment in Oslo. For the first time in their lives, they¹re expected to take care of themselves, but even the smallest tasks, like answering the phone, prove terrifying. As Elling and Kjell grow accustomed to life on their own, their friendship is strained when Kjell falls in love with the upstairs neighbour, a single pregnant woman. Laugh-out-loud funny, the film deftly manages to avoid many of the condescending stereotypes that so often plague films dealing with the mentally ill. In Norwegian with English subtitles.

Monday 16 May 2005

Robot Stories for Asian Heritage Week

Winner of over 23 awards, "Robot Stories" is science fiction from the heart, four stories in which utterly human characters struggle to connect in a world of robot babies and android office workers. The stories include: "My Robot Baby," in which a couple must care for a robot baby before adopting a human child; "The Robot Fixer," in which a mother tries to connect with her dying son by completing his toy robot collection; "Machine Love," in which an office worker android learns that he, too, needs love; and "Clay," in which an old sculptor must choose between natural death and digital immortality.

Plus the short film, *How To Make Kimchi According to My Kun-Umma* - 8min. A twenty-something camera-weilding nephew learns the tradition. "Shop, chop, blend and wait - and do what your auntie says."

Monday 23 May 2005

Ray

Ray Charles has the distinction of being both a national treasure and an international phenomenon. By the early 1960's Ray Charles had accomplished his dream. He'd come of age musically. He'd made it to Carnegie Hall. The hit records "Georgia," "Born to Lose" successively kept climbing to the top of the charts. He'd made his first triumphant European concert tour in 1960. He had taken virtually every form of popular music and broken through its boundaries with such awe inspiring achievements as the LP's "Genius Plus Soul Equals Jazz" and "Modern Sounds in Country & Western." Rhythm & blues (or "race music" as it had been

called) became universally respectable through his efforts. Jazz found a mainstream audience it had never previously enjoyed. And country & western music began to chart an unexpected course to general acceptance, then worldwide popularity. And along the way Ray Charles was instrumental in the invention of rock & roll. Jamie Foxx is Ray Charles in this high-energy portrait of an exceptional man who has become an American icon.

Monday 30 May 2005

Los Zafiros: Music from the Edge of Time

Music, history, and emotion fuel this dynamic, award-winning tribute to Los Zafiros, the Beatles of 1960s Cuba. Thirty years after their breakup, the two surviving band members, Manuel Galban and Miguel Cancio, reunite in the streets of present-day Havana, a place full of unforgettable songs and memories for them and for their still-loyal fans. Family members, fellow artists, and friends weigh in, creating a stirring and definitive portrait of The Sapphires.

Monday 6 Jun 2005

Alter Egos & Ryan

We'll screen the Academy award winning animated film and the documentary that takes you deeper into the story of Ryan Larkin and the making of the film RYAN. Ryan cheered the win at the Oscars from his seat at the bar when Chris Landreth's bizarre portrait of him won, but how does it feel to be portrayed as a broken person to a world wide audience? Where has Ryan's life gone since his 14 minutes of fame hit the screens? Aren't you curious?

Monday 13 Jun 2005

Danny Deckchair

The kind of film just right for a MM Anniversary: a discovery, a lovely romance, a little fantasy, a metamorphosis, a good time with a few bumps thrown in. With the help of a deck chair floated away by clusters of helium balloons, our Australian protagonist chances on a whole new chance at life.

Monday 20 Jun 2005

Rachel, Rachel

Rachel is a small town spinster school teacher who dresses plainly and tries not to stand out. Her self-centered hypochondriac mother dominates her life. It seems she'll never escape until one Summer break an old school mate returns to town and her closed life opens to new possibilities.

Joanne Woodward is perfect in this thoughtful and nuanced role, deftly directed by first timer (and husband) Paul Newman. This 1968 classic is an adaptation of a well known Canadian novel "A Jest Of God" by Margaret Laurence. We're privileged to have screen writer Stewart Stern with us by phone to illuminate that process.

Monday 27 Jun 2005

Call It Karma & Spacer

Winner, Best Adventure Film Whistler Film Festival. A deeply compelling story by Geoff Browne about a young Tibetan Monk, Gyalten Rinpoche, who meets up with the young filmmaker in the streets of Vancouver. A beautifully realized and unpoliticized account of one Tibetan's journey.

Also SPACER 3 min short experimental film with Vancouver filmmaker Guy Roland with us in person.

Monday 4 Jul 2005

Just Watch Me & For Jackson

Just Watch Me travels across the country, its inspired cinematography showing us places we thought we knew - from the snowdrifts of Iqaluit to the towers of Calgary - in a whole new light. And it's all to the sounds the Trudeau kids grew up with: from BTO to Bran Van 3000, from Harmonium to Mitsou. Most of all, Just Watch Me is a love story that takes us into the heart of an era and into the hearts of the people who will shape our future - the Trudeau generation. Just Watch Them.

Also FOR JACKSON: a time capsule from his two grandmothers - another NFB film.

Monday 11 Jul 2005

Lemony Snicket

After Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire's parents perish in a terrible fire, they are placed in the care of Count Olaf, an actor, evil genius, and master of disguise. At every turn, Count Olaf hatches another outrageous plot to steal the orphans' vast fortune, and he's not going to let anybody stand in his way - not Uncle Monty (Billy Connolly), not Aunt Josephine (Meryl Streep), and certainly not the children themselves! The resulting series of unfortunate events is likely to leave viewers of all ages in utter hysterics.

Monday 18 Jul 2005

Being Julia

Tale of amorous folly and revenge set in the world of the London stage in the late 1930's. Reigning diva Julia Lambert's success and fame grow suddenly wearisome. She falls head over heels for a young American, Tom, and begins a passionate May - December affair. When she realizes that Tom is just a young social climber whose real passion is ambitious young starlet Avic Crichton, Julia begins to plot a delightful revenge.

Monday 25 Jul 2005

Aviator

Martin Scorsese's biopic about the early years of Howard Hughes, legendary film producer, playboy, and test pilot, is pure razzle-dazzle entertainment. Leonardo

DiCaprio gives an Oscar-worthy performance and Cate Blanchett is perhaps even more marvelous as the iconic Katherine Hepburn.

Monday 1 Aug 2005

Do It With Joy and Blackfly

Genre: Documentary film, 27 min 00 sec, Colour, Produced and Directed by Nicholas Kendall.

British Columbia has a reforestation program to restock vast tracts of land stripped by logging companies. DO IT WITH JOY is about a unique community: a group of people from widely varying backgrounds who come together each spring to plant trees in the vast logged areas of northern British Columbia.

For all of them, tree planting is a source of income, but more importantly it is a chance to share in the building of a self-sufficient community for the few months of the planting season.

Many British Columbians of note found planting to be their spring board into their lives: CBC's Philip Ditchburn, filmmaker Velcrow Ripper, Delta Blues player Ken Hamm, Dirk Brinkman recognized as pioneer in Westcoast silva culture practice, now married to BC Liberal Joyce Murray (who does a cameo coming out of a sauna in the buff - luckily this was '77), Giller Prize nominated writer John Gould and Doug And The Slugs musician (and the filmmaker's bro) Simon Kendall.

Also Bill Weaver's LIVING THEIR ART more And NFB's Blackfly.

Monday 8 Aug 2005

Horses in Winter

A feature film about Summer life in Ontario's cottage country circa 1952. Sunny days by the lake, the slow dog days of August, a near-death experience . moms and kids, and the dads driving up from the city on weekends. Our protagonist is an impressionable 7 year old and then looks back as a father at 35. A fond reminiscence presented by Victoria filmmaker and Movie Monday fave Rick Raxlen.

Monday 15 Aug 2005

Manic and paintings

Manic is a dramatized case study about the devastating illness known as manic depression and the chaos it can visit upon the lives of all those touched by it. Co-written by psychiatrist Dr. David Dawson, and superbly acted, the trauma of manic depression comes movingly to life. With Dr. David Dawson.

Monday 22 Aug 2005

Far From Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog and Nails

"Set against the backdrop of the Canadian wilderness, a young boy and his dog forge a special bond that neither time nor distance can break directed by Phillip Borsos.

When their boat capsizes in turbulent waters off the Pacific Northwest, John McCormick (Bruce Davison) is rescued, but his 14-year old son Angus (Jesse Bradford), and recently adopted stray Golden Labrador, are washed ashore. Resourceful and courageous, Angus and his faithful dog fight to survive in the rugged wilderness. Though his terrified mother (Mimi Rogers) and father never give up hope he will be found alive, Angus begins to fear he and Yellow will not last on their own much longer.

Praised from its remarkable realism, wisdom and suspense, this winning family adventure story with its irresistible four-legged star is ideal". Made by Philip Borsos, the director of The Silver Fox and some terrific short films like Spar Tree and Nails.

With NAILS and early, classic Borsos doc.

Monday 29 Aug 2005

28 Days

Sandra Bullock anchors this engaging film that tackles some difficult territory. It's a sobering thought that alcohol is still our most serious substance abuse problem -- there were 12 deaths associated with methamphetamines in 2003 and 1789 associated with alcohol.

"After getting into a car accident while drunk on the day of her sister's wedding, Gwen Cummings is given a choice between prison or a rehab center. She chooses rehab, but is extremely resistant to taking part in any of the treatment programs they have to offer, refusing to admit that she has an alcohol addiction. Getting to know some of the other patients, Gwen gradually begins to re-examine her life and see that she does, in fact, have a serious problem. The path to recovery will not be easy, and success will not be guaranteed or even likely, but she is now willing to give it a try."

What's rehab really like? Gordon Harper, a Victoria man who's seen the system from all perspectives, and other special guests will fill you in.

Monday 12 Sep 2005

A Problem With Fear

This anxiety-exploring 2003 film carries on in the tradition of WAYDOWNTOWN in its smart exploration of Calgary's unhealthy urban office/mall environment. This time the focus is on the pervading culture of fear and those who are its victims in our society. Media is reporting a "fear storm" and a large corporation is exploiting it with devices that promise personal safety. What's a boy to do who's already

ultra sensitive to the scary things out there?? Gary Burns creates a deliciously plausible sci-fi scenario. Great acting and cinematography contribute to this Canadian gem that most of us missed.

Monday 19 Sep 2005

Never Ending Thermal

With Victoria director Sean White. Never Ending Thermal is the celebration of the paragliding lifestyle as experienced by Sean and two expert Venezuelan buddies. Follow them on a journey of a lifetime flying with top pilots at spectacular locations around the world.

Monday 26 Sep 2005

Wilby Wonderful

With writer/director/actor Daniel MacIvor Just a day or so in the life of Wilby, a little Canadian town. Nothing much happens - just small town stuff like selling real estate, lust, growing up, life and death. 14A adult language and situations Daniel MacIvor is a hero of mine for making the series TWITCH CITY and a Canadian jewel, the 2002 feature film, MARION BRIDGE. You must rent and watch Marion Bridge before you join us for the telephone question and answer session we'll have with Daniel after we watch WILBY WONDERFUL. He's another of our hard working men of many hats; actor, writer, director on Canadian stage and screen.

Monday 3 Oct 2005

Lightning In A Bottle

A one night, one time only concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York City in which some of the greatest performers in the history of Blues music, including BB King, Bonnie Raitt, Steven Tyler and Macy Gray performed together. Captures the emotional spontaneity that only live performances of the Blues can.

Monday 10 Oct 2005

Outrageous

A 1977 classic Canadian film, newly reissued on DVD. Craig Russell, the great drag impersonator, does fabulous routines as Ethel Merman, Liza Minnelli, Barbara Streisand, Carol Channing, Mae West, but the film holds together with a sweet unusual love story between him and a young woman who has schizophrenia who moves in with him after escaping a psych hospital. Turns out it was not just a sweet plot to showcase Russell's act but based on a short story written by such a young woman who Russell put up for a year!

Monday 17 Oct 2005

The Take

In the wake of Argentina's spectacular economic collapse in 2001, Latin America's most prosperous middle class finds itself in a ghost town of abandoned factories and mass unemployment. In suburban Buenos Aires, thirty unemployed auto-parts workers walk into their idle factory, roll out sleeping mats and refuse to

leave. All they want is to re-start the silent machines. But this simple act - The Take - has the power to turn the globalization debate on its head.

Monday 24 Oct 2005

My Cousin Vinny

A clumsy and amateurish New York lawyer takes on the case of his young cousin and a friend who have been charged with murder in a small Southern town.

Monday 31 Oct 2005

Young Frankenstein

From Yo Video's spanking new DVD, the perfect flick to celebrate this evening. Carved pumpkin display, bring yours!

Costumes and Jack o' Lanterns encouraged!

Monday 7 Nov 2005

Jupiter's Wife

Ten years following its theatrical debut, this astonishing real-life mystery continues to haunt audiences around the world. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and widely hailed by critics, JUPITER'S WIFE tells the story of Maggie, a beguiling homeless woman living in New York City's Central Park. In her forties, Maggie's vibrant personality and unconventional persona attract the attention of acclaimed filmmaker Michel Negroponte, who accompanies Maggie as she wanders the park with her pack of dogs and an enormous backpack. A captivating jumble of cryptic stories, Maggie's conversation is laced with intrigue and startling claims; among them, she claims to be the daughter of the Hollywood movie star Robert Ryan and married to the Roman god Jupiter. Fascinated, Negroponte and his camera follow Maggie for the next two years, as clue by clue, her enigma is deciphered and an astonishing story is revealed.

Our special guest, Bill MacPhee, has schizophrenia and is using his experience to help others. He has established a very successful magazine, Schizophrenia Digest, now in international circulation, and gives.

Monday 14 Nov 2005

Walmart Movie

WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price takes the viewer on a deeply personal journey into the everyday lives of families struggling to fight goliath. From a family business owner in the Midwest to a preacher in California, from workers in Florida to a poet in Mexico, dozens of film crews on three continents bring the intensely personal stories of an assault on families and American values.

Monday 21 Nov 2005

Last Waltz

"Martin Scorsese's documentary of the 1976 final performance of the legendary Sixties rock group The Band is at once a show featuring some of the greatest rock performers of their generation and a bittersweet look back at an era that was just beginning to fade. As Scorsese guides the group through interview segments discussing their 15 years together, these relatively young men sound like battle-weary survivors. But The Band were in splendid form for this show, and their multiple guest stars pulled out all the stops, especially Muddy Waters, whose "Mannish Boy" is so powerful it nearly burns a hole in the screen; Van Morrison, with a rousing performance of "Caravan;" and Bob Dylan, whose "Baby Let Me Follow You Down" displays the brilliant cockiness of his barnstorming days with this band. The all-star camera crew and superb stereo sound mix create what is considered to be of the best-looking and sounding rock films ever (as the opening credit says, play this movie loud!*), and two studio-shot sequences with Emmylou Harris and The Staple Singers stand on their own." Mark Deming, All Movie Guide

Monday 28 Nov 2005

Rory O'shea Was Here

The winner of the Audience Award at the 2004 Edinburgh International Film Festival, Rory O'Shea Was Here is an extraordinary story of determination that fuses highly emotional drama with bracingly boisterous humor. Inspired by the experiences of real people, the film follows two young men with physical disabilities as they band together and seize an opportunity to savor life on their own terms.

Monday 5 Dec 2005

Beethoven's Hair

Based on Russell Martin's bestselling book, "Beethoven's Hair" follows a lock of hair on a 200-year journey that begins when it is cut from the composer's head at the time of his death. Auctioned at Sotheby's, transported to America and subjected to forensic tests, the hair reveals many secrets of Beethoven's life and death. This docu-drama, like another Rhombus Media production, The Red Violin, brings the history and music alive as the precious memento passes through many lives and to several continents! PG

Director Larry Weinstein will join us for a Q&A after the film! A partner at Rhombus Media since 1979, Larry Weinstein has become Canada's pre-eminent director of films on musical subjects. Many of his productions document the lives and musical creation of 20th century composers, among them Ravel; The Radical Romantic: John Weinzwieg; My War Years: Arnold Schoenberg; and The War Symphonies: Shostakovich against Stalin. He was a memorable guest by phone at MM Sept/04 with his Stormy Weather: the Music of Harlold Arlan.

Monday 12 Dec 2005

It's All Gone Pete Tong

A wild and original look at the extraordinary life of Frankie Wilde, the legendary DJ who ruled the Ibiza club scene, tragically went deaf, then disappeared. Everything about Frankie's life was over the top: the clubs, the parties, the women and the drugs. But the years of pounding music and heavy toxins took their toll, eventually leaving Frankie stone deaf. His fans, record deal, manager, wife and stepson soon disappeared. The good times gone, Frankie isolated himself in his villa for a year under a pile of self-pity and a mountain of drugs. - not a great recovery strategy. Will he make it? R for language and a rough but surprisingly satisfying ride. Surprisingly Canadian!

Monday 19 Dec 2005

Animation Special including The Moody Brood

A documentary unlike any other, The Moody Brood explodes the myth of the idealized, normal family<a popular and pervasive post-WWII notion. The film examines issues universal to all families: the effects of community and religion, the influence of siblings, and the moral standards imposed by parents.

Award-winning filmmaker Lulu Keating traces the lives of her 10 siblings from their childhood in the 1940s to present day, from a small Catholic community to the world stage. Along the way, she asks some difficult questions: Can we, as adults, shed past experiences? Or do they shape our whole lives?

In this innovative production, Keating conducts interviews using a small tape recorder, rather than a film crew, to allow her siblings to respond more candidly. Her kaleidoscope of old family photographs on painted backgrounds are brought to sparking life by animator Helen Hills. Combining old and new technology<16mm film, computer manipulation, and a whimsical soundscape by Helen Bredin and composer Sandy Moore Keating creates an offbeat look at the forces that shape family.

Monday 26 Dec 2005

March Of The Penguins

After a long summer of feasting, their bodies stately and plump, the emperor penguins of Antarctica begin to feel, toward autumn, a need to march inland to the breeding grounds "where each and every one of them was born." They are all of a mind about this, and walk in single file, thousands of them, in a column miles long. They all know where they are going, even those making the march for the first time, and when they get there, these countless creatures, who all look more or less the same to us, begin to look more or less desirable to one another. Carefully, they choose their mates.

Archives 2006

Monday 2 Jan 2006

The Mad Adventures Of Rabbi Jacob

This film I remembered as great fun when I saw it 30 years ago, finally, happily now available on a crisp DVD! It's particularly relevant with the recent upheaval in France.

"Louis de Funes stars in this celebrated comic treat as a racist, anti-Semitic businessman en route to his daughter's wedding, who unwittingly stumbles upon a group of Arab terrorists. In order to hide from them, he disguises himself as a rabbi, which leads to one crazy, slapstick situation after another. Nominated for a Best Foreign Film Golden Globe. "One of the funniest movies from any country" (Boxoffice).

Monday 9 Jan 2006

Dear Frankie

Nine-year-old Frankie and his single mum Lizzie have been on the move ever since Frankie can remember, most recently arriving in a seaside Scottish town. Wanting to protect her deaf son from the truth that they've run away from his father, Lizzie has invented a story, complete with letters, that he is away at sea on the HMS Accra. When that ship comes in Lizzie arranges a standin Dad. A really engrossing human drama.

Monday 16 Jan 2006

Benny & Joon

This was the first film about mental illness I ventured to show at Movie Monday, 12 years ago! It's both entertaining, laced with great music like The Proclaimers' 500 Miles and a great performance by a young Johnny Depp, but it also provokes discussion about the realities of living with serious mental illness. Pg.

Cast: Johnny Depp, Mary Stuart Masterson, Aidan Quinn, Julianne Moore, Oliver Platt

Our special guests were, a woman who is recovering from schizophrenia, and Dr. Peter Schieldrop, a Victoria psychiatrist and specialist in the condition. This event is co-sponsored by Victoria Branch.

Saturday 21 Jan 2006

Saturday Live! Scrupulosity: (Live!)

A play about keeping your faith without losing your mind.

What happens when well meaning Christian moral teaching with a little helping Hellfire and Damnation is served up and taken to heart by an impressionable lad prone to obsessive/compulsive tendencies? Here's a monologue about finding your faith without losing your mind.

Andrew Bailey explores this autobiographical theme in his solo play

Scrupulosity that won BEST SOLO PLAY at the 2005 Fringe.

Hopefully this will be the first in a series of Fringe-style solo shows exploring mental illness and recovery - SATURDAY LIVE! - a special project of Movie Monday.

The Eric Martin Pavilion's Theatre was originally built in part for "psycho-drama". It'll be sweet to get back to this use with personal explorations by folks who've been there. Discussions with the performers/creators will follow the performances.

Monday 23 Jan 2006

Born To Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids

This film is a chronicle of filmmakers Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman's efforts to show the world of Calcutta's red light district. To do that, they inspired a special group of children of the prostitutes of the area to photograph their neighbourhood. As the kids excel in their new found art, the filmmakers struggle to help them have a chance for a better life away from the miserable poverty that threatens to crush their dreams.

Monday 30 Jan 2006

A Song For Martin

"A Song for Martin" tells the story of two people who find sudden, delirious love, and then lose it in one of the most painful ways possible, because of Alzheimers disease. Their love and loss is all the more poignant because they are such warm, creative people--and perhaps because we sense an ease and acceptance between the two actors, Sven Wollter and Viveka Seldahl, who were married in real life. That she died not long after the movie was made adds another dimension of poignance. "A Song for Martin" is more honest about Alzheimer's disease, I think, than "Iris". -

This is a sad story but one that many of us are sharing as our generations grow older. We'll have guests from Victoria's Alzheimers Society, an organization that can be a life saver for families faced with this disease. PG13 In Swedish with subtitles.

Monday 6 Feb 2006

Amadeus

It's Mozart's 250th Birthday on Jan 27! For this special occasion we'll first present a wonderful 1 hr documentary about the making of the brilliant 1984 film, its adaptation from the stage play and the filming in Czechoslovakia with Director Milos Foreman. It's a treat in itself and a setup for the 3 hr director's cut that will follow. We'll have refreshments - a desert break - Mozart Balls anyone? (an overpriced confection consisting of marzipan and praline wrapped in thin layers of light and dark chocolate) Pg. Watch for Larry Weinstein's premiere of Mozart Balls opening Vic Film and Video Fest Jan 27.

Monday 13 Feb 2006

Truly, Madly, Deeply

For Valentine's Day A young woman, unable to get over the death of her musician lover, gets a shock when he shows up in her apartment, a ghost! At first it's almost as good as it used to be - hey, even the rats that infested her house have disappeared. Until he starts bringing ghostly friends home to hang out and watch videos. Charming performances by Juliet Stevenson and Alan Rickman.

Monday 20 Feb 2006

Grizzly Man

A new feature doc from Werner Herzog, working from stunning self-shot footage of an eccentric, self-styled Samurai wildlife preservationist. Timothy Threadwell for 13 years lived his summers in Alaska in close grizzly proximity, filmed some incredible behavior of the bears and him, and unfortunately, inevitably ended up grizzly lunch. Herzog adds interview footage and his own sage commentary. Was Treadwell mad or just living large?

Monday 27 Feb 2006

Back To God's Country

Silent but with live accompaniment by pianist Karel Roessingh! This 1919 film was produced directed and stars a Victoria girl who went to Hollywood and established a new film role - "Heroic femininity". Shipman was a fearless, free spirit on and off screen. She did her own stunts and had a special way with nature and animals. One of her biographer's states, "The husbands or lovers in her films were either absent or incapacitated: they fell ill, were injured, or were simply 'artistic'". This film includes a tasteful but pioneering nude scene!

Here Shipman is a beautiful young wife trapped on an ice-bound ship. The captain, a murderous fugitive, will stop at nothing to have his way with Nell. With only the help of a ferocious dog named Wapi, she must stave off his advances and escape with her severely wounded husband to safety. Shot on location in the frozen wilds of Canada and the arid Mojave Desert. Booing and hissing the villain is encouraged!

Monday 6 Mar 2006

Aboriginal Filmmaker Barb Cranmer

I was very impressed with Barb when I met her and saw her present at last year Cowichan Aboriginal Film Fest in Duncan, and determined then to bring her to Victoria to do a similar event for MM.

T'lina: The Rendering of Wealth 1999 50 min Best Short Documentary at the 1999 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

While the economic impact of declines in commercial fisheries has garnered national attention - where the local harvesting of a tiny fish known as the eulachon is concerned, it is the potential CULTURAL loss that is important to the

'Namgis community of Alert Bay. In the Kwakwaka'wakw language t'lina (pronounced "gleetna") is the name of the precious oil rendered from the fish. This oil is a symbol of cultural wealth, a valuable trade item and important food staple. The oil is rich in vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids. Historically, it has been traded on "grease trails" throughout the northwest. For thousands of years, the Alert Bay community has made its way by boat each spring to a remote mainland inlet known as Dzawadi (Knight Inlet). Here the eulachon are harvested and rendered after spawning. Habitat loss and commercial over-fishing now imperil this traditional fishery.

As with all her work, T'lina shares an intimate view of the power of community and the strength of tradition among the 14 groups speaking the Kwak'waka language, who live in a territory that reaches from Port Hardy on Northern Vancouver Island, south to Campbell River area.

"I myself am living my own history through the films that I am making," said Cranmer. "The strength, for me, in doing this work, comes from my family, comes from my community."

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Barb is now a member for the 'Namgis First Nation Council' in Alert Bay and has just opened a new venture there called "Culture Shock Interactive Gallery" as an outlet for her and collaborators to market their work and present their cultural heritage (her films and custom-made jewelry).

She will be with us for a phone Q & A session after the film.

Added shorts: Sucker Fish, 8 min short and This Beggar, 65 min. This Beggar won Best Doc at the Victoria Independent Film and Video Fest this month.

Monday 13 Mar 2006

This Beggar's Description, 2005, 65 min

Brand new from the NFB. Very moving story about a man in Montreal who has schizophrenia. Philip Tetrault has suffered all the ravages of this mental illness: estranged family, substance abuse, street involvement - a dumpster diver alcoholic's existence. He's also a gifted poet, and his undeniable creative ability in spite of a chaotic life is recognized by many, including Leonard Cohen. Cohen is seen hanging out and reading with him and Cohen's haunting songs from the

sound track of this 65 min film. Phil's brother, Pierre, made the film which concludes with a gala launch of a book of Phil's poetry, celebrating the art that's kept him going.

Plus: Camouflage an 8 min short, animated film from UK about the difficulties of child growing up with a parent who has schizophrenia.

Monday 20 Mar 2006

Georgie Girl

Meet Georgina Beyer, the latest "it" girl of New Zealand politics. A one-time sex worker of Maori descent turned public official, Georgina stunned the world in 1999 by becoming the first transgender person to hold national office. Born George Beyer, this unlikely politician grew up on a small Tarankai farm and later became a small-time celebrity on the cabaret circuit in Auckland.

With charisma, humor and charm, Beyer unapologetically recounts her fascinating life story, shares how she overcame adversity and discloses the reasons she decided to run for office in a mostly all white, conservative electorate. Incorporating an unbelievable montage of colorful archival images dug up from Georgina's days as an exotic dancer, theatre and television performer, this absorbing documentary breaks down stereotypes and promotes greater understanding of transgender people.

Monday 27 Mar 2006

Walk The Line

You may have heard of this one. Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon channel Johnny Cash and June Carter. Great music, classic story of the hard life on the road; the highs of great music and audience adoration and the perils of the in-between times.

Monday 3 Apr 2006

Weird Sex and Snowshoes

If you had to boil Canadian film down, would you get the unlikely combo of awkward sex pitched against a barren northern landscape? Weird Sex and Snowshoes, the fresh, fast-paced, funny documentary (based loosely on Vancouver Sun film critic Katherine Monk's acclaimed book by the same name) is cagey enough to say just that and more.

A smorgasbord of interviews and film clips, Weird Sex gives some of Canada's most celebrated filmmakers the chance to sound off on "Just what is Canadian film?" Atom Egoyan, Robert Lepage, Patricia Rozema, Denys Arcand, Zacharias Kunuk, Denis Villeneuve, Lynne Stopkewich, Clement Virgo, and others reveal opinions as diverse as their filmmaking styles.

Monday 10 Apr 2006

The Girl In The Cafe

A small human drama/comedy that addresses some huge issues. A British civil servant (Bill Nighy) meets said young-woman-in-a-cafe and uncharacteristically invites her to accompany him to the G8 meeting in Iceland, a summit on global poverty. This young woman's idealism clashes with the well-greased wheels of polite international diplomacy. This screening is courtesy of HBO.

Monday 17 Apr 2006

The Life and Death Of Peter Sellers

Geoffrey Rush is brilliant and as chameleonic as Sellers himself as he vividly portrays the man we thought we knew. Despite his comic genius, the man who famously brought us Inspector Clouseau and Chauncey Gardener and the gooniest goon, had a deeply troubled personal life. The film peers behind the facades of his many characters to expose the one the legendary comedic actor never revealed to the public, himself. The 2005 Golden Globe winner for BEST MOTION PICTURE and BEST ACTOR for TV. Thanks to HBO again for the right to screen this film.

Monday 1 May 2006

La Neuvaine

Winner of the Ecumenical Jury prize at the Locarno Film Festival for presenting simple faith with respect and acknowledging the difficulty of belief in the face of tragedy. Two strangers, a troubled woman doctor and a young man on a nine-day pilgrimage, or novena, offering prayers for his dying grandmother's life meet by chance in this emotional yet contemplative film which develops into an intelligent meditation on faith. It asks such questions as whether there can be hope without God and if non-believers find the peace claimed by believers. "Bernard Émond offers no easy answers save that simple goodness can be all the answer that's needed. Deliberately paced and often deeply melancholic, The Novena is as intelligent and rewarding as films get, and a kind of sanctuary in itself." - Ray Bennett, The Hollywood Reporter.

Monday 8 May 2006

Shipbreakers: The Place Where Ships Go To Die

An exquisitely filmed documentary about the recycling of old ships in Alang, In Northwest India. The industry poses dangers to the people who work there and to the environment around them; however, it also shows that without shipbreaking at least one million people in India would go hungry. A global paradox.

plus - Dohbi Ghat What happens when residents of Mumbai, a city of 15 million residents, leave dirty clothes to be washed? No laundry tickets and no computers, yet they are delivered the next day, in perfect condition through an amazingly efficient system employing illiterate workers.

Monday 15 May 2006

Joe Gould's Secret

Joe Mitchell is a top writer at The New Yorker, specializing in profiles of urban eccentrics. But he's never met anyone as fascinating as Joe Gould, a cantankerous, unkempt, yet possibly brilliant street philosopher and author. When Mitchell decides to profile Gould, he has to decide whether Gould is a fraud or a genius. Joe is played, with another kinlife story and played the inquisitive writer. R for some language and bried of genius, by Ian Holm. Stanley Tucci adapted and produced this real-life story and played the inquisitive writer.

Monday 22 May 2006

Blue

The first in Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski's celebrated "Three Colors" trilogy, BLUE, stars Juliette Binoche as Julie, the lone survivor of an automobile crash that killed her husband, a famed composer, and their only child. She sets about starting over, purging all remnants of her former existence in an attempt to sever her ties to the past.

Monday 29 May 2006

Corpse Bride

Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of Victor, a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride, Victoria, waits bereft in the land of the living. Although life in the Land of the Dead proves to be a lot more colorful than his strict Victorian upbringing, Victor learns that there is nothing that can keep him away from his one true love.

Monday 5 Jun 2006

My Architect: A Son's Journey

My Architect is a tale of love and art, betrayal and forgiveness -- in which the illegitimate son of a legendary artist undertakes a five year, worldwide exploration to understand his long-dead father.

Louis I. Kahn, who died in 1974, is considered by many architectural historians to have been the most important architect of the second half of the twentieth century. A Jewish immigrant who overcame poverty and the effects of a devastating childhood accident, Kahn created a handful of intensely powerful and spiritual buildings - geometric compositions of brick, concrete and light - which, in the words of one critic, "change your life."

Monday 12 June 2006

The Horse's Mouth

13th Anniversary!! A really special event to celebrate! Cake!!!

Alec Guinness adapted this story for the screen and played the extraordinary character, Gully Jimson, an audacious artist who sees empty walls, even the sides of tanker ships, as canvases for his robust murals. He is driven by his urge to

create and uses his considerable, devious wits to accomplish his visions. From a crisp new DVD from the Criterion Collection of restored classics.

The DVD includes a lovely 25 min extra with Ronald Neame about Guinness and the film's genesis. Included is the amazing short, DAYBREAK EXPRESS, about NY's trains system waking up the city. It was D.A. Pennebaker's (Don't Look Back, The War Room) first commercial film that played with Horse's Mouth when it premiered in North America!

We'll have special guest Bob Choma with some of his extraordinary work. He's an early contributor to MM's highlighting of 'outsider' creativity, a lifelong artist and visionary! see some of Bob Choma's work.

MM's traditional anniversary cake will double to celebrate Bob's 81st birthday the next day!

Monday 19 June 2006

Raven Tales 1 & 2, Plus: A Thousand Roads

Simon James, Director of RAVEN TALES will be with us in person. He's both the writer and Director of Art and Animation for the Raven Tales series. Born in Alert Bay, Simon comes from the Kwakwakewakw people. Named 'Winadzi' which means Raider by his Grandfather, Simon has through the years explored many avenues of expression, as a film maker, carver, dancer and storyteller. It is through these activities that Simon learns the culture and traditions of his ancestors and passes them on to the next generation.

Through both traditional and nontraditional expression, Simon works to foster a better understanding of the native people of this land. The Raven Tales site has concept images of his film that are sent from his studio in Vancouver to the animators in Calgary for full animation. Evan Adams (Smoke Signals) voices Raven.

These two tales are the first in a series that will re-tell Aboriginal tales from all over North America through Simon James' exciting new vision.

A THOUSAND ROADS follows the lives of four contemporary American Indians as they confront the crises that arise in a single day. A THOUSAND ROADS is the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian's new signature film. There is an unconventional blend of Native characters: a Mohawk woman stockbroker, working in the steel and glass canyons of Manhattan; a young Inupiat girl, journeying to a new life in Barrow, Alaska; a Navajo gang member, tending sheep alone on the mesas of New Mexico; and a Quechuan healer who journeys across the Sacred Valley of the Incas in an attempt to save a sick child.

Director Chris Eyre (Cheyenne Aparaho) will always be my hero for his making SMOKE SIGNALS.

Monday 26 June 2006

Brokeback Mountain

The story of two young men - a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy - who meet in the summer of 1961, and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys, and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love.

Monday 3 July 2006

C.R.A.Z.Y. Plus: I Am Not An American!

C.R.A.Z.Y. was Canada's pick for the Oscars in 2006. The film was described by festival organizers as a "wildly entertaining film that is an ambitious and magical cinematic homage to the pop-culture-saturated middle class of the seventies."

Montreal, September 20, 2005 - Telefilm Canada, Chair of the Canadian selection committee for the 78th Annual Academy Awards, is proud to announce that Jean-Marc Vallée's C.R.A.Z.Y. has been submitted to represent the country in the bid for a nomination in the Best Foreign-Language Film category.

C.R.A.Z.Y. swept the country's Genie Awards and Quebec's Jutra Awards and is a huge hit in Canada. The film, directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, opened the Museum of Modern Art's third annual "Canadian Front" series of eight new Canadian features in New York, but earlier had piqued the interest of U.S. distributors, some of whom have seen the film several times. But subtitles and costly music-licensing fees have stood in the way of a swift pick-up. Yet the film is a real audience pleaser, meaning bets are on that C.R.A.Z.Y. will find a U.S. home.

I liked it too. And a great choice for Canada Day!

Plus: The Loading Ready Run boys with their I Am Not An American! For Canada Day, a music video for a patriotic song by The Arrogant Worms.

Monday 10 Jul 2006

Zorba The Greek

I was reminded how great this classic was when I caught it on Turner's oldie channel. Join us with Anthony Quinn and Allan Bates, exploring what it is to be Greek and to make really great, original movies.

Monday 17 Jul 2006

Quill

The life of a seeing eye dog in Japan, birth to death. A heart-warming and beautifully told tale if with a definitely non-Disney style. Warning: A hanky burner in an Old Yeller kind of way.

Monday 24 Jul 2006

Incident At Loch Ness

If you enjoyed Herzog's film GRIZZLY MAN and/or the fabulous doc BURDEN OF DREAMS you'll have fun with this good-hearted send up of Herzog getting drawn into a production, searching out the not-as-elusive-as-many-of-us-believed monster of the loch.

Monday 31 Jul 2006

Little Fish

Tightly built drama from Australia about addiction, going clean, and all it's complications. Kate Blanchet plays a woman trying to stay on track in a web of ambition to start her own legit business, family, and old associates from her life before she kicked. All people doing what they feel they have to do. Beautifully directed, shot, and edited.

Monday 7 Aug 2006

A Simple Curve

Caleb, 27, was raised in the majestic Kootenay region of B.C. by his bush hippie parents. He loves his father Jim and understands his reverence for wood working, coriander and soya products, but he just doesn't get Jim's determined effort to achieve economic disaster at every turn. A gentle drama about growing up in an interior small-town, about finding ones self. A film that reflects BC's beautiful countryside and the complex heritage of folks who come here from afar.

Monday 14 Aug 2006

Their Brothers' Keepers

I'm really pleased to announce that Movie Monday will be featuring the documentary THEIR BROTHERS' KEEPER.

Catherine Mullins, the filmmaker, will be with us by tele-convenor from Montreal (or on location in Labrador) for a Q & A with the film.

Monday 21 Aug 2006

Mrs Henderson Presents

Recently widowed well-to-do Laura Henderson is at a bit of a loose end in inter-war London. On a whim she buys the derelict Windmill theatre in the West End and persuades impresario Vivian Van Damm to run it, despite the fact the two don't seem to get on at all. Although their idea of a non-stop revue is at first a success, other theatres copy it and disaster looms. Laura suggests they put nudes in the show, but Van Damm points out that the Lord Chamberlain, who licenses live shows in Britain, is likely to have something to say about this. Luckily Mrs Henderson is friends with him.

Fun and a little silly - because, as Bill Faulkner says, "We need something Light in August!"

Monday 28 Aug 2006

A Whole New Thing

One of this year's Great Canadian small films. A coming of age story with real characters, well acted and deeply insightful.

Emerson Thorsen, lives with his parents in their eco-home in the wilds of Nova Scotia. He's just had his first wet dream, and completed writing and illustrating his first book. Meanwhile, the homeschooled youth can barely add 2 + 2. His mother enrolls him in the local school. There, Emerson's English teacher, the solitary Don has settled into a life of perpetual adolescence, paying regular visits to a park washroom for anonymous sex. In the classroom, Emerson stirs things up. Surprisingly, Don sees a bit of himself reflected in Emerson. Emerson, initially scornful of his teacher, quickly develops his first crush – on Don. The precociously confident boy, raised in a household of casual nudity and sexual openness, throws himself into this awakening of his heart with dangerous abandon.

Monday 11 Sep 2006

Sombrio

Here's a bit a local history about the colourful people, politics and funky shelter solutions that adorned Sombrio Beach until the residents were evicted for its transition to a provincial park in 1997.

Monday 18 Sep 2006

Tsotsi

This year's deserving Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film, this South African film follows a shanty town hood through a few days in his troubled life. His journey to redemption begins when he steals a car that happens to have a baby on board. A tough but rewarding experience.

Monday 25 Sep 2006

An Unfinished Life

A down on her luck woman, desperate to provide care for her daughter, moves in with her father-in-law from whom she is estranged. Jennifer Lopez puts in a solid, low-key performance, but as the two old farmstead buddies, Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman are a treat to behold. You'll see Damian Lewis in a small part who next week stars as "Keane". It's set against the rugged ranchlands of Wyoming - but was filmed in Kamloops, British Columbia by a Swedish-born filmmaker Lasse Hallström. That'd be a German/USA production - go figger!.

Monday 2 Oct 2006

Keane

We first meet William Keane (brilliantly played by Damian Lewis) in the NY Port Authority bus terminal where he is desperately searching for his 6-year-old daughter, who has been missing for months. With his apparent mental illness and the chaotic lifestyle of an unattached middle-aged male on the tough side of society it's a dangerous combination. A chance meeting with a woman with a

daughter near the age of his own may be a chance for redemption - or even more trouble. "Working in an evocative hand-held verité style, director Lodge Kerrigan and Director of Photography John Foster, plunge us directly into Keane's profoundly unsettled universe. Lewis's riveting, visceral performance of a man grappling with the effects of profound loss makes KEANE a complex, deeply humane and unforgettable portrait".

Monday 9 Oct 2006

Eve and the Firehorse

This wonderful feature by BC filmmaker Julia Kwan is about a couple of young girls coming to terms with colliding religions. It deservedly won Special Jury Prize at Sundance and Audience Award in Vancouver International Film Fest (where I saw it last September - the hardest thing about MM for me is having to wait a whole year to share a treat like this with my audience!)

After a series of misfortunes strike the Eng family, May Lin (Vivian Wu) And her daughters, Eve and Karena, (Phoebe Kut, Holly Lo) turn to Buddhism, Catholicism, and ancient Chinese superstitions to try to take control of their destinies. When crucifixes pop up next to the Buddha in the family's house and Eve, a precocious nine year-old with an overactive imagination, must contend with a Sunday school class where her wild imagination is distinctly out of place. But when the two young sisters decide they must achieve sainthood in order to save their wayward family, it takes them down a path that will change their relationship forever. Seen through the eyes of an imaginative young girl, Eve and the Fire Horse takes you on a wondrous yet deeply felt journey, family life is strange, childhood lonely and religions perplexing.

Monday 16 Oct 2006

Braindamadj'd .Take II

Braindamadj'd - Take II is a brilliant, innovative documentary that's looking at scooping four Geminis on Oct 18. Ten years ago, Montrealer Paul Nadler at 30 was a creative maverick - snowboarding, rock-climbing and scuba diving, and winning awards as a hip television director and producer. A car accident in Egypt left him with severe TBI - Traumatic Brain Injury. The film traces his excruciating process of recovery, both physical and psychological. As the film shows, Nadler sets goals that seem impossible, but he's an irrepressible person. Never shying away from attention, Nadler returns to school for his master's degree in communications, and his career takes a surprise twist. I'm thrilled to present this film with a special MM exclusive video interview with Paul that updates his remarkable story! PG13 for language.

Also a special MM video interview with Paul Nadler, the subject.

Saturday 21 Oct 2006

Iraq For Sale: The War Profiteers

The story of what happens to everyday Americans when corporations go to war. Acclaimed director Robert Greenwald (Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, Outfoxed, and Uncovered) takes you inside the lives of soldiers, truck drivers, widows and children who have been changed forever as a result of profiteering in the reconstruction of Iraq. Iraq for Sale uncovers the connections between private corporations making a killing in Iraq and the decision makers who allow them to do so.

Monday 23 Oct 2006

Thank You For Smoking

A fiercely satirical and funny look at today's "culture of spin." The hero is Nick Naylor, chief spokesman for Big Tobacco, who makes his living defending the rights of smokers and cigarette makers in today's neo-puritanical society. Confronted by health zealots out to ban tobacco and an opportunistic senator who wants to put poison labels on cigarette packs, Nick goes on a PR offensive, spinning away the dangers of cigarettes on TV talk shows and enlisting a Hollywood super-agent to promote smoking in movies. Outrageous fun!

Monday 30 Oct 2006

Georgi and the Butterflies

A documentary about a psych hospital in Bulgaria and its extraordinarily resourceful administrator who tries everything from silk worm, snail, and ostrich farming to keep his beleaguered institution afloat and its inhabitants gainfully occupied. In

one article his per patient/per day allowance is pegged at 15 cents! And we think our mental health system has got it tough!

The film project has happily brought some help to the beleaguered Dr. Georgi Lulchev's institution. The cinematographers have had exhibits of still photos they took and contributed funds raised to the home. They will be spent on medicines and shoes. There is also a number of individual charity donations including from abroad. A Bulgarian meat factory provides every week 20 kg. of sausages for the Home.

Monday 6 Nov 2006

Touch The Sound

While still a student, Evelyn Glennie learned that she was going deaf. Rather than abandon her study of music, in which she had shown such talent, she instead turned her focus toward percussion instruments and developed her ability to feel the sound through her body. This documentary follows her as she performs in New York, Germany and Tokyo, sharing her insights into the nature of music and the ways in which we experience it.

Monday 13 Nov 2006

Cars

Lightning McQueen is a cocky, rookie race car. Speeding on his way to a big race, he crashes into Radiator Springs, destroying lots of the inhabitants belongings. In order to make up for what he did, the cocky roadster is sentenced to community service. Though he will do anything to get away from the work, McQueen must learn to respect and bond with the Radiator Springs inhabitants in order to get out of the town and back on the racetracks.

Monday 20 Nov 2006

Shameless: The Art Of Disability

Art, activism and disability are the starting point for what unfolds as a funny and intimate portrait of five surprising individuals. Director Bonnie Sherr Klein (Not a Love Story, and Speaking Our Peace) has been a pioneer of women's cinema and an inspiration to a generation of filmmakers around the world. Shameless: the Art of Disability marks Klein's return to a career interrupted by a catastrophic stroke in 1987. Always the activist, she now turns the lens on the world of disability culture, and ultimately, the transformative power of art.

Monday 27 Nov 2006

Burnt Toast & Mozart Balls

Burnt Toast poses the question, is Colin Mochrie someone you think of as an opera singer? Or what about Paul Gross or Mark McKinney? No? Well hold onto your seats as award-winning director Larry Weinstein takes you on an amusing ride through the world of relationships with the most unlikely cast of characters in the most unusual format that you can imagine. Opera lovers will be tickled pink and non-opera lovers delighted by this wickedly playful twist.

Burnt Toast is comprised of a series of eight comedic mini-operas, each depicting a different stage of a romantic relationship set in contemporary settings. With original music and libretti, each vignette is a self-contained story, but together they work as a cohesive single piece. The relationships are of all types: the passionate, the fantasized, the bored and of course, the dead relationship.

Weinstein, who moves from documentary to narrative here, has taken on the challenge along with Alexina Louie, a serious orchestral composer who is very widely performed, but who has never done comedy, and Dan Redican, who's a great comic and a great comic writer and has certainly never worked in opera. All push the boundaries of their traditional associations.

Mozart Balls, Directed By: Larry Weinstein.

Larry Weinstein's film is a light-hearted tribute to Mozart that explores what he symbolizes in our age. The film features curious characters that embody the spirit

of Mozart--from a retired Swiss school teacher obsessed by all things Mozart, to an ex-pop musician in Oklahoma who believes that her body is actually inhabited by Mozart's spirit; from a computer genius in California whose software has created a new Mozart cello concerto, to an Austrian astronaut who carried a score of The Magic Flute and delicious chocolate "Mozartkugeln" into space. These are the individuals who inhabit the film and through their strange and, at times, very moving stories, the viewer will be exposed to the liveliness, the magic and the obsession that Mozart has become to so many music fans today. Mozart is an icon, and for many (even though born 250 years ago this year) he is still very much alive!

Monday 4 Dec 2006

Dirty Filthy Love

Provocative title, eh?! It's about a guy with obsessive / compulsive disorder, with a side of Tourettes syndrome. A Sundance selection, British film. It's gripping portrayal of a guy figuring out his problems. As his marriage and job falls apart he hooks up with a support group who help him to realize what he has and companions who help him work through it. Share the journey. Brilliant ensemble acting and a fascinating story.

Monday 11 Dec 2006

Prairie Home Companion

After 32 years, Garrison Keillor's radio variety show is coming to an end. Set on a rainy Saturday night in St. Paul, Minnesota, fans file into the Fitzgerald Theater to see "A Prairie Home Companion," a staple of radio station WLT, not knowing that WLT has been sold to a Texas conglomerate and that tonight's show will be the last. Backstage cast and crew assemble for one last hurrah. They include: The Johnson Sisters, Yolanda and Rhonda, a country duet act that has survived the county-fair circuit; Lola, who gets her big chance to sing on the show and then forgets the words; Guy Noir, a private eye down on his luck who works as a backstage doorkeeper; and Dusty and Lefty, the Old Trailhands, a singing cowboy act.

Monday 18 Dec 2006

Sketches Of Frank Gehry

Sketches of Frank Gehry by Sydney Pollock chronicles the friendship between director Sydney Pollock and the famed architect every bit as much as it does Gehry and his work, and it makes for a delightful window into the world of creativity and genius. Gehry has made a big imprint (which critics might liken to Bigfoot's) on architecture at the turn of the 21st century; his molten-looking visions have graced buildings small (actor Dennis Hopper's industrial-looking home in Venice, Calif.) to enormous (the sprawling Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain). He's the genius behind Los Angeles's sweeping Walt Disney Concert Hall--which, though formidable in shape and size, manages to nod gracefully to its adjoining, beloved predecessor, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. (He also created the controversial Experience Music Project museum in Seattle,

which residents have likened to a giant psychedelic beetle crouched at the foot of the Space Needle.)

Tuesday 26 Dec 2006

Over The Hedge

Good fun for on whole family on Boxing Day. The Over The Hedge crew get a work out in their first animated movie when RJ the raccoon has to quickly replace his bear buddy's junk food stash before the full moon. Luckily (or maybe not) there are great pickings in the urban sprall just over the. you-know-what. The naturally indignant human residents have issues with vermin looting their stuff and call in an exterminator extraordinaire. Stunning computer animation, lots of action, and a few moral high points visited too.

Archives 2007

Tuesday 2 Jan 2007

Leonard Cohen - I'm Your Man

A New Years Treat! Interviews with Leonard Cohen intercut with a tribute concert in Sydney's Opera House by a 'spangled' lineup of performers and topped off by Cohen himself doing a gentleman's version of Tower Of Song backed by U2.

Monday 8 Jan 2007

Rabbit Proof Fence & Suckerfish

Filmmaker Lisa Jackson will be with us to discuss parallels between the Australian and Canadian treatment of Aboriginal people presented in these two films. MM revisits Phillip Noyce's epic based on true events, "Rabbit-Proof Fence" is a moving story of racial prejudice, agoraphobic desert vistas, and amazing endurance as three girls walk 1,500 miles to find their mothers in 1930s Australia.

Plus: Suckerfish When she was ten, Lisa Jackson fled Toronto to live with relatives in Vancouver to escape her mother's depression, alcoholism and prescription drug abuse - legacies of the residential school experience. Now, sifting through her memories and her mother's letters, she constructs a portrait of a mother whose drive to love her daughter triumphed over her demons of addiction. Animation, childhood photographs and stylized recreations add the young child's whimsical voice to this moving, at times humorous, look at the director's relationship to her mother and native identity.

Monday 15 Jan 2007

Little Miss Sunshine

Here's a small budget movie with a big heart - one of those gems that everyone loves. Great characters, unusual situations but ones that we can all identify with. No CGI, no evil villains, not even any bad guys - just human nature in all its glory. 14A for language, some sex and drug content (just like real life)

Monday 22 Jan 2007

Something New & Who Killed The Electric Car?

A 1920 silent Western starring and co-directed by Victoria's Nell Shipman and a new doc about a possible solution to our automobile addiction.

"Something New" (1920, 60 min.) is a thrilling and hilarious Western where the hero comes to the rescue of the kidnapped girl - in a 1920 Maxwell sedan! Chased by bandits on horseback across rocky terrain, Shipman and co-star Bert Van Tuyle survive some of the most amazing stunts ever attempted in a roadster.

Also: Who Killed The Electric Car? Amid ever-increasing gas prices, this documentary delves into the short life of the GM EV1 electric car -- once all the rage in the mid-1990s and now fallen by the roadside. How could such an

efficient, green-friendly vehicle fail to transform our garages and skies? Through interviews with government officials, former GM employees and concerned celebs (such as EV1 driver Mel Gibson), Chris Paine (former EV1 owner) seeks to answer the question.

Monday 27 Jan 2007

A Safer Sex Trade

Carolyn Allain's directorial debut offers insight into the complex issue of the sex trade by examining the lives of three women with entirely unique experiences as prostitutes. Scarlett Lake is a highly successful madam with thirty years in the business who opens up the doors to her bawdy house. Jennifer Allan is a former drug addicted 'survival' sex trade worker, who works tirelessly to rescue prostitutes still out on the streets. Simone is an independent escort who has worked her way up from the street and presently offers 'girlfriend experiences' to her clients.

A SAFER SEX TRADE will have its world television premiere on CBC Newsworld^{1s} The Lens on Tuesday January 23, 2007 at 10PM ET/7PM PT with a repeat screening January 27, 2007 AT 10PM ET/7PM PT. - But here's your chance to see it and join in an interactive discussion with the director, producer and local stakeholders in Movie Monday's interactive forum.

Monday 29 Jan 2007

Fetching Cody

A novel romantic comedy / dramatic treatment of the problems of young people being drawn into life of Vancouver's East side drug world - magical realism, Jim Burns, great, provocative Canadian film.

Monday 5 Feb 2007

Good Night and Good Luck

George Clooney wrote and directed this simple but riveting telling of broadcaster Edward R Murrow's courageous stand against McCarthy's grandstanding Communist witch hunt of the 1950's. Here's a timely reflection on the misuse of government's authority and the courage it takes to challenge it. A thoughtful and engrossing film that makes history live - and makes you realize the wonderful cinematic possibilities of cigarette smoke. Gorgeously shot in black and white.

Director / star George Clooney had said they opted to use archive footage of Joseph McCarthy instead of using an actor to portray the senator. Clooney had said that when the movie had undergone test screenings, audience members felt that the McCarthy character was overacting a bit, not realizing that it was the actual McCarthy through archive footage.

Monday 12 Feb 2007

Bon Cop Bad Cop

Lotta blood and violence Pulp Fiction / Fargo like. Lotsa bad language too but, as long as you're good for that, a great detective buddy film. Very Canadian, somewhat corny and completely riveting too - a very fun, invigoration watch!

When a dead body is found straddling the Ontario-Quebec border, police officers from both provinces must join forces to solve the murder. The francophone detective for the Sûreté du Québec is rule-bending, while the anglophone OPP detective is by-the-book. Although both detectives are bilingual, they must resolve their professional and cultural differences as well as their bigotry and prejudices.

Here's film that (finally) knocked Porky's off the platform of Canada's top grossing film.

Monday 19 Feb 2007

Devil And Daniel Johnston

This film takes you on a journey into a creative genius' struggle with life. David Bowie, Tom Waits, Sonic Youth, Beck, Matt Goening, the late Kurt Cobain and an ever-growing cult audience are just some of the fans of Daniel Johnston. An exemplar of brilliance and madness going hand in hand, Johnston is an indie-rock cult figure and cartoonist who has had a life marked by wild fluctuations, numerous downward spirals, and periodic respites from his severe mental illness (he's been diagnosed with manic depression). Director Jeff Feuerzeig won a well-deserved Best Director award at Sundance last year for his long-in-the-making film. It's an illuminating chronicle of Johnston's origins, rise to fame, disastrous breakdowns, paranoid delusions, painful redemption, and eventual elevation to unlikely living legend status. The film artfully melds current footage, vintage performances, home movies, and dozens of recorded audio tapes from Johnston's life.

Monday 26 Feb 2007

Margarets' Museum

A classic in the Canadian film canon is this 1995 romantic drama set in a Labrador coal mining town. Helena Bonham Carter is brilliant (and surprising after her starring launch *Room With A View*) as a 'snot-nosed scrub woman' who has lost family members to the pits. A tall, bag pipe playing Scot arrives in town and goes to work as a dishwasher. Can he resist the only well-paying but dangerous job in town, so they can have a life together? It's about the high price of coal.

Monday 5 Mar 2007

Neil Young: Heart Of Gold

Neil Young arrived in Nashville, just before brain surgery to repair an aneurysm, and wrote a bunch of new material. This concert was kind of a Goodbye to friends and fans if he didn't make it. Jonathan Demme beautifully captured the first live

performance of those songs plus a bunch of "old gold" from Young's long career. It's a gentle summation of a life of song: long shots, sweet music, good musical friends supporting his vision. We'll add some flashbacks to Neil's wilder performance days.

Monday 12 Mar 2007

Skate Girl

Maybe you've seen Dog Town And Z-Boys, the classic skateboard genesis flic, but what about the girls? Susanne Tabata, Vancouver filmmaker of the terrific Westcoast surfer film 49 Degrees, has chronicled the girls' story with all the falls and scrapes and other dangers, pioneering this sport that has been dominated by males. Local skate/surf shop, Coastline, will be adding a presence and a pack of goodies and a skate deck to give away at the presentation.

Monday 19 Mar 2007

Monster In A Box

The beloved Spalding Gray works out his stuff, the stuff that eventually killed him, in one of his famous, brilliant monologues. The monster is an autobiographically based book the writing of which has haunted him for years.

Monday 26 Mar 2007

His Girl Friday

For 1940, wonderful old fashioned fast-talking screwball comedy. The editor of a major Chicago newspaper is about to lose his ace reporter and former wife to an insurance salesman, but not without a fight! The crafty editor uses every trick in his fedora to get 'His Girl' to write one last big story - about murderer Earl Williams and an inept sheriff. Complications ensue. From a newly restored DVD version.

Monday 2 Apr 2007

Happy Feet

Into the world of the Emperor Penguins, who find their soul mates through song, a penguin is born who cannot sing. But he can tap dance something fierce!

Monday 9 Apr 2007

Moscow On The Hudson

In 1984 Vladimir Ivanoff, a typical Russian, is working in the Moscow circus playing saxophone. When the Moscow circus goes to New York Vladimir declares his defection to defect. With the help of local authorities he is able to remain in New York. As Vladimir tries to make it in New York, he is constantly haunted by his decision. Did he make a right choice by leaving his native land; was the freedom he searched worth everything he sacrificed?

Monday 16 Apr 2007

Remembering Arthur

Remembering Arthur is as much about the man behind the lens as what he put in front of it. Filtered through the memories of such longtime Lipsett confidantes as Judith Sandiford, filmmaker Tanya Tree, artist Christopher Nutter, animator Ryan Larkin and NFB producers Colin Low and Donald Brittain, Remembering Arthur is an intimate portrait of a visionary, his body of work and the troubled last years of his life. Although Limpett's movies are exhilarating, it's the personal interviews that elevate Remembering Arthur beyond a normal biography. Sandiford recalls the early years, when she and Lipsett would comb Montreal second-hand stores for odd items to fuel his imagination; Low remembers the excitement generated by his early films.

Jonathan Culp Filmmaker, visiting from Toronto, with his short film Death Mask and feature doc, Remembering Arthur.

Monday 23 Apr 2007

Citizen Sam

Sam Sullivan was a local curiosity, the quadriplegic city councilor in a pinstripe suit, with a pipe dream of leading his shattered right wing party back to power. Citizen Sam goes deep inside Sullivan's mayoral campaign to tell the remarkable story behind his raise from obscurity.

With unprecedented access, director Joe Moulins blends the rough and tumble of the campaign with intimate moments from Sullivan's daily life. A brutally frank and funny video diary counts down the days to the election. From war room to bedroom, Citizen Sam is an unflinching portrait of the one-of-a-kind politician who has become the face of Vancouver on the international stage.

Monday 30 Apr 2007

Reds

This movie tells the true story of John Reed, a radical American journalist around the time of World War I. He soon meets Louise Bryant, a respectable married woman, who dumps her husband for Reed and becomes an important feminist and radical in her own right. After involvement with labor and political disputes in the US, they go to Russia in time for the October Revolution in 1917, when the Communists seized power. Inspired, they return to the US, hoping to lead a similar revolution. A particularly fascinating aspect of the movie is the inclusion of interviews with "witnesses", the real-life surviving participants in the events of the movie.

Sunday 6 May 2007

The "O" Tapes workshop

Chris Arnold*, director of *The **O** Tapes*, documentary, tells the successful struggle to overcome silent censorship, in a talk entitled: "Presenting Enlightened Sex .to a Mainstream Audience" Chris Arnold recounts the five years of trials and

triumphs producing this documentary about female orgasm, then selling it in Bush country, where sexual ignorance is bliss. The engagement is co-sponsored by *Movie Monday*, Victoria's most independent showcase for presenting films.

Monday 7 May 2007

Pursuit Of Happyness

A struggling salesman in little needed medical bone density scanners while his wife toiled in double shifts to support the family including their young son, Christopher. In the face of this difficult life, Chris has the desperate inspiration to try for a stockbroker internship where one in twenty has a chance of a lucrative full time career. Even when his wife leaves him because of this choice, Chris clings to this dream with his son even when the odds become more daunting by the day. Together, father and son struggle through homelessness, jail time, tax seizure and the overall punishing despair in a quest that would make Gardner a respected millionaire.

Monday 14 May 2007

When Billy Broke His Head and Other Tales of Wonder

I'm pleased to present, in collaboration with UVic's Disability Institute., this brilliant doc and have Billy himself call in from his home in Minneapolis to talk about this Guggenheim and Sundance Award-winning film, and his life since the 1994 wrap of the film.

When Billy Golfus, an award-winning radio journalist, became brain injured in a motor scooter accident, he became one of the forty-three million Americans with disabilities - the nation's largest and most invisible minority. But this video, as he says, "ain't exactly your inspirational cripple story." It's a documentary with attitude, which will entertain, enlighten, and even enrage its viewers.

We'll be joined in conversation with Billy by "live" guest Sol Mogerman, a friend of mine who has recovered well from a brain injury. Sol had an auto accident-induced stroke 20+ years ago but is now an author and registered clinical counsellor working with people with head injuries and other disabilities. Amazingly Sol has recently recovered much of his ability to play guitar, a talent that he thought for 20 years was lost to him.

Monday 21 May 2007

The Queen

The Queen is an intimate behind the scenes glimpse at the interaction between HM Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair during their struggle, following the death of Diana, to reach a compromise between what was a private tragedy for the Royal family and the public's demand for an overt display of mourning.

Saturday 26 May 2007

Senseless

Senseless takes an educational, entertaining and enlightening look at what it's like to live with a dual sensory impairment known as Usher syndrome. Through dialogues with four people in different stages of the condition, the film explores the misconceptions and subtleties of coping with this disability. Usher syndrome is a rare condition involving moderate to severe hearing loss from birth, combined with a degenerative eye disease known as retinitis pigmentosa (RP). The condition affects 4 out of 100,000 people, and is the leading cause of deaf-blindness.

Filmmaker Bio: Carrie Moffatt independently produced, filmed and edited this documentary as a student in the Applied Communication Program two-year diploma at Camosun College. She also has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria in Political Science and Environmental Studies. She has won several awards, including a MuchMoreMusic broadcast scholarship, and a National Film Board scholarship to attend a four-day Media that Matters conference at Hollyhock on Cortes Island to speak to media professionals about disability and the media. Carrie was diagnosed with hearing loss at age two, and later with Usher syndrome and RP at age 24.

Deaf-blindness: Note that any degree of hearing loss combined with any degree of vision loss which interferes with communication and acquiring information is considered deaf-blind even though a person may still have some useful vision and hearing.

Monday 28 May 2007

Plagues & Pleasures of the Salton Sea

Here's a colourful look at how a beautiful idea can go terribly wrong - but how people adapt to and interpret the new reality. A cast of bizarre characters surround this once promising vacation mecca, "California's Riviera" turned sewer by an engineering error. A chilling reminder to look after our beautiful part of the world.

Monday 4 Jun 2007

Methadonia

A very personal and thoughtful look at the realities of drug addiction. Filmed in NYC by a MM favourite filmmaker, Michel Negroponte (Jupiter's Wife), over 2 years, it follows a handful of long-time addicts through their histories, their current challenges, and a peer support/mentoring process run by a tough love former addict with "a heart of gold". Besides describing vividly the addict's struggles it looks hard at the pros and cons of methadone treatment.

Saturday 9 Jun 2007

Unrepentant

Kevin Annett, (the protagonist, ex-United Church Minister, and co-producer), will present the Victoria premiere at our venue. Really tough topic and indepth treatment. Hard to watch but important and quite shocking revelations. R

Here's one to watch with your thinking cap on. It presents this historical story from one perspective, the protagonist, Kevin Annett's. Based on his book and produced by him and filmmaker Louie Lawless, who will both be at the screening, it presents, unfettered, a version of the truth that in the film goes unchallenged by other points of view.

Monday 11 June 2007

Charlotte's Web

Wilbur the pig is scared of the end of the season, because he knows that come that time, he will end up on the dinner table. He hatches a plan with Charlotte, a spider that lives in his pen, to ensure that this will never happen. Voices as diverse as Julia Roberts, Steve Buscemi, John Cleese lend themselves to this delightful live-action family film.

Monday 18 June 2007

History Boys

"This smash stage hit made its way to the screen with its original cast intact. Veteran character actor Richard Griffiths stars as an rotund, eccentric teacher whose odd but effective methods are challenged by an intense newcomer whose only goal is to prepare his boys for university < even if it means learning by rote. "The History Boys offers food for thought<which makes it a rare bird among modern movies." - Maltin

Monday 25 June 2007

So Much So Fast

"A black-humoured cliffhanger of romance, guerrilla science and the redefinition of time, So Much So Fast unfolds like a nonfiction novel. Stephen Heywood finds out he has ALS, a neurodegenerative disease. His brother Jamie becomes obsessed with finding a cure. And the woman who's falling in love with Stephen has a decision to make."

This film really knocked me out when I saw it at VIFF last September. Here's a guy who, at 29, finds out he has a nasty disease. "He did what any young man might do in such a situation: He bought a motorcycle, got married, had a baby, and decided to cure the disease with the help of a younger brother." VIFF

Monday 2 July 2007

The Journals Of Knud Rasmussen

I hardly ever show a film I haven't seen but I'm so keen to see this new feature from the top of the world we're just going to do it. It'll be a slice. By the makers of ATANARJUAT: The Fast Runner.

A portrayal of the lives of the last great Inuit shaman, Avva, and his beautiful and headstrong daughter, Apak. Based on the journals of 1920s Danish ethnographer Knud Rasmussen.

"This cerebral, beautiful narrative, presented in an unusual and disturbing documentary style, takes us back in time to witness the repudiation of spirit helpers and the old ways." - Raymond Massey

"Epic scope and emotional intimacy are masterfully merged to create an overwhelming experience that, as with all myth, affects both subconsciously and directly." - Marguerite Pigott

Monday 9 Jul 2007

Facing the Demons

Facing the Demons documents the effort to create an extraordinary event - a "conference" between those responsible for a terrible murder, and the family and friends of the victim. Restorative justice is gaining attention as a method of healing and reconciliation. Conferences such as the one documented in this film can help criminals confront the enormity of their actions, perhaps preventing them from relapsing on the outside. For victims and their families, it can be a way of helping to end the ordeal. Capturing on film the emotionally charged confrontation between a murderer and his victim's family, Facing the Demons takes us through the entire process to bring about such communication.

"Powerful and deeply moving. A very vivid rendering of the complexities and pain flowing out a real crime when put through the lens of a restorative justice effort." Educational Media Reviews Online

Our guest is a world leader in the restorative justice practice. He says, "I was attracted by the idea that you show films at your local psych hospital and given the nature of the film 'Facing the Demons', there could be some very interesting and challenging issues arise in our conversation. Bear in mind that I have [over the last 17 years] facilitated restorative conferences for a range of serious crimes and incidents - many involving death, suicide, sexual abuse, and rape and so on. Many of those folk who participate have had a long history of involvement with counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists. Apart from being a cop for nearly 30 years, I also graduated with a social welfare degree in the late 1980's [majoring in psychology]. My experience reveals there is a lot of questionable practice happening that I think frankly offers very little."

Monday 16 Jul 2007

The Matador

"A hit man and a salesman walk into a bar." This is an off-beat, dark, comedy/drama that I thoroughly enjoyed. How could you become sympathetic with a cold blooded killer-for-hire? A regular family guy, Greg Kinnear, briefly meets a very good but lonely hit man brilliantly played by Pierce Brosnan. When this "facilitator of fatalities" shows up in a life crisis on the compassionate and intrigued salesman and his wife get swept up in his world. 14a language and some violence, sexual content.

Monday 23 Jul 2007

The Weather Underground

Outraged by the Vietnam War and racism in America, the organization waged a low-level war against the U.S. government through much of the 1970's, bombing the Capitol building, breaking Timothy Leary out of prison, and evading one of the largest FBI manhunts in history. How did American citizens come to adopt terrorist tactics against their own country? Looking back at their years underground, the former members paint a compelling portrait of troubled times, revolutionary times, and the forces that drove their resistance.

Monday 30 Jul 2007

Bridge To Terabithia

Based on the beloved book, this live action fantasy-adventure follows a couple of grade 7 kids, who are struggling with bullies at school and for attention at home, as they get to know each other and a half-imagined world where they reign supreme. Wonderfully acted, this is one of those films you watch closely as you just don't have any idea where it's going to take you.

Monday 6 Aug 2007

Forgotten Silver

In 1995, director Peter Jackson (The Lord Of The Rings and King Kong) paid a visit to his mother's next-door neighbor and made a shocking discovery that would change the course of film history forever. Here, Jackson would begin the search to unravel the astonishing legacy of Colin McKenzie, the greatest unknown cinema genius of all time.

Through archive photos, rare film footage and interviews with such experts as critic Leonard Maltin, producer Harvey Weinstein and actor Sam Neill, Jackson and co-director Costa Botes uncover the trials, triumphs and tragedies behind this pioneer's brilliant life and career. These startling achievements include McKenzie's invention of the steampowered projector, movie sound, color film and pornography, as well as the monumental discovery and restoration of the massive biblical epic that would ultimately destroy him. Nearly 70 years later, his tale can finally be told: This is the truly remarkable though not entirely true story of Forgotten Silver.

Plus a 'making of' by NFB: "Buster Keaton Rides Again" (1965, 55 min) a look at Buster on the set of the 1964 NFB film Railrodder, his 87th film, and his remarkable career and many insights into his stubbornly comic work style. B & W and finally - The Railrodder (NFB, 1965, 25 min), Buster Keaton. 25min Color! It is a slapstick cross-country travelogue cross-Canada on a sidecar - with no dialogue.

Thursday 9 Aug 2007

Disarm

In their independent documentary film Disarm, filmmakers Mary Wareham (Next Step Productions) and Brian Liu (Toolbox DC) present a contemporary and provocative view of the forces challenging the achievement of a landmine-free world. Looking beyond mines, Disarm offers a contemporary, intelligent and critical investigation into how weapons systems, war, and the way it is waged are being redefined in the twenty-first century with devastating consequences.

Monday 13 Aug 2007

The Paper

This 1994 comedy/drama by Ron Howard (Apollo 13) portrays the hub of city paper. The pressure cooker newsroom combo of "type A" personalities the need get the jump on the competition, balanced against deadlines and ethics. The Paper vacillates wildly between humour and poignant drama. Micheal Keaton is at his Beetle Juice best, with great performances by Robert Duvall, Marisa Tomei, Glen Close, Randy Quaid, even Spalding Gray. .

We'll have a couple of local seasoned newspaper men, Patrick Blennerhassett and Keith Norbury, of the News Group, with us to share some of their battle stories!

Keith Norbury has been the editor of the Victoria News. for three years. Previous to that he was the editor of the Goldstream News Gazette for 12 years and he has been an editorial employee for Black Press for 21 years and published his first article in 1976. Norbury and his staff recently won the 2007 Ma Murray Community Newspaper Award and the 2006 General Excellence Award from the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

Patrick Blennerhassett has been a senior reporter for the Victoria News for two and a half years. He is a Langara Journalism Grad where he was the editor-in-chief of the award-winning Langara Journalism Review. He has also worked for the Kamloops Daily News on both a full-time and freelance level and recently won a 2007 Jack Webster Fellowship Award.

Monday 20 Aug 2007

Monkey Warfare

Dan (Don McKellar) and Linda (Tracy Wright) are bohemians who survive by scavenging from garbage and trawling yard sales for items they can sell over the internet. Their precarious yet comfortable routine is thrown into hilarious

confusion when an attractive and mysterious young radical, enters their world and threatens their complacent lifestyle. Susan soon learns however, that she is not the only one with secrets.

Monday 27 Aug 2007

Psychedelic Pioneers

The story of The Psychedelic Pioneers is part leading edge medical research and part utopian idealism. Three gifted psychiatrists, in combination with an extraordinarily powerful drug, resulted in one of the most fascinating and controversial periods in Canadian history.

Before LSD burst on the scene as fuel for wild psychedelic trips, it had an amazing, yet little known history. A surprising part of that history was written in a remote corner of the Canadian Prairies. Over a span of fifteen years, from when the drug was first administered in 1952 until it was banned and made illegal in 1967, the use of LSD ranged from leading edge psychiatric research into schizophrenia and alcoholism to volunteer testing on the general public.

Monday 10 Sep 2007

Shut Up and Sing

Time again to look at the aftermath of 9-11. Here's a sparky little doc that follows the fortunes of the hottest band in America when, at a London concert, one of the members uttered the words, "We're ashamed that the president is from Texas". In a country that purports freedom of expression, the band received an extreme backlash, plummeting popularity, even death threats. This is the story of how the band survived, and thrived, through that time.

Monday 17 Sep 2007

Miss Potter

I don't know about you but I grew up with Peter Rabbit on the bottom of my porridge bowl. Here's a biopic, starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor, that looks at Potter's sudden massive popularity, a whimsical look at her creative process, and relationship to her characters, and her private life that included class barriers and a lost love.

Monday 24 Sep 2007

Away From Her

Writer-director Sarah Polley's feature film debut is an adaptation of one of her favorite short stories, Alice Munro's "The Bear Came Over the Mountain". It was adapted specifically for Julie Christie, who she coaxed from near retirement, and co-stars our own Gordon Pinsent. The story deals with a couple in their Sixties coping with the wife's Alzheimers disease.

We'll have folks with us from the local branch of the Alzheimers Society to ground the story in real experiences and to hook people up with an invaluable resource for people going through the losses and stresses of Alz and dementia.

Monday 1 Oct 2007

Lives of Others

Captain Wiesler is a wiretapping expert with the Stasi (East German Secret Police) in the mid-eighties. His subjects, a playwright with views against the totalitarian state and his actress companion, start to challenge his beliefs through his overheard conversations. An engrossing human drama that won the Best Foreign Film Oscar this year.

Monday 8 Oct 2007

Hot Fuzz

Somewhat of a departure for MM - but this film is FUN! A remarkably sweet comedy action flick by the makers of Shaun Of The Dead. Big cops, small town, considerable violence.

Monday 15 Oct 2007

Shameless: The Art Of Disability

Special guests in attendance! * Award-winning director Bonnie Sherr Klein returned to filmmaking after a catastrophic stroke changed her life in 1987. From this unique perspective, she brings the audience into her new world of disability culture. Art, activism and disability are the starting point in what unfolds as a funny and intimate portrait of five surprising individuals, including Klein herself. Humourist David Roche is working on taking his one-man show, The Church of 80% Sincerity, to New York (and Victoria - twice). Writer, scholar and activist Catherine Frazee pushes her limits with a full schedule of teaching and speaking engagements. Dancer, choreographer and impresario Geoff McMurphy is organizing kickstART2, an international festival of disability art - Victoria 2008. Sculptor and writer Persimmon Blackbridge is creating mixed-media portraits from each character's 'meaningful junk'.

Monday 22 Oct 2007

Alexei and The Spring

The village of Budische, on the border of Belarus and Russia, is no longer on the map. After the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster 21 years ago all the inhabitants were ordered to leave. But 55 elders and one younger, slightly disabled man, Alexei, elected to stay. Miraculously the spring that is the heart of their community was completely free of the radiation that has polluted the countryside. This film, by a Japanese filmmaker, Masaru Motohashi, follows them through a year of their almost 19th Century existence. I found it a beautiful meditation on a tantalizingly wholesome, simple way of life that persists in the ashes of a high tech nightmare.

Saturday 27 Oct 2007

My Own Private Etobicoke

It is the premiere of the new DVD version of her performance of My Own Private Etobicoke which Eufemia Fantetti will present in person with an interactive Q&A

period following. It's a terrific example of great theatre being born from painful personal experience.

My Own Private Etobicoke is a personal account of surviving a childhood rife with secrets, superstition and schizophrenia - all on a steady diet of sugar. The play is a compelling and humorous monologue about growing up in a house where chaos was a constant companion; a story of living with schizophrenia as a family member and ultimately surmounting shame and stigma. Every family has a secret; this was ours.

"My father believes he's married the devil's minion, my mother shops like she's married to Onassis and my name rhymes with a disease. Life is good."

This is the first of a series of MM's SATURDAY LIVE! events made possible by funding from the 2006 Michael Miller Memorial Ride.

Monday 29 Oct 2007

Cracked Not Broken

Cracked Not Broken opens a disturbing window on the life of Lisa, a 37-year-old crack-cocaine addict and estranged mother of one who prostitutes herself to fuel her costly drug habit. Although she grew up in an upper middle-class family, went to the right schools and had the right friends, something went terribly wrong. Filmed almost entirely in the Toronto hotel room she lives in and works out of, Cracked Not Broken portrays a highly intelligent, vivacious, articulate and hyperactive woman juggling cell phone and drug paraphernalia with equal dexterity while talking with incredible frankness to filmmaker Paul Perrier* - the husband of one of Lisa's oldest friends - about the struggles of being in "the game" and her quest for redemption. Cracked Not Broken chronicles Lisa's faltering steps toward recovery and her early efforts to educate others about the illness of addiction.

Monday 5 Nov 2007

Unspeakable

Stuttering is as old as human speech. The biblical Moses stuttered. Winston Churchill, Marilyn Monroe, King George VI and James Earl Jones were also afflicted with the disorder - yet it remains a medical enigma. Unspeakable examines the nature, history and treatment of a speech impediment that affects about 1% of the world's population. John Paskievich, the film's director, is a person who stutters. He also narrates and is an active participant in the film. His story and the stories of others in the film are poignant, funny, angry and courageous, providing eloquent testimony to what it means to live imprisoned in what the poet W.H. Auden called "the tower of stutter." According to Paskievich, "the film is a call for liberation, not from stuttering, but from the ignorance and stigma that surround it."

Monday 12 Nov 2007

Radiant City

Gary Burns and Jim Brown peer into the windows - and lives - of those who call suburbia home. Suburban communities are examined and criticized by experts like University of Toronto's Mark Kingwell and author James Howard Kunstler. The legacy of the suburbs is traced from the rise of the automobile to the arrival of the "new urbanists," who look to pre-war models for designing future communities. Yet Radiant City is more than a critical dissertation on the suburbs. Burns lends the movie his witty, satirical edge, crafting a film that's informative, insightful and hilarious. Cinematographer Patrick McLaughlin provides a vivid backdrop for Burns's humour and Brown's journalism, while Joey Santiago of The Pixies gives the film an added urgency with a grinding rock soundtrack. Like the identical streetscapes of a housing division, Radiant City hides secrets behind its glossy exterior that, once revealed, change not only how we view the 'burbs, but also the movie we've just seen.

Monday 19 Nov 2007

A Healing River

A Healing River takes is a thought provoking look at the issues of trauma, recovery and the psychology of restorative process. It then challenges us all to take an active role in creating safer and healthier communities. The film includes interviews with some of North America's leading thinkers and most experienced practitioners in the restorative justice movement. With filmmakers and special guests.

It will test your doubt/belief in restorative justice to see Warren Glowatski, who is serving time for his part in the Virk murder speaking candidly about his healing journey. There are video segments of his interviews on the site. He and others doing time were involved in interviews, logging and editing the film!

Saturday 24 Nov 2007

Cracking Up

Saturday Live!

An evening with David Granirer.

David will entertain you with his stand-up comedy act on the lighter side of mental health and talk about his Stand Up For Mental Health program. We'll show Cracking Up and David will do a book signing for his book The Happy Neurotic: How Fear and Angst Can Lead To Happiness and Success.

Cracking Up is a life-affirming CBC documentary about people with mental illness who embark on a quirky quest to become stand up comics. The film follows 11 courageous people who suffer from mental illness as they pursue a year of stand up comedy. Part fun and part therapy, the course, entitled Stand Up For Mental Health is the brainchild of Vancouver counselor, stand-up comic, and author of

The Happy Neurotic: How Fear and Angst Can Lead To Happiness and Success
David Granirer. "It's like 'The Full Monty' except people want us to keep our clothes on", he says.

Monday 26 Nov 2007

Ratatouille

It's tough to have aspirations to work in the best restaurant kitchens in the world - and to be a rat. Remy is a young rat in the French countryside who arrives in Paris, only to find out that his cooking idol is dead. When he makes an unusual alliance with a restaurant's new garbage boy, the culinary and personal adventures begin despite Remy's family's skepticism and the rat-hating world of humans. Delightfully realized! G warning: lots of rats in the kitchen.

Monday 3 Dec 2007

Talk To Me

Based on a true story, this is the unlikely tale of Petey Greene, who started out in 'the projects' and after a life of crime and serious prison time, became the influential, hip DJ voice on WOL radio in Washington DC. He was an integral part of the rise of the Black movement in the 60's.

We'll talk about the real story, which, as usual, is more amazing than the Hollywood package. R for funky bad language throughout.

Monday 10 Dec 2007

The US vs. John Lennon

This doc will be a reminder, around the anniversary 27 years ago, of John Lennon's untimely death, of his valor and no-retreat mindset. John's amazing career is described but also the cat and mouse game, pitting his fame and eccentric peace activities against a paranoid regime - and the paranoia that regime in turn created in his life. With songs such as "Imagine," "Give Peace A Chance", "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" and "Revolution" and the infamous Bed-In, Lennon challenged the government-of-the-time's oppressive behavior - a scenario similar to today's.

Monday 17 Dec 2007

Hairspray

The 1988 John Waters "nicest" comedy that'll take you Boomers right back to "Club Six" days, (or whatever your city's after-school dance party show was - I always wanted to be one of those cool camera operators) and back to when TV was B&W, hair was high, good ole' doo wop tunes were plentiful, and life was simple (was it ever simple?).

A chubby teen whose dreams of becoming a dancer lead her to a newfound popularity. Great fun. Pg

Trivia: Director John Waters appears as the psychiatrist with the spinning hypno wheel to 'save' poor Penny Pingleton.

On YouTube watch Jonathan Ross's 1988 Incredibly Strange Film Show. highlighting the films of John Waters and Divine, with footage of the 1988 Baltimore Premiere of Hairspray and interviews with Waters, Divine (aka Glenn Milstead) and his mother. Sadly Divine died a few days later.

Monday 22 Dec 2007

Stuart Saves His Family

An all time favourite; funny and wise, and starring Al Franken (author of, among other politically astute books, "Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot and other observations" - GVPL Call Number: 973.929 FRA) as the sweet-but-bound-to-a-crazy-family-and-addicted-to-support-group Stuart Smalley. You might enjoy a read of 'I'm Good Enough, I'm Smart Enough and Doggone It, People Like Me: Daily Affirmations' By Stuart Smalley (aka Al Franken) to prepare yourself for your own New Year of personal growth and this film treat. Stuart Saves His Family even has a boffo Christmassy conclusion!

Monday 22 Dec 2007

Wattstax This

"Black Woodstock" lined up all the hot Black entertainers of the time, including Isaac Hayes and the Staple Singers, to rebuild the down-trodden Watts neighbourhood's a sense of Black Pride. The film also features commentary segments by many African Americans who muse on how things have been and how they've changed in Watts since the riots that tore the city apart seven years earlier. Richard Pryor, at the top of his game, glues it together with his biting comedy riffs. Watch for a lovely example of crowd control, both impressive and hilarious, when the audience began to storm the field.

Archives 2008

Monday 7 Jan 2008

Who Loves The Sun & Tunnel Vision

The story of a man's sudden return after a mysterious five-year disappearance reunites him with his wife and his best friend at his friend's folk's lake cottage. A comedy/drama that is delightful in it's simplicity, humour, Canadian setting, and honest moral complexity. Shot in the wilds of eastern Manitoba and western Ontario, edited in TO.

Monday 14 Jan 2008

Too Much Hamlet For Me

How could a simple journey for a grief-stricken family, become a world-record cycling expedition, up a 22,500 foot mountain, ten thousand miles from home? It takes nineteen years to produce an unfinished uplifting film - about not giving up.

"TOO MUCH HAMLET FOR ME" is the crazy-making vision of local filmmaker Lois Harrison. She and her director of photography, Bob Fresco, will be joining us to present it, almost finished, in this test screening.

Monday 21 Jan 2008

8:17 Darling Street

A man who has spent most of his life feeling numb to the world has his eyes opened by a brush with tragedy. This mystery/drama follows an ex-crime reporter, struggling to stay on the sobriety wagon, who, because of a simple chance, arrives at his address just after his apartment building has been destroyed by an explosion. He reluctantly picks up his investigative skills to attempt to solve the mystery of how it happened, but is haunted by deeper and intensely personal questions; Why did he survive when neighbours didn't?, What is the meaning of life itself?

Monday 28 Jan 2008

The Cabin Movie

When three couples get together at a cabin for a weekend of sex and partying, all of their relationships are called into question in this darkly comic drama. Married Katherine and Mark haven't had sex in a year; common-law Ken and Maria are trying to keep it together; and Jason just met wild-girl Ginny the weekend before. Maybe this wasn't such a good plan after all. or maybe it's just what everyone needs. The Cabin Movie cuts to the heart of sexual politics, presenting some of the most exposed, raw, and honest characters in contemporary Canadian cinema. It's funny and edgy and a contemporary version of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, an all time fave of mine.

Monday 4 Feb 2008

Vitus

This Swiss film was deservedly their entry for the Oscar in 2006. Vitus is a boy genius, a brilliant pianist, but a misfit in a flat-footedly normal world. The child prodigy prefers to play in his eccentric grandfather's workshop. He dreams of flying and of a normal childhood. Ultimately, with one dramatic leap, Vitus takes control of his own life. Beautifully made and full of surprises.

Monday 11 Feb 2008

King Corn & Grand Wheel

This feature documentary is a gentle look through the eyes of two "everymen" who plant an acre of corn in Iowa. They watch it grow and investigate what happens to it. It's a gentle, creative way to explore the wonders and foibles of modern day mega-agri-business and food distribution.

Monday 18 Feb 2008

Knocked Up & The Windfisherman

A surprisingly sweet comedy about a free-wheeling one night stand and unexpected repercussions. Now a career girl has to decide if this decidedly immature, geeky man could be a father to her babe. And he is trying – very trying. Knocked Up is somewhat raunchy but I found it ultimately winning.

Monday 25 Feb 2008

Dog Gone Addiction & A Russian Wave

Inspired by the Women of the Yukon Quest. Hang onto your dog team and join three women tackling the grueling Yukon Quest; a 1000 mile sled dog race through the Yukon and into Alaska's frigid Interior. They test their limits, driving their dog teams through record cold temperatures and over icy mountain passes amid mental exhaustion. Feel their pain as they question their abilities, and celebrate their triumphs when they overcome obstacles small and large. You will be entertained by their spirit, touched by their vulnerabilities and, ultimately, wowed by the incredible strength these women possess. This entertaining film will reveal why the lesser-known Yukon Quest is considered by many to be the most challenging sled dog race on the planet.

Monday 3 Mar 2008

Stardust

The passage from this world to the fantasy kingdom of Stormhold is through a breach in a wall by an English village. In the 1800s, a boy becomes a man when he ventures through the breach to prove his love for the village beauty by finding a fallen star. The star is no lump of rock, but a maiden - and there begins a tale.

Monday 10 Mar 2008

Being Innu & Reservation Soldiers

Here are a couple of new independent Canadian films that explore the problems faced by young people who live in remote aboriginal communities.

Being Innu takes an unvarnished look at life in the village of Sheshatshiu, Labrador. Six savvy, gutsy young people talk to Montreal filmmaker Catherine Mullins about addiction, suicide, lack of jobs, hopelessness. How did it get this way and how can it change? The countryside glows with breathtaking cinematography

Reservation Soldiers takes a close look at the complex relationship between the Canadian Forces and First Nations youth, following several young Western Canadian youth through the Strong Eagle boot camp process. The military have pushed their recruitment drive into high gear, and native youth represent the perfect untapped resource. Why are these teens so keen to participate? What options are there? You'll be surprised at the conclusions.

Saturday 15 Mar 2008

Saturday Live! David Roche

The new book, "The Church of 80% Sincerity" David Roche shares the inspiring, poignant, wickedly funny, and sometimes heartbreaking story of his journey from shame to self-acceptance. Born with a severe facial deformity, David's life has been anything but easy. Still, over time, he's learned to accept his gifts as well as his flaws, and to see that, sometimes, they are one and the same. In this compelling book, he shares his hard-earned lessons, providing an irresistible and unforgettable glimpse of his (and everyone's) inner beauty and offering profound encouragement in dealing with whatever life brings.

Monday 17 Mar 2008

Into The Wild

A young man goes walkabout in America, searching for himself. The film flashes back through a number of people he meets and experiences he finds on his way to the ultimate "wilderness experience" he yearns for. The cracks in the picture of the privileged life he's escaping are gradually revealed. A very rewarding film experience.

Monday 24 Mar 2008

Deep Water

It's been 40 years since the first solo around the world sailing race. Now, from the maker of the incredible Touching The Void this retelling of the race, the unusual characters attracted by the challenge, and particularly Donald Crowhurst's story. He was an electronics inventor who hoped the race would prove out some of his inventions and win him the kind of esteem that Chichester had garnered for his solo circumnavigation a year earlier, in 1967. To say the least, the voyage did not go well - and has become one of the great stories of the canon of deep sea sailors' stories.

Monday 31 Mar 2008

Helvetica

These days everybody is a desktop publisher and is choosing fonts to express themselves. Helvetica is a feature-length independent film about typography, graphic design and global visual culture. It looks at the proliferation of one typeface (which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2007) as part of a larger conversation about the way type affects our lives. The film is an exploration of urban spaces in major cities and the type that inhabits them, and a fluid discussion with renowned designers about their work, the creative process, and the choices and aesthetics behind their use of type.

Helvetica encompasses the worlds of design, advertising, psychology, and communication, and invites us to take a second look at the thousands of words we see every day.

Monday 7 Apr 2008

Flirting

A great film from Australia about forbidden love between an oddly sophisticated, awkward young guy, and a beautiful young border in the girls school across the river. Wonderfully played by Noah Taylor, the stunningly beautiful Thandie Newton (who you may remember from "Besieged") and very young Nicole Kidman.

All kinds of angst about sexuality, trouble with peer groups, and adults whose job it is to keep young lovers "appropriately apart" are played out so well.

Saturday 12 Apr 2008

Petals - Journey Into Self Discovery

Petals - Journey into Self Discovery graphically explores a most taboo subject - the personal and cultural body issues of women and their vulvae. The documentary examines the many unspoken beliefs and myths that effect women's sexual self-esteem.

Monday 14 Apr 2008

Killer of Sheep

This incredible film was first seen launched 1977, but 30 years later emerged re-edited, remastered, and beautifully presented in this Criterion Collection special edition. Long revered as an American masterpiece, Killer of Sheep is a powerful slice-of-life drama about Black society in Watts in the 70's, grittily and artfully observed. Beautifully filmed black and white, in an almost documentary style with great sound track, originally produced for under \$10,000, it delivers an intimate portrait of a conflicted family man, who by the way works in an abattoir. Don't be put off by the title!

Monday 21 Apr 2008

Lars and The Real Girl

I love this film! A very nerdy young man adopts a lifelike doll. And his family and community accept them, in an almost believable way - a way we can only hope

the world might adopt. You'll be surprised and entertained and maybe changed a little - which is always on the MM agenda.

Saturday 26 Apr 2008

Loose Change Final Cut

The 9/11 Truth group in Victoria presents this controversial documentary: "Using witness testimony, expert analysis, news footage and corroborating evidence this film exposes the inconsistencies and blatant lies put forward by the Bush administration in the hours, days and weeks after the Twin Towers and the Building #7 imploded into their own tracks."

Monday 28 Apr 2008

Steep

This RIDICULOUS big mountain skiing film will blow you away! Not only incredible action but a compelling story line involving the history, modern day adventurers and a deep exploration into why people intentionally put themselves in harm's way for the ultimate high. <http://www.sonyclassics.com/steep/> and try not to be curious. Watch it on our big screen in your comfy, very safe seat.

Monday 5 May 2008

Back From The Edge and Not Just A Bad Day

Here are two new documentaries about positive outcomes for serious mental illness conditions, Borderline Personality and Bipolar Disorders: Back From The Edge: Living with and recovering from borderline personality disorder and Not Just A Bad Day about a model treatment center in Vancouver for people with Bipolar disorder. Both Pg 13

Monday 12 May 2008

Finding Normal

Here's a film that I think all of us in Victoria who are trying to find answers to the complex problems of addiction and what recovery might look like, should see.

"This mentor run program has about a 70 percent success rate, often with people who have failed multiple times in recovery."

".a thoroughly engrossing documentary by Brian Lindstrom about a group of Portland drug addicts and their rehab counselors trying day-by-day to keep. themselves clean, sober and together. The film is raw and real, filled with undeniable moments of pain and elation and human personality. It's impossible to imagine a more honest look at this all-too-common world."

We'll have the filmmaker Brian Lindstrom and several of the mentors with us by phone from Portland to discuss the subject with the audience.

Pharis from Outlaw Social will perform two songs on the theme that will set the mood for the evening.

Saturday 19 May 2008

Death At A Funeral

How badly can a funeral go? Here's a light, slightly dark entertainment from "The Old Country" for the Victoria Holiday Monday. Dad passed away but left a secret. A few squabbling children, relatives, and friends gather - add past romantic interests of several of the above, anxieties, jealousies, a little blackmail - add a sprinkling of hallucinogens - and you've got yourselves a good ole time.

Added Short: Victoria writer and now filmmaker Rob Wipond's theatrical premiere of his short film Presto God. Visit Rob's website where you can read his articles and leave your comments on his film.

Monday 26 May 2008

Mystic Ball

Passion suffuses every moment of Mystic Ball, an uplifting documentary about one man's physical and spiritual quest. The film resists easy categorization - it's simultaneously a thrilling sports movie, an insightful journey to a new world, and a lyrical personal story.

Mystic Ball follows Greg Hamilton, the Canadian filmmaker, deep into the ancient and little-known culture of Myanmar and its traditional sport, chinlone. Like the film, chinlone is hard to define. It's a team sport without an opposing team, part dance, part meditation. There is no competition, no winners and no losers. The game is back-breakingly difficult, yet is played by almost all Burmese, from young children to octogenarians.

The film follows Greg's transformation from outsider obsessed with learning chinlone to accomplished teammate of the masters of the game. But sport is only one aspect of his journey. Through chinlone, Greg discovers things he didn't even know he was looking for: family, community and love.

Here's a brilliant film that MM was planning on screening May 26 that is particularly topical now.

The maker, Greg Hamilton, will be phoning in to talk about the, film, country, and his upcoming trip back there to personally deliver funds, Raised by screenings of his film, to the people in the film directly affected by the disaster.

The film introduces you to these lovely people and their passion for this beautiful sport, bypassing (necessarily) the politics. A great way to assist in spite this crazy political situation that has turned people away from helping out these poor folks who have been clobbered by this calamity.

Saturday 31 May 2008

Strong Coffee

STRONG COFFEE tells the story of a revolutionary idea that is helping people in need all over the world. Café Femenino beans are the first and only coffee beans grown entirely by women farmers. Remarkably, the Café Femenino project is helping to change long-established attitudes and weaken the grip of machismo in remote farming communities. In response, a cultural shift is taking place. There is more equality between women and men, abuse and violence towards women are decreasing, and the quality of life in these regions is improving. STRONG COFFEE also shows how Café Femenino helps women in our own communities too.

Monday 2 Jun 2008

Autism: The Musical

Autism: The Musical counters today's bleak statistics with one woman's optimistic pledge to lead a group of autistic children in defying diagnosed expectations by writing, rehearsing and performing their own full-length musical. Following five Los Angeles children over the course of six months, director Tricia Regan captures the struggles and triumphs of their family lives and observes how this musical production gives these performers a comfort zone in which they can explore their creative sides.

Friday 6 Jun 2008

Autism: The Musical

see 2 Jun 2008.

Saturday 7 Jun 2008

Crazy About Laurel House / A.C.E.

The members of Laurel House, an activity center for people with mental illness, take on the authorities that threaten to close their second home, the place that helps them to maintain a good quality of life. And they win.

Monday 9 Jun 2008

Sharkwater

Just when you thought it was unsafe to go in the water. Here's a guy who set out to show us the beauty of these primitive creatures we've been taught to fear. He came up with a different film altogether. Canadian filmmaker, 8 years in the making, beautiful underwater footage and hair raising adventure.

Monday 16 Jun 2008

Cannery Row

Hey we're 15 and this is the show MM opened with and still a treat. I love this film for its off-beat, almost surrealistic setting and characters, based on John Steinbeck stories. The yarn is about a brooding ocean biologist (Nick Nolte) and a girl (Debra Winger), a novice at the 'oldest profession', a group of creative ne'er-do-wells, and a few thousand frogs. There's going to be cake! PG

"A depressed section of Monterey, California, known as Cannery Row from its string of now-empty canning plants is the backdrop for an offbeat romantic comedy about a pair of mismatched lovers. Doc is a lonely marine biologist (and former baseball star) who supplies specimens for science labs and classrooms. Suzy is a scrappy drifter who can't even succeed as a prostitute because of her abrasive manner. When the two get together, it's fireworks, though not the romantic kind. Not to worry, everything is in the hands of Cannery Row's resident guardian angels, Mack and the boys, a band of drunken derelicts whose hearts are in the right place, even though their brains are not." IMDB

Cast: Nick Nolte, Debra Winger, Audra Lindley, Frank McRae, John Huston.

I'm very excited to announce that Director David Ward will be calling in from his home in Santa Monica to talk to us about this classic film! I want to know about Nolte and Wingers goofy dance sequence and what it was like on stage with thousands of frogs everywhere!

Director/screenwriter David Ward brings a distinguished filmography to leading the screenwriting program in the Dodge College. In addition to directing such films as Major League and Cannery Row, he won an Academy Award for his screenplay for The Sting and was nominated for Sleepless in Seattle. David continues as an active director, with two features currently in production. He was previously our Marion Knott Filmmaker-in-Residence. He has an M.F.A. in Motion Pictures from U.C.L.A. and studied political science at Pomona College, where he is a member of the board of trustees.

We'll start with cake, then the film and then Q&A.

Monday 23 Jun 2008

River Of Life

River of Life chronicles the experiences of one group of racers in this annual 740 km race down the Yukon River by determined women who make up the 2006 Paddlers Abreast team are all breast cancer survivors. Candid and revealing, this beautifully-realized documentary follows the women from the moment they climb into their boat in Whitehorse to the cheers that greet them in Dawson City. Set against the stunning backdrop of Canada's north, this film combines lively footage of the race with touching and humorous interviews with the women, their families, and other paddlers.

Our guest, Ava P Christl, is the woman who initiated the first Paddlers Abreast entry in 2001 is now a Victoria resident. Her art, large scale oil canvases is inspired by her Yukon days and canoeing adventures.

Monday 30 Jun 2008

Louis 19 – King of the Airwaves

This little French Canadian film from 1994 is a treat. It hilariously predicted the fad for "reality TV". Louis has always had a dream to be on television. But when he enters a contest and wins, the first prize involves a cameraman following him

everywhere for three months. The only problem is that Louis has a boring life, so the TV executives decide to put some excitement in it. This odd quiet man's life becomes the rage of Quebec society as his astonishing, stumbling metamorphosis is broadcast live.

Here's a smart and gentle comedy that won Best Canadian Screenplay and Most Popular Canadian Film at Vancouver International Film Fest and I bet you never heard of it .Canadians. geez eh! We'll be finished in lots of time to catch the fireworks.

Cast: Martin Drainville, Dominique Michel, Patricia Tulasne.

The American film EDTv was an adaptation of Louis 19.

Monday 7 Jul 2008

The Butterfly and Diving Bell

Far from a "Who's Life Is It Anyway", this film about Jean-Dominique Bauby, a high-flying editor of Elle Magazine, paralyzed by a stroke in 1995. It's also about life and its possibilities, in spite of severe disability, a theme I love to explore at MM. Based closely on the autobiographical book by the same title, this is an amazing, intense film you won't forget.

Cast: Mathieu Amalric, Emmanuelle Seigner, Anne Consigny, Emma De Caunes, Max von Sydow. With guests Ann Jacob and Stan Tomandl

Monday 14 Jul 2008

Mandela - Prisoner To President

Featuring Peter Davis' documentary Mandela – Prisoner To President, plus Journey To Nyae Nyae, another from Davis' Villon stable of films about Africa, that shows us the story of N!Xau, the Bushman hero of the most successful African film ever made, The Gods Must Be Crazy. What was his life really about? We'll have a photo exhibit in our lobby gallery as well as filmmaker Peter Davis, who now lives in Vancouver, with us to fill us in on "the rest of the story".

Peter Davis: Under the aegis of Villon Films, the company which he founded, British born director Peter Davis has been independently producing and distributing award-winning films since 1970. With a strong focus on socio-political documentary, Davis' work spans such issues as government, history, ecology, culture, health and science, women's issues, biography, and the apartheid period of South African history. Visit his collection of films at the Black Film Center in Indiana.

From Peter: "Around 1986, fearing that Nelson Mandela had been forgotten or ignored - this was certainly the case with Britain's Margaret Thatcher, who dismissed him as a terrorist, and President Reagan, who thought he was irrelevant - I had the idea of doing a documentary on the powerful political force that had come about through the union of Nelson and Winnie Mandela. I raised some money through the United Nations, but had the problem of being persona non grata in South Africa, having been arrested and deported from that country

in 1976. But I did manage to cross the border illegally, and make my way to Brandfort, where Winnie was in internal exile. I interviewed her there - narrowly missing a visit by the police - and eventually made the documentary Winnie Mandela: Under Apartheid, which was distributed worldwide.

However, I had a bad conscience about this film, because of Nelson's absence - he was on Robben Island - and the inevitable result that Winnie's strong personality dominated the film. So I eventually made my bio of Nelson, Remember Mandela! This was completed in 1988, when I believed that Mandela would never be released. The film had some impact, since it was shown on the opening day of the Democratic Convention of 1988, which was July 18, Nelson's birthday. Mandela: Prisoner to President, is a version that goes up to Mandela's release in 1990. I can fill in some details for the period after that. The photo exhibition [we'll be hanging in MM's lobby/gallery] ran throughout the Convention period.

I have been fortunate enough to see Mandela a few times since his release in 1990, the last time being last year, at the inauguration of the new statue to him in Parliament Square in London. I have also curated the current exhibition about him at the Museum of London."

Monday 21 Jul 2008

The Tracy Fragments

This novel film, the latest from Bruce MacDonald, Canada's 'bad boy' filmmaker, features the breakout Maritime actor, Ellen Page (Juno, Marion Bridge), as a troubled teen on a quest to find her little brother - who she has hypnotized to act like a dog. . The sometimes multi-screen format gives an impression of the fragmented experience of her difficult world. I found it an exhilarating film experience.

We'll talk to Director Bruce MacDonald by phone (from Toronto) about its making and the novel opportunity he gave fans to 'un-fragment' it to compete for a prize for best result.

Cast: Ellen Page, Libby Adams, Shawn Ahmed, Stephen Amell, Jackie Brown

Monday 28 Jul 2008

Garbage Warrior

This brilliant doc could just change the world. That's the ambition of the protagonist who gave up his architect license to build 'green' housing out of garbage - all the good stuff we're so busy throwing in dumps. Heroically battling with bureaucracies, technical hitches in his off-the-grid subdivision in New Mexico, and heading for the eye of hurricane and tsunami wracked communities to put his ideas to work, our man is undeterred, full of innovation and passion.

Monday 4 Aug 2008

BC Day - For B.C.'s 150 - B.C. Boomer Special Event!

First we'll visit the 40's, 50's, and 60's in B.C. when cigarettes and sun tanning and aimless driving vacations were good things. We'll visit the Fraser Valley and Okanagan with two campy 12-15 minute, tourist-attracting, Government made docs called Evergreen Playland presented by B.C. archivist Dennis J. Duffy.

Then: 1967. Hippies were a big threat to "our way of life" - unless you were aspiring to be one.

We'll see The Trips Festival and 1967 Easter Stanley Park "Be In". As well, psychedelic music with the likes of Gerry Garcia and Janis Joplin bringing the Devil's music to Vancouver. And an amazing interview with Mayor Tom Campbell taking a firm stand on "those people". Our guide, Stan Fox, who worked for CBC at the time but who seems to have "gone over to the other side", was in Vancouver and ventured to the mecca, Haight-Ashbury, documenting the phenomena with a sympathetic camera. Pg about 70 min plus lots of discussion.

Monday 11 Aug 2008

The Savages

A film about growing old, and growing up. For two estranged siblings, out of the blue, comes the call that their elderly father they have long feared, Lenny Savage, has lost it. And there is no one to help him but his kids. Amid a sibling rivalry battle over how to handle their father's final days, they are forced to face the past and finally start to realize what adulthood, family and, most surprisingly, each other are really about. A totally believable, entertaining, absorbing story with a perfect cast.

Cast: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Laura Linney, and Philip Bosco.

Monday 18 Aug 2008

She's A Boy I Knew

An incredible film from Vancouver about a young man becoming a woman, but more particularly about his family, wife and friends' adjustment to his decision.

"Using archival family footage, interviews, phone messages, and animation, Haworth's documentary She's a Boy I Knew begins in 2000 with Steven Haworth's decision to come out to his family about his life-long female gender identity. The resulting auto-ethnography is not only an exploration into the film maker's process of transition from biological male to female, from Steven to Gwen, but also an emotionally charged account of the individual experiences, struggles, and stakes that her two sisters, mother, father, best friend and wife brought to Gwen's transition."

Monday 25 Aug 2008

Gridlock'd

How hard can it be to get into rehab? An 'odd couple' of druggie buddies realize it's time to get out of this dangerous lifestyle, but Detroit's system bounces them around like a pin ball and they have some bad dudes on their tale, the result of one of their short term scams for cash. Tom Roth, Tupak Shakur, and Thandie Newton – all brilliant performances. Vibrant, gritty comedy. Language, nudity, drug use. R

With colour from the director via author/film studies teacher/filmmaker Richard Beck Peacock who interviewed Vondie Curtis-Hall about making Gridlock'd for his book "The Art Of Movie Making – Script To Screen".

Cast: Tim Roth, Tupac Shakur, Thandie Newton, Charles Fleischer, Howard Hesseman, James Pickens Jr.

Monday 8 Sep 2008

Colma The Musical

Just outside San Francisco is Colma, famous as Frisco's burial ground, and a tough place for three buddies, recent high school grads, to find their paths. Here's a fresh, micro budget, high concept, musical version of that teenaged angst experience. R Some rough language, adult themes.

Monday 15 Sep 2008

Bee Movie

Here's one we missed. Why the lukewarm reviews? I found Bee Movie a surprisingly engrossing, delightful romp - inventive and fun, much like the Toy Story wonders. Enjoy! Jerry Seinfeld wrote and voiced this surprisingly complex story of a humble bee who decides not to comply with the usual expectations for his kind - to pick a job, work hard all your life doing that one thing. G

voices: Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman

Monday 22 Sep 2008

Thank You For Smoking & Say No To Big Tobacco Co

Why are people who struggle with mental illness particularly vulnerable to nicotine addiction? Tonight we'll present a MM fave Thank You For Smoking with a short made by EMP RN Joan O'Connor who is charged with the Smoking Reduction and Cessation Program for the EMP Psychiatric Day Hospital. Her music video 'Just Say No to Big Tobacco Co' will be presented by members of her group who are helping each other, and modelling, kicking the habit.

The feature is a fiercely satirical and funny look at today's "culture of spin" that perpetuates this unhealthy habit. The hero is Nick Naylor, chief spokesman for Big Tobacco, who makes his living defending the rights of smokers and cigarette

makers in today's neo-puritanical society. Outrageous fun! Directed by Canada's bright young filmmaker, Jason Reitman (Juno). R for language and some sexual content.

"Nearly half of all cigarettes sold are smoked by people who have a mental disorder, and smoking substantially reduces the effectiveness of many medications prescribed to treat mental illness. As more Americans quit, continued smoking is becoming a marker for other substance addictions and/or mental illness."cast: Joan Lunden, Eric Haberman, Aaron Eckhart, Mary Jo Smith, Todd Louiso

Monday 29 Sep 2008

Sybil

Here's a real life story, brilliantly told that explores dissociative disorder, sometimes called multiple personality disorder. It's about a survivor of early childhood abuse that, as a young teacher, dissociates into 16 distinct personalities. Mostly it's about a healing relationship between patient (Sally Fields) and therapist (Joanne Woodward). Many people know of this story through the hair-raising book, *Sybil*, (1973). The film (1976) was written by Stewart Stern who thoroughly researched and rewrote the story from original transcripts and interviews with the therapist. It's 198 minute long but totally captivating - not a scene to be missed. The crisp 30 year Anniversary Collectors Edition DVD has extras such as interviews with the makers, actors, and examples "Sybil's" own art. (Yo Video has it)

R some disturbing scenes - but you'll surely find this film and discussion a rich experience.cast: Joanne Woodward, Sally Field, Brad Davis, Martine Bartlett

Monday 2 Oct 2008

Devil Plays Hardball Hollow & The Schoolhouse

The Devil Plays Hardball If you could get one person off the street, would you? Could you? Devil Plays Hardball is a radical interventionist documentary by Paperny Films that seeks to answer this question.

Also: The Schoolhouse - a short film that accompanied a Globe & Mail article about "wet" housing in Toronto, supportive housing where alcohol is allowed.

We'll have an in depth discussion on the topic of homelessness - the causes and concrete solutions with Judy Graves who has been helping people find a way off the streets in Vancouver for 30 years, now working from City Hall.

Monday 7 Oct 2008

Out Of The Shadow Stories Of Strength And Courage

Filmed over five years, *Out Of The Shadow* chronicles the filmmaker's mother, Millie, who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. With grace and compassion, this intimate film illustrates the painful complexities of severe mental illness and the

woefully inadequate public health system (Illinois) set up to deal with it. A story of madness and dignity, shame and love, out of the shadow illuminates a common plight through one family's struggle and powerfully helps to dispel the stigmas and misconceptions surrounding this difficult condition. It highlights the value of supportive housing in this family's positive outcome.

Monday 13 Oct 2008

Band's Visit Hollow & Stories Of Strength And Courage

The Band's Visit tells the story of an Egyptian police force band who head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab cultural center, only to find themselves lost in the wrong foreign city. They have to spend the night billeted by locals. It's a simple premise and a satisfying, understated, film experience. Some subtitles.

Saturday 18 Oct 2008

Loadingreadyrun's Fifth Anniversary 5 shorts

As of October 2008, Loading Ready Run, Victoria's internet sketch comedy troop will be celebrating 5 awesome years on the incredible edible internet. Every week a video. More than 250 of the dang things! Some productions have had over half a million hits – on their own www.loadingreadyrun.com website, let alone all the viral postings by others.

Awards have been won in short film fests, crew tours Seattle and San Diego, and an astounding Desert Bus online fundraiser last November for the charity, Child's Play. In one weekend, the crew raised over \$22,000 by broadcasting live their marathon playing "the most boring video game in the world", taking in donations from and interacting with people all over the globe.

It's time for a retrospective! Join other fans and the whole LRR Crew for this special event!

Monday 20 Oct 2008

Bucket List

So what do YOU want to do before you "kick the bucket"? Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman put together an ambitious list in a cancer ward. They travel the world, have some adventures, get to know each other and themselves better. It's unlikely - but damn entertaining and makes you think a little about things that matter to boot.

Monday 27 Oct 2008

Store

Here's a feature documentary about peoples' obsession to hanging on to stuff. Is it simply materialism or an innate genetic drive? A desire to have immortality by creating a physical identity or just the unwillingness to let the past go? Where's the line between collecting and hoarding? One Storage facility manager says, "this is caused by the 4-Ds Divorce, Drugs, Drinking and Death." Hopefully there

are more pleasant reasons as well, not just human failings. "STORE is an 86-minute documentary that employs a rapid fire pace, and a pass-the-baton style. Full of lovable, driven and quirky characters who are often compelled to laugh and cry while explaining the forces powering this 15 billion-dollar industry. In short, the film explores what is in all these units, how long things stay in storage, at what cost, the various ways people use storage units, and why people pay so much to hold on to things that aren't worth very much. Like a storage facility, every door is the same, but each story is unique."

Monday 3 Nov 2008

Stone Angel

Based on the best-selling novel by Margaret Laurence, The Stone Angel is the story of feisty firecracker Hagar Shipley (the younger played by the glowing Christine Horne, the senior by Oscar Winner Ellen Burstyn). Her passionate heart has always ruled her head and her choices have put her at odds with family and friends. With her life nearly behind her, she sets out in search of a way to reconcile herself to her turbulent past. Through her reflections we come to know a passionate and rebellious young bride, her love for her two sons, the freedoms she claimed, and the joys she denied herself.

Monday 10 Nov 2008

Poor Boy's Game

Danny Glover plays George, the father of a man who was left handicapped after a vicious beating in Poor Boy's Game. When George discovers that his son's tormentor, Donnie (brilliantly played by Rossif Sutherland), has been released from prison he seeks vengeance, but the pair form an unusual friendship when they meet, leading to some surprising twists in director Clement Virgo's moving tale. Set in the Canadian east coast port city of Halifax, it is the story of class struggle, racial tensions (there is a long history of a Black community there), boxing, and forgiveness.

Monday 15 Nov 2008

Georgie Girl

Meet Georgina Beyer, the latest "it" girl of New Zealand politics. A one-time sex worker of Maori descent turned public official, Georgina stunned the world in 1999 by becoming the first transgender person to hold national office. Born George Beyer, this unlikely politician grew up on a small Tarankai farm and later became a small-time celebrity on the cabaret circuit in Auckland.

With charisma, humor and charm, Beyer unapologetically recounts her fascinating life story, shares how she overcame adversity and discloses the reasons she decided to run for office in a mostly all white, conservative electorate. Incorporating an unbelievable montage of colorful archival images dug up from Georgina's days as an exotic dancer, theatre and television performer, this absorbing documentary breaks down stereotypes and promotes greater understanding of transgender people. PG13

This film was shown at MM in March 06 and at that time Geogie joined us for a live, hour long interactive phone conversation, so we have some follow up news to share!

Monday 17 Nov 2008

Dogwalker & Collector Of Bedford Street

Meet man who grew up with a brain injury from a traffic accident. He suffered a lot of indignities and frustration over the years but, now 47, finds equilibrium in his role walking dogs in Calgary. Discover his philosophy – the art of Zen and Dog Walking. Plus: THE COLLECTOR OF BEDFORD STREET This cognitively challenged individual who has become famous for collecting donations for causes, and is surprised to be supported by his NYC community when he needs it. It's a model we might be inspired to follow!

Monday 24 Nov 2008

Cracked Not Broken

Cracked Not Broken opens a disturbing window on the life of Lisa, a 37-year-old crack-cocaine addict and estranged mother of one who prostitutes herself to fuel her costly drug habit. Although she grew up in an upper middle-class family, went to the right schools and had the right friends, something went terribly wrong. Filmed almost entirely in the Toronto hotel room she lives in and works out of, Cracked Not Broken portrays a highly intelligent, vivacious, articulate and hyperactive woman juggling cell phone and drug paraphernalia with equal dexterity while talking with incredible frankness to filmmaker Paul Perrier - the husband of one of Lisa's oldest friends - about the struggles of being in "the game" and her quest for redemption. Cracked Not Broken chronicles Lisa's faltering steps toward recovery and her early efforts to educate others about the illness of addiction.

Monday 1 Dec 2008

Zelig + Salmon River

Here's Woody Allen's 1983 take on personality disorder (and tricky effects, as he cleverly inserts himself into history). "Zelig" presents the strange case of Leonard Zelig the chameleon-man who surfaced in the 1930s with the very unusual trait of turning into whomever he talked to. If Zelig talked to fat people, he grew fat. If he talked to tall people, he became tall. If Indian, Jewish, Hindu, then he became Indian, Jewish and Hindu. In himself, however, he was nothing at all. Leonard Zelig was without personal substance. Enter his psychiatrist, played by Mia Farrow, whose job it was to reveal to Leonard his own unique personality.

We'll have psychiatrist, film lover, UBC educator, award winning Frames of Mind Film Series director, and friend of MM - Dr Harry Karlinsky - with us provide a 'clinical' view of Zelig - and the usefulness of film in psychiatry.

Monday 8 Dec 2008

Iron Man

This is a wild ride! And a change of pace for MM. Robert Downy Jr is fabulous in this high tech, high energy, high concept comic book adaptation about a high rolling arms dealer. Roger Ebert says, "Not only is it a good comic book movie (smart and stupid, stirring and silly, intimate and spectacular), it's winning enough to engage even those who've never cared much for comic books or the movies they spawn."

Monday 15 Dec 2008

Singing Revolution Desert Bus Killed The Internet Star

A film that'll stir your soul. Most people don't think about singing when they think about revolutions. But song was the weapon of choice when, between 1987 and 1991, Estonians sought to free themselves from decades of Soviet occupation. During those years, hundreds of thousands gathered in public to sing forbidden patriotic songs and to rally for independence. The Singing Revolution is a wonderfully realized account of the process, the history, and the emotion of this sometime hair-raising, heroic struggle. Independently produced and distributed, a little film about a place most Westerners hardly have heard of, it has become a phenomena, and MM it happy to be part of it!

We'll be getting the 3 disc edition with all kinds of extras. Pg 13 some archival war scenes.

We are now releasing selected interview clips from the "Collector's Edition 1.0" on the film's website Blog. We encourage people to watch these interesting interview commentaries, not before seen, and then e-talk with one another about it by posting comments. Our first clip is about how Shakespeare's "Hamlet" became a subversive tool in the revolution.

But most importantly, forward this email to get new people to watch this clip and get The Singing Revolution in front of ever more people. And the more buzz we are able to build about the film, the better the odds of high-profile television and European distribution.

We have also just begun our high school and college outreach, and hope to get this subject into the curriculum of many schools. After only one week of outreach, the film has been purchased by over 100 U.S. high schools and colleges. We will keep you updated.

Monday 22 Dec 2008

Air Guitar Nation

While America was pounding Iraq, another kind of nationalist domination was being enacted. From NYC's Pussycat Lounge to the tiny city of Oulu in Finland, the film tracks USA competitors who for the first time are vying for gold in the most harmless competition in the world, the Air Guitar Championships. Cheap too – no need for equipment, just guts! Feel the tension as "Asian fury" C-Diddy, the son

of a Korean American psychiatrist, and his arch nemesis, Bjorn Turoque (think: Born To Rock) get down and airborne. Their mottos: "Make Air – Not War!" "To Air is Human"

Monday 29 Dec 2008

Best Of Winnipeg Short Films (15pieces)

Once a filmmaker from Chicago phoned me so excited by the filmmaking going on in Winnipeg he wanted to move here and make films. And I know why. There is something strange and wonderful about the independent filmmaking scene in Winnipeg. The independent films here reflect a deep sense of originality and imagination. Many are often populated with strange characters...people with fish for arms...or odd subplots involving twisted love, murder, or revenge. But not all. You'll also find serious dramas, poignant documentaries, and amazing animation. What you won't find is the commonplace...the "made for TV" or the "calling card" film. At least not from the independent filmmaking community.

Started in 1974 by a group of filmmakers who banded together to share resources and equipment, the WINNIPEG FILM GROUP grew into a thriving centre with film distribution, equipment, training, workshops and a theatre called THE CINEMATHEQUE, of which I have been the program co-ordinator for the last 25 years.

I have been witness to the largest body of incredible independent film-making of anywhere in Canada – films which have played at festivals around the world and won incredible critical acclaim.

This is a very personal selection of some of my favourites over the years- Highlights include: John Paskievich and Mike Mirus's TED BARYLUK'S GROCERY, the Genie AWARD Winner for BEST SHORT FILM, Guy Maddin's amazing short film ODILON REDON (shot in the Winnipeg Film Group Studio commissioned by the BBC in the U.K)., a rare short from SEAN GARRITY who won the CITY TV AWARD for INERTIA for Best Canadian Feature at the 2001 Toronto Film Festival, the third in Cecilia Araneda's trilogy, the beautifully photographed HALLEY'S COMET, and terrific work from Matt Rankin and Mike Maryniuk whose new film CATTLE CALL just got into the SUNDANCE Film Festival.

Archives 2009

Monday 5 Jan 2009

Motown High

The Vic High R&B Band goes to Detroit, Home of R&B and is mentored by Martha Reeves, the Motown legend of Martha and the Vandellas (Dancing in the Street, (Love is Like a) Heat Wave, What's Going On, Quicksand, and Tears of a Clown - all featured in the film). One year later, the band get a chance to back-up Martha when she performs at the Victoria International Jazz Festival. This delightful, homegrown documentary mixes cinema verite, performance and interview footage to build a story about dreams and how young musicians can be profoundly influenced by their mentors and teachers. Donations will go to the Vic High Band Program.

Monday 12 Jan 2009

Crimes and Misdemeanors

In two separate stories of adultery; a New York doctor (Martin Landau) resorts to desperate measures to cover up his long-term adulterous affair. An unhappily married documentary filmmaker (Woody Allen) fights an adulterous temptation while making his latest documentary on a TV producer. One of Allen's most accomplished films - about the interplay between morality and happiness. Touches of humour and high drama. Starring Martin Landau, Mia Farrow, and Woody, pretty much as himself. (he did win Oscars for Best Film, Writing and Screenplay, and Landau - Best in a Supporting Role. Pg13

Besides a gripping crime drama and some Woody humorous moments, here's lots to think about in this film See You Tube Crimes and Misdemeanors: A Discussion: Part 1-2 if you're wondering.

Monday 19 Jan 2009

The Man Who Planted Trees

Tonight we're all about the environment and how the actions of individuals can change the world in a big way.

First, the wonderful animated 30 min story The Man Who Planted Trees follows a man who quietly, persistently goes about reforesting a bleak countryside. One Man, One Cow, One Planet follows a similarly determined New Zealander who is helping farmer in India reclaim their lands health by guiding them back to organic farming.

Partnering with Life Cycles and special guest, traveler and organic farmer, Laurent Guillou.

LifeCycles Fruit Tree Project, a local registered charity, plays a large community role in redistribution of fruit that would otherwise go to waste. Up and picking since 1998, the Victoria Fruit Tree Project, volunteers and a couple of ladders have transformed backyard fruit trees into a valuable source of food for the

community. Harvested fruit is redistributed to volunteer pickers, tree- owners food banks and community agencies. To help raise funds, the project retains a portion of the fruit to make value added products with local businesses. In 2008 the project harvested more than 43,351 lbs or 19,705 kgs of fruit and redistributed 14,592 lbs to food banks and community agencies.

Saturday 24 Jan 2009

Cats Of Mirikitani

One homeless story Cats Of Mirikitani with Judy Graves - Vancouver City's Housing Advocate Bruce S. facilitating.

Sunday afternoon 25 Jan 2009

Vancouver and Santa Monica experiences. What can we learn?

Homeless In Paradise with Jody Paterson.

Something To Eat, A Place To Sleep, and Someone Who Gives A Damn With filmmaker Les Merson photographer Ken Villeneuve and subject Gloria.

Tent City and housing options, slide presentation about local tent city (Peter Rockwell- photographer and Chris Johnson) and what we can glean from Portland Oregon's Dignity Village's Tent Cities Toolkit and The Mayor of Tent City (Toronto's disbanded experiment). We'll refer to StreetCity, shipping containers, Stop Gap Housing - construction mobiles, etc.

Sunday evening 25 Jan 2009

Downtown Dawgs

Downtown Dawgs with Calgary filmmaker Mike Scullion via telephone Q&A (his brother Kevin is also filmmaker and one of the coaches). Bruce S. facilitating.

Monday evening 26 Jan 2009

Something To Eat, A Place To Sleep, And Someone Who Gives A Damn Q&A with Judy Graves, Vancouver City's Housing Advocate, and filmmaker Les Merson.

Monday afternoon 26 Jan 2009

Last Call At The Gladstone Hotel

The short film Hollow and Last Call At The Gladstone Hotel with the filmmakers by phone from Toronto.

It's a story that would take more than five years to see to completion [and win a Gemini], with all the main characters firmly in place - from the developers who buy the hotel to the staff who have been around for decades to the low-income residents who worry they will be forced to find new affordable places to live and finally to the new owners who try to make the best out of a very difficult situation.

The Gladstone Hotel was built in 1889, and is the oldest continuously operating hotel in Toronto. Now a cool urban hotel and an arts destination in the city, it used to be flophouse, home to people who couldn't afford to live elsewhere, including an ex-bag lady named Maryanne.

Monday 2 Feb 2009

Disfigured

Lydia, an overweight sales clerk, nearing 30, is still struggling with feelings about her body and its place in the world. Darcy, a recovering-anorexic in her mid-20s, has the same issues from a different perspective, is introduced to Lydia and they begin a friendship. Then Lydia gets involved in a sexual relationship with Bob, an overweight man. Stirred emotionally by this new romance, Lydia asks her new friend for anorexia lessons. When Darcy lets Lydia inside her secret inner world, it forces both women to confront buried feelings about their bodies.

Monday 9 Feb 2009

Brick Lane

A young Bangladeshi woman arrives in 1980s London for an arranged marriage and a new life. Trapped within the four walls of her flat and in a loveless marriage she fears her soul is quietly dying. Nazneen struggles to accept her lifestyle but she soon discovers that life cannot be avoided - and is forced to confront it the day that the hotheaded young Karim comes knocking at her door.

Monday 16 Feb 2009

Manufacturing Dissent

Michael Moore on the spit - what a switch! Did you ever wonder how the world's biggest documentary hero stands up to close scrutiny? This Canadian crew followed up their curiosity, even used some of his tactics, and came up with an intriguing portrait of a paranoid superstar, a "crusader for truth", riding the razor blade of hypocrisy.

These are major gaffs from a guy who is attempting to show hypocrisy in others.

Continuity: The speech that Moore claims/shows then NRA president Charlton Heston giving in Colorado is actually several speeches edited into one. Note how Heston's clothing changes between cuts during this speech.

Factual error: After the shooting of Kayla Rolland at Mt. Morris, MI, just north of Flint, Michael Moore says "Just as he did after the Columbine shooting, [NRA President] Charlton Heston showed up in Flint, to have a big pro-gun rally" When in fact Heston's speech was given at a "get out the vote" rally in Flint, which was held when elections rolled by some eight months after the shooting (Feb 29 vs Oct 17) In fact, then-presidential candidate George W. Bush, then Vice-President Al Gore, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, and Moore himself all spoke at the rally.

Continuity: After interviewing Charlton Heston and as he is leaving Heston's property, Michael Moore tries to show him the picture of a little girl that was killed by her 6 year old classmate. Heston walks away but Moore keeps shouting back to him. The scene keeps jumping back and forth between a wide shot behind Moore looking into Heston's yard, an a very close up shot of Moore as he is yelling with the picture to show Heston. Moore claims both angles were taken simultaneously with two cameras. However, neither camera is visible in the shots. This is impossible. In the wide shots, there is no place that the close up camera could have been hidden. Due to the plants, etc. obstructing the view, the close up camera had to be a few feet in front of Moore at most and thus would have been visible in the side angle shots. [remember Broadcast News? That film revolved around questioning the morality of this kind of reportage 'manipulation' - B]

Factual error: Moore states when talking about Canada that, "13 % of the country is Non-White, so the Canadians are pretty much like us". He uses that figure while trying to figure why the deaths caused with guns is so high in the US compared to other countries. Problem is the US, as of the last census (2000), was nearly 25% "Non-White". Now 13 and 25 percent don't seem that far away but not only is the US percentage almost double Canada's "non-White" population, but that 25% equates to over 70 million people in the US over two times the entire population of Canada (which as of their last census was 32 million).

Monday 23 Feb 2009

Amal

Autorickshaw driver Amal is content with the small but vital role of driving customers around New Delhi as quickly and safely as possible. But his sense of duty is tested by an eccentric, aging billionaire, who bequeaths him his entire estate. To claim the inheritance Amal struggles with duty and wealth are threatened by all those around him - an injured beggar girl, a lovely merchant and the danger of upper-caste friends and siblings, all seeking to claim their share.

Monday 2 Mar 2009

Ghost Town

Here is some fun. An elaborate setup, too complicated to describe, involving a look into the world of folks that haven't quite settled into the afterlife - New York City is apparently full of them - and prickly dentist who really doesn't like people. Well, of course the prickly dentist softens up, but it's the telling of the story that makes all the difference. And this one is a treat!

Monday 9 Mar 2009

Bella Coola To Berlin

In 1885, a Norwegian artifact collector named Phillip Jacobsen travelled to our coast to find a group of Indians to perform in his zoo in Hamburg and in other cities in Germany. A group of nine Bella Coola Indians who were looking for work, and they took the job performing their traditional dances in Germany. Their

contract required them to exhibited themselves before the public in the performance of Indian games, the use of bows and arrows, singing and dancing, speaking and otherwise in showing the habits, manners and customs of the Indians to the curious Europeans. Here's the strange story of their year away, thoughtfully told, creatively reconstructed from archival documents, combined with present day interviews from Germany and Bella Coola. Presented by filmmaker Barbarah Hagar, also director and producer of The New Canoe and director of her recent MM hit, Motown High.

Monday 16 Mar 2009

Strangest Dream

NFB's BC Premiere screening of this film

The Strangest Dream tells the story of Joseph Rotblat, the history of nuclear weapons and the efforts of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs - which he co-founded - to halt nuclear proliferation. Nuclear physicist Joseph Rotblat was branded a traitor and spy after walking away from the Manhattan Project, builders of the first atomic bomb. But, with Bertrand Russell, he went on to help create the modern peace movement, and eventually to win the Nobel Peace Prize. We'll have a panel of people to share their thoughts on this film. Movie Monday is pleased to partner with The Canadian Pugwash Group, and Canadian Student Young Pugwash to present this event. With special thanks to The National Film Board of Canada.

Monday 23 Mar 2009

World's Fastest Indian

This story is a film based on the legendary New Zealand speed bike racer Burt Munro and his highly modified Indian 'Scout' motorcycle. Munro set numerous land speed records for motorcycles with engines less than 1000 cc at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in the late 1950s and into the 1960s. Many of his records still stand to this day. Burt's a real guy. Anthony Hopkins plays him in this biopic, apparently very true to his gregarious, resourceful self, and true to the odyssey Burt travelled to get to his Salt Flats destination from New Zealand with almost no money and threatening health problems. (a nitroglycerine for himself, maybe two, and one in the tank of his motor cycle.

I was reminded of this charming film by a mechanic in town, who did a lot of work on my car this winter, who loved the film.

Monday 30 Mar 2009

Man On Wire

"On August 7th 1974, a young Frenchman named Philippe Petit stepped out on a wire illegally rigged between New York's twin towers, then the world's tallest buildings. After nearly an hour dancing on the wire, he was arrested, taken for psychological evaluation, and brought to jail before he was finally released. James Marsh's documentary brings Petit's extraordinary adventure to life through the testimony of Philippe himself, and some of the co-conspirators who helped him

create the unique and magnificent spectacle that became known as "the artistic crime of the century."

It's the telling of this story that is so extraordinary. This is a masterpiece! It won Grand Jury prize at Sundance 2008, in February 2009, the film won the BAFTA for Outstanding British Film. It is nominated for Best Documentary Film at the 81st Academy Awards as well as many others.

Monday 6 Apr 2009

The Hammer

This is a boxing scenario - but Rocky this one ain't. It's more like Paul Newman's wonderful film and MM fave, *Nobody's Fool* - just a guy in his later years trying to find himself, figuring out what's important. In fact he's the same kind of knock-about construction guy that Newman played but does a little boxing coaching on the side. It stars Adam Carolla. It's his film - he wrote, directed, and stars in it with his real life sidekick/buddy, and it is pretty much him; boxing and construction guy (he built the gym in the film years ago and coached there) and gentle, slow talkin' giant - but without his radio personality career, now blogmeister, thrown in. It won the Audience Award at Vic Film Fest in 2008.

Monday 13 Apr 2009

Mad City Chickens

Witness if you will *Gallus Domesticus*. the backyard chicken. A mere few pounds of feather, bone, and muscle; a creature regarded by many as a rather humorous, though not so intelligent agent of food production. And yet make note of a most singular phenomenon now taking shape across suburb and city. From backyard eggs to the family's new favorite pet, the urban chicken is forging a fresh place in the pecking order of human importance.

Mad City Chickens deftly weaves multiple stories and contextual issues on city chickens and their keepers in a non-linear fashion that one rarely sees in a documentary. From leading experts to urban newbies, experience the humor and heart of what's fast becoming an international backyard chicken movement.

Monday 20 Apr 2009

Street City

Street City is a compelling verité feature documentary about life in an experimental housing project for homeless people on Toronto's downtown east side. Award-winning filmmaker Bay Weyman interweaves events in the lives of StreetCity residents over a period of six months, to explore a microcosm of the homeless world. Most of all, the film relates to the homeless as real people. StreetCity lets residents tell their own stories of hope, struggle and resignation, creating a very personal, often humorous, yet disturbing portrait of homeless society. The project has morphed to a larger, again converted industrial building, specially retrofitted for the purpose. It's called Strachan House. We'll have an

update and consider the feasibility for our city of a social experiment of this nature.

We'll have guests and discussion.

Patricia Mueller, Executive Director of Homes First and Deena Nelson, Manager of Strachan House (the next generation of Street City) will be calling in from Toronto!

Monday 27 Apr 2009

Griefwalker

A new National Film Board of Canada production about Harvard trained Theologian, Stephen Jenkinson's work with dying people. One of Canada's leading palliative care teachers, Stephen is revolutionizing the way dying and death are known and done in North America.

In this feature documentary portrait of this extraordinary individual, we meet three dying people he is advising while we encounter his unique view of the end of life. His life's mission is to change the way we look at death through a new kind of compassion, from a wretched anxiety and an existential terror to something closer to befriending death, learning the skill of grief and dying extravagantly. Framed by the filmmaker, Tim Wilson, wrestling with his denial of his own death as he nearly succumbs to a sudden illness, and later his having to face the death of someone very close to him.

Beautifully using the imagery of impermanent nature, Wilson documents Jenkinson's work with the dying while challenging him to explain how "death is the cradle of your love of life."

It's a piece that will provoke thought and discussion about a topic that most of us avoid.

Monday 4 May 2009

Hearing [our] Voices

This six year long Participatory Action Research Project resulted in working with a group of Consumers of mental health services, not as consultants or subjects of a study, but as researcher themselves exploring topics they felt most important, housing and the relationship between them and service providers and caregivers. The result, as the prof assisting them is in the Faculty of Communication & Culture with and interest in out-of-the-usual way of disseminating the information, is a huge mural that will fill our lobby, a booklet version of the mural, a 29 min video and a crew who can ably inform the "system" from the inside of their lived experience of schizophrenia what's good and what they would like to see improve.

Monday 11 May 2009

Ishtar

This just in: Shunned when it first came out in 1987, this comedy starring Dustin Hoffman and Warren Beatty is now found to be great fun! Two really poor songwriters get mixed up in a nefarious plot when they go to 'break into the business' in North Africa.

"The big-budget film (50 million dollars) remains as one of the all-time box office bombs. Though it might serve as a perverse delight for those who take pleasure in seeing a film that was not intended to be bad turn out so unforgivably bad. Its appeal is as a timeless oddity is almost assured with the advent of cable TV as a graveyard spot to catch it from time to time and see if it's as bad as most critics think." (it's not!) Give it a try. 22 years is too long to have missed seeing this gem!

Monday 18 May 2009

Last Chance Harvey

Harvey Shine (Hoffman) is a musician nearing the end of his career, who travels from America to London for the wedding of his daughter and, quite by chance, connects with lonely Kate, (Thompson). The result is an unexpected romance.

This is a very small film, and the basic plot is extremely familiar. Luckily, two wonderful actors give the material distinction.

Monday 25 May 2009

Shooting Indians – A Journey With Jeffery Thomas

As well as a novel exploration of the ethics of Curtis' record reflected in a modern aboriginal photographer's eyes, I found it extraordinary that toward the end of the film they visit a dear little, elderly lady who played the princess in the 1914 film *In The Land Of The Headhunters*, the one you may have seen in the Royal BC Museum Exhibit - B

Monday 1 Jun 2009

Bolt

Bolt, an American White Shepherd, has lived his whole life on the set of his action TV show, where he believes he has superpowers. When separated from the studio by accident, he meets a female alley cat named Mittens and a hamster named Rhino. Along the way, he learns that he doesn't have superpowers and that the show is not real.

Monday 8 Jun 2009

That's My Time

Irwin Barker is one of Canada's best-loved comedy writers and stand up comedians. These days, living in Toronto, Irwin is working up new material. It may be the most hilarious and fulfilling writing of his life. And it may also be his last. Irwin Barker is diagnosed with terminal cancer. "That's My Time" is an amazing one hour documentary that chronicles Irwin's journey with cancer, and

his determination that he will "find the funny" in what is for most of us the least funny predicament imaginable. The journey culminates in a comedy fest to celebrate his prognosis "due date", an event that he hopes to redux this June.

Monday 15 Jun 2009

Cubers

Cubers a new documentary from Nova Scotia, but a world-wide look at the geeks who take cubing extremely seriously. This film does for Rubik's Cube what Spellbound did for the spelling bee. People who can solve the puzzle in under a minute! Blindfolded!! Under 10 seconds!!!

Free popcorn if you can do it under 5 minutes.

Monday 22 Jun 2009

Milk

Milk charts the last eight years of Harvey Milk's life. While living in New York City, Milk and his lover Scott Smith relocate to San Francisco, where they found a small business in the heart of a working-class neighborhood. Milk surprises Scott and himself by becoming an outspoken agent for change by plunging headfirst into the choppy waters of politics. Elected supervisor, he tries to coordinate his efforts with those of another newly elected supervisor but their political agendas increasingly diverge and their personal destinies tragically converge. Milk's platform was and is one of hope – a hero's legacy that resonates in the here and now.

cast: Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin, Diego Luna, James Franco

I'm very pleased to announce that Wayne Cho, Cross Canada Runner for Depression and Anxiety and all round inspiring guy, will join us for a brief presentation before our feature film MILK. A good fit I think, as Harvey Milk was a ground breaker about Gay acceptance and openness. Wayne is bringing attention to mental health recovery and reducing the stigma that so often keeps people from getting help.

Wayne has carried an inspiring message through communities all across the country, from Cape Spear, Nfld. to Victoria's Mile 0, over 8000 km through rain and snow, summer heat and 40 below temperatures.

He started in May 2008 accomplished his goal last week, June 11. He's impressed with Victoria (as we are with him), enjoying a break in his regime and some adulation for the accomplishment, before heading off North to the Yukon. His planning on settling here and collaborating to develop a Marathon For Mental Health project. Great idea, and he's the man to do it!

Monday 29 Jun 2009

Slumdog Millionaire plus Goonda

My favourite film from 2008!

The story of Jamal Malik, an 18 year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, who is about to experience the biggest day of his life. With the whole nation watching, he is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" But when the show breaks for the night, police arrest him on suspicion of cheating; how could a street kid know so much? Desperate to prove his innocence, Jamal tells the story of his life in the slum where he and his brother grew up, of their adventures together on the road, of vicious encounters with local gangs, and of Latika, the girl he loved and lost.
cast: Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Saurabh Shukla, Rajendranath Zutshi, Jeneva Talwar
Goonda Nanjunda and his friends live on the streets of Mysore, South India where they quickly learn loyalty, ferocity and to steal joy where possible. A bitter-sweet look at street kids in India.

Monday 6 Jul 2009

Chris and Don A Love Story & The Chosen Family

The true-life story of the passionate three-decade relationship between British writer Christopher Isherwood and American portrait painter Don Bachardy, thirty years his junior. From Isherwood's Kit-Kat-Club years in Weimar-era Germany to the couple's first meeting on the sun-kissed beaches of 1950s Malibu, their against-all-odds saga is brought to dazzling life by a treasure trove of multimedia. Bachardy's contemporary reminiscences artfully interact with archival footage, rare home movies, reenactments, and, most sweetly, whimsical animations based on the cat-and-horse cartoons the pair used in their personal correspondence. With Isherwood's status as an out-and-proud gay maverick, and Bachardy's eventual artistic triumph away from the considerable shadow of his life partner, Chris & Don: A Love Story is above all a joyful celebration of a most extraordinary couple.

cast: Don Bachardy, John Boorman, Leslie Caron, Charlie Gordon, Christopher Isherwood, Jack Larson, Liza Minnelli

plus: The Chosen Family by Victoria filmmaker. Margaret is the target of multiple familial comings-out.

Monday 13 Jul 2009

One Week

Instead of hunkering down to face brutal treatment for cancer our protagonist chooses to leave family and home behind and to head out on his motorcycle across Canada. He meets interesting people and encounters many giant things (we have a remarkable number of over sized hockey sticks, nickels, geese, wigwams, and deck chairs etc). A great Canadian road movie with terrific soundtrack, this film really grows on you. Pg cast: Joshua Jackson, Liane Balaban, Campbell Scott, Fiona Reid, Chuck Shamata

Monday 20 Jul 2009

Meatballs

30 YEARS, kids! Here's the Summer Camp experience you never had - with Bill Murray in his prime (and his first starring part) as a zany yet inspiring and empathetic as the camp counsellor. Brought to attention by my 29 year old son, "a fun kids' film heralding the summer (as in its maddening theme song 'are you ready for the summer?'). it has scene after scene of Bill Murray as head counsellor being charming and hilarious, and bonding with this lonely camper in a touching way. Give it a try perhaps, it might tickle you." It did.

cast: Bill Murray, Tripper Harrison, Harvey Atkin, Kate Lynch, Russ Banham, Kristine DeBell

Monday 27 Jul 2009

The Reader

Post-WWII Germany: Nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Berg re-encounters his former lover as she defends herself in a war-crime trial. Not a perfect movie but a totally engaging look into post Holocaust angst and human nature. Kate Winslet (Best Actress Oscar) and newcomer David Kross.

cast: Ralph Fiennes, Jeanette Hain, David Kross, Kate Winslet, Susanne Lothar

Monday 3 Aug 2009

The Immortal Beaver & Crowded At The Bottom

The Immortal Beaver is a look at the history of the Canadian workhorse bush plane and an amazing reconstruction by Sidney BC's Viking Air of a derelict plane from the airplane bone yard near Tucson, Arizona into a spanking 'new' plane.

Written by Arwen Hunter.

Also: Crowded At The Bottom - Award Winning Bravo! Blues Documentary about Victoria street/waterfront veteran busker Dave Harris.

Monday 10 Aug 2009

Sita Sings The Blues

You can watch quirky animated treat on line but as the filmmaker says, "The best way to see Sita Sings the Blues is on a big screen, in a dark room, with other people." Several different styles of animation, cool 20's blues torch songs, Indian mythology, modern day angst, and three shadow puppets narrating the action - this is something different and fun!

Sita is a goddess separated from her beloved Lord and husband Rama. Nina is an animator whose husband moves to India, then dumps her by email. Three hilarious shadow puppets narrate both ancient tragedy and modern comedy in this beautifully animated interpretation of the Indian epic Ramayana. Set to the 1920's jazz vocals of Annette Hanshaw, Sita Sings the Blues earns its tagline as "the Greatest Break-Up Story Ever Told." PG

Paley comes across a sparkly, bright, passionate person who is truly an artist investigating, through her project, Sita Sings The Blues, freedom for artists to remix and build on others' works. By disregarding the issue of copyright she got to make a brilliant little film instead of backing up many years, requiring lawyers,

and mega bucks, before she could create something new. She's broke, perhaps, but artistically fulfilled. She got to create her art and got people to see it broadly worldwide - before it in turn gets remixed by someone else.

Monday 17 Aug 2009

Women In The Shadows, also: Out Of The Shadow

An NFB distributed documentary about a Metis woman, Christine Welsh, now a professor of Womens Studies at Uvic discovering her hidden identity.

Out of the Shadow: Christine Welsh (part of the Storytellers in Motion series)

Her story is a great model of a person powerfully using the documentary medium to explore her own life and issues of her Metis, Indigenous and Aboriginal peers. Kuper Island: Return To The Healing Circle, The Story Of The Coast Salish Knitters, and the recent Finding Dawn, about the missing women of Downtown Eastside Vancouver and Highway of Tears, are examples of her excellent filmmaking work.

Monday 24 Aug 2009

C'est Pas Moi, Je Le Jure! (It's Not Me I Swear)

In the summer of '68, Leon comes close to hanging himself accidentally. His mother saves him at the last minute, just like last summer in the pool and like two years ago in the freezer. At ten, Leon has lots of problems and an overly fertile imagination. There is Mom and Dad who are always fighting and those annoying neighbours who get to spend the summer at the beach. And then, there's Lea, the exasperating girl who's always right about everything.

When Mom decides to leave, Leon is prepared to do anything to kill the pain – destroy the neighbours' house, become a professional liar and even, why not, fall in love with Lea. Together, they will overcome the pain of growing up when you feel abandoned.

Perfect Summer viewing, work out that childhood angst!

Monday 31 Aug 2009

Frost / Nixon

"For three years after being forced from office, Nixon remained silent. But in summer 1977, the steely, cunning former commander-in-chief agreed to sit for one all-inclusive interview to confront the questions of his time in office and the Watergate scandal that ended his presidency. Nixon surprised everyone in selecting Frost as his televised confessor, intending to easily outfox the breezy British showman and secure a place in the hearts and minds of Americans. Likewise, Frost's team harboured doubts about their boss' ability to hold his own. But as cameras rolled, a charged battle of wits resulted. Would Nixon evade questions of his role in one of the nation's greatest disgraces? Or would Frost confound critics and bravely demand accountability from the man who'd built a

career out of stonewalling? Over the course of their encounter, each man would reveal his own insecurities, ego and reserves of dignity—ultimately setting aside posturing in a stunning display of unvarnished truth. Frost/Nixon not only re-creates the on-air interview, but the weeks of around-the-world, behind-the-scenes manoeuvring between the two men and their camps as negotiations were struck, deals were made and secrets revealed...all leading to the moment when they would sit facing one another in the court of public opinion."

Directed by Ron Howard with Frank Langella (as Nixon) and Michael Sheen (as Frost) recreating their celebrated stage roles.

We'll add a segment of the actual interview for comparison!

Monday 9 Sep 2009

Drawing From Life

A special event for Suicide Awareness Week with NEED Crisis Line

How do people learn to live rather than to die?

Drawing from Life follows a group therapy workshop for people who have attempted suicide more than once.

A hybrid of vérité documentary and animation, this unusual film's visual metaphors illuminate the thoughts and feelings of its participants. This candid portrayal of twelve people who together, for 20 weeks, take on their fears, their behaviours and their ghosts to move towards life and away from suicide. 30 min with 36 min extras, 2009 Pg with panel discussion.

A collaboration with NEED Crisis Line.

Monday 14 Sep 2009

No Bikini: An Evening With Ivan Coyote

A seven year old girl has a glorious summer in swim class, passing as a boy.

It's a wonderful minute short film based on an Ivan Coyote story – that in turn inspired this evening's visit by the author to MM.

Ivan will read some of her stories including the one that No Bikini was based on, engage with the audience, and sign some books. Ottawa X Press said "Coyote is to CanLit what k.d. lang is to country music: a beautifully odd fixture." Currently she's Writer in Residence at the Vancouver Public Library, and working with elders to write their stories and a sought after story teller far and wide.

Monday 21 Sep 2009

Saving Luna

with filmmakers Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit

This is the touching story of a solitary young killer whale who showed up in Gold River in 2004. He was lonely and befriended people - and life became complicated for the whole community. For three years the filmmakers documented the story.

"Along with breathtaking cinematography, the filmmakers talk about the web of life, interconnectedness and the pitfalls of anthropomorphism. More than anything, they ask us to consider the wall between humans and the natural world" Katherine Monk.

Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit are writers and documentary filmmakers based near Sidney, British Columbia. They specialize in telling stories of the relationships between people and our natural world.

Saving Luna: A whale story

A life does not have to be human to be great.

A film by Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit Mountainside Films Ltd.

Winner of 24 AWARDS from 10 countries and counting!

One summer in a fjord called Nootka Sound on the remote west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, a young killer whale whom people call Luna gets separated from his pod. Like us humans, orcas are highly social and depend on their families, but Luna finds himself desperately alone. So he tries to make contact with people. He begs for attention at boats and docks. He looks soulfully into your eyes. He wants to have his tongue rubbed. When you whistle at him, he squeaks and whistles back. He follows you around like a puppy.

People fall in love with him -- a cook on an old freighter, a gruff fisheries officer, an elder and a young man from a First Nations band. But the government decides that being friendly with Luna is bad for him, and tries to keep him and people apart.

This effort becomes hilarious and baffling, because Luna refuses to give up his search for a social life. Policemen arrest people for rubbing Luna's nose. Fines are levied. But humans are social, too. When the government tells people they can't even look at Luna, people still go out to meet him, like smugglers carrying friendship through the dark.

But friendship is complicated, even among humans themselves, and does it work between species? People who love Luna don't agree on how to help him. The fisheries officer wants Luna captured and trucked away to try to force him to connect with his family. The young First Nations man thinks that's disrespectful because his band says Luna is the spirit of a chief. The elder believes Luna is

supernatural, the sea's source of wisdom and justice. The ship's cook doesn't know what to do except marvel when she looks in his eyes.

Then conflict comes to Nootka Sound. The government builds a huge net. The First Nations' members bring out their canoes. Then, suddenly, as the two sides start to fight over Luna on the wind-swept water, the young whale has all the friends he wants. As the officer tries to lead Luna into the net, the First Nations elder sings and paddles and tries to lead him away, and Luna plays among the boats like a kid out of school. To Luna this must be great, but in this human conflict above him, someone has to win and someone has to lose, and where will his friends be then?

Nothing goes as planned on Nootka Sound, and the unexpected always happens. Finally even the filmmakers get swept up in events that catch everyone by surprise and challenge the very nature of that special and mysterious bond we humans call friendship.

In the end, *Saving Luna* explores one of the greatest of mysteries: Who are these lives who share the planet with us humans, and what are the connections between us that we do not yet know?

Monday 28 Sep 2009

Can'Tswer and Kilimanjaro slide presentation

Ten years after his leukemia diagnosis, Ryan Hendren is a survivor who is reluctant to take risks and move forward with life. The opportunity to take a backpacking trip through the Andes Mountains changes his and his perception of his cancer experience - from one of Survivor to Thriver.

Monday 5 Oct 2009

The Soloist, discussion with Dr John Gray

Special event for Mental Illness Awareness Week

Steve Lopez, a Los Angeles newspaper writer, discovers Nathaniel Ayers, a mentally ill, homeless street musician who possesses extraordinary talent. Although playing a battered violin with two strings, he was once a gifted cellist. Inspired by his story, Lopez writes an acclaimed series of articles about Ayers and attempts to do more to help both him and the rest of the underclass of LA have a better life. However, Lopez's good intentions run headlong in the hard realities of the strength of Ayers' personal demons and the larger social injustices facing the homeless.

This new feature film, based on a true story., is an opening for a lively discussion about how we treat our homeless and/or mentally ill citizens. Pg13 some language and drug use.

Our guest, John Gray, PhD has worked as a psychologist clinician and psychiatric hospital director in Saskatchewan. In BC he was an Assistant Executive Director

at Riverview Hospital and worked in the Ministry of Health, Mental Health Services for over 20 years. John currently serves on the Victoria and provincial boards of the BC Schizophrenia Society and is a past president of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada. He is lead author of the recently published book "Canadian Mental Health Law and Policy".

cast: Jamie Foxx, Robert Downey Jr.

Monday 12 Oct 2009

The Story Of Anvil

It's probably best to experience this film as a non-metalhead. Anvil is just a simple story of two guys who are dedicated to their dream. They started metal music's ascent but somehow got lost when it became big.

"It might be easy to mistake ANVIL! for a THIS IS SPINAL TAP mockumentary. But despite the snicker-inducing heavy-metal trappings, this is also a warmly human portrait of two men pursuing their creative passions despite Sisyphean odds."

A totally loveable film! Best time I've had in the theatre since Best In Show. R language

Monday 19 Oct 2009

Keeper Of The Flame

Come celebrate, with The Raging Grannies., the birthday of the man voted "Greatest Canadian", The film: NFB's award winning Keeper Of The Flame. G

"Once a champion boxer, then a fiery preacher, T.C. Douglas got into politics during the 1930s and never looked back. His career as premier of Saskatchewan and leader of the federal New Democratic Party was a rollercoaster ride of victories and defeats. Douglas was a highly principled proponent of social justice; his radical reforms - such as medicare - are now accepted as normal public policy in Canada. The film traces Douglas's fifty-year political career and captures the unique spirit of the man."

Shirley Douglas, Tommy Douglas' daughter, one of Canada's most prominent activists in favor of the publicly-funded health care system over privatized care and mother of three children including Keifer Sutherland will call in to introduce the film.

Monday 26 Oct 2009

The Necessities Of Life

This thoughtful, quiet film was written by a MM Favourite and past guest, Bernard Emond who before working in film was an anthropologist in the North. This story reflects his experience. In the 1950s an Innu man was abruptly detached from his family and way of life to be brought south to a TB clinic. Featuring a touching

performance by the lead actor from Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner. In French and Inuktitut with subtitles.

Monday 2 Nov 2009

Om Shanti Om

The greatest of all Bollywood films, Om Shanti Om bubbles over with elaborate plot; comedy, high romance, ghosts, reincarnation and revenge. It's full of Indian superstars, music and frenetic, imaginative dance numbers, and clocks in at a robust. "Both an homage to and parody of Bollywood, this cinematic feast delivered straight from the heart of the film industry will have you glued to your seats till the end." PG

Monday 9 Nov 2009

The Stone Of Destiny Scotland

With Scots nationalism waning under the weight of Britain's rule, four university students, led by Ian Hamilton, make a dramatic gesture to reawaken their country's pride. Despite having little money and even less experience, they scheme to break into Westminster Abbey in the wee hours and "liberate" that most powerful symbol of Scotland's nationhood - The Stone of Destiny. This latest historical comedy/drama from Vancouver's Charles Martin Smith is a treat! It's close to the true story. PG

Tuesday 10 Nov 2009

You, Me, and the S.P.P: Trading Democracy for Corporate Rule

What do secrecy, police provocateurs, an assault on democracy and infringements on citizens rights have in common? The Security and Prosperity Partnership.

'You, Me, and the S.P.P: Trading Democracy for Corporate Rule' exposes the latest manifestation of a corporate agenda that is undermining the democratic authority of the citizens of North America and threatens the sovereignty of the NAFTA countries through the integration of military, security structures and regulatory regimes.

"Manly has created an extremely thorough introduction to a set of issues that will increasingly affect every Canadian. As the film progressed, I was shocked at my own ignorance about the SPP and TILMA and their implications and I am indebted to this film for the research and revelations it presents." Mark Achbar – Manufacturing Consent, The Corporation.

Monday 16 Nov 2009

Owning The Slave

OWNING the SLAVE introduces Andy Stringfellow, a Comox Valley local who moved to Canada, leaving behind the United States and the rich African-American culture of the rural south where he was raised. Thirty years later, the only black man in a white town, Andy offers a frank, complex view into the experience of being an outsider.

Because of heart disease, Andy has had to give up his successful career as a clinical counsellor. Determined to continue his personal evolution, he overcomes his lifelong need to keep his inner-self hidden. His journey is about reclaiming oneself from imposed social, political and personal patterns and restrictions.

Andy's spontaneous performances of traditional songs complement original music composed and played by Michel Leblanc.

Saturday 21 November 2009

The Reena Virk Story

A special presentation of this film about bullying and restorative justice (on the cusp of weeks to notice those important topics) with guests Filmmaker Larry Moore and special guests Suman and Manjit Virk

On November 14, 1997, fourteen year old Reena Virk was lured out by her peers, then swarmed, beaten and drowned in the Gorge Waterway in Victoria, B.C. For the last eleven years Reena's parents Suman and Manjit have struggled to make sense of what happened and now share their insights with audiences of all ages in an effort to prevent similar tragedies.

Monday 30 Nov 2009

The Gathering Storm

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Vancouver Island is devoted to ensuring the inspiration of this great global statesman, from the last century, will motivate even greater leadership today. Run by volunteers, the society provides events and activities for members and for the general public.

Monday 7 Dec 2009

The Living Museum

The Living Museum is an art community in a downsized New York mental institution (Creedmoor Psychiatric Center) where every inch of the 40,000 square foot space is treated like a canvas. The Living Museum illuminates the life and work of artists who are patients and graduates of the Creedmoor. Dr. Janos Marton, charismatic director co-founder and seven of his patients/artists illustrate how it works and how art can be so necessary in the lives of many who are "afflicted " with mental illness.

By Academy Award winning filmmaker Jessica Yu (who transferred the film to DVD just for us!) The project is still, after 15 years, very much alive in NY, as our art programs are threatened.

"In the Living Museum, people are able to express themselves, to create something worthwhile - it's like going to a job. Karen Schechter, the Director of Community Relations, is part of an administration that is uniquely sensitive to and supportive of the artists in their midst. Recognizing how important an expressive

outlet is for the recovery process, art is integrated into rehabilitation at Creedmoor. It is an important part of the treatment plans for both inpatients and outpatients."

Monday 14 Dec 2009

Julie & Julia

Based on two true stories, Julie & Julia intertwines the lives of two women who, though separated by time and space, are both at loose ends until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible. This is a film everybody loves and Merle Streep is brilliant again.

Monday 21 Dec 2009

Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music

"In this classic 1969 documentary, the Man in Black is captured at his peak, the first of many in a looming roller-coaster career. Fresh on the heels of his Folsom Prison album, Cash reveals the dark intensity and raw talent that made him a country music star and cultural icon. Director Robert Elfstrom got closer than any other filmmaker to Cash, who is seen performing with his new bride June Carter Cash, in a rare duet with Bob Dylan, playing a prison concert, and behind the scenes with friends, family and being receptive to aspiring young musicians. Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music paints an unforgettable portrait that endures beyond the singer's 2003 death."

The film was recently recut by Vancouver based filmmaker Peter Davies, a friend of director Robert Elfstrom. Pg

Visit youtube and you'll see a five minute clip of Cash listening attentively to a young Metis musician, all the way from Saskatchewan, Canada, who plays two beautiful songs. He gets a nod to be hooked up with Columbia Records. That endorsement could have been the start of a great career. You've got to wonder. The kid is good!

Well, happily, Don Freed 40+ years later lives in Victoria and will be with us to talk about that moment and "the rest of the story".

Monday 28 Dec 2009

Never Apologize

Never Apologize combines McDowell's personal reminiscences with his readings of pieces written by and about his friend and mentor, Director Lindsay Anderson (IF, O LUCKY MAN). These are brought to life by the actor's often hilarious and moving impressions of not only the provocative Anderson, but also the notables in their circle, including Alan Bates, Bette Davis, John Ford, John Gielgud, Lillian Gish, Richard Harris, Laurence Olivier and Rachel Roberts. We visit a group of colorful personalities and witness the cultural, social and political climate of the period – all through MacDowell's brilliant, sophisticatedly funny monologue. A MM special treat.

This is THE film lovers' film! Almost 2 hours of pure joy.

Archives 2009

Monday 4 Jan 2010

Up

Let's start the New Year on an Up note! By tying thousands of balloons to his home, 78-year-old Carl Fredrickson (voiced by lovable grouchy Ed Asner) sets out to fulfil his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South America. Right after lifting off, however, he learns he isn't alone on his journey, since Russell, a wilderness explorer 70 years his junior, has inadvertently become a stowaway on the trip.

Monday 11 Jan 2010

Grey Gardens

Based on the life stories of the eccentric aunt and first cousin of Jackie Onassis (both named Edith Bouvier Beale aka "Big and Little Edie") raised as Park Avenue debutantes but who withdrew from New York society, taking shelter at their Long Island summer home, "Grey Gardens." As their wealth and contact with the outside world dwindled, so did their grasp on reality. They were reintroduced to the world when international tabloids learned of a health department raid on their home, and Jackie swooped in to save her relatives. They seemed not to mind the squalor. This HBO film steps behind the documentarians to give another dimension to this well-known Maysles 1975 Grey Gardens documentary. Special thanks to HBO for allowing us this opportunity to put this up on the big screen. A remarkable real story brought to life by Drew Barrymore and Jessica Lange.

Monday 18 Jan 2010

Rocaterrania

"Rocaterrania" became Renaldo Kuhler's lifelong obsession – secretly a coded story of his own life. His imagined and exquisitely illustrated country is a tiny nation of eastern European immigrants who purchased a tract of land along the Canadian border – just north of the Adirondacks. – after growing restless with America's notions of "democracy." Over 60 years Rocaterrania saw governments and rulers rise and decline. But, as filmmaker Brett Ingram, (maker of MM favourite Monster Road) reveals, each change in government reflects a deeper meaning for Renaldo, an outsider who struggled to escape a difficult childhood and searched for freedom within a nation of conformity. Pg13

Filmmaker Brett Ingram will be with us. Formerly a journalist, physics teacher, and electrical engineer on the Space Shuttle Main Engine Program, Brett Ingram has been making films since 1990. His short documentaries and animated films have screened at more than 150 festivals, winning thirty awards collectively.

Ingram's first documentary feature, Monster Road, (included in the MM/Yo collection) won sixteen awards (including "Best Documentary" at the 2004 Slamdance Film Festival) and screened at more than ninety festivals and cinema venues internationally – including Movie Monday! Ingram teaches filmmaking in

the Department of Media Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Also The Spine (2009, 11 min) a new and weirdly wonderful film by animator Chris Landreth who made the Oscar winning RYAN.

Monday 25 Jan 2010

Killer Whale and Crocodile

In Killer Whale and Crocodile carvers from two of the world's great carving traditions come together. A First Nations carver from Canada travels into the jungles of Papua New Guinea and a New Guinea carver travels to urban Canada. Together, they share each others cultures and learn about the myths and legends that inform their individual artistic styles.

In the Spring of 2006 John Marston, a young Coast Salish carver from Vancouver Island who has already gained a strong reputation for his innovative approach to traditional Coast Salish styles, visited Teddy Balangu, a carver from the Sepik River of Papua New Guinea. Teddy returned to Canada where he was the artist in residence at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia for 5 months. Brought to you by Victoria filmmakers Peter Campbell (of Gumboot Productions) and Arthur Holbrook and Elaine Monds, director of Alcheringa Gallery in Victoria, BC and Dr. Carol Mayer, Curator for Oceania and Africa at the Museum of Anthropology.

Monday 1 Feb 2010

Wendy and Lucy

Here's the antithesis of the hot, flashy films that are entertaining us in the theatres these days. Here's a simple story about a few days in a woman and dog's life that I found engrossing. I hope you will too. It reminded me more of real life than most other films I've watched in years. Don't read reviews and ratings (it's best if you have know idea what happens next, that's real life.) R (for language) Just come and see this and we'll talk about it after.

Monday 8 Feb 2010

Every Little Step - The Journey of "A Chorus Line"

A Chorus Line was a tremendously successful Broadway Musical in the 70s through the 90s (I saw it in London '75 and it was brilliant) and it was an ok film by Michael Douglas (1985). This documentary follows a remounting of the musical and looks at the history of this enduring story against the backdrop of the current casting and workup to a new production. It's the perfect setup for a great reality show. This one is more than that.

Monday 15 Feb 2010

Unlisted: A Story of Schizophrenia

Dr Ruston will be doing psychiatric Rounds presentation the next morning 8am in our theatre)

Richard Ruston was afflicted with paranoid schizophrenia before his daughter's, Delaney Ruston's, birth. After many years of shame, frustration and fear she decided to hide from her father and keep her phone number and address unlisted. But now, 10 years later, Richard is more stable on a newer medicine and Delaney, given her experiences as a doctor and a mother, decides to reconnect with her father. This is about their journey.

Dr Delaney will be presenting at Psychiatric Rounds Tuesday Feb 16 8 am

Filmmaker Bio: Delaney Ruston is an internal medicine doctor and award winning documentary filmmaker who founded her independent production company, MyDoc Productions 10 years ago. Films by MyDoc productions have focused on controversial medical themes, such If She Knew, which explores the ethics of withholding bad news from patients, and Crossroads, the Intersection of Pain and Addiction.

Ruston began her focus on mental illness with her short about her relationship with her mentally ill father entitled, Unlisted which aired on PBS (and screened at MM years ago). This film became the catalyst for her recent feature documentary, Unlisted: A Story of Schizophrenia. Ruston has also just completed Crisis and Control: What's the Role of Psychiatric Advance Directives (which addresses some of the problems she experienced with her father's situation). In production is another film on mental health entitled; Where in the world is Mental Health? This film will provide a much needed global perspective on the care of the severely mentally ill. Filming was done thus far in China and France (she's currently in India).

Ruston completed medical school at Stanford University and a Medicine Residency and Fellowship in Medical Ethics at the University of California at San Francisco. All the while Delaney has been producing films, she has also been providing primary medical care in clinics for underserved patients, particularly the Pikes Market district of Seattle. She lives with her husband and two young children.

Monday 22 Feb 2010

JCVD

Jean-Claude Van Damme plays himself as an out-of-luck actor. He is out of money; his agent cannot find him a decent production; and the judge in a custody battle is inclined to give custody of his daughter over to his ex-wife. He returns to his childhood home of Brussels, the capital of Belgium, where he is still considered a national icon. Then he gets drawn into a bank heist. Can he rise to the occasion? To date, this is the only Van Damme film to be listed as Certified Fresh on the Tomatometer at 85%! Rated R for language and some violence.

Monday 1 Mar 2010

Mrs Doubtfire

Comedy Tonight! An out of work voice-over actor and his wife get divorced, with the wife gaining custody of the three children. Unhappy with the allotted time

given him to spend with the kids, the father dresses up as an old lady and gets a job as the kids' nanny.

Monday 8 Mar 2010

Stuart Saves His Family

This special screening of a Movie Monday favourite is especially for volunteers in VIHA. We follow a sweet, earnest guy from an amazingly dysfunctional family through a year in his life: his journal, his cable tv "affirmations" show, rescuing his family where he can, (and himself when he can't and retreating to his bed with a bag of Oreos when he gets overwhelmed. But he keeps trying and he is "Good enough, and smart enough, and gol-darn it, people like [him]" Stuart is a model of recovery we can all take to our hearts. From now- US Senator Al Franken's book and screenplay, directed by legendary Harold Ramis. PG13 cast: Al Franken, Laura San Giacomo, Vincent D'Onofrio, Shirley Knight, Harris Yulin

Ever been in a support group? Ever had a little dysfunction in your family? This Monday's Stuart Saves His Family will tickle your funny bone and strike a cord as well. It's a smart little film with a heart of gold.

Wikipedia: Siskel and Ebert each gave the film a "thumbs up" rating, with Siskel calling it "smart and hip" and Ebert saying that "it has more courage than a lot of serious films." [1] The film also received good reviews from The Washington Post, Deseret News, and the Chicago Reader. However, the film scored a 29% fresh rating at Rotten Tomatoes.

The film did not fare well at the box office, earning only \$911,310. This followed the box-office failures of other SNL-adaptations.

Franken mentioned his depression following the film's [boxoffice] failure in his 2003 book, *Oh, the Things I Know! A Guide to Success, or Failing That, Happiness*.

Shortly after the movie left the theaters, Saturday Night Live featured a "Daily Affirmations with Stuart Smalley" sketch that parodied the poor box office returns. Stuart was depressed and bitter throughout the entire segment and lambasted the audience for choosing other movies (such as *Dumb and Dumber*) over his.

Although the film flopped at the box office, it is often played for patients attending rehab.

MM audiences love it. A psychiatrist who specializes in mental health films (www.psychflix.com), who I alerted to it, said he and his wife thought it was "a stinker". I can't explain it - except he might be a Republican. Franken's books run with titles like; *Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations* and *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*.

Monday 15 Mar 2010

Griefwalker

We showed this film last year. It's an important topic that provokes discussion. Just because we are alive we all have to deal with dying.

This time we'll have people from Victoria's palliative care community with us to talk about our views of how people facing their end of life should be assisted.

Griefwalker is a film about death. More specifically, it's about how Western culture approaches death. Even more specifically, according to filmmaker Tim Wilson's close friend Stephen Jenkinson, Griefwalker is about how Western culture doesn't approach death. Join with special guests in an open discussion about this film and topic. Who would you want at your bedside?

Saturday 20 Mar 2010

Provocative Exposure: The moment intensified - Toby Snelgrove photo show and tell.

High Dynamic Range Photography, 2007, 77 min

"Ever since Ansel Adams pushed the dynamic range of B&W photography, film photography has found ways to capture images and push their dynamic range. Whether it was through the developing process by, for example, under exposing then over developing the film, or in the darkroom through dodging and burning, the artist began to "paint" pictures. In some applications, these techniques would allow images to be more true to the eye (bringing out shadow detail seen but lost with a normal exposure) or, with other applications, take the viewer well beyond what the eye could see. With the emergence of digital photography, these possibilities have been expanded and brought within the reach of all photographers.

HDR photography is a process where several images are taken of a scene at different exposure settings in order to capture all the information from highlights to shadow detail. When processed through an HDR software, such as Photomatrix, images are layered and the artist is able to craft his/her images using all this information to create their art. The result can be not obvious to the viewer with the expanded dynamic range appearing normal. Alternatively, the results can be quite dynamic with the expanded light and colour range inviting the viewer to see detail often overlooked."

Toby Snelgrove, a freelance photographer based on Mayne Island has been experimenting with HDR for the past year. Recently he has had several shows and he has been photographing at the Olympics. His work exhibited on Mayne Island caught my attention and had the place abuzz.

See Toby Snelgrove's. trailer for his discussion on high dynamic range photography. Though relatively new to HDR, Toby will serve up an interactive primer based on his experience with HDR photography. We will project examples

of his work on the big screen, both the original images and the enhanced HDR versions. As well, examples of his work will be displayed for viewing and sale in our lobby/gallery.

Toby Snelgrove is also a Counsellor, consultant and trainer in the field of trauma management.

Monday 22 Mar 2010

The Snow Walker

In 1953, in Arctic, a bush pilot begrudgingly changes his flight plan to bring the local native woman with tuberculosis to a hospital for treatment. The plane crashes and they have to struggle for survival. He learns from his charge how to survive in this foreign region, forming a bond of respect and friendship with her. Directed by Charles Martin Smith. Q&A with Charles Martin Smith. PG

Monday 29 Mar 2010

Adam

A story about two strangers. One a little stranger than the other. Soon after moving in, Beth, a brainy, beautiful writer damaged from a past relationship encounters Adam, the handsome, but odd, fellow in the downstairs apartment whose awkwardness is perplexing. Beth and Adam's ultimate connection leads to a tricky relationship that exemplifies something universal: truly reaching another person means bravely stretching into uncomfortable territory and the resulting shake-up can be liberating. PG

Monday 5 Apr 2010

Whip It

Drew Barrymore makes her directorial debut with this feisty, female-friendly action-comedy. Canada's darling, Ellen Page, stars as Bliss Cavendar, a young woman who longs to break free of her small-town bonds by joining the rough-and-tumble sport of roller derby in nearby Austin, Texas.

"It has guts, charm, and a black-and-blue sweetness." -- Roger Ebert This'll be fun! Pg13

Monday 12 Apr 2010

Perfect Heros & Playing The Machines

Perfect Heros & Playing The Machines are from a neat little NFLD outfit. Two documentaries from a nifty NFLD company, Morag Loves Company - both about addictions. PERFECT HEROS, is about romance novels, the people who write them, those who voraciously consume them, even the people who model for the covers.

And PLAYING THE MACHINES, a more pernicious, government encouraged addiction that is expanding in our culture and is becoming a serious addiction for

our citizens - and our governments. They need the income in spite of the damage done to VLT addicts. Gordon Pinsent narrates.

Monday 19 Apr 2010

Up In the Air

Our protagonist's job is to fire people from theirs. He loves his job and the freedom of flying about the country doing it. But now his style of doing business is threatened with downsizing - and he has to train a naive, ambitious young woman. This film by Canadian Jason Reitman (gone Hollywood) is not the formula you might have been expecting. It was a contender for six Oscars: Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, Actor, and two Supporting Roles.

Monday 26 Apr 2010

Inlaws and Outlaws

With remarkable honesty, good humor, great music and real heart, Inlaws & Outlaws weaves together true stories of couples and singles, gay and straight, to embrace what we all have in common: we love.

As their stories unfold, and stereotypes are exposed, you won't care who is gay or straight, because you will be rooting for everybody.

Monday 3 May 2010

"36-24-36"

"36-24-36" with ex-pat Victoria filmmaker Roderick Taylor, Mask Removal Productions by phone from Kitimat.

An insightful feature length documentary film, made by pre-adolescent girls, that explores the issue of female body image and its correlation with eating disorders.

The film gives the viewer a firsthand perspective of Jessica and Shannon's battles with anorexia while lending itself to the professional opinions of counsellors and dieticians who work with adolescent women. It also explores the reality and insights of pre-adolescent girls who, prior to making this film, thought very little about the perception of female body image within our society.

"Making this film was a very unique experience because we put the power of filmmaking in the hands of 12-year-old girls, which was a first for Mask Removal Productions. Never before have we pushed such a young group of kids to make such a serious and lengthy film."

- Roderick Taylor, Director/Founder of Mask Removal Productions with us by phone, along with local experts in the field.

The film approaches the concept of female body image and its correlation with eating disorders from a totally pre-adolescent perspective, as it was made by a small group of 12-year-old girls in Kitimat, BC, with the supervision and support of two volunteers who work as child & youth clinical counsellors.

"Going through the process of making this film really made me question how female body image is constructed in our society. I hope it does the same for others." - Andrea Sanders-Crouch, Filmmaker.

"36-24-36" was three years in the making and received zero funding, with all contributions to its creation being completely voluntary. Despite this, the film holds a professional air that goes way beyond the capabilities of its pre-adolescent creators.

Monday 10 May 2010

Ferron: Girl On The Road

Ferron is a folk-rock singer songwriter who delivers each performance with an enigmatic calm and beauty that has drawn comparisons to Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. Her intricate lyrics and guitar-driven melodies gained her serious credentials with critics and has inspired generations of women musicians including the Indigo Girls, Ani DiFranco, and JD Samson (Le Tigre). Ferron has also faced her share of adversity from the same fans and followers of her music who fault her for including men in her band.

Girl on a Road is in essence a concert movie that captures musical performances and backstage interviews with Ferron and her band members after a ten-year absence from touring. We are privy to intimate confessions and reflections both personal and professional including Ferron's flirtation with a major record label, her chaotic childhood and how her own identity as a woman, an Indian, a French-Canadian and as a lesbian is reflected in her life and in her art." From Gerry Rogers NS filmmaker of My Left Breast

This is a wonderful film! You're going to Love this evening!

Monday 17 May 2010

Oliver Schroer - Silence At The Heart Of Things

Silence At The Heart Of Things is a documentary about Oliver Schroer, fiddler extraordinaire. In a career cut short by illness, the Canadian artist recorded and produced more than 100 albums, composed some 1,000 pieces of music and inspired a generation of young musicians! The film follows Oliver in the last months of his life as he collaborates with musicians who have come from abroad to work with him. Through his own words, the documentary explores Oliver's music and the unique voice he brought to his instrument, a voice that challenges traditional views of the fiddle. Featuring excerpts from Oliver's last sold-out concert, Silence At The Heart Of Things is a joyful celebration of his life's work.

Monday 24 May 2010

An Education

A coming-of-age story about a teenage girl in 1960s suburban London, and how her life changes with the arrival of a playboy nearly twice her age. Carey Mulligan is luminous, Peter Sarsgaard is the perfect likeable cad.

It's an old story but beautifully told - an education. Deservedly nominated for three Oscars; Best Picture, Writing, and Actor (Carey Mulligan).

Monday 31 May 2010

Here Are The News: The life of Miss Edith Josie

Edith Josie, was an Aboriginal elder whose News was the voice Old Crow, Yukon (pop. 300), for more than 50 years. Her column was widely read and loved for it's folksy style and Gwit'chin world view. It won her a Life Magazine feature and numerous visits on air with Peter Gzowski. She was loved for her winning laugh and her dogged work to preserve her language, her people's traditional way of life, language and values. She died just last January 31, at 88.

Her friend, Cathleen Smith, a non-Aboriginal (although they were "honorary sisters") made this tribute to her friend from a trunkful of gathered media clips, films, photos, clippings and interviews. Cathleen will be with us for Q&A and is a great raconteur! You'll love both these ladies. Pg

Monday 7 Jun 2010

Canvas

Canvas is the loosely biographical story of writer/director Joseph Greco. Greco uses Canvas to explore mental illness through the eyes of a child (Devon Gearhart) as he learns to cope with his mother (Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden) who has schizophrenia. Actor Joe Pantoliano is brilliant as the compassionate and often bewildered head of a family in crisis.

Canvas has been applauded by doctors and members of the mental health community for Harden's accurate portrayal of schizophrenia.

"This is a film you cannot watch and forget right away," states a release posted on the Rome Film Fest. "It goes right to the heart with its portrait of strength and determination of a family in fighting the mother's illness. The courage of the director, who has based the film on his own childhood, is simply unbelievable."

Winner of numerous audience awards, Canvas is another excellent vehicle to explore the impact of mental illness on a family. Pg13

Monday 14 Jun 2010

Music Man Singalong

You got Trouble?? Come have some fun at Movie Monday's 17th Anniversary.

Here's a chance to revisit arguably the greatest of all musicals and holler out some great tunes like Seventy Six Trombones, Marian The Librarian, Gary Indiana, Goodnight Ladies, Trouble, Goodnight, My Someone, Till There Was You and more! Prof. Harold Hill (Robert Preston) and Marion Paroo (Shirley Jones) will lead you and Buddy Hackett and little Ronny Howard fill in the gaps in this. PG

Monday 21 Jun 2010

Peace Warrior

The ultimate recovery story, this is a truly incredible film about Capt. Trevor Greene, the reservist who was attacked in Afghanistan with an axe to the head. He came home comatose and expected to stay that way, if he lived at all. He and his wife-to-be have worked astonishingly hard on his recovery, surprising everyone.

They live in Nanaimo and be joining us for the film and a Q&A to follow!

Update: About the film's Gemini win for Best Biography Documentary.! "Peace Warrior has already won Best Biography Documentary at the Yorkton Film Festival, a CINE Golden Eagle Award, and was a finalist at both the Gabriel Awards and the Freddie Awards in the U.S."

Monday 28 Jun 2010

Iron Maiden Flight 666

By local boys Sam Dunn and Scott McFadyen who've made a name for themselves worldwide with Metal: A Headbanger's Journey, Global Metal, and most recently the hit Rush: Beyond The Lighted Stage. This 2009 film follows I M on an incredible, power world tour from the inside.

So you want to cover the world? You modify a Boeing 757 to take 12 tons of music and stage equipment on board, playing 23 sold out stadium and arena shows in 13 countries in just 45 days, traveling 70,000km and performing to almost half a million fans – and put your lead singer, Bruce Dickinson, a licensed pilot, at the helm. It's an amazing story told brilliantly. You don't need to like metal music to have a great time with this film, I don't and I did.

Monday 5 Jul 2010

I Killed My Mother (J'ai tué ma mère)

No actual mother killing happens in this amazing first film written and directed by 20-year-old Quebec filmmaker Xavier Dolan. The turbulent relationship between a precocious gay son and his crass single mother unfolds with a compelling combination of savage fury, humour, and melting affection. This stunning, semi-autobiographical directing debut wowed critics (and me) and won three prizes at Cannes Fest. PG13

Monday 12 Jul 2010

Program of Yukon Films, "The People and the Place"

Picturing a People: George Johnston, Tlingit Photographer, 51 min, Carol Geddes, Documentary, 1997, NFB – Montreal. This documentary is celebrated as the first truly Yukon film. Made by Carol Geddes, Picturing a People is an ambitious retelling of the story of a Tlingit man whose photos captured the before-and-after of the great change: the building of the Alaska Highway. Carol's film epitomizes what Yukon cinema has become, a view of the Yukon from the Yukon.

Dawson Town Melted Down, 6 min, Lulu Keating, Personal Documentary, 2007, Dawson City, YT. Why the hell did you move to the Yukon? The answer is a playful portrait of Dawson City, the lies and the truths of this frontier town. Shot mostly on 16 mm film with a Bolex wind-up camera, the film was hand processed.

Geh eenjit di' tr'iheetl'yaa (We Will Set Snares for Rabbit), 6 min, Mary Jane Moses, Documentary, 2010, Old Crow YT. This film is about my Gwich'in culture. Rabbit snaring is a traditional skill learnt as a child. The film incorporates my culture, language and way of life which still continues today.

Her Man Plan, 6 min, Lulu Keating, Drama, 2010, Dawson City, YT. Way back when she was a kid, Stephanie decided that 2010 is the year she'd take a man. As she mushes across the Yukon River to fetch her man of choice, she is ambushed by another man who wins her heart.

Contained Chaos: the Kinetic Art of Philippe LeBlond, 5 min, Rod Jacob, 2007, Whitehorse, YT. Whitehorse bicycle mechanic Philippe LeBlond spends his spare time designing and building quirky kinetic sculptures out of metal. This short documentary explores the inner workings of the artist and his sculptures.

Boar Attack, 4 min, Jay White, Animation, 2007, Whitehorse, YT. Having grown up in the shadow of his father (a successful ballerina), a boy is forced to confront his fears. What caused his father to mysteriously disappear in the woods? Was it a diseased insect? Diarrhea? Or even a PIG? The boy must find a way to accept his loss, or face a fate worse than death.

Monday 19 Jul 2010

Crazy Heart

The simple story of a Merle Haggard [or Kris Kristofferson]-type has been who falls in love with a younger reporter is aided greatly by excellent songs and dazzling performances by Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Colin Farrell. Life on the road and life as an alcoholic, when is it time to change? - we'll be talking about that. Rated R for language

Monday 26 Jul 2010

Art As Mirror

Tonight we featured two films by local filmmaker Sherry LePage and a lobby full of paintings.

Art As Mirror A celebration of Canada's visual arts heritage (26 min) about Jeremie Gyles, a renaissance man who, as one of his many projects, painted a posthumous homage to seventy-two Canadian artists in each with a sample of their work in the image. A couple of retired teachers bought the collection and will be presenting some of the canvases.

Also Baghdad To Peace Country (28 min) about a giant artwork Victorian artist Derek Houston carved with a bulldozer in the northern landscape.

"This documentary is about Canadian artist Deryk Houston, who in 1999, had a life-altering journey to Baghdad. Unable to remain an outside observer of the crisis in Iraq, Deryk travelled to witness first-hand the impact of international sanctions on the Iraqi people. Compelled to speak out, the artist embarked upon a unique nature art project designed to call attention to the situation of the children of Iraq. Using rocks, gravel and hay, Deryk began to create large-scale art installations in the image of a mother and child against diverse landscapes around the world."

Canvases from both artists will be adorning our gallery/lobby with special guests filmmaker Sherry Lepage, Dianne Harding and Bud Huzyk, and artist Deryk Houston.

Monday 2 Aug 2010

When The Road Bends.Tales Of A Gypsy Caravan

Five bands from four countries unite for the World Music Institute's Gypsy Caravan 6-week concert tour across North America with the musicians astounding every audience they meet. Their musical styles range from flamenco to brass band, from Romanian violin and Indian folk to Raga and jazz. And with fire in their bellies and soul in their voices, they present an explosion of song and dance that celebrates the best of Gypsy music and the diversity of the Romani people. During the highs and lows of a whimsical fun-filled U.S. road trip, the artists befriend each other and share the majesty and glory of music whilst overcoming the prejudice that is part of their shared ancestry. Shot by a crew that included Albert Maysles and Jojo Pennebaker and directed by a filmmaker dedicated to the subject, Jasmine Dellel.

Monday 9 Aug 2010

Three films by David Laing Dawson

Two about art and wellness:

The Brush, The Pen and Recovery (33 min) - about an art studio for people with mental illness and showing an exhibition of their work in Dawson's Hamilton, ON gallery.

And, Painting with Tom, David, and Emily (14 min) - following the spirits of outdoor landscapists Tom Thompson, David Milne, and Emily Carr.

also one about a man with Schizophrenia

My Name is Walter James Cross: The Reality of Schizophrenia (53 min)

Finding an abandoned theater, a man who lives with SZ stands on the stage alone and recounts his descent into mental illness and what his life is like now; what

makes a difference for him, what is comforting, what he's lost. Created by a psychiatrist who has worked for many years with patients who have schizophrenia and based largely on a particular patient, now friend's, experience. all PG

With David Laing Dawson, psychiatrist, artist, gallery owner, novelist, and filmmaker from Hamilton, ON, on hand in person for discussion.

The Intern is my favourite of his books, of the two I've read. This article is a good read - gives you an idea about his style and sensibility. .about a bipolar, brain injured client going out on the town for his birthday with his support workers.

Monday 16 Aug 2010

Where The Wild Things Are

An adaptation of Maurice Sendak's classic children's story, where Max, a disobedient little boy sent to bed without his supper, creates his own world - a forest inhabited by ferocious wild creatures that crown Max as their ruler. It's not an easy job, being a ruler. Stunning visuals and lots to talk about.

Monday 23 Aug 2010

The Last Station

A tale of two romances, one beginning, one near its end, The Last Station is a complex, funny, rich and emotional story about the difficulty of living with love and the impossibility of living without it. After almost fifty years of marriage, the Countess Sofya (Helen Mirren), Leo Tolstoy's (Christopher Plummer) devoted wife, passionate lover, muse and secretary—she's copied out War and Peace six times...by hand!—suddenly finds her entire world turned upside down. In the name of his newly created religion, the great Russian novelist has renounced his noble title, his property and even his family in favor of poverty, vegetarianism and even celibacy. After she's born him thirteen children! A new male secretary comes to work with Tolstoy and finds a complicated scene, full of hypocrisy and intrigue. You will too!

Monday 30 Aug 2010

The Cove

Academy Award Winner for Best Documentary of 2009, Using state-of-the-art equipment, a group of activists, filmmakers and freedivers led by renowned dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry (Flipper), on a covert mission to infiltrate a cove near Taijii, Japan to expose both a shocking instance of animal abuse and a serious threat to human health.

Monday 13 Sep 2010

Cooking With Stella

A tasty way to start out our Fall season. A warmhearted social satire about a Canadian diplomat (Lisa Ray) and her chef husband Michael (MM fave Don McKellar) who are posted to New Delhi. Upon arrival they inherit a household of Indian servants headed by the charming, totally inspiring and wily cook, Stella

(Seema Biswas). When Stella agrees to become Michael's cooking guru, to teach him traditional Indian dishes, little does he know that she's cooking up a scheme of her own.

Monday 20 Sep 2010

The Mighty Uke

MM is pleased to be part of the DVD launch of this wonderful Canadian-made doc that explores the quirky history of the instrument, visits virtuoso players from all over the world, and explores it's recent resurgence as a fun instrument with remarkable powers to bring people together. The DVD has 10 extra short films! G

With special guests Uke enthusiasts Craig Ridsdale (REES Centre) and Molly Raher Newman (Mighty Little Uke Band) and friends.

Monday 27 Sep 2010

Temple Grandin

Based on the writings by its title subject, HBO Films' Temple Grandin is an engaging portrait of an autistic young woman who became, through timely mentoring and sheer force of will, one of America's most remarkable success stories. She developed an interest in cattle early in life, eventually leading to her humane design for the treatment of cattle in processing plants which have made her world renowned, even winning an award from PETA. Today, she is a professor at Colorado State University. As an author and activist she has had a huge influence on how autism and Aspergers Syndrome are understood.

Monday 4 Oct 2010

Marion Bridge

"Canadian actor/playwright Daniel McIvor has written an extraordinary family drama involving three sisters trying to deal with their dying mother (who struggles with alcohol abuse) and the shared secrets of their past. Surely a recipe for mawkish, formula family drama, Marion Bridge succeeds wonderfully thanks to McIvor's sharp, funny screenplay, strong performances by Molly Parker, Hollis McLaren, Stacy Smith and youngster Ellen Page [now megastar - Juno, Whip It, Inception] and an assured directorial hand by first-time director Weibke von Carolsfeld.

Marion Bridge is filled with humor and powerful emotion as middle sister Agnes (Parker) returns to her rural, Cape Breton hometown after living wild in Toronto. Her two sisters Theresa and Louise view her return skeptically, but Agnes insists she's given up the booze and drugs she once played heavily with, and takes charge of their mother's care. Yet as in any family drama, those secrets preferred left undiscussed rear their ugly heads. The sweeping Nova Scotia landscape echoes the arc of emotions of this troubled family dredged once more to the surface. A stand out film."

Monday 11 Oct 2010

The Commitments

Great times at the movies are something to be hugely thankful for! A replay of a favourite at MM.

Leonard Maltin says, "Enormously satisfying tale of an ambitious young Dubliner who takes on the challenge of assembling a band made up of working class Dubliners who sing '60's-style blues! [To his very pasty white potential band, "Do you not get it, lads? The Irish are the blacks of Europe. And Dubliners are the blacks of Ireland. And the Northside Dubliners are the blacks of Dublin. So say it once, say it loud: I'm black and I'm proud."] Disarmingly engaging from the word go, with an charismatic cast of unknowns; filled with irresistible music. A real treat."

Monday 18 Oct 2010

Crooked Beauty

Filmmaker and mental health activist Ken Paul Rosenthal will screen Crooked Beauty, his poetic documentary that chronicles artist-activist Jacks McNamara's journey from psych ward patient to pioneering mental health advocate. Rosenthal will talk about his challenge to embody the film's character with compassion and authenticity. Discussion will focus on nurturing wellness through our relationship to the natural world, drawing new maps for 'madness' as a tool of insight, creativity and hope, and alternatives to the stigmas and stereotypes around representing madness in the media.

A very special and provocative piece that will spark a lively discourse. Pg

other events with Ken Paul Rosenthal

Sunday, Oct 17 7 pm One in Five, an exhibition of artwork by people who live with mental illness at the York Hotel Gallery - 705 Johnson Street.

Tuesday, Oct 19, 8 am - 9 am Psychiatry Grand Rounds at EMP Theatre (for professional & students)

Monday 25 Oct 2010

The Grey Fox

BC's first and classic "western" by first time, local director Phillip Borsos, about real life Bill Miner (1847-1913), a stagecoach and train robbing specialist who caused a ruckus in the BC interior. He came to Kamloops after a bit of trouble in Washington state, befriended a BC Police officer and a feminist photographer but they couldn't dissuade him of one last job. Richard Farnsworth played the part of this gentleman outlaw with brilliant reserve.

From a new DVD transfer. Winner of 7 Genies. PG

A great chance to see a new DVD version of a seldom screened Canadian classic with special guest Producer Peter O'Brian by phone.

Monday 1 Nov 2010

Downtown Dawgs

Downtown Dawgs follows the true story of Esau and Mike, two counselors working hard to give Calgary's downtrodden a second chance at life through the magic of the world's sport, soccer. As it turns out, the two counsellors are putting together a team for the first time ever from western Canada to enter the Homeless World Cup in South Africa. It explores the difference an opportunity like this makes in the lives of people who are homeless. This is a brilliant documentary that has got to be seen! Pg13

We'll be talking with Dr Alan Bates, Vancouver psychiatrist and coach who took the Vancouver team, Portland F C, to this September's match in Rio.

Also: White Noise a raw depiction of a day inside the life and mind of a panhandler on the streets of Victoria. It follows Kenneth "Flash" McLaren, known on the streets as "Kramer", over 17 hours in 2003. It revisits him 4 years later still on the streets. Shot by Jason Noel edited by Erick Thompson of A Channel.

Monday 8 Nov 2010

At The Edge Of The World

The astonishingly reckless and admirable actions undertaken by the controversial Sea Shepherd Conservation Society were aimed at stopping a Japanese whaling fleet in the vast expanse of the Antarctic's Ross Sea. With one ship (The Farley Mowat) too slow to chase down the whaling fleet and their second ship (The Robert Hunter) unsuited for Antarctic ice conditions, the situation becomes increasingly desperate. Beautifully filmed against the haunting backdrop of the Antarctic, this is a real-life David-vs-Goliath adventure.

Monday 15 Nov 2010

I Killed My Mother - J'ai tué ma mère

No actual mother killing happens in this amazing first film written and directed by 20-year-old Quebec filmmaker Xavier

Dolan. The turbulent relationship between a precocious gay son and his crass single mother unfolds with a compelling combination of savage fury, humour, and melting affection. This stunning, semi-autobiographical directing debut wowed critics (and me) and won three prizes at Cannes Fest. PG13 Repeat performance! Because, in spite of terrible distribution, this film needs to be seen.

Wednesday 17 Nov 2010

Humanitales stories that are sexy, funny, real

An evening of storytelling with Jan Derbyshire, Julie McNamara and David Roche. An international storytelling feast! Canadian Jan Derbyshire performs excerpts from "Squid Ink -Fathomed Tales from the Deep Sea of Fear"; London, UK-based Julie McNamara offers songs and stories from the sublime to the ridiculous; and

American ex-pat David Roche tells stories from his newly evolving work "Catholic Erotica".

Tickets: pay-what-you can at the door. Reserve by phone, after Nov 7, reserve by phone: Geoff McMurchy 250-3859828

Doors open 7:00 pm; shows at 7:30 pm.

Monday 22 Nov 2010

The Kids Are All Right

"Hugely entertaining, frequently funny and genuinely moving, this is a sharply written comedy-drama with refreshingly original characters and terrific performances from all five leads." This film about parenthood, familyhood, and just getting along was universally loved by critics.

Two LA moms, a gay couple, have each given birth to a child using the same anonymous sperm donor. The kids get curious about the "dad".

Monday 29 Nov 2010

Into The Storm

Into the Storm continues the storyline of The Gathering Storm (shown last year), Into the Storm looks at Winston Churchill's life and career at the end of WWII. In a series of flashbacks, while waiting for the results of the 1945 post war election, Churchill looks back at his heroic moments and the conditions that make his re-election and his personal life precarious. Pg13

Thanks to HBO for special permission to screen this film. Don't Miss the FREE birthday cake to celebrate Sir Winston Churchill's 136th birthday (on the 30th).

The Sir Winston Churchill Society of Vancouver Island is devoted to ensuring the inspiration of this great global statesman, from the last century, will motivate even greater leadership today. Run by volunteers, the society provides events and activities for members and for the general public.

Monday 6 Dec 2010

Shining Spirit

Shining Spirit, filmed in Canada, India and Tibet (2006-2009), documents a recording project that brings together the family of Jamyang Yeshe, through music and the use of multi-tracking recording technology. With the help of Western friends, Jamyang, in exile in Canada, and his brother, Tsundue, in exile in the United States, join voices with the family they left behind in Tibet. For the first time in over a decade, they sing together once again. Shining Spirit is a testament to the power of music, the resilience of the Tibetan culture, and the enduring bond of a family separated by politics and geography.

It's a beautifully made documentary about a musician from Tibet who is now living in Duncan. He and the filmmaker will be with us for the screening Nov 22.

Monday 13 Dec 2010

Cry Rock (Kwanatulhayc) & The Shadow Catcher

The wild beauty of the Bella Coola Valley blends with vivid watercolor animation illuminating the role of the Nuxalk oral tradition and the intersection of story, place and culture.

The Shadow Catcher is a documentary about the life and work of American Indian ethnographer Edward Curtis, narrated by Patrick Watson, Curtis' letters voiced by Donald Sutherland.

Here are a couple of films to consider together. Cry Rock is a new film by Writer/Director/Producer Banchi Hanuse (Slits'Lani) about understanding the value of the oral traditions of Bella Coola Valley elders, about whether to use technology to record these stories. It's interesting to juxtapose it with a 35 year old film The Shadow Catcher, about Curtis' "heroic" life work: to record in photos, film and text as much of "The Vanishing Race" as possible. Two different views of cultural preservation.

Monday 20 Dec 2010

The Trotsky

Leon Bronstein is not your average Montreal West high school student. For one thing, none of his peers can claim to be the reincarnation of early 20th century Soviet iconoclast and Red Army hero, Leon Trotsky. When his father sends Leon to public school as punishment for starting a hunger strike at Papa's clothing factory, Leon quickly lends new meaning to the term 'student union' Jay Baruchel is terrific in this Canadian gem.

Monday 27 Dec 2010

Micmacs

A new film by Amélie's creator, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, that oddly places some very odd characters in the almost normal contemporary world. Outcasts trying to pull off a caper to have a couple of arms dealers get their comeuppance. Full of imaginative clockwork and colourful, overdrawn characters, Our gang relive the battle of David and Goliath, with all the imagination and fantasy of Buster Keaton.

Archives 2011

Tuesday 3 Jan 2011

Babies

Four babies are born into four very different societies; in Namibia, Japan, Mongolia, and California, USA. This beautifully made film from French filmmakers has no voice-over (March Of The Penguin style), just joyfully captures on film the earliest stages of the journey of humanity. The contrasts and then similarities between each culture's baby-rearing style are fascinating. Subtitled where necessary.

Monday 10 Jan 2011

The Storytelling Class

Located in Winnipeg's downtown core, Gordon Bell High School is probably the most culturally varied school in the city, with 58 different languages spoken by the student body. Many students are children who have arrived as refugees from various war torn areas of the world.

In an effort to build bridges of friendship and belonging across cultures and histories, teacher Marc Kuly initiated an after-school storytelling project whereby the immigrant students would share stories with their Canadian peers.

The catalyst for this cross-cultural interaction was the students' reading of *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah, a memoir of Beah's horrific time as a child soldier in Sierra Leone's civil war.

These voluntary after-school meetings take dramatic turns and reach their climax when Ishmael Beah and professional storyteller Laura Simms travel from New York to work with them. With their help the students learn to listen to each other and find the commonality that so long eluded them.

Monday 17 Jan 2011

Mozart and The Whale

Directed by award-winning director Petter Naess and written by Ron Bass, *Mozart and the Whale* is a dramatic yet romantic comedy that's not your typical love story.

Inspired by the story of Jerry and Mary Newport, both people with Asperger's Syndrome., who had married, divorced, then both went through suffering depression and suicidal tendencies. After a few years, they reunited and married again.

People suffering Asperger's Syndrome don't naturally find it easy to love despite having hearts that truly ache for it. Asperger's Syndrome can make social interaction painful, unbearable and embarrassing. They often also have limited, stereotyped interests and activities as well as have poor communication skills,

obsessive or repetitive routines, and clumsiness. But Jerry and Mary had to lose each other to find themselves and realized that love can heal the soul regardless of circumstances.

Portraying a realistic point of view from the autistic spectrum, Mozart and the Whale is charming and uplifting.

Saturday 22 Jan 2011

Despicable Me

Come to an entertaining - and meaningful - evening including a screening of Despicable Me!

This is a fundraiser to raise money for an Esquimalt Neighbourhood House volunteer, Kate Day, going to get M.S. treatment that is not yet available in Canada. Guest speaker, Margaret Bryant, will join us to share her experiences with the treatment. Raffle tickets/gift basket draw also available at the event. Admission is by donation, please give generously.

Despicable Me is an immensely entertaining story of a supervillain who plans to use three orphan girls as pawns for a grand scheme, only to find that their innocent love is profoundly changing him.

Monday 24 Jan 2011

Mao's Last Dancer

A drama based on the autobiography by Li Cunxin. At the age of 11, Li was plucked from a poor Chinese village by Madame Mao's cultural delegates and taken to Beijing to study ballet. In 1979, during a cultural exchange to Texas, he becomes a focus of a high stakes game between emerging but deeply controlling China and the 'free' West. Bruce Greenwood is brilliant as the Houston dancemaster . the delight of this film isn't so much in the tale as the telling.

Monday 31 Jan 2011

Baseball Girls

This feature documentary uses animation, archival stills and live-action footage to detail the history of women's participation in the largely male-dominated world of baseball and softball. Zany and affectionate, it features 7-year-olds learning the rules and skills of the game and 50-year-olds hitting home runs, from the early days of the Bloomer Girls to the heyday of the Colorado Silver Bullets. By Montreal filmmaker Lois Siegel.

Monday 7 Feb 2011

The Damage Done – A Drug War Odyssey

A special event from with Anti-Stigma Week

After 30 years of drug war, illegal narcotics are decreasing in price, increasing in purity and demand continues to surge. The heroes of this film are veterans of the

drug war and they urge us to consider ending drug prohibition. They have had a complete revolution in their thinking. Now they are working to end the War on Drugs. Find out what happened to change their minds. By NS filmmaker Connie Littlefield.

Monday 14 Feb 2011

Mary and Max

A different kind of love story for Valentines Day

Mary (Bethany Whitmore) is a lonely eight-year-old girl in Melbourne; randomly picking a name out of the New York phone book, she writes a letter to Max (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a middle-aged Jewish man with Asperger syndrome. So begins a decades-long correspondence (Mary eventually grows up to be voiced by Toni Collette) that will have deep resonant meaning for two souls whose lives are otherwise filled with meaningless and alienation. Pg 13 some language and oddness

Animator Adam Elliot previously won an Oscar for his short "Harvie Krumpet". "Mary & Max", his first feature, was made by six animators shooting continuously for 57 weeks (and a crew of 120 people). His nuanced clay animation - marked by emotional expressiveness, a restrained colour palette, and occasionally crude content - helped make the film the first Australian film to play the opening night slot at Sundance. The critical consensus is that the film is dark, textured, and unexpectedly moving.

Monday 21 Feb 2011

Beautiful Dreamers

Rip Torn does a magnificent job as American poet Walt Whitman in the fanciful period piece Beautiful Dreamers. The scene is a hellish 19th century Canadian institution for the mentally ill and/or retarded. Compassionate doctor Maurice Bucke. (Colm Feore) defies his superiors by treating his patients as human beings rather than animals. He even begins conducting classes for his charges, teaching them basic cognitive and manual dexterity skills. When Whitman champions Bucke's cause, the doctor is ostracized by those who fear the poet's reputation as a "wild-eyed" radical.

Based on a true story, Beautiful Dreamers is a great entry into tonight's visit with two Vancouver authors with recent books related to the film: Psychiatrist Harry Karlinsky, author of The Evolution of Inanimate Objects: the life and works of Thomas Darwin (2010) and George Fetherling with Walt Whitman's Secret

Monday 28 Feb 2011

Social Network

A very compelling dramatization about Facebook, its invention, the legal tangles, and the unusual man behind the phenomena, Harvard University student, Mark Zuckerberg, (played by Jesse Eisenberg). He shot from introverted geek to riding

the wave of a world communication system. "Impeccably scripted, beautifully directed, and filled with fine performances, The Social Network is a riveting, ambitious example of modern filmmaking at its finest." It may not follow real events closely, there's much debate about that, but it is a cracking good story.

Monday 7 Mar 2011

Leave Them Laughing

This film is about to win the Genie for Best Documentary March 10

"Leave Them Laughing is a musical comedy about dying, starring Carla Zilbersmith, a Vancouver native, singer and comedienne, Artistic Director at a California college drama department, who has ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. It's ninety riveting minutes of songs about life and quips about death from the wheelchair of a woman who vows to exit laughing." Pg13

Seasoned documentary maker Vancouver based John Zaritsky:

"It all started on December 31, 2008, when I was reading two pages of memorable quotes from that year in the Globe and Mail. And there in the midst of these quotes was a joke about dying that I actually found funny, a real "lol". Curious, I Googled the author of the joke and discovered Carla Zilbersmith, an incredibly talented and gifted singer, songwriter, comedienne, performance artist and writer. A few days later when I phoned Carla and explained that I wanted to do a musical comedy about dying based on a beautifully written blog she had authored, it was apparent that she and I were immediately on the same artistic wavelength.

.I love all my films like children. But the one I love most, my favourite child, is "Leave Them Laughing". Why? Because every time I see it, it puts me back to the joyous time I spent with Carla, the funniest person I ever met." From an interview at VIFF by eFilmCritic's Jason Whyte.

You'll love this film too. It's a heart-wrenching rollercoaster of humour and pathos, but the what you'll walk out of the theatre with is a huge appreciation of life and the good and funny people that make it livable.

Monday 14 Mar 2011

It's Kind Of A Funny Story

A clinically depressed teenager checks himself into an adult psychiatric ward. What results is a sixteen year olds look at the strange, scary, wonderful world as an "in-patient" and out of the "real" world. It's a lot different from the 19th century but still pretty hair-raising and life changing. A lot of cool people pass through these places. You'll meet some. And we'll talk. Wonderfully acted by Keir Gilchrist as the young man and Zach Galifianakis as his peer guide.

Saturday 19 Mar 2011

Saturday Film Events For Japan

7:00 pm Whisper of the Heart 1995, 111 min

Shizuku Tsukishima, a young girl in junior high, loves to read. Yet, every time she opens a library book, it seems the same name appears on the cards: "Seiji Amasawa". As Shizuku learns who this person is, she also begins to learn about herself and her goals in life - a discovery that will change her life forever.

9:00 pm Tokyo Sonata 2008, 120 min

Tokyo Sonata is a portrait of a seemingly ordinary Japanese family. The father who abruptly loses his job conceals the truth from his family; the eldest son in college hardly returns home; the youngest son furtively takes piano lessons without telling his parents; and the mother, who knows deep down that her role is to keep the family together, cannot find the will to do so. From the exterior, all is normal and the same. But, somehow, a single, unforeseeable chasm has appeared within the family, only to spread ever so quietly and quickly to disintegrate them.

Monday 21 Mar 2011

Exit Through The Gift Shop

Los Angeles based Frenchman Thierry Guetta gets the idea that he would like to film street artists in the process of creating their work. He even gets into the act by assisting them in creating the art. One of the artists that participates is the camera-shy Brit superstar activist/artist Banksy, who refuses to be shown on screen unless he is blacked out. Banksy convinces Thierry to use the footage to make a movie. Thierry is a lousy filmmaker, but he is an interesting character in an odd yet appealing way. Banksy makes a film about the filmmaker. Brilliant!

Monday 28 Mar 2011

Family Matters

A compassionate and timely documentary on the impact of mental illness within the family unit, the locally-made Family Matters follows four Lower Mainland families as they struggle to support a loved one with Bipolar Disorder BD, one of the most commonly diagnosed mental illnesses. Each family in the film represents a stop on the life-long journey of living in and managing a family with the illness.

Mary M. Frymire, director of Family Matters: Surviving the Bipolar Journey. An award-winning Vancouver based filmmaker with more than 25 years experience, Frymire has developed, directed and produced documentary and dramatic projects in over 57 countries, working in four different languages. Frymire also has a personal connection to this story: both her mother and sister suffer from Bipolar Disorder.

Psychiatrist and bipolar disorder advocate, Dr. Paul Termansen, has dedicated the past few years to getting the word out about mental illness through video medium. He presented the film Not Just a Bad Day at MM (May 08) which is also

about helping people living with BD, through his North Shore clinic which focuses on that specialty.

Saturday 31 Mar 2011

ChomaVision

World Premiere! 31 March 2011, Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU

Part of an evening of films and discussion "Exploring Bipolar Disorder and Creativity" by CREST.BD

The films were followed by a post-screening dialogue session facilitated by Bruce Saunders and Dr. Erin Michalak. The evening provided a venue for the community to engage in discussion about creativity and bipolar disorder, with a focus on how wellness is nurtured through creativity, and possible alternatives to the stigmas and stereotypes associated with bipolar disorder as represented in the media.

Chomavision, a documentary about an amazing 86 year old artist who is bipolar. A graduate of EMP, his life has been a classic creative, chaotic story - from tutoring from several of the Group of Seven as a kid, running a couple highly productive businesses, alcohol problems, mood swings to rediscovering his creative muse as an outsider artist later in life.

Monday 4 Apr 2011

Horse Boy

The Horse Boy does more than chronicle Rowan and his parents' journey across the vast, wild landscape of Mongolia, hoping to find help and healing for their son who is deeply autistic. It delves into the strange world of autism itself, the relationship between humans and animals and between different cultures and different ways of being (autistic vs. normal, or "neuro-typical"), and the nature of healing. But above all, The Horse Boy tells the story of a couple that goes to the end of the earth to find a way into their son's life.

Special guest, Melanie Houston, who works with children with this condition, and has ridden horses in Mongolia with her daughters, will bring this story home.

Monday 11 Apr 2011

ChomaVision

Chomavision, a documentary about an amazing 86 year old artist who is bipolar. A graduate of EMP, his life has been a classic creative, chaotic story - from tutoring from several of the Group of Seven as a kid, running a couple highly productive businesses, alcohol problems, mood swings to rediscovering his creative muse as an outsider artist later in life.

Monday 18 Apr 2011

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work

"Here's is an insightful, heartfelt look into the life of a comedian and actress who, at 75, continues to pave the way for young comedians. Rivers never holds back, and allows her insecurities and fears to be shown to the world in an attempt to allow people to understand her a bit more. Whether you knew of Joan Rivers previously or not, you'll walk away respecting her as the cutting-edge comedic innovator that she was and continues to be today."

Monday 25 Apr 2011

A River Runs Through It

Set in small town Montana, the story follows two sons of a Presbyterian minister—one studious and the other rebellious—as they grow up and come of age in the 20s. Fly fishing is their common bond and the river the steady through-line in the story. This Robert Redford directed film is renowned for it's beautiful cinematography and it's un-Hollywood style leisurely pacing. Re-discover this wonderful film.

Monday 2 May 2011

The King's Speech

The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne, and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch with a paralyzing speech impediment rise to the occasion. What resulted was the much needed inspiration his nation needed during dark days of WWII. This film cleaned up at the Oscars and the box office. It is immensely entertaining and moving, but how far did it stray from the real story? Members of the Churchill Society will be with us.

Monday 9 May 2011

This Is Not A Robbery

When he was arrested for holding up a bank in Abilene, Texas, in 2003, J.L. "Red" Rountree — then aged 91 — won fame as the world's oldest active bank robber. But behind the bizarre headlines was a far more curious question: why would a formerly successful businessman with an untarnished record embark on a life of crime at age 87? Documentary filmmakers Lucas Jansen and Adam Kurland investigate Rountree's unlikely life story with help from friends, family, witnesses and a rare audio interview Rountree recorded shortly before his death in 2004.

Monday 16 May 2011

Topp Twins - Untouchable Girls

Topp Twins - Untouchable Girls (more fun than a possum up your trousers)

This film is the most fun I've had at the movies for years. These NZ yodelling twins have been performing since they were girls and, with brilliant humour and music, have tackled everything from Aboriginal rights, nuclear weapons proliferation, GLBT issues. Even breast cancer succumbs to their spirit and their special brand of silliness.

MM is pleased to collaborate with Victoria PFLAG, (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) for these screenings, in recognition of International Day Against Homophobia.

Monday 23 May 2011

Made In Dagenham

In 1968 a ragtag army of British working-class women struck a resonant blow for equal rights. These unlikely feminist radicals were the sewing machinists of the Ford Motor Company's Dagenham factory, whose historic strike for equal pay with their male counterparts kick-started the ongoing drive for wage parity. Sally Hawkins and a great cast and clever writers elevate what could have been a by-the-numbers story to a really moving drama. R

Monday 30 May 2011

Tangled

The magically long-haired Rapunzel has spent her entire life in a tower, but now that a runaway thief has stumbled upon her, she is about to discover the world for the first time, and who she really is. Excellent fun!

Monday 6 Jun 2011

Mighty Jerome

From acclaimed filmmaker Charles Officer (Nurse.Fighter.Boy) comes Mighty Jerome, the story of the rise, fall and redemption of Harry Jerome, Canada's most record-setting track and field star. More than just a running machine, Harry, had to negotiate racism at home (Vancouver) and abroad, and struggled with media criticism throughout his amazing career. Gorgeous monochrome imagery, impassioned interviews and astonishing archival footage are used to tell the compelling story of what Harry Jerome's university coach, the legendary Bill Bowerman, called "the greatest comeback in track and field history." This film is a standout! Pg

Guest: Producer Selwyn Jacob, long time NFB filmmaker, who has produced, among many others, a number of other memorable MM-featured films (Obâchan's Garden, River of Life, The Journey of Lesra Martin and T'Lina: The Rendering of Wealth) will join us by phone for after-screening Q&A.

Monday 13 Jun 2011

Here's one for the elder hippies and us wannabes - Movie Monday's 18th Anniversary!!

Back To The Garden, 2009, 70 min & Chomavision

"In 1988, Seattle-based filmmaker Kevin Tomlinson filmed and interviewed a group of back-to-the-land "hippies"—living off-grid, insulated and isolated from mainstream culture.

In 2006, he tracked down his subjects again to find out what had become of their families' utopian plans and dreams.

The film captures a time-lapse view of these back-to-the-landers told with moving personal stories of non-conforming tribal families—with lots of freedom but little cash, of unflinching political activism in the midst of small-town, rural America, and hippie kids who today ask whether free love was really free." Pg

We'll have cake to celebrate — and then, at 8:10, another chance to see: Chomavision (2011, 44 min). A repeat of my documentary about an amazing 86 year old Victoria artist who is bipolar. A graduate of EMP, his life has been a classic creative, chaotic story - from being tutored by several of the Group of Seven as a kid, running a couple of highly productive businesses, alcohol problems, mood swings - to rediscovering his creative muse as an outsider artist later in life.

You'll meet Bob and his wife Phyllis, who has stood by him through thick and thin for 38 years, and some of Bob's buddies who helped this lifelong artist realize a dream to exhibit his brilliant work in Victoria's biggest art event.

Director Bruce Saunders and subjects Bob and Phyllis Choma will present. Pg

Monday 20 Jun 2011

Susanne Tabata Double Feature two brilliant, local films from Vancouver based filmmaker Susanne Tabata

6:30: 49Degrees, 2002, 49 min

49Degrees is an intimate journey into western Vancouver Island surf culture phenomenon - a culture at a crossroads. 49Degrees is aimed at the surfer and non surfer alike and is told from the surfers' point of view. The film rises above the regular media fare of stereotypical surfer dude, to tell the incredible story of a few of Vancouver Island's surf families - particularly the Bruhwilers and the Okes . A thoughtful and nostalgic storyline reveals that what was once a remote and simple way of life, now becoming part a globalizing culture. It features interviews with long established locals, competitive surfers and members of the BC surf industry and historic footage and photos, opening windows to the BC surf community's fondly remembered past, including deft surfing of Sepp Bruhwiler, Raph Bruhwiler, Jesse Oke, Ryan Erickson and others. Special appearance from legendary squatter Rivermouth Mike. 49Degrees is dedicated to the Oke Family, who lost three family members during the overall production of the film. PG

AND 8:00: Bloodied But Unbowed the Vancouver Punk Movie, 1992, 75 min R (Coarse language)

Bloodied But Unbowed chronicles the late 1970s/early 1980s Vancouver punk rock scene. Vancouver filmmaker Susanne Tabata's documentary tells a tale of rebellion and music - a fiercely independent scene created from nothing and played out in a microcosm of urban squalor. Told by its surviving stars whose accounts are suffused with both humour and gritty realism - a distinctly Vancouver vibe.

Filmmaker Susanne Tabata will be with us to present these two local stories.

Monday 27 Jun 2011

40 Years of Cool Aid Culture & Building Futures

This is the 43rd Anniversary of the founding of Cool Aid, an organization that has morphed from it's beginnings as a stop over for transient young people, to the backbone of Victoria's helping community.

The films are 40 Years of Cool Aid Culture (28 min), celebrating its history, and Building Futures (29 min) which profiles the construction of Cool Aid's. The innovative project to provide shelter for homeless women was renovated from an existing building, and the work was carried out by women who would actually use the service. see

We'll open with music by the so come early!

Q&As with people from Cool Aid and updates on its amazing and various projects.

Trivia: "When Cool Aid started on Balmoral Road, they felt the police would raid the place. It was Hugh Wade's idea to have a front door key made and delivered to the Police Chief. They said the police could visit at any time but shouldn't kick down the door, as Cool Aid couldn't afford to pay for the repairs. They always sent flowers to the Police Chief on Monday." (pg. 12 of Cool Aid History)

Monday 4 Jul 2011

One Week

Instead of facing up to a daunting health issue, our protagonist chooses to leave family and home behind and to head out on a motorcycle across our country. He meets interesting people, sees a lot of country west of TO. Along the way he encounters many interesting folks and giant things (we have a remarkable number of over-sized hockey sticks, nickels, geese, wigwams, deck chairs etc). There's even a moment with the Stanley Cup!

A great Canadian road movie with terrific soundtrack, this film really grows on you. Pg

Monday 11 Jul 2011

Fresh

We've had some reminders lately about the folly of global industrial food systems. Here's some good news!

Fresh celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people who are re-inventing our food system. Each has witnessed the rapid transformation of our agriculture into an industrial model, and confronted the consequences. Forging healthier,

sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet. Pg13

Monday 18 Jul 2011

You Don't Know Jack

Al Pacino is riveting as Dr Death – Jack Kevorkian. Far beyond an issue-of-the-month film, this nuanced script and acting, especially the brilliant performance by Al Pacino, raises this to a completely engaging movie – with a challenging issue at its centre. Lots to talk about here!

Kevorkian just died on June 3, 2011, eight days after his 83rd birthday - of natural causes.

Monday 25 Jul 2011

The Boy Inside: Then and Now

"An autistic boy struggles to graduate elementary school in this powerful documentary film about growing up with Asperger Syndrome.

A rare insight into an increasingly common form of high-functioning autism, The Boy Inside follows 12-year-old Adam as he tries against all odds to make sense of bullies, girls and life in the real world."

This film, made by the boy's mum in 2005, won many awards and was placed in every school in the province. But what happened to the boy since the film wrapped?

Now, in 2011, Adam has graduated high school, is moving on to higher education and is a hiphop artist.

Meet Adam and hear the rest of the story at Movie Monday. Pg

Monday 1 Aug 2011

Double Happiness

This BC-made story was a breakout film for young Sandra Oh and Callum Keith Rennie. It portrays a young Vancouver woman trying to satisfy the values of her strict Chinese family and her own desire to branch out from those narrow confines; to become an artist and actress and to date who she really likes, not her parents' choices for her. Her brother has been disowned for his disloyal choices. "Double Happiness is when you make yourself happy and everyone else happy too." .a tricky task. Directed by Mina Chum, shot in Vancouver. Pg13

Monday 8 Aug 2011

Trigger

Think: Canadian director Bruce MacDonald wants to cross My Dinner with Andre with a story about aging rock stars reuniting a dozen years after a nasty breakup. It works brilliantly! Molly Parker and Tracy Wright star. R

This script was specially adapted for Tracy Wright by her long-time collaborators who she knew was dying. The project is a great tribute to her craft and their care for her.

Monday 15 Aug 2011

My Kid Could Paint That

A four year old becomes a rock star of the abstract art scene, producing brilliant work. Or does she? Is she the author of these amazing paintings? And if she is, are they to be considered beside the work of seasoned artists who can speak to their intention? This documentary presents some tantalizing questions about human nature - and is smart enough not to try to answer them all. Pg

Monday 22 Aug 2011

Rango

A duster with a difference! This one stars a chameleon and a host of brilliantly anthropomorphized desert critters. Definitely not for little kids, this plot is a little zany with lots of genre references from High Noon, to Raiders Of The Lost Ark, and a generous dollop of Blazing Saddles. Dazzling animation! Pg

Monday 29 Aug 2011

Singing In The Shadow: The Children of Rock Royalty

When you're the child of a rock music legend, pursuing a music career of your own would seem like a no-win situation. You will always be judged against an impossible standard. Simply making a decent living - the goal of most musicians - will be seen as failure. And being good is never enough when your parent is great.

In a candid and revealing film, nine children of music legends bare their souls: Julian Lennon, son of John Lennon; Louis Osbourne, son of Ozzy; Simon Collins, son of Phil; Sally Taylor, daughter of James Taylor and Carly Simon; James Raymond - the previously unknown son of David Crosby; Sarah Lee Guthrie and Abe Guthrie, children of Arlo, grandchildren of the legendary Woody Guthrie; Jason Everly, son of Phil; Teddy Richards, son of Aretha Franklin; A.J. Croce, son of Jim; we also hear from David Crosby, Carly Simon, Phil Everly, Phil Collins, Arlo Guthrie and Aretha Franklin.

Monday 12 Sep 2011

Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune

Here's a documentary about an icon of the 60's. Phil's songs became part of the sound track of my tumultuous year in Fine Arts at UVic in '68. Phil Ochs rose to fame in the early 1960's during the height of the folk and protest song movement. His songs, with lyrics ripped straight from the daily news, spoke to those emboldened by the hopeful idealism of the day. Ochs himself believed to his core that he and his music could change the world for the better. Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune is buoyed by [his] anthems and melodies - from humorous to haunting - and throughout the film play the role of narrator, giving contextual

depth to the unfolding saga of Ochs' complex political and personal life. Pg13
(some scenes of Vietnam war)

Wednesday 14 Sep 2011

Gaslands

In North Eastern BC, the controversial use of hydraulic fracturing in natural gas production is rolling full steam ahead, even as other governments have recently banned or instituted moratoriums on fracking as a result of rising public concern over the health and environmental impacts of fracking. With plans for one of the largest gas plants in North America to be built, a natural gas pipeline all the way from NE BC to Kitimat, and an LNG terminal to be built off the coast to export the gas, the impacts of fracking span the province. Join the Sierra Club and Movie Monday for a screening of the award winning documentary, Gasland, followed by a q&a about fracking in BC.

Monday 19 Sep 2011

The Most Dangerous Man In America: Daniel Ellsberg

Following our theme from last Monday:

In the age of WikiLeaks, and following last week's Phil Ochs film, this incredible film must be seen. Here's a guy who 40 years ago, from the inside, unravelled the belief many of us had in US leaders.

"The Most Dangerous Man in America is a comprehensive look at the release of the Pentagon Papers and the political firestorm that may have sealed Americans' disenchantment with the war, and which certainly sealed the fate of the Nixon Administration.

But the film is also an intensely intimate look into the conscience of a gifted and intelligent man who wrestled personally and professionally with what he came to see as the contradictions between American ideals and American power in Southeast Asia." Pg13 (some scenes of Vietnam war)

Monday 26 Sep 2011

The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom

Set in 1976, It's the story of Elizabeth , a geeky 11-year-old girl from the Prairies who is waiting desperately for puberty to strike when she finds out her family isn't exactly what she thought it was. So Elizabeth does what any disillusioned preteen would do. After deciding that Dolly Parton must be her real mother, she gets all gussied up, boards her banana-seat bike and sets out in pursuit of the truth. Offbeat, sweet, very Canadian. Pg

Monday 3 Oct 2011

The Beaver

Jodie Foster directs and co-stars with Mel Gibson in The Beaver - an emotional story about a man on a journey to re-discover his family and re-start his life. Plagued by his own demons, Walter Black was once a successful toy executive and family man who now suffers from depression. No matter what he tries,

Walter can't seem to get himself back on track. until a beaver hand puppet enters his life. Pg13 some disturbing scenes.

A provocative film to talk about in our special venue.

Monday 10 Oct 2011

The Greatest Movie Ever Sold

Morgan Spurlock (Super Size Me) takes us on a smart, funny, and somewhat scary ride through the concept of corporate sponsorship as he sells a documentary to be entirely, openly financed by product placements. He's good! Pg13

Monday 17 Oct 2011

Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead

"100 pounds overweight, loaded up on steroids and suffering from a debilitating autoimmune disease, Joe Cross is at the end of his rope and the end of his hope. In the mirror he saw a 310lb man whose gut was bigger than a beach ball and a path laid out before him that wouldn't end well- with one foot already in the grave, the other wasn't far behind. Fat, Sick & Nearly Dead is an inspiring film that chronicles Joe's personal mission to regain his health."

It's Joe's story and several more (a morbidly overweight trucker and a woman who suffers headaches) that might inspire breaking the addiction to junk food, encourage a healthier diet, and regaining a more active lifestyle. Pg

Monday 24 Oct 2011

Ron Hynes - The Man of A Thousand Songs

Here's a totally intriguing portrait of a Canadian icon, as told by himself and his intense and articulate nephew novelist Joel Thomas Hynes. It's been a 35 year long and winding road, with failed relationships, battles with an alter ego and drugs – a turbulent life in search of the perfect song. Sonny's Dream is one of those. Pg

Monday 31 Oct 2011

Corpse Bride

Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of Victor (voiced by Johnny Depp), a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride, Victoria, waits bereft in the land of the living. Though life in the Land of the Dead proves to be a lot more colorful than his strict Victorian upbringing, Victor learns that there is nothing in this world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love. It's a tale of optimism, romance and a very lively afterlife, told in classic Tim Burton style. Pg

Monday 7 Nov 2011

A Work In Progress

A wonderful documentary about the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra; the bright and eager young players, dedicated parents, and the conductors who mentor them to give their best. Especially touching is the deep commitment of the inspired János Sándor, who led the process for 15 years, as he challenges the players through his final season with them. He passed the mantel on to associate conductor Yariv Aloni because of failing health in 2010.

The music is brilliant and the youth musician's spark and dedication to the music is exciting to see. By Victoria director David Springbett, Asterisk Productions. PG

Monday 14 Nov 2011

Defendor

Woody Harrelson is a construction worker by day, self-made superhero by night in Defendor, a comedy that takes aim at society's infatuation with comic-book mythologies. I was reminded of this film by a recent Jian Ghomeshi interview (Oct 21@ 16:42) with a filmmaker who has found a number of self-proclaimed "real life superheroes" just like Defendor, aiming to make the streets safe for the innocent public. It can be a difficult calling! It's a weird combination of comedy, dark drama, filmed in Hamilton (Hammertown) ON. R Some language, violence, sexual and drug use content.

Monday 21 Nov 2011

Everyday Sunshine: The Story Of Fishbone

"Everyday Sunshine is a documentary about the band Fishbone, musical pioneers who have been rocking on the margins of pop culture for the past 25 years. From the streets of South-Central Los Angeles and the competitive Hollywood music scene of the 1980's, the band rose to prominence, only to fall apart when on the verge of "making it.".

"At the heart of the film's story is lead singer Angelo Moore and bassist Norwood Fisher who show how they keep the band rolling, out of pride, desperation and love for their art. To overcome money woes, family strife, and the strain of being ageing Punk rockers on the road, Norwood and Angelo are challenged to re-invent themselves in the face of dysfunction and ghosts from a painful past." Pg13

Monday 28 Nov 2011

Battle Of Britain

Not the old 1940 classic but a 2010 documentary with Ewan MacGregor and his aviator bro Colin (who flew combat over Iraq) looking into that remarkable history. It's such a brilliant take on the story: bright, modern day blokes who were, as kids, inspired by these brave fly boys (those who inspired Colin to become an RAF pilot). They fly historic planes, meet the veterans, explore the tactics and technology mixed with amazing archival footage. Pg

Thanks to SVP International Sales for permission to screen this remarkable film.

This event is in collaboration with The Churchill Society.

Monday 5 Dec 2011

Journey On The Wild Coast

This is a film you will not soon forget - once dubbed "a cross between Into The Wild and The Blair Witch Project"!

"A married couple attempt to walk, paddle, and ski under their own power from Seattle to the Aleutians along the wild and remote northwest coast of North America. This documentary was filmed with a tiny hand held video camera by the adventures as they traveled through northern Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. Experience this modern adventure through their eyes as they encounter breathtaking scenery, harsh weather, amazing wildlife, starvation and danger. This modern adventure demonstrates that the most significant aspect of a journey is not reaching the final destination but how the journey changes the trajectory of the rest of a person's life." Pg Warning: don't try this before watching this film!

Filmmaker Doug Chaney will join us by phone from Juno, Alaska.

Monday 12 Dec 2011

The Concert

The Concert is an entertaining film about an out-of-favour Russian conductor who, Blues Bros-style, gets the old orchestra together for a gig. Pretending to be the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra they head off to play a concert in Paris, the adventure of their lives. It's a comedy/drama with some fabulous music and a terrific surprise subplot. Pg13 French & Russian with subtitles.

Monday 19 Dec 2011

Buck

"Buck Brannaman escaped an abusive childhood in Montana and Idaho to become a master teacher of horsemanship and the main inspiration for the book and the movie The Horse Whisperer." This completely satisfying documentary "is a portrait that expertly mirrors its subject: Buck is shaped with the same economy, restraint, and unfussiness as the man, to unexpectedly inspiring effect."

You don't have to be crazy about horses to love this film. It's laced with humour and wisdom, and a little dab Robert Redford thrown in too!

You don't have to be a horse nut to fall for Buck, one of those rare documentaries whose subject is so inherently fascinating that a fictional character could hardly compete. Audience fave at Sundance. Pg

Monday 26 Dec 2011

The People vs George Lucas

The passion the original Star Wars trilogy inspires in its fans is unparalleled; but when it comes to George Lucas himself-one of the most passionately debated

filmmakers of all time-many have found their ardor has cooled into a complicated love-hate relationship. This hilarious, heartfelt documentary delves deep into Lucas's cultural legacy, asking all the tough questions. Has Lucas betrayed his masterwork? With loads of interviews, stop-motion animation, Super 8 action figure films and puppet rants, *The People Vs. George Lucas* takes a hard look at the man behind the most popular franchise in film history and asks: What the hell happened? Pg

Archives 2012

Tuesday 2 Jan 2012

Out Of The Ashes

A remarkable film about cricket and life. A team formed on rubble fields in a war torn, impoverished country, takes on the international cricket giants with some amazing success. Here's a film with great heart, full of colourful characters and insights of ordinary Afghan people and internal politics. This is a refreshingly human portrayal - seen through a lens not focused on the war, but of a team striving to compete proudly on the world stage. Pg

The film won "Best Newcomer Documentary" Vancouver filmmaker Leslie Knott (co-producer) at the British Film Institute Society's prestigious Grierson awards.

Monday 9 Jan 2012

First Grader

Maruge, an elderly Mau Mau veteran who decides to take up Kenya's offer of an education, struggles to take his place in class with six years old. Full of vitality and humour, this film explores the remarkable relationships he builds with his classmates, some eighty years his junior. Through Maruge's journey, we are taken back to the shocking untold story of British colonial rule 50 years earlier. Pg13 some scenes of violence

Monday 16 Jan 2012

OC87: The Obsessive Compulsive Major Depression Bipolar Asperger's Movie & Oh Me 2

"I was really blown away by OC87. It is an innovative film that takes you inside another person's experience of not only the challenges of mental illness, but also hope. This whimsical yet moving documentary is one of the most creative and compelling movies about mental health that I have ever seen." Delaney Ruston, MD Director-Producer, "Unlisted: the Story of Schizophrenia".

I couldn't have said it better. This is a great, inspiring, first-person story by a very empathetic, likeable guy. Pg

Plus: Oh Me 2, a film by and about a Canadian bipolar animation artist Jonathan Amitay and his psychologist son, Oren. It's an amazingly dense, introspective, artful account of a life on the edge, full of insights into the bipolar experience.

Monday 23 Jan 2012

Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs

Here's an incredibly creative, vibrant animated film. What if a young inventor on a tiny island out in the Atlantic invented a food machine that rains food from the sky? A cub reporter/weather girl and a not so enthusiastic, old school dad, and every food joke imaginable is exploited, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" is a feast for the eyes and a treat the entire family can savor. Pg

Saturday 28 Jan 2012

That's Just Crazy Talk

Like Victoria Maxwell's previous solo shows (Crazy for Life, Funny. You Don't Look Crazy and Head Over Heels), That's Just Crazy Talk looks at both the light and dark side of living with bipolar disorder, anxiety and psychosis. It describes one woman's journey of coming to terms with mental illness within herself and in her family. An intimate, yet universal story exploring the judgment we face not only from others, but from ourselves and the mysteries of family secrets. This funny and achingly truthful play both entertains and educates, exploding stigmas and portraying the love and resilience it takes to stay together as a family in the midst of illness and the beauty that can result when we face our demons. - Presented in collaboration with CREST BD

Sunday 29 Jan 2012

That's Just Crazy Talk

We've added a special Sunday 7:00 pm screening of the DVD version of Victoria Maxwell's THAT'S JUST CRAZY TALK play, as the Saturday evening is "sold out". This is an early look at a professional, multi-camera shoot of a previous performance of the play, part of CREST's project to disseminate information about Bipolar Disorder.

It'll be followed by a discussion opportunity.

Monday 30 Jan 2012

Grief, Loss and Dementia

Caregivers share their journeys

This new educational film is an honest, poignant conversation with the spouses and children of people with dementia. Their emotional journey is full of bumps and unpredictable turns, as well as surprising beauty, even humour. Their insights are an education for anyone who is involved with someone with dementia, whether as a family member or a health care professional.

Post-screening Q & A includes guests from the Alzheimer Society of BC., and researchers (UVic & VIHA) whose work is leading to more effective support for family caregivers.

Monday 6 Feb 2012

Win/Win

This stylish drama follows the fortunes of a shy investment-bank underling (the delightfully clown-haired Oscar Van Rompay) whose anonymous post-it notes containing invariably accurate market predictions eventually lead to a high roller position, penthouse apartment and self-doubt. The lightening fast make-and-break world of day trading stock markets is a challenging place.

Monday 13 Feb 2012

Midnight In Paris

"Allen brings his fantasy to life with such affection and joy that he transports us into his dream come true as a shared fantasy. We, too, are embraced in the bosom of this society, welcomed into the company of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Luis Bunuel, et al. as an equal. All we have to bring is a little wit, and the amiable Wilson does just that." This, his most popular film so far, is "Woody Allen's valentine to the City of Light". Pg13

Monday 20 Feb 2012

The Hurt Locker

One of the great war films ever! You might have been shy about seeing this film, I was, but you'll find it a most rewarding experience. It takes you into the world of Iraq explosive devices disposal unit, the scenario that our forces experienced in early stages of the war, inside the fraternity of warriors who do this kind of work. Incredibly suspenseful and completely unpredictable. You'll be riveted! It's a fictional tale inspired by real events by journalist Mark Boal who was embedded in a US special bombs unit in Iraq. Justifiably winner of 6 Academy Awards. R war violence and language.

We'll be talking about Post Traumatic Disorder or Operational Stress Injury that many of our troops are returning with and the organization that helps.

Our guest will be Tom Lipinski, a psychologist experience as psychologist for 32 years, who specializes in PTSD and anxiety disorders. Tom leads a support group at CMHA for people who deal with anxiety and is in private practice in Victoria as well.

Monday 27 Feb 2012

The Way

Martin Sheen plays Tom, an irascible American doctor who comes to France to deal with the tragic loss of his son. Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage "The Way of St. James" to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom doesn't plan on is the profound impact this trip will have on him. Through unexpected and oftentimes amusing experiences along "The Way," Tom discovers the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose." Pg13

Monday 5 Mar 2012

Strictly Ballroom

For this auspicious occasion, a Burgess Twins' (and MM volunteers') birthday celebration, we picked the most fun, upbeat, quirky, romantic film we could think of. This mock-doc/romantic comedy jewel is by Australian Bas Lurmann (Romeo & Juliet 1996 & Molin Rouge 2001) and revolves about the dangerous move to perform steps that were not within Down Under ballroom judging rules (Aussi

rules dance?!) Who knew how outrageously competitive and downright vicious - and erotic - dancing can be? Pg

Saturday 10 Mar 2012

Daughter of Chaos

Helani Davison's "Daughter of Chaos" is a creative autobiographical performance on the topics of mental illness and addiction. Now a certified Addictions Counsellor, Davison uses prose and poetry to look back on her six eventful decades. This dramatic reading describes profound struggles of her personal journey, beginning with a childhood traumatized by a mother who suffered from a painful mental illness, Paranoid Schizophrenia.

"My story is not all that I am, but it is all that I have," Davison confirms. A compelling story of 'riches to rags and the struggle to come back' offers compassionate understanding, tapping the greatest of all power sources - hope.

This is another in Movie Monday's occasional series "Saturday Live!" that spotlights writer/performers with lived experience of mental illness and recovery.

Monday 12 Mar 2012

Daddy & Papa: A Story About Gay Fathers In America & Conceiving Family

What if your most controversial act turned out to be the most traditional thing in the world? A heartwarming documentary the struggles and triumphs of gay men adopting and raising children. The director Johnny Simons: "I wanted to document this phenomenon: what it means for out gay men to form their own families - for the dads, for the kids, for their extended families and schools and communities and the thousands of mainstream people who are being changed by their exposure to a new kind of family." His own is one of the families followed. Pg

Also: with Conceiving Family the Nelson, BC version of this topic Pg

Monday 19 Mar 2012

Heaven's Heart

Here's a very grown up drama about fidelity. A happily married couple discovers just what kind of lasting implications a simple conversation can have after bringing up a taboo subject over dinner with friends and discovering a division they never knew existed. A discovery from the Vancouver Film Fest in 2009 that finally, and exclusively, finds it's way to MM's big screen. Pg13 Swedish with subtitles

Monday 26 Mar 2012

Water For Elephants

A great, colourful, old fashioned yarn, the way they used to make them. With the exciting background of an old-style Big Top circus, an amazing elephant, and a terrific villain (Christoph Waltz), our protagonists (Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson) play out their star-crossed love story. The wonderful Hal

Holbrook plays the framing older character looking back at his life, Titanic style.
What's not to like? Pg13

Monday 2 Apr 2012

A Mother's Courage - Talking back to autism

A mother of a child with autism travels from her home in Iceland to the United States and Europe, meeting with top autism experts and advocates. She also connects with several other families touched by autism, whose struggles echo her own: the endless doctor visits and experiments with different treatments, the complication of doing everyday tasks, and the inability to communicate - perhaps the most painful and frustrating aspect of autism.

But as she comes across innovative new therapies with the potential to break down the walls of autism, Margret finds hope that her son may be able to express himself on a level she never thought possible.

Monday 9 Apr 2012

Starbuck

A fun French Canadian story about a prolific sperm bank donor whose progeny come home to roost. He's not terrifically good at other things but his 'speciality' is now a huge complication (142 of his off-spring have looked him up) in his not so ambitious (loser) lifestyle. What's a middle aged boy to do? Pg13

Saturday 16 Apr 2012

Mothers and Daughters

Saturday Live! event. This is the first of a trilogy of Vancouver-based filmmaker Carl Bessai's pet projects, filmed on tiny budgets, collaborating with favourite actors and techs, exploring family relationships.

In Mothers and Daughters, "Bessai's sparkling ensemble cast breathes life into six unique and beguiling characters. Never descending to the maudlin, the actors pay tribute to the intricacies of these relationships while simultaneously celebrating the art of performance itself. The result is a trenchant exploration of several different facets of the mother-daughter connection – the way buttons are pushed, the way bonds are rebuilt – with clarity and quite a lot of courage." R

Sunday 22 Apr 2012, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Filmmaker workshop – a co-presentation with Cinevic

Filmmaker, teacher, and author of The Tyranny Of Story: Audience Expectations and the Short Screenplay, Ric Beirsto, will present a three-hour workshop that will address the art of storytelling in its broadest, most accessible sense, then range through to the much more exacting craft of short story writing for the screen. Example short films will be screened and discussed.

Ric Beirsto is a Vancouver-based award-winning screenwriter, director and producer who has been active in the Canadian film and television industry since 1980. He has written more than a dozen feature-length screenplays, and his TV

writing credits begin with The Beachcombers for CBC and extend to Mixed Blessings, a series currently broadcast by APTN, where Ric was the Creator and Head Writer.

Sunday 22 Apr 2012, 7:30 pm

Picture Start

Picture Start tells the remarkable-and unlikely-story of the emergence and rise of the original generation of the so called 'Vancouver School' of photo-conceptual artists, artists who are in fact the biggest art stars to ever come out of Canada, even though they remain little known to many Canadians.

The documentary focuses on three of these artists - Jeff Wall, Rodney Graham and Ian Wallace - who chose photography as their medium, offering insight into how and why their ascent occurred in a city until recently known more for its surrounding forests than its fine arts. Pg

Monday 23 Apr 2012

Stand-Up Samurais

"Howling blizzards, drunken hecklers, bad food, seedy hotel rooms. Stand-up comedians working the small town gigs of western Canada can expect it all."

Stand-Up Samurais is an hour-long documentary about the gruelling working life of stand-up comedians on a mid-winter tour through the small town venues of western Canada. Featured comics are Richard Lett, Tim Koslo, Nelson Giles, and Big Daddy Tazz; the venues played include the only bar in Gold River, BC, and the men-only Deer Head Night in Virden, Manitoba. It ain' tall funny. What's the connection between mental health and comedy? Pg13

Monday 30 Apr 2012

Happy

An event that's a fit for the Partners for Mental Health Day of Action

Does money make you Happy? Kids and family? Your work? Do you live in a world that values and promotes happiness and well-being? Are we in the midst of a happiness revolution? Roko Belic, director of the Academy Award nominated "Genghis Blues" now brings us HAPPY, a film that sets out to answer these questions and more. Taking us from the bayous of Louisiana to the deserts of Namibia, from the beaches of Brazil to the villages of Okinawa, Happy explores the secrets behind our most valued emotion.

Monday 7 May 2012

Journey to Kapasseni: A Refugee's Gift & Return to Kapasseni

In the late 1990s, two Mozambican refugees - who were recent Canadian citizens - returned to Africa to visit their home village of Kapasseni. They allied themselves with the Victoria Canada's Gettin' Higher Choir to improve conditions in the area. A heart lifting film, shot by Victorian Ben Fox, resulted - Journey to

Kapasseni: A Refugee's Gift. The choir to this day continues to raise money for Kapasseni and other projects. In the summer of 2011, Ben and choir leader Shivon Robinsong returned to Mozambique to witness over a decade's worth changes to Kapasseni, as well as the influence of Kuwangisana on the larger region. Thanks again to Ben's images and Bill Weaver's production, this visit has become another film, Return to Kapasseni. We'll hear some songs from some of the choir, show both films, and see Ben's images in our gallery/lobby. Pg

Monday 14 May 2012

Wish Me Away

Hosted by PFLAG for Anti Homophobia Day Wish Me Away tracks three years in the life of a very high profile country music star as she struggles to come out publicly as being gay. She has dug herself in so deep playing the heterosexual dream girl, with songs like "Your Woman Misses Her Man" and "Single White Female" She just might be your dream come true / A single white female / Is looking for a man like you, that she has to face up to a huge amount of public backlash at her betrayal of that myth.

As well she's a committed Christian. Her spiritual advisor sagely warns her, as she contemplates a very public coming out, that "there's nobody quite as mean as people being mean for Jesus." I saw it at VIFF and it captured my full attention for the full 2hr running time. Very high quality production and engrossing story. Pg13

Monday 21 May 2012

Louis 19th, King Of The Airwaves

Louis has always had a dream, to be on television. But when he enters a contest and wins, the first prize involves a cameraman following him everywhere for three months. The only problem is that Louis has a boring life, so the TV executives decide to put some excitement in it.

Monday 28 May 2012

One Big Hapa Family & Tailor Made

One Big Hapa Family After a realization at a family reunion, half Japanese-Canadian filmmaker, Jeff Chiba Stearns, embarks on a journey of self-discovery to find out why everyone in his Japanese-Canadian family married inter-racially after his grandparents' generation. This feature live action and animated documentary explores why almost 100% of all Japanese-Canadians are marrying inter-racially, the highest out of any other ethnicity in Canada, and how their mixed children perceive their unique multiracial identities. Pg

plus: Tailor Made: Chinatown's Last Tailors This Vancouver-made film follows 80-something brothers Bill & Jack Wong for one year as they face the reality that they are getting too old to run the little tailor shop their father opened in 1913. And letting go isn't easy. With tailoring a dying trade, finding someone to take over the family business has proven difficult, but Bill refuses to give up. He tries a

couple of young hopefuls, but can they keep this almost century-old tradition alive?

Director Len Lee says "The story of Modernize Tailors has always meant something to me, but I was really touched by Bill and his personal journey in the film." Producer and co-director Marsha Newbery adds "This isn't just a story about a tailor shop. Bill's story is a reminder to us all to live life to the fullest and do what you love doing every day." Pg

The Globe and Mail declared it: "One of the sweetest, most tender docs in years, Tailor Made is more than just a record of the closing of a long-time Vancouver landmark business. It's a beautifully fashioned story of passion, tradition, family and letting go."

Monday 4 Jun 2012

My Week With Marilyn

An ambitious young man hires on as a go-fer on the set of The Prince And The Showgirl (1957). He soon becomes Marilyn's confidant during her turbulent struggle to star alongside the overpowering Laurence Oliver. Michelle Williams is Marilyn and Kenneth Brannagh the perfect Oliver in a wonderfully adapted memoir, shot on the same locations as the original story. A truly touching tribute to a troubled star.

Monday 11 Jun 2012

The Iron Lady

The Iron Lady is a surprising and intimate portrait of Margaret Thatcher, the first and only female Prime Minister of The United Kingdom. One of the 20th century's most famous and influential women, Thatcher came from nowhere to smash through barriers of gender and class to be heard in a male dominated world. Meryl Streep's portrayal of a once great lady in her prime, latterly addled by dementia, is amazing, as the screenplay is sharp.

Monday 18 Jun 2012

A Friend Indeed: The Bill Sackter Story

A Friend Indeed - The Bill Sackter Story is an inspiring new documentary showing how a forgotten man and an uncommon friendship shattered the world's perceptions of people with disabilities. Bill Sackter's life story was made famous by the award winning made-for-tv movie "Bill" (1981) starring Mickey Rooney as Bill, and Dennis Quaid as the young filmmaker Barry Morrow who had befriended Bill in 1972 and began filming their relationship and adventures.

After 44 years in an institution, and with some help from a few good friends, Bill's life was transformed - as was everyone around him.

With a harmonica, a warm cup of coffee and a positive embrace of life, the real Bill Sackter became an international hero for people with disabilities. It's a story,

that could have been a dead end, that gets better and better with each turn.
You'll love it. Pg

Watch this trailer and tell me this isn't a perfect MM feature! I dare you!

Monday 25 Jun 2012

A Portrait Of Myfanwy Pavelic

This locally made film about one of Victoria's most loved artists, Myfanwy Pavelic, was beautifully crafted by a MM booster Agustin Luviano-Cordero (who lives just down the street from MM). Myfanwy discusses her techniques, her materials, her approach to her subjects and some of the world's famous artists like Vladimir Horowitz and Andres Segovia. She also talks about less well-known friends and family who have been important to her over the years. She shows viewers through her studio, as she works on a self-portrait and one of Pierre Trudeau.

Monday 2 Jul 2012

Bill Cunningham New York

The "Bill" in question is 80+ New York Times photographer Bill Cunningham. For decades, this Schwinn-riding cultural anthropologist has been obsessively and inventively chronicling NYC's fashion trends and high society charity soirées. Cunningham's enormous body of work is more reliable than any catwalk as an expression of time, place and individual flair. In turn, Bill Cunningham New York is a delicate, funny and often poignant portrait of a dedicated artist whose only wealth is his own humanity and unassuming grace.

Monday 9 Jul 2012

William Kurelek's The Maze

This brilliant new film is about a Canadian artist, William Kurelek (1927-1977), whose work is currently enjoying a major retrospective at the Art Gallery Of Greater Victoria. The film takes an intimate look into the life of one of the 20th century's most fascinating artists and his struggles with attempted suicide and a self-professed "spiritual crisis". The Maze (1953) is a particular painting that inspired this film, produced by the tormented artist in his mid twenties. It got better!

Kurelek's life story is dramatically told through his many paintings and his on-camera revelations - a film actually brought to life after being lost for 40 years.

Immerse yourself in this ultimately inspiring life story, the art, and this film that is a work of art in its own right.

Monday 16 Jul 2012

Loving Lampposts

As autism has exploded into the public consciousness over the last 20 years, two opposing questions have been asked about the condition: is it a devastating

sickness to be cured? Or is it a variation of the human brain - just a different way to be human?

"Loving Lampposts" goes inside the autism wars and shows us the parents, doctors, therapists, and autistic people who are redefining this disorder at a moment when it's better known than ever before. USA Pg

"Loving Lampposts takes a different view of autism. Inspired by the filmmaker's own experience with a son on the autism spectrum, the film looks at the 'neurodiversity' movement, a growing group of people who view autism not only as a disorder that must be treated, but as a different way of life that must be accepted and supported. Told through the stories of autistic children and adults, the film examines the politics surrounding autism and the neurodiversity movement. Ultimately, it shows that it's possible to lead a happy, successful life and be autistic."

Monday 23 Jul 2012

Fathers & Sons

Fathers & Sons is an alternative feature length drama that employs aspects of the conventional drama in its creation, but utilizes entirely improvised dialogue in its execution. Following the lives of four very different families as they confront a pivotal moment in their relationships, the film celebrates those unchosen bonds that shape our lives, the blessings and burdens. This, second in our Carl Bessai trilogy, is a treat - and demonstrates again that good films can be made on a tiny budget!

Wednesday 25 Jul 2012

On The Line

Unfortunately, a far too topical film about the implications of the Enbridge pipeline proposal. An eco-adventure documentary like no other. Follow Frank Wolf and Todd McGowan on a 2,400 km journey by foot, bike, raft and kayak as they seek to uncover the truth about this proposed 5.5 billion dollar oil pipeline from the oil patch to BC's coast.

The Sierra Club will be on hand as well as participants.

During the show a good place to park is the 1 hour zone on Lee Ave (west of the theatre). That street is not ticketed on Movie Monday evenings, special for us. 6:30 pm & 8:00 pm showings.

Monday 30 Jul 2012

Foreverland

Foreverland tells the story of Will Rankin, a young man stricken with Cystic Fibrosis, a terminal illness, who is tasked with delivering his friend's ashes to a legendary healing shrine in Mexico. Joined by the sister of his fallen friend, Will embarks on an epic journey down the Pacific Coast Highway to the desert heart of Baja, encountering a memorable cast of characters along the way. In the spirit of

Into the Wild and Little Miss Sunshine, it's about dreams and the courage to pursue them. Hope, laughter, and life's small miracles.

Max McGuire, the director, is Ottawa based and he lives with cystic fibrosis, which gives this film extra credibility and heft.

Monday 6 Aug 2012

The Misfits

"The Misfits brought together three legendary performers: Clark Gable, Montgomery Clift, and Marilyn Monroe, in a story of lonely, modern-day cowboys and the woman who loves them. Arthur Miller's screenplay, Russell Metty's somber black-and-white images, and final performances by Monroe and Gable give this film a profoundly elegiac tone."

Here's a chance to celebrate the real Marilyn soon after our recent screening of My Week With Marilyn starring Michelle Williams.

Marilyn Monroe died 50 years ago, Aug 5, 1962. Gable died soon after the film wrapped.

Monday 13 Aug 2012

Doppelgänger Paul

Following a near-death experience, Karl comes to believe that Paul is his doppelganger. When Karl finally reveals himself to Paul, a unique and troubled relationship begins to form, a relationship that is severely tested when Karl grants Paul the privilege of reading his 20,000 page manuscript, A Book About How Much I Hate Myself. When Karl's book is published 17 months later in a vastly edited version credited to two other author/doppelgangers, Karl and Paul hit the road to confront the plagiarists but end up confronting themselves instead. A dark and slyly funny comedy. R

Filmmakers Dylan Akio Smith and Kris Elgstrand and Producer Katherine Hazen were with us to present this Vancouver-made indie gem!

"A dark and slyly funny comedy riffing on identity and the insatiable hunger for connection, Doppelganger Paul delights in the same sort of meta-comedy that we've come to expect from Charlie Kaufman, though co-directors Dylan Akio Smith and Kris Elgstrand deliver it here in a package not nearly as smug or neurotically self referential. Elgstrand's script balances cleverness neatly with character, his writing blessed with the sort of confidence that never feels the need to show off.

A low key, low budget indie, it would be easy to overlook a film like Doppelganger Paul. That would be a mistake." Todd Brown TIFF review 2011

Friday 17 Aug 2012

William Kurelek's The Maze

This brilliant new film is about a Canadian artist, William Kurelek (1927-1977), whose work is currently enjoying a major retrospective at the Art Gallery Of Greater Victoria. The film takes an intimate look into the life of one of the 20th century's most fascinating artists and his struggles with attempted suicide and a self professed "spiritual crisis". The Maze (1953) is a particular painting that inspired this film, produced by the tormented artist in his mid twenties. It got better!

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Monday 20 Aug 2012

Weibo's War

In the 1990s, natural gas wells were drilled near the home of Reverend Wiebo Ludwig and his clan in Alberta. Soon after, livestock began to die, and the Christian community started experiencing health problems, including a series of miscarriages. After five years of being ignored by the oil and gas industry, Ludwig decided to fight for his land and his family's survival.

This is an intriguing story with many perspectives: an unbeliever filmmaker trying to fairly depict a faith-based community and its charismatic leader, that may have committed terrorist strikes on gas company installations, and even murder, and balancing the rights of a small community with the overwhelming pressures of "progress". Lots to consider here! Pg13

Filmmaker David York was our guest by phone from Toronto.

Monday 27 Aug 2012

Love That Boy

"The story of Phoebe, a socially inept overachiever, unrecognized in a world run by C students. When Phoebe's best friend Robyn dumps Phoebe two weeks before college graduation, Robyn points out that Phoebe's "to-do" list is missing one essential thing - a boyfriend. Phoebe begins an ill-fated quest to find a boyfriend. After the demise of her first relationship - her "boyfriend" didn't even know that they were going out - Phoebe inadvertently falls in love. The only problem is, he's fourteen."

It's quirky, Canadian, and a great summer watch. With Andrea Dorfman, a Halifax filmmaker, at the helm and starring Nadia Litz, Nikki Barnett, and Adrien Dixon, and MM fave Ellen Page in a supporting role. PG

Monday 10 Sep 2012

Into The Wind

So far The Terry Fox Foundation has raised 0.6 Billion for Cancer research. Terry Fox Run is on Sunday Sept 16. Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope is so ingrained in Canadian culture that it's hard to believe there could be any aspect of the story left to tell. But don't dismiss Into the Wind, the new documentary on Fox by [Phoenix Sun's point guard] Steve Nash and his filmmaker cousin Ezra Holland. The documentary, set to air on television as part of ESPN's 30 for 30 program, goes far beyond what most Canadians know about the icon.

Through archival footage, new interviews with Fox's friends and family members, and complete access to his daily journals, the film goes deeper and explores the fights, anger and the personal struggles he had to overcome, bringing life to the bronze statue, humanizing the legend and proving the man was even more of a hero by showing him as the ordinary and sometimes frail person he was.

Monday 17 Sep 2012

To Make A Farm

To Make A Farm asks: What might the future of local food and farming look like? This beautifully photographed documentary explores of the lives of five young people who have decided to become small-scale farmers.

VIFF calls To Make A Farm "exceptionally hopeful, giving us a close-range view of humanity along with a detailed portrayal of the nuts and bolts of agriculture." Pg

Monday 24 Sep 2012

Rainman

This classic film is well worth a revival on our big screen. Made 24 years ago when we were all much younger, when Tom Cruise was just a sharp young actor, and Dustin Hoffman was taking real chances as a character actor and most of us knew little about autism.

Charlie, a sharp, egotistical yuppie finds his father has left him only a car and a few rose bushes while the expected estate has gone to a brother he didn't know existed. It's a solid, entertaining film with lots to talk about. R

From Wikipedia:

Effect on popular culture

Rain Man's portrayal of the main character's condition has been seen as inaugurating a common and incorrect media stereotype that people on the autism spectrum typically have savant skills, and references to Rain Man, in particular Dustin Hoffman's performance, have become a popular shorthand for autism and savantism. However, Rain Man has also been seen as dispelling a number of other misconceptions about autism and improving public awareness of the failure of many agencies to accommodate autistic people and make use of the abilities they

do have, regardless of whether they are savant skills. Rain Man has been listed as one of the best movies on the subject of autism. A solid, entertaining film with lots to talk about.

Barry Morrow, who won an Oscar for writing this screenplay, was the catalyst in a recently shown MM favourite, A Friend Indeed: The Bill Sackter Story.

Wednesday 26 Sep 2012

Mighty Uke

A Canadian-made documentary exploring the quirky history of the ukulele and its recent resurgence as a fun instrument with remarkable powers to bring people together. This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 1 Oct 2012

Monsieur Lazhar

A French Canadian film about a teacher who steps in after a previous teacher killed herself during recess at an elementary school. The kids know what happened but no one is talking about it in open terms. The Algerian replacement teacher has his own secret and past trauma, and sees a need to address the children's emotional needs gently but more directly. It's nicely done, very touching. Multiple award winner and Canada's Oscar contender.

So interesting to me is that, in situations like this, suicide is often not talked about but still remains "the elephant in the room". We'll discuss. Pg13

We'll have Tara Timmers with us to talk about her involvement in the upcoming GoodLife Marathon (Oct 7), raising pledges BCSS Victoria. She is a bright young woman now in a 2 year Master's in Leadership Health program. She works full time as the Administrative Coordinator at BCSS Victoria and is also in recovery from mental health issues involving PTSD and addictions. As a Reiki Master she manages her illness in a holistic way.

Monday 8 Oct 2012

The Descendants

Set in Hawaii, The Descendants is a sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic journey for Matt King (George Clooney) an indifferent husband and father of two girls, who is forced to re-examine his past and embrace his future when his wife suffers a boating accident off of Waikiki. He now has to step up to parenting a couple of daughters he doesn't really know, a beset with challenges of deciding the future of a large piece of family land and a surprising, unwelcome revelation. "A thoroughly rewarding assembled-for-adults dramedy that benefits immensely from both its island locale and one of George Clooney's finest performances." R

Monday 15 Oct 2012

Dinosaur Maker - an evening with Bill Maylone

Inspired by the fantastic films of Ray Harryhausen, and with a professional career that started in Victoria in the mid-1970s, Bill Maylone ended up directing or

creating animated movies and sequences for the likes of Adbusters, the National Film Board, NOVA, the CBC, and Will Vinton Studios.

In the days before computer animation, dinosaurs and other fantastic creatures were brought to life most effectively using the painstaking hands-on technique of stop-motion animation. He came to realize that this odd profession could actually contribute to changing the world.

Maylone, now a Mayne Island resident, will share his stories, images, movies, and models and talk about the challenges, successes, and frustrations involved in being driven by the unusual, but - fortunately - constructive obsession of making inanimate objects appear to be alive. Pg with clips of Bill's own work and some classic Harryhausen work too.

Monday 22 Oct 2012

Being Flynn

De Niro is Flynn, a con man, passionate, self proclaimed 'great writer'. He's obstreperous and a serious drinker on his way to homelessness. Paul Dano is the son he left behind but has re-connected with after many years of absenteeism. He has his own issues and is drifting, heading for a job working in a shelter for homeless men. Not an easy watch, revealing of realities that lead to homelessness, insights into dysfunctional family dynamics. Based a real life memoir by son Nick Flynn. Powerful cinema experience and a great fit for MM! Both De Niro and Dano keep it real. R suggestive scenes, drug use, language.

Monday 29 Oct 2012

The Mystery Of Sveva Caetani

Her father was a prince of an important Italian dynasty who, when Sveva was 3, settled in Vernon, BC with Sveva's mother. He thrived in the freedom of this New World frontier, but when he died, Sveva's mother kept her a captive in their home for the next 25 years. A naturally artistic person, she was denied materials to explore her creativity. When she was finally released from her imprisonment, her pent up artistic energy flooded out in paintings, writing. especially exploring her origins in ethereal landscapes with figures, rich with meaning about her own life and the universal. "The Mystery of Sveva Caetani by Agustin Luviano-Cordero" penetrates her paintings and written words, the viewers discover, bit by bit, the true story of who really was Sveva Caetani. Pg

The Mystery Of Sveva Caetani presented by Victoria filmmaker Agustin Luviano-Cordero who is the maker of "A Portrait Of Myfanwy Pavelic" shown June 24/12's at MM.

Wednesday 31 Oct 2012

The Phantom of the Opera

The Phantom of the Opera, Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece!

Camp it up for Hallowe'en, be "best dressed" for this sumptuously presented version of the musical hit. Set and costume designers jumped the shark on this one! A disfigured musical genius, hidden away in the Paris Opera House, terrorizes the opera company for the unwitting benefit of a young protégée whom he trains and loves. Pg13

This was a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 5 Nov 2012

Nothing But A Man

A very special film written and produced by Michael Roemer and Robert M. Young (the maker of William Kurelek's The Maze documentary that we featured recently).

"From the era when American films almost never put black characters at the center of a movie, Nothing but a Man stands like a beacon of intelligence and sympathy. It was shot in 1964 at the height of the Civil Rights movement by two Jewish white men, director Michael Roemer and cinematographer Robert M. Young, who wrote the script after traveling through the South and immersing themselves in African American life. Ivan Dixon plays a railroad worker who settles down to marry a preacher's daughter (jazz singer Abbey Lincoln), only to find that the system is rigged against him. The film is not condescending or idealizing in its approach; some of the problems of the characters are outside the reality of racism. Aside from its status as a landmark social-issue film, it is good to recognize, 40 years on, what a terrific piece of filmmaking this is, with fine acting, lucid dialogue, and a fresh feeling for everyday domestic life." --Robert Horton Pg13

We'll include an extra by the senior filmmakers looking back 40 years on this groundbreaking project.

Monday 12 Nov 2012

Edwin Boyd: Citizen Gangster

The story of notorious Canadian bank robber Edwin Boyd, beginning with his return from duty in the Second World War. Dismayed by public indifference toward veterans, humiliated by his inability to provide for his children and his wife Doreen, and seeing only disappointment in the face of his policeman father, Eddie resorts to unlawful activity. What starts as small time bank robberies, evolves over time—and with experience—into a career that turns Boyd into postwar Toronto's public enemy number one. Electric performances by Scott Speedman as Boyd and Kevin Durand his accomplice. A really riveting film based on real life events.

The film took home the TIFF prize for best first Canadian feature 2011 R

There's a solid Victoria connection to this story: Boyd settled here and became a model citizen!

Monday 19 Nov 2012

How To Die In Oregon

In 1994, Oregon became the first state to legalize physician-assisted suicide. As a result, any individual whom two physicians diagnose as having less than six months to live can lawfully request a fatal dose of barbiturate to end his or her life. Since 1994, more than 500 Oregonians have taken their mortality into their own hands. In *How to Die in Oregon*, filmmaker Peter Richardson gently enters the lives of the terminally ill as they consider whether – and when – to end their lives by lethal overdose. Richardson examines both sides of this complex, emotionally charged issue. What emerges is a life-affirming, staggeringly powerful portrait of what it means to die with dignity. Pg13

Monday 26 Nov 2012

We Were Here

A deep and reflective look at the arrival and impact of AIDS in San Francisco and how individuals rose to the occasion during the first years of this unimaginable crisis. "Absolutely electrifying. I wept, sure, but mostly from relief that this story has finally been told with all its dimensions intact: the panic, the betrayals, the brave humor, the enormity of what we lost - yet, ultimately, affirmed for the ages. It's a love story about the resilience of our tribe." Armistead Maupin Pg13

Wednesday 28 Nov 2012

Genghis Blues

The extraordinary odyssey of a U.S. musician of Cape Verdean ancestry to Tannu Tuva, in central Asia, where nomadic people throat sing more than one note simultaneously, using vocal harmonics. A bluesman, Paul Pena, blind and recently widowed, taught himself throat singing and was by chance invited to the 1995 throat-singing symposium in Kyzyl. Helped by the "Friends of Tuva," Pena makes the arduous journey. Singing in the deep, rumbling kargyraa style, Pena gives inspired performances at the festival, composes songs in Tuvan, washes his face in sacred rivers, expresses the disorientation of blindness in foreign surroundings, and makes a human connection with everyone he meets.

This was a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 3 Dec 2012

Prince Of Broadway

A find from a filmmaker I met at VIFF, *Prince of Broadway* is the story of Lucky and Levon, two men whose lives converge in the underbelly of New York's wholesale fashion district. Lucky, a street smart illegal immigrant from Ghana,

makes ends meet by soliciting shoppers on the street with knock-off brand merchandise. Levon, an Armenian-Lebanese immigrant, operates an illegal storefront with a concealed back room where counterfeit goods are showcased to interested shoppers. Lucky's world is suddenly turned upside down when a child is thrust into his life by a past girlfriend who insists the toddler is his son. It's part comedy, part drama, very authentic, and made with passion on an indie budget. We'll show a 'making of' doc that shows how this terrific film was birthed. R language

His new, impressive film, *Starlet*, with a debut starring roll by Papa Hemmingway's granddaughter Gree, screened at VIFF in September.

Monday 10 Dec 2012

Smokin' Fish Movie

Cory Mann is a quirky Tlingit businessman hustling to make a dollar in Juneau Alaska. He gets hungry for smoked salmon, nostalgic for his childhood, and decides to spend a summer smoking fish at his family's traditional fish camp. The unusual story of his life and the untold history of his people interweave with the process of preparing traditional food as he struggles to pay his bills, keep the IRS off his back, and keep his business afloat. By turns tragic, bizarre, or just plain ridiculous, *Smokin' Fish*, tells the story of one man's attempts to navigate the messy zone of collision between the modern world and an ancient culture. Pg13.

Hopefully with Cory Mann will be with us to present his story.

Plus short: Uninterrupted (4 min) Nettie Wild's short about our Adams salmon run.

Monday 17 Dec 2012

Genghis Blues

This new Oscar nominated doc has won awards and hearts everywhere it plays. It's about a blind blues player who learns throatsinging and, with the help of some buddies, travels to remote Tuva to compete in a remarkable competition. It's about taking chances, the universal power of music and the resilience of the human spirit.

Wednesday 19 Dec 2012

Lightning in a Bottle

Beginning with a stirring African folk song the roots are established and rapidly swell into a trunk thickened by the hardships of the Great Depression and the oppression of segregation. Finally, this Blues family tree shows off vibrant new growth as it reveals the Blues' influence on our modern wealth of talented musicians. Ruth Brown gives Bill Cosby a full-throttle serenade, along with Mavis Staples and Natalie Cole. Angélique Kidjo persuades Buddy Guy to an unforgettable rendition of 'Voodoo Child,' shortly before Bonnie Raitt and Robert

Cray accompany B.B. King and Lucille for the final number, 'Paying the Cost to be the Boss.'

This documentary presents to the audience, with authority and candor, an authentic history of this musical form. The highly esteemed elders of this musical family are exemplary in their humbleness toward one another, rich with decades of shared memories; and their performances are of a quality rarely seen in modern times.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 31 Dec 2012

Cat Ballou

This lovely spoof on the American Western featured the sweet, wide-eyed Jane Fonda (at 28) as an earnest daughter wanting to avenge her fathers death. Lee Marvin deservedly won an Oscar for as washed up gun slinger, Kid Shelleen, hired to do just that. This fun film is propelled along by wandering banjo-slinging minstrels, Nat King Cole & Stubby Kaye. Pg

Archives 2013

Monday 7 Jan 2013

Nanook Of The North

Robert Flaherty's classic film tells the story of Inuit hunter Nanook and his family as they struggle to survive in the harsh conditions of Canada's Hudson Bay region. In 1975, The Flaherty restored the most complete and authoritative print of Nanook of the North, closest to the original 1922 version, with a new score by Stanley Silverman performed by Tashi (Peter Serkin, Ida Kavafian, Fred Sherry, Richard Stoltzman). Pg

Monday 14 Jan 2013

NFB's Passage

"It was news that shook the English-speaking world. Celebrated British explorer Sir John Franklin and his crew of 128 men had perished in the Arctic ice during an ill-fated attempt to discover the Northwest Passage. More shocking, they had descended into madness and cannibalism.

The report came in 1851, from John Rae, a Scottish doctor working for the Hudson's Bay Company. Travelling thousands of miles on foot and in small craft, Rae had done what six years of searching by the British, Americans, French and Russians had failed to do - discover the fate of Franklin and unlock the final link in the Passage - a 300-year-old dream.

But Rae's horrific news did not sit well with Sir John's widow, Lady Franklin, nor with many others in British society.

With Passage, filmmaker John Walker employs an innovative approach to structuring the incredible multilayered story of John Rae and brings it to vibrant life." Pg 13

Monday 21 Jan 2013

Bobby Fischer Against The World

(keeping with this Northern theme) Iceland figures in this amazing tale. I don't even play chess and I was riveted. In '72 the Fischer/Spassky game was broadcast live, a Cold War Battle Royal, bumping "other sports" on the Wide World of Sports and in newscasts pushing aside breaking Watergate news. Here's that exciting match, Bobby's background and the strange story of his life after the match. Pg

Monday 28 Jan 2013

People of a Feather

"People of a Feather is a breathtaking journey into the remote world of the Belcher Islands Inuit people. Uniting this community's past and present is their cultural connection with the eider duck, a species now suffering massive die-offs. Eider down, the warmest feather in the world, is essential for surviving harsh Arctic winters. But both the Inuit and the eiders are struggling to adapt to

changing sea dynamics as seasons and ocean currents are reversed by run-off from hydroelectric dams that power North America's entire eastern seaboard. Filmed over seven winters, Arctic ecologist and cinematographer Joel Heath's debut feature employs stunning time-lapse photography and underwater footage to create an authentic and insightful portrayal of a community challenged by a changing environment. This stunning piece of visual poetry weaves past with present to powerfully acknowledge humankind's relationship with nature and the fragility of our existence." G

Wednesday 30 Jan 2013

The Singing Revolution

A film that'll stir your soul. Most people don't think about singing when they think about revolutions, but song was the weapon of choice when, between 1987 and 1991, Estonians sought to free themselves from decades of Soviet occupation. During those years, hundreds of thousands gathered in public to sing forbidden patriotic songs and to rally for independence. Witness the power of music in action!

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 4 Feb 2013

Ruby Sparks

What happens when your dream-girl creation becomes real? Calvin (Paul Dano) is a young novelist who achieved phenomenal success early in his career but is now struggling with his writing - as well as his romantic life. Finally, he makes a breakthrough and creates a character named Ruby who inspires him. When Calvin finds Ruby (Zoe Kazan), in the flesh, sitting on his couch about a week later, he is completely flabbergasted that his words have turned into a living, breathing person. But like most dreams come true, it's a little more complicated than that.
R

Monday 11 Feb 2013

Indie Game: The Movie & King Of Kong: A Fist Full Of Quarters

Kids: share with the oldsters the brilliance and awesomeness of the cutting edge games

Parents: share with your kids the video games you may have played as youngsters 30 years ago (some folks are still obsessed with them).

Indie Game: The Movie is the first feature documentary film about making video games. It looks specifically at the underdogs of the video game industry, indie game developers, who sacrifice money, health and sanity to realize their lifelong dreams of sharing their visions with the world.

After two years of painstaking work, designer Edmund McMillen and programmer Tommy Refenes await the release of their first major game for Xbox, Super Meat Boy—the adventures of a skinless boy in search of his girlfriend, who is made of

bandages. At PAX, a major video-game expo, developer Phil Fish unveils his highly anticipated, four-years-in-the-making FEZ. Jonathan Blow considers beginning a new game after creating Braid, one of the highest-rated games of all time. Four developers, three games, and one ultimate goal— to express oneself through a video game. Pg13

You may recognize this as a past offering. We had an equipment failure at our last attempt, so rolling it out again.

Plus: King Of Kong: A Fist Full Of Quarters A brilliantly elaborate and satisfying doc about the quest for world domination – to be best at Donkey Kong. Two diametrically different personalities; the brash, long-reigning champion, Billy Mitchell, and upstart challenger sincere, Redmond, WA science teacher, Steve Wiebe, square off like Frazier and Muhammad Ali in their heyday. Even if you've never touched a console, you'll find this study of competitive human nature and geeky obsession a treat! Rotten Tomatoes and I give it top marks. Pg

Monday 18 Feb 2013

Vanishing Point

from the Victoria Film Fest - the last but not least in our 'Northern Series'

Navarana is a Polar Eskimo elder who lives in the most remote corner of the planet: the northwest tip of Greenland. She is connected by blood to a group of Canadian Inuit because of a shaman's migration journey across the frozen Arctic in the 1860s. Today, despite rapid technological and social changes, her people in Greenland proudly maintain and covet age-old customs. But Navarana wonders what life is like for her distant cousins of Arctic Canada. a land that seems to her to run on 'sugar and gasoline'.

"Gorgeously shot. a touching, subtle and beautifully framed" look at the Northern way of life. Pg Inuit with subtitles

A hit at the Victoria Film Fest!

Canmore, Alberta based filmmakers Stephen A. Smith & Julia Szucs will join us for a phone Q&A! They're just back from Available Light Film Festival in Whitehorse where Vanishing Point picked up the Audience Award!

Monday 25 Feb 2013

May I Be Frank a collaboration with Hemma | The Home Of Yoga and Acupuncture Frank Ferrante is a 54 year old Sicilian from Brooklyn living in San Francisco. A lover of life, great food, beautiful women and a good laugh, Frank is also a drug addict, morbidly obese, pre-diabetic, and fighting Hepatitis C. He's estranged from his daughter, single, and struggling with depression. Frank knows that life can be better than this, and is looking for a way out.

"I deeply enjoyed this true story of one man's transformation that gives hope to us all. In its courage and compassion, it reflects the larger theater of our humanity: a few young guys who work at Cafe Gratitude, responding to Frank's wish to find love one more time, set out to change his life and maybe save his soul as they guide and support him on a life-changing challenge he could never have predicted and would not likely have taken on his own." - Dan Millman. Pg13

Wednesday 27 Feb 2013

Lightning in a Bottle

This documentary presents to the audience, with authority and candor, an authentic history of this musical form. The highly esteemed elders of this musical family are exemplary in their humbleness toward one another, rich with decades of shared memories; and their performances are of a quality rarely seen in modern times. Ruth Brown gives Bill Cosby a full-throttle serenade, along with Mavis Staples and Natalie Cole. Angélique Kidjo persuades Buddy Guy to an unforgettable rendition of 'Voodoo Child,' shortly before Bonnie Raitt and Robert Cray accompany B.B. King and Lucille for the final number, 'Paying the Cost to be the Boss.'

This'll blow away them old pre-Christmas Blues! Pg13

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 4 Mar 2013

To Be Heard

To Be Heard is a feature documentary that follows a trio of young spoken word performers as they work through their teen angst, putting their feelings into verse. It's called "power-writing", a process brought into their inner city high school in the Bronx by a trio of intense mentors. These kids know that this is their opportunity to dig deep and, through writing and performing (and being watched by the filmmakers), to re-describe themselves, turning their tumultuous lives into art. This process is part of that rewriting.

Monday 11 Mar 2013

The Sessions

Based on the poignantly optimistic autobiographical writings of California-based journalist and poet Mark O'Brien, The Sessions tells the story of a man confined to an iron lung who is determined - at age 38 - to lose his virginity. With the help of his therapists and the guidance of his priest, he sets out to make his dream a reality. The story bravely takes on the question: Are people living with disabilities also deserving and able to have sex be part of their lives? 95min 2012 R considerable nudity and frank sexual situations.

Jessica Yu's Academy Award winning film Breathing Lessons about the real Mark O'Brien.

Monday 18 Mar 2013

A Summer In The Cage

A Summer In The Cage is filmmaker Ben Selkow's feature-length documentary chronicling his friend Sam's battle with manic-depressive illness, also known as bipolar disorder. The film follows Sam for six years as he suffers delusional manic episodes, battles paralyzing depressions, and tries to escape the legacy of his bipolar father who committed suicide when Sam was eight years old. The film features interviews with renowned Johns Hopkins University author and clinician Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison; who is also bipolar. Through intimate footage of Sam, Ben and Sam's mother Sharon, A Summer in the Cage shows the difficult emotional impact of being bipolar on Sam, his family, all those who care about him and the filmmaker. A Summer in the Cage hopes to put a human face on an illness that affects millions of families. But as this dramatic story unfolds and heads to an explosive standoff, it also becomes a unique tale about friendship and the ethical responsibilities of a documentary filmmaker.

We had special guests with us for a post screening discussion: Erin Michalak. She heads up the CREST BD Research Team, studying ways to live well with bipolar and Joanna Cheek, psychiatrist at UVic.

Monday 25 Mar 2013

Winds Of Heaven – Emily Carr, Carvers and The Spirits of The Forest

An impressionistic exploration of the spirit that informed the solitary life of one of Canada's most celebrated and irrepressible painters. Emily Carr began painting in an era when women didn't, at an age when most people shouldn't, traveling to remote locations that few professional adventurers chose to go. Not only did she adopt the painting techniques of modernism, when such ideas were considered dangerous, Carr chronicled the extraordinary art and culture of native peoples, who were invisible to the dominant culture. Pg First in a new series of films about artists at MM.

Wednesday 27 Mar 2013

Searching For Sugar Man

The opening film at the Sundance Film Festival, this 2012 documentary focuses on the mysterious 1970's American rock 'n' roller, Rodriguez. When a bootleg recording hit apartheid South Africa, he became a phenomenon but no one knew what happened to him. The film follows two South African fans who try to find out. Their investigation leads them to a story more extraordinary than any of the myths about their musical hero.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 1 Apr 2013

Wretches & Jabberers

Two men with autism embark on a global quest to change attitudes about disability and intelligence. Determined to put a new face on autism, Tracy

Thresher, 42, and Larry Bissonnette, 52, travel to Sri Lanka, Japan and Finland. Growing up, our protagonists were presumed "retarded" and excluded from normal schooling. With limited speech, they both faced lives of social isolation in mental institutions or adult disability centers. When they learnt as adults to communicate by typing, their lives changed dramatically. Their world tour message is that the same possibility exists for others like themselves.

Monday 8 Apr 2013

Modra

A gentle story about the confusion of being 17. After a breakup a young Toronto woman, invites a lad she hardly knows to accompany her on a visit to her ancestral home of Modra in Slovakia. A gentle story unfolds into a rich experience. Part travelogue, part love story, part reflection on immigrant roots in the old country, wholly satisfying. "You don't need big budgets. You need vision and heart. This made my heart open." Billie Mintz Pg13

Trust me on this one! Winning making of clips about this Canadian family project will be added to our screening.

Monday 15 Apr 2013

Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life And Inventive Mind Of Alexander Graham Bell

Presentation and reading by author Charlotte Gray, approximately 105 min

I've been wanting to present this remarkable story for years, after hearing Charlotte Gray. speak to my son's convocation at Queens University and later reading her book Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life And Inventive Mind Of Alexander Graham Bell. Bell is typical of the bipolar spectrum personality; full of brilliant ideas, moody, messy, needs a good woman to organize his life. Happily he found one who was his helpmate, a remarkable woman herself. His accomplishments go way beyond inventing the telephone, into all aspects of his world; communication for the deaf, mentor to Helen Keller, sheep breeder, hydrofoil and airplane development, established the National Geographic Society. it's an amazing life story!

Monday 22 Apr 2013

Westwind: The Vision Of Tom Thompson

How did an illustrator, whose favourite pastime was fishing, find within himself the passion and confidence to portray Ontario's lakes, rivers, trees and skies with glorious colour and energy as no one had before? This is a truly remarkable film that explores the life and mystery of Thompson's death, the brilliant legacy of his paintings and the glorious landscapes that inspired his work. Pg

This will be our first Bluray hi-def presentation, required to show off this gorgeous production at it's best!

I'm thrilled to have producer Nancy Lang coming from Toronto to present this film.

Wednesday 24 Apr 2013

A Drummers Dream

A rare and unique assembly of some of the greatest drummers in the world come together to share their explosive talent, passion, creativity and humour with forty students at a drumming retreat for an incredible week of music and camaraderie.

Playing everything from rock, jazz, Latin fusion, sou, the overriding philosophy of these musicians is driven by love, compassion and joy of life. At the end of the film you will be tapping the rhythms that live within us all and the positive energy these masters display will continue to pulse through you for days to come.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 29 Apr 2013

Life Of Pi

A young man who survives a disaster at sea is hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. While cast away, he forms an unexpected connection with another survivor: a fearsome Bengal tiger. Absolutely stunning visuals and much to discuss about the meaning of this tale. Brian Bethune of Maclean's "[a] head-scratching combination of dense religious allegory, zoological lore and enthralling adventure tale, written with warmth and grace" Pg

Monday 6 May 2013

Open Dialogue

In the far north of Finland, a stone's throw from the Arctic Circle, a group of innovative family therapists converted the area's traditional mental health system, which once boasted some of Europe's poorest outcomes for schizophrenia, into one that now gets the best statistical results in the world for first-break psychosis. They call their approach is called Open Dialogue.

Their principles, though radical in this day and age of multi-drug cocktails and involuntary hospitalizations, are surprisingly simple. They meet clients in crisis immediately and often daily until the crises are resolved. They avoid hospitalization and its consequential stigma, preferring to meet in the homes of those seeking their services. And, perhaps most controversially, they avoid the use of anti-psychotic medication wherever possible. Pg

Monday 13 May 2013

Cloudburst

Cloudburst is a comedy/drama, a romantic road movie written and directed by Nova Scotia filmmaker Thom Fitzgerald (The Hanging Garden).

It stars Oscar winning actresses Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker as Stella and Dot, an aging couple who escape from a nursing home in Maine and drive to Nova Scotia on a quest to be legally married. Stella is hard of hearing and Dot is legally blind. Dot's prudish granddaughter, Molly, had tricked Dot into a nursing home so she could reclaim the family home before Stella could. Now, Stella and Dot must go to the only place that will recognize their mutual devotion in order to set things right. R

Monday 20 May 2013

Beasts Of The Southern Wild

In a forgotten but defiant bayou community cut off from the rest of the world by a sprawling levee, a six-year-old girl exists on the brink of orphanhood. Buoyed by her childish optimism and extraordinary imagination, she believes that the natural world is in balance with the universe until a fierce storm changes her reality. Desperate to repair the structure of her world in order to save her ailing father and sinking home, this tiny hero must learn to survive unstoppable catastrophes of epic proportions Winner of many awards, and with a stunning performance by the 6year old protagonist played by Quvenzhané Wallis. Pg13

Monday 27 May 2013

Silver Lining Playbook

After a stint in a mental institution, former teacher Pat Solitano moves back in with his parents and tries to reconcile with his ex-wife. Things get more challenging when Pat meets Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence), a mysterious girl with problems of her own enters his life. An interesting depiction of a family living with Bipolar, Dad played by Robert DeNiro has OCD, all looking for a silver lining. R

Wednesday 29 May 2013

Inclusion

"Inclusion" is a documentary about the members of ZUIHOU TAIKO, a professional taiko (Japanese drumming) group in Nagasaki prefecture made up of musicians with developmental disabilities. The film follows one family living, loving, and raising their child independently - and making powerful music.

Although ZUIHOU's members started drumming as rehabilitation, they became a professional group through dedication, constant practice and love of the art. They lead us to a world of inclusion, because "the world is more beautiful when everyone is in harmony." PG

Featuring an introductory performance by Victoria's Uminari Taiko

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 3 Jun 2013

A Late Quartet

When the beloved cellist of a world-renowned string quartet receives a life changing diagnosis, the group's future suddenly hangs in the balance: suppressed emotions, competing egos, and uncontrollable passions threaten to derail years of friendship and collaboration. As they are about to play their 25th anniversary concert, quite possibly their last, only their intimate bond and the power of music can preserve their legacy. Terrific cast: Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Mark Ivanir, Catherine Keener, Imogen Poots. R

Monday 10 Jun 2013

Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould

Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould weaves together an unprecedented array of never before seen footage of Gould, photographs and excerpts from his private home recordings and diaries plus personal interviews with Gould's most intimate friends and lovers, some who have never spoken about him publicly before, to reconstruct his thoughts on music, art, society, love, and life. Pg13

Monday 17 Jun 2013

Cubers

MM's 20th Anniversary!!!

CUBERS delves into the minds of an elite group of brainiacs obsessed with the Rubik's Cube. We follow them as they compete for the title of the fastest Cuber on the planet. The result is a spell-binding documentary about passion, compulsion, and the need to belong. We rewind 25 years, tracing the humble beginnings in Hungary when the Rubik's Cube first captured the world's imagination, becoming the greatest selling puzzle ever. Fast forward as the toy returns to the spotlight, thanks to the Internet and the obsession of a few. CUBERS tells a universal story of the drive of the human spirit to overcome great obstacles while achieving the nearly impossible. G

An example of cube enthusiasm: A student at Pearson College, Leo Yousif made this Rubik's Cube Pearson portrait honouring Pearson's legacy of peace – particularly poignant coming from a young Syrian man just now.

Monday 24 Jun 2013

LunaFest: Short films for, by and about women

This travelling film festival spotlights the work of a diverse array of talented women filmmakers with nine intelligent, funny and thought-provoking short films. The event also raises money and attention for nonprofits in their own communities (Victoria's Bridges For Women), as well as for Luna's main beneficiary, the Breast Cancer Fund. 100 percent of all net proceeds are donated to charity.

With guests in person: NS Filmmaker Andrea Dorfman (her shorts include Flawed, How To Be Alone, features incl. Parsley Days 2000, Love That Boy 2003) and local multi-disciplinary artist Valerie Salez.

Wednesday 26 June 2013

Oliver Schroer: Silence At The Heart Of Things

A documentary about Oliver Schroer, Canadian fiddler extraordinaire! In a career cut short by illness, he recorded and produced more than 100 albums, composed some 1,000 pieces of music and inspired a generation of young musicians. Follow Schroer in the last months of his life as he collaborates with musicians who come from abroad to work with him. Through his own words, the documentary explores Schroer's music and the unique voice he brought to his instrument, a voice that challenges traditional views of the fiddle. Silence At The Heart Of Things is a joyful celebration of the life's work of a true master musician.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 1 Jul 2013

Who Loves The Sun

Summer time in cottage country; sunshine, the lake, old friends, parents, a chainsaw (but only for cutting wood.) What could be simpler? Will and Daniel were the best of friends. They grew up together. Liked the same records. Loved the same girls. Daniel was Will's best man at his wedding to Maggie Claire. Then one day Will disappeared without a word. Five years later he he shows up at the cottage.

Who Loves The Sun is a delightfully witty character comedy, featuring perfectly pitched performances, a great soundtrack and some hilariously realistic bad fighting. Starring the radiant Molly Parker and made by her husband/director-writer Matt Bissonnette. Pg13 (course language)

"...a relief for those Canuck-cinema naysayers who believe that this country can't produce an entertaining and commercially viable film to save its life." Sarah Keenlyside, Georgia Straight

Monday 8 Jul 2013

Blackbird

An exciting new film about a boy whose goth style makes him a target of high school bullying, entangling him in the dark side of ever-present cyber world, and the legal system. The film's strength is a thoughtful reserve by both the writer/director Jason Buxton and a brilliant new actor Conor Jessup. It's a riveting piece that raises all kinds of modern day issues. "Blackbird isn't quite the film you expect — and that's its strength. The film begins in a familiar high school milieu, but in the end, you're left with the tale of a young man forced to meet threats of violence on his own terms." Eli Glasner

Monday 15 Jul 2013

Shakespeare In Love

This very clever comedy starring Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow, Judi Dench, Geoffrey Rush and Colin Firth depicts a love affair involving playwright William Shakespeare while he was writing the play Romeo and Juliet. The story is fiction, though several of the characters are based on real people. In addition, many of the characters, lines, and plot devices are references to Shakespeare's plays. This totally entertaining film romped away with many Oscar awards including Best Picture and screen play - a great primer for your summer's Shakespeare fun. R (some nudity, suggestive scenes)

Roger Ebert, gave the film four stars out of four: "The contemporary feel of the humor (like Shakespeare's coffee mug, inscribed Souvenir of Stratford-Upon-Avon) makes the movie play like a contest between Masterpiece Theatre and Mel Brooks. Then the movie stirs in a sweet love story, juicy court intrigue, backstage politics and some lovely moments from Romeo and Juliet. Is this a movie or an anthology? I didn't care. I was carried along by the wit, the energy and a surprising sweetness."

Monday 22 Jul 2013

This Way Of Life

A Indie documentary, a deservedly much awarded film (by the folks who made another MM pick, One Man, One Cow, One Planet,) This Way Of Life follows a family living intentionally off the grid in NZ. What started as a film about breaking a horse became one about a very special family; unique parents bringing up their kids in the wilds with little money but a richness in living with the land and animals, especially horses, that seems a fantasy to us city folk. The dad, Peter, lives by an internal code of values largely lost in modern times - he is horse-whisperer, philosopher, hunter and builder, husband and father. Despite seemingly overwhelming challenges, Peter refuses to compromise. This is a film you won't forget!

We'll have an update from the filmmakers by phone.

Monday 29 Jul 2013

Here At Home

MHCC has just wound down a two year project, At Home/Chez Soi, to test and document the effects of housing previously unhoused people in five cities across Canada, to prove out the difference it makes in their lives. NFB documented the process in a series of short documentary pieces. MOVIE MONDAY is featuring a selection from thirty or so of these concise glimpses into surprisingly diverse stories that explore this "experiment" from all angles. Includes Q&A. Pg

The evening will be presented by renowned Vancouver filmmaker Lynne Stopkewich, (Kissed, Suspicious River and directing credits for many TV series

episodes) who has been documenting her city's stories, plus two At Home participants.

Wednesday 31 July 2013

Marley

Bob Marley's universal appeal, impact on music history and role as a social and political prophet is both unique and unparalleled. Marley is the definitive life story of the musician, revolutionary, and legend, from his early days to his rise to international super stardom. Made with the support of the Marley family, the film features rare footage, incredible performances and revelatory interviews with the people that knew him best. By the maker of *Touching The Void*, Kevin MacDonald.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 5 Aug 2013

Life On The Vertical & Land Of The Chartreuse Moose

Life On the Vertical is the incredible story of a unique population of mountain goats that live on the vertical walls of Canada's Grand Canyon on the Stikine River in northwestern British Columbia.

Land Of The Chartreuse Moose: Ted Harrison When Jack London came to the Yukon in search of gold in 1893, he found a land raw and inhospitable, where, as he wrote "man is the sole speck of life in a frozen ghostly waste".

Just sixty years later an art teacher from northern England, Ted Harrison, came to the Yukon, but what he found was a land of abundance and beauty, the Source for the Native people who'd inhabited it for thousands of years. Through his art and understanding of the rhythms of the land, he would become one of Canada's most popular artists, transforming the way the world would see the North.

Monday 12 Aug 2013

Quartet

Cecily, Reggie, and Wilfred are in a home for retired opera singers. Every year, on October 10, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday and they take part. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva, but she refuses to sing. Still, the show must go on. and it does.

Monday 19 Aug 2013

Any Day Now

Inspired by a true story and touching on legal and social issues that are more relevant now than ever, *Any Day Now* tells a story of love, acceptance, and creating your own family. In the late 1970s, when Marco (Isaac Leyva), a teenager with down syndrome who's been abandoned by his mother, is taken in by committed couple Rudy (Alan Cumming) and Paul (Garret Dillahunt), he finds in them the family he's never had. But it's rocky road, as it's not cool to be an

adopting gay couple. Paul's a closeted lawyer but Rudy happens to be drag queen/gay bar performer with a fair bit of 'attitude'.

Monday 26 Aug 2013

Strangers In Town

Strangers In Town is a documentary about albinos. It considers both the medical and social aspects of albinism. The film attempts to overcome the prejudices and misconceptions people have toward albinos. Personalities appearing in the film include American blues guitarist Johnny Winter.

Wednesday 28 August 2013

Crossroads

Crossroads features one of the decade's best-received motion picture soundtracks, written and performed by Ry Cooder. Eugene Martone (Ralph Macchio) is a classically trained guitarist who desperately wants to locate a long-lost blues song. At a Harlem nursing home, Eugene finds Willie Brown, a legendary blues man who may be able to help him. Eugene becomes part of the master guitarist's scheme to reclaim his soul from the Devil, which he sold in exchange for musical greatness at a rural crossroads many decades before. R

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 9 Sep 2013

Looking For Richard

Al Pacino dons three hats, as creator, director and star, in this intertwining performance of Shakespeare's gripping, tragic 'Richard III' and an intimate and often comic look at the struggle to bring the play to film. A terrific primer on The Bard and the passionate people who illuminate his classic plays - by the versatile actor we know better as a gangster and mafia don, more recently as Jack Kavorkian (You Don't Know Jack). Pg13

Speaking of the modern world, the skeleton of R III, with tell-tale crooked backbone, was recently uncovered a year ago under a parking lot in Leicester. It has since been verified with DNA testing, comparing with known descendants.

Monday 16 Sep 2013

RASTA: A Soul's Journey

Bob and Rita Marley's charismatic granddaughter Donisha Prendergast, is our guide in a quest to discover the roots, evolution and impact of the Rastafarian movement. From it's roots in Ethiopia, its rise in Jamaica, with that incredible boost world-wide through the power of the Marleys' Reggae music, to communities in UK, South Africa, India, Israel and Canada, we learn what it is to be a 'Rastamon'. pg13

Monday 23 Sep 2013

Vertigo

Jimmy Stewart plays a cop coming out of retirement to solve the case of a woman, Kim Novak, who seems to be possessed and wanders San Francisco in a trance. While following Madeleine, Scottie saves her from a suicide attempt and soon a love affair blooms between the two, which leads Scottie into a vertiginous mystery fueled by his dark obsessions. Pg

Michael van den Bos, a Vancouver-based film history teacher and film critic extraordinaire, will introduce this 1958 Alfred Hitchcock dizzying masterpiece, that now displaces Citizen Kane as Greatest Film Ever Made.

Q&A will followed with Michael van den Bos.

Wednesday 25 Sep 2013

The Sapphires

The Sapphires follows four vivacious, young and talented Australian Aboriginal women from a remote mission as they learn about love, friendship and war when their all girl group, The Sapphires, entertains the U.S. troops in Vietnam in 1968. The girls are discovered by the Dave, (Chris O'Dowd - The IT Crowd, Bridesmaids), a good-humoured talent scout with a kind heart, very little rhythm but a great knowledge of soul music. Billed as Australia's answer to The Supremes, Dave secures the sisters their first true gig, and flies them to Vietnam to sing for the American troops. Based on a true story, The Sapphires is a triumphant celebration of youthful emotion, family and music. Pg13

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 30 Sep 2013

Hit 'n Strum

A barrier is crossed between yuppie young executive woman and a scruffy, homeless street musician when she hits him with her car in a distracted moment. She is gradually drawn into his world of puzzling ideals as she tries to make up for the accident. Set in downtown Vancouver and written, protagonist acted, even the songs composed and performed by once "Hollywood North" stuntman, now director, Kirk Caouette. Pg

Saturday 5 Oct 2013

Unfaithful Mind

When Schizophrenia In a Spouse Impacts a Family, New Book Describes the Struggles

Ms Gibson will be speaking at Saturday Live! This is another in Movie Monday's occasional series that spotlights writers and performers with lived experience of mental illness and recovery.

While the book has only been out for a very short time, Ms Gibson and her story are the subject of a feature article in The Georgia Straight. She has also appeared on CBC radio network shows in Vancouver and Victoria as well as the Ian Jessop show in Victoria.

Monday 7 Oct 2013

Rob Stewart's Revolution

Revolution is a film about changing the world. The true-life adventure of Rob Stewart, this follow-up to his acclaimed SHARKWATER documentary continues his remarkable journey; one that will take him through 15 countries over four years, and where he'll discover that it's not only sharks that are in grave danger – it's humanity itself.

With special guest: film interviewee, Climate Scientist and Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver.

Thursday 10 Oct 2013

Hidden Pictures

We'll be part of the world launch on World Mental Health Day of Dr Delaney Ruston's film that looks at attitudes about mental illness in India, China, France, Africa, and Ruston's own USA and her hometown children's school in Seattle.

Monday 14 Oct 2013

Jiro Dreams Of Sushi

Jiro Dreams of Sushi is the story of 85 year-old Jiro Ono, considered by many to be the world's greatest sushi chef. He is the proprietor of Sukiyabashi Jiro, a 10-seat, sushi-only restaurant inauspiciously located in a Tokyo subway station. Despite its humble appearances, it is a world destination for high-rolling gourmards. It's about work ethic and focus on perfection of that work. Pg (in Japanese, well subtitled)

Monday 21 Oct 2013

Mars Project

A decade ago independent Canadian rap-icon Khari "Conspiracy" Stewart was diagnosed with a psychological disorder, but he has rejected the label and is pursuing a spiritual path. For half of his life, he has fought a spiritual war against two demons: Anacron, an intergalactic consciousness that possesses Stewart's mind, and the Canadian mental health system, which diagnosed him with schizophrenia over a decade ago.

With innumerable battles waging as far back as his adolescence, Khari's otherworldly experiences have often been manifested through a dense and sometimes dark catalogue of recorded music, all of which he has recorded independently.

Khari performs as 'Conspiracy' in a group called the Supreme Being Unit (S.B.U.), along with his twin brother Addi 'Mindbender' Stewart, who was not diagnosed with Schizophrenia.

Through artful documentation of Khari's history, daily life and with insight from psychiatric experts, Mars Project reveals the deep complexities of mental health and perhaps some of the inadequacies of the Canadian healthcare system. Tormented artist, spiritual shaman, drug-addled rapper, Khari's unique experience seeks to challenge our understanding of schizophrenia and mental health. Pg 13

Thursday 24 Oct 2013

Mr Jones

An entertaining and insightful bipolar portrayal with lots to consider about professional ethics.

Monday 28 Oct 2013

Young Frankenstein

Frankenstein quickly returns to Transylvania and the old ancestral castle, where he is awaited by the faithful houseboy Igor, the voluptuous lab assistant Inga, and the mysterious housekeeper Frau Blucher, whose very name causes horses to rear in fright. The young man had always rejected his grandfather's medical experiments as impossible, but he changes his mind after he discovers a book entitled How I Did It by Victor Frankenstein. Now all that's involved is a little grave-robbing and a trip to the handy local Brain Depository, and the Frankenstein family is back in business.

Wednesday 30 October 2013

Wizard Of Oz

Spooktacular Special Wednesday! An evening with Dorothy, Toto and her beloved traveling companions! Please join us Wednesday October 30th in costume if you want, for some treats and the special showing of this wonderful 1939 movie, 'The Wizard of Oz'.

The Wizard of Oz stars legendary Judy Garland as Dorothy, an innocent farm girl whisked out of her mundane earthbound existence into a land of pure imagination. Dorothy's journey in Oz will take her through emerald forests, yellow brick roads, and creepy castles, all with the help of some unusual but earnest song-happy friends. Pg

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 4 Nov 2013

The Castle

Nils Jensen's review: The Castle is an Australia almost-cult classic small budget movie with big results. It grossed over A\$10 million - over 13 times what it cost to make.

It's unpretentious, funny and very heart warming. The movie tells the story of the Kerrigan family who live modestly and happily next to the Melbourne Airport until they are faced with expropriation as the airport expands. The location is terribly un-Oak Bay being next to a runway, on top of a toxic landfill and under power lines. But to the Kerrigan's it's their home, their Castle. While it's the classic tale of the little guy against Big Government and Big Business at its core it's really about family and community values. R

Thursday 7 Nov 2013

Completely Cuckoo

About the making of and impact of the classic film One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest. People are encouraged to watch the feature film One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest and/or read the original Ken Kesey book ahead of seeing this doc as the metamorphosis from one to the other is fascinating and the background of the documentary.

Monday 11 Nov 2013

Still Mine

This feature by director Michael McGowan (ONE WEEK, a MM fave) filmed in the New Brunswick is an exquisitely crafted and deeply affecting love story about a couple in their twilight years. Based on true events and laced with wry humor, STILL MINE tells the heartfelt tale of Craig Morrison (James Cromwell), who comes up against the system when he sets out to build a more suitable house for his ailing wife Irene (Geneviève Bujold). Pg

Monday 18 Nov 2013

The Angels' Share

Narrowly avoiding jail, new dad Robbie vows to turn over a new leaf. A visit to a whisky distillery inspires him and his mates to seek a way out of their hopeless lives. Happily, this is a surprisingly touching and nuanced treatment of what might be expected to be a just caper film - elements of The Full Monty. Pg13

Thursday 21 Nov 2013

Out Of The Shadow

A filmmaker follows the course of her mother, who has schizophrenia, having spent a lifetime in a 'revolving door' of treatment and homelessness, finally getting life under control.

Monday 25 Nov 2013

Last White Knight

Paul Saltzman's courageous The Last White Knight was inspired by an incident during the early 1960s when he journeyed to the Deep South as a civil rights worker to help with voter registration in Mississippi, one of the hard-core bastions of the Old South. One of the first days he was there he was assaulted by a group of young men led by Byron "Delay" De La Beckwith, the son of the man convicted of killing civil rights activist Medgar Evers. Decades later, Saltzman returns to the

south to meet with Beckwith and see what, if anything, has changed in the New South. He found him and a 5 year dialogue ensued to explore if individual reconciliation was possible. Pg

Monday 2 Dec 2013

Stories We Tell

In this inspired, genre-twisting new film, writer/director Sarah Polley discovers that the truth depends on who's telling it. Polley is both filmmaker and detective as she investigates the secrets kept by a family of storytellers. She playfully interviews and interrogates a cast of characters of varying reliability, eliciting refreshingly candid, yet mostly contradictory, answers to the same questions. As each relates their version of the family mythology, present-day recollections shift into nostalgia-tinged glimpses of their mother, who departed too soon, leaving a trail of unanswered questions. pg13

Thursday 5 Dec 2013

Stuart Saves His Family

Now US senator Al Franken with a light look at mental health and addiction in a year of his life and family. Humorous but mental health wise - and with a Christmas tie-in at the end. Based on the book by Franken, You're Good Enough, You're Smart Enough, and Doggone It, People Like You and his earnest, neurotic, but lovable Saturday Night Live character Stuart Smalley.

Monday 9 Dec 2013

Hard Light

This thoughtful NFB film was my introduction to the work of Michael Crummey, a maritime author and poet who plumbs the soul of old-time outport Newfoundland lifestyle. The filmmaker sees something valuable - and even lifesaving for himself - in Crummey's work and takes us to the centre of it. Not to be missed! Pg13

Meet the filmmaker Justin Simms by phone from NFLD.

Monday 16 Dec 2013

Boy

It's 1984, and Michael Jackson is king - even in Waihou Bay, NZ. Here we meet Boy, an 11-year-old who lives on a farm with his gran, a goat, and his younger brother, Rocky (who thinks he has magic powers). Having imagined a heroic version of his father during his absence, Boy comes face to face with the real version - an incompetent hoodlum who has returned to find a bag of money he buried years before. The film a charming, funny, and earnest coming-of-age story where everybody has some coming of age to do - particularly the dad. Never short on humour, this story is ultimately about three boys (one grown) reconciling fantasy with reality. Pg 13

Wednesday 18 Dec 2013

It's a Wonderful Life

A special screening of "It's a Wonderful Life", that ever popular holiday classic to define all holiday classics!

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Monday 23 Dec 2013

Intouchables

An irreverent, uplifting comedy about friendship, trust and human possibility, The Intouchables has broken box office records in its native France and across Europe. Based on a true story of friendship between a handicap millionaire (Francois Cluzet) and his street smart ex-con caretaker (Omar Sy), The Intouchables depicts an unlikely camaraderie rooted in honesty and humor between two individuals who, on the surface, would seem to have nothing in common.

Monday 30 Dec 2013

Les Miserables

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, Les Mis#233;rables tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption—a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. Hugh Jackman plays ex-prisoner Jean Valjean, hunted for decades by the ruthless policeman Javert (Russell Crowe) after he breaks parole. When Valjean agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's (Anne Hathaway) young daughter, Cosette, their lives change forever.

It's gritty but a profound cinematic and musical experience.

Remarkably the actors sang their parts live to the camera with orchestration added later.)

A great way to see 2013 out! Pg13

Archives 2014

Monday 6 Jan 2014

Experimental Eskimos

In the early 1960s the Canadian government conducted an experiment in social engineering. Three 12-year-old Inuit boys, Peter Ittinuar, Zebedee Nungak and Eric Tagoona, were sent to live with White families in Ottawa, to be educated in White schools. The consequences for the boys, their families, their identity, and their culture were brushed aside.

The bureaucrats who brought the boys South did not anticipate the outcome of their experiment. The boys grew up to become leaders of their people, and lifelong thorns in the side of the government. The battles they fought and won were instrumental in the establishment of aboriginal rights in Canada, and led to the creation of Nunavut, the world's largest self-governing aboriginal territory. But it all came at enormous personal cost.

The Experimental Eskimos is the untold story of how an experiment in assimilation, not only changed three boys, but changed a nation. Pg

Featured at Hotdocs, "Best Feature Documentary" at Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, and Directors Guild of Canada Prize Winner: "Allan King Award for Excellence in Documentary"

Veteran filmmaker Barry Greenwald will join us for a Q&A to update the story and fill us in on the considerable impact the film has made.

Another great film from White Pine Pictures, makers of MM favourites: Westwind, Genius Within, and Winds Of Heaven films about Tom Thomson, Glenn Gould and Emily Carr - and many other powerful Canadian and international stories.

Thursday 9 Jan 2014

The Beaver

Jodie Foster directs and co-stars with Mel Gibson in The Beaver - an emotional story about a man on a journey to re-discover his family and re-start his life. Plagued by his own demons, Walter Black was once a successful toy executive and family man who now suffers from depression. No matter what he tries, Walter can't seem to get himself back on track. until a beaver hand puppet enters his life. Pg13 some disturbing scenes.

Monday 13 Jan 2014

Love Is All You Need

Love Is All You Need is a warm, funny, heartfelt meditation on the birth pangs of starting a new life. Set at a picture-perfect summer wedding in Sorrento, the film stars Pierce Brosnan as Philip, a lonely, crotchety middle-aged English widower, and a Dutch woman who is recovering from illness and a broken marriage. The

fates of these two bruised souls intertwine as they embark for Italy to attend the wedding of their children. The bumpy path towards the union of their children, and the clashes and faux pas of their wedding guests, force Philip and Ida to reevaluate all their notions of family, love and happiness. R

Monday 20 Jan 2014

Luckey

At the age of 65, Tom Luckey accidentally tumbled through a window in his bathroom and became paralysed below his neck. After months in rehab, and despite being able to move only his head, Tom emerged with the same verve he always had. He was determined to get on with life and finish the enormous climbable sculpture he had been commissioned to build prior to the accident.

In the course of the film, through moments of anger, joy, and breathtaking ego, the sculpture is finally built. From trying to re-spark his mojo with his wife Ettie, to keeping his work going with Spencer, his son, Tom wrestles with his new condition as a person. Implementing his artistic vision while maintaining independence and sanity becomes an intricate balance for all involved. The film is the portrait of a family in crisis and one man's efforts to create a new life in the wake of a devastating accident. Pg13

Thursday 23 Jan 2014

What About Bob?

A comedy with Bill Murray and (now out bipolar) Richard Dreyfuss exploring the patient/psychiatrist relationship (gone sideways).

Monday 27 Jan 2014

In Search Of Blind Joe Death

The Saga Of John Fahey

Known as the father of American Primitive Guitar, many consider John Fahey to be a foundational figure in American folk music. As both musician and musicologist, Fahey made a fundamental contribution to our understanding and appreciation of such music genres as Delta blues, Appalachian bluegrass and New Orleans jazz.

In Search of Blind Joe Death combines interviews, performances and archival footage with animation in a musically charged tribute to a tremendously influential composer, guitarist and provocateur. Interviewees include The Who's Pete Townshend, Chris Funk of The Decemberists, Calexico's Joey Burns and renowned radio personality Dr. Demento. By Canadian filmmaker James Cunningham. Pg 13

Wednesday 29 Jan 2014

Under African Skies

This story is especially timely with the passing of Nelson Mandela. For the 25th anniversary of "Graceland," Paul Simon returns to South Africa for a historic

reunion concert - and a look at his landmark album's turbulent birth. Interviewing anti-apartheid activists and music legends like Quincy Jones, Harry Belafonte, Paul McCartney and David Byrne, Berlinger's (Crude, Paradise Lost) new doc explores both the anatomy of a musical masterwork and the responsibilities of art. The novel framework for the documentary has Paul Simon sitting down with Dali Tambo, the son of ANC leader Oliver Tambo and the head of Artists Against Apartheid, the most vocal faction against Simon's endeavour. The two men have a long, reasonable, open discourse a quarter of a century after their initial debate.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society

Thursday 30 Jan 2014

All The Time In the World

Do you enjoy watching documentary films? Have you ever wanted to be a film critic? Invitation to the Rough Cut Screening: All The Time In the World.

Disconnecting to reconnect.

The story of a family that chooses to leave its busy life and spend fall, winter and spring in the complete wilderness of the Canadian North.

Monday 3 Feb 2014

My Father and the Man in Black

Before there was Johnny and June, there was Johnny and Saul.

Following his father's suicide, director Jonathan Holiff discovers hundreds of letters and audio diaries, including recorded phone calls with Johnny Cash during his pill-fueled 1960s, triumphs at Folsom and San Quentin, marriage to June Carter, and his conversion in the early 1970s to born-again Christian.

An intense personal adventure that happens to feature one of 20th-century music's greatest icons, My Father and the Man in Black tells the inside story of 'bad boy' Johnny Cash, his talented but troubled manager, Saul Holiff, and a son searching for his father in the shadow of a legend. Pg13

Thursday 6 Feb 2014

Patient Voices

Patient Voices - a collection of short impactful video pieces chosen as inspiring teaching devices and an intro to several leaders in the MH recovery movement.

Monday 10 Feb 2014

Bernie

Bernie is a gently told and unexpectedly amusing true-crime comedy that features Jack Black's best performance ever. In the tiny, rural town of Carthage, TX, assistant funeral director Bernie Tiede was one of the town's most beloved residents. He taught Sunday school, sang in the church choir and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Everyone loved and appreciated Bernie, so it came

as no surprise when he befriended Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine), an affluent widow who was as well known for her sour attitude as her fortune. How could things go so wrong? Richard Linklater cleverly tells this story using actors mixed with colourful real-life characters. Pg13 (you must stay for credits on this one!)

Monday 17 Feb 2014

The Big Lebowski

With celebrity presenter Victoria's "Dude" Big Mike Raymer with The Riffriders How could this classic not have graced the MM screen till now? Mr Raymer's immediate choice. The Big Lebowski is a 1998 film about an amiable unemployed slacker, The Dude, and his close friends, all fond of their nights at the local bowling alley, who are drawn into a Chandleresque plot involving the missing younger wife of a millionaire namesake. R

Thursday 20 Feb 2014

Fetching Cody

Fetching Cody uses magic realism in telling a Vancouver DTES addiction story, investigates in a novel way what contributes to a addiction.

Monday 24 Feb 2014

Here One Day

In 1995, after a 20-year struggle with bipolar disorder, Nina Leichter, a 63-year-old mother of two, Senator's wife, took her own life. Sixteen years would pass before her daughter Kathy felt ready to listen to delve into her story. She found a sometimes difficult marriage, her sadness over her estrangement from her son, and her difficulties with mental illness. Audio recordings her mother left would ultimately form the backbone of this extraordinarily moving documentary. Driven by the need to understand and forgive Nina, and to explore the repercussions of her mother's illness and death on her family, Kathy's journey leads ultimately to a place of acceptance and letting-go. Pg13

Special Guests: Phone in Q&A with filmmaker Kathy Leichter from New York City and Richard Pendree, a IMCRT* nurse who also has been a leader in suicide intervention training

*IMCRT - Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (Emergency Mental Health) Island Health Authority

Wednesday 26 Feb 2014

Ron Hynes: Man of a Thousand Songs

Here's a totally intriguing portrait of a Canadian icon, as told by himself and his intense and articulate nephew novelist Joel Thomas Hynes. It's been a 35 year long and winding road, with failed relationships, battles with an alter ego and drugs – a turbulent life in search of the perfect song. "Sonny's Dream" is one of those. We'll celebrate this NFLDer's recent recovery from a serious bout of throat cancer. Some terrific music and story telling! Pg

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 3 Mar 2014

Marion Bridge

Three estranged sisters reunite to care for their dying mother and old conflicts and secrets return to the surface. It's an entertaining drama set in Nova Scotia that broaches topics like sibling rivalry, addiction, family secrets and relationships - starring Molley Parker, Rebecca Jenkins, Stacy Smith, introducing Ellen Page, written by Daniel MacIvor. Pg13

"Marion Bridge is one of the most confident and clearly directed features to be made in Canada. Every element of this impressive production is completely integrated and beautifully performed." – Atom Egoyan, Director

In collaboration UVic's IdeaFest 2014 - The Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC).

Guest presenters include Cecilia Benoit, Scientist CARBC, Professor, Sociology Uvic, Rachel Philips, Postdoctoral fellow CARBC, Lenora Marcellus, Assistant Professor, Nursing Uvic.

Thursday 6 Mar 2014

William Kurelek's The Maze

Kurelek, a revered Canadian artist who went through a deep depression touching on psychosis, explores the roots of his crisis and recovery. A newly reworked version of a 40+ year old documentary that is an artwork in itself.

Monday 10 Mar 2014

Asian Canadian short films

A special program of Asian Canadian short films with Toronto filmmaker, Victoria native, Carolyn Wong.

She'll present her film Howard (18 min, 2012) which won Best Canadian Short in the Vancouver Asian Film Festival 2013. An estranged uncle is murdered. The niece he never knew uncovers his complex, conflicted life as a gay man and muses about his life and death in an attempt to comprehend what it means to her.

Plus her Beat Truths (3 min, 2004) about a Toronto bucket drummer.

Also, State of Yo (9 min, 2007) by Jason Karman about Harvey Lowe (incidentally Carolyn Wong's Great Uncle!) who won the world's first Yo-Yo championship in 1932.

Others: a drama by Jason Karman, *Kimchi Fried Dumplings* (14 min, 2012) and a MM favourite, *Kimchi According to my Kun-Umma!* (18 min, 2002) by Samuel Kiehoon Lee - fun, family, and food are the focus of this charming and informative look into Korean culture.

Monday 17 Mar 2014

Nebraska

Director Alexander Payne (*Sideways*, *The Descendants*) takes the helm for this black and white road trip drama starring Bruce Dern as a tempestuous Missouri father who's convinced he's won a million dollar magazine sweepstakes, and Will Forte as the son who grudgingly agrees to drive him to Nebraska to claim his winnings. A black and white film chock full of colourful characters. R for language

Monday 24 Mar 2014

In The Family

In The Family with local film reviewer Jason Whyte and writer, director, lead actor Patrick Wang by phone from New York

In a heartfelt story woven around child custody, two-dad families, loss, interracial relations, the American South, and the human side of the law, the nature of what it means to be a family is explored with ambitious and rewarding nuance. This amazing first feature was written, directed, and lead role played by Patrick Wang. 169min 2011 Pg13

Robert Ebert said: " 'In the Family' is a long film. I was completely absorbed from beginning to end. [I was and you will be too. B] What a courageous first feature this is, a film that sidesteps shopworn stereotypes and tells a quiet, firm, deeply humanist story about doing the right thing. It is a film that avoids any message or statement and simply shows us, with infinite sympathy, how the life of a completely original character can help us lead our own."

Wednesday 26 Mar 2014

20 Feet From Stardom

Millions know their voices, but no one knows their names. In his compelling new film *20 FEET FROM STARDOM*, award-winning director Morgan Neville shines a spotlight on the untold true story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century. Triumphant and heartbreaking in equal measure, the film is both a tribute to the unsung voices who brought shape and style to popular music and a reflection on the conflicts, sacrifices and rewards of a career spent harmonizing with others. Along with rare archival footage and a peerless soundtrack, *20 FEET FROM STARDOM* boasts intimate interviews with Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Mick Jagger and Sting to name just a few. This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 31 Mar 2014

A Hand To Stand

A Hand To Stand (21 min) focuses on the Bella Bella Community School within the Heiltsuk First Nation reserve on B.C.'s coastal Inside Passage. Teacher engages

group of teenagers craft their own Stand Up Paddleboards, a modern version of a traditional practice. G

By Victoria filmmaker Matthew Miles and Lindsay Marie Stewart. Matthew will be with us for Q&A

. and Crazywater (56 min, 2013), a first person documentary about alcoholism in First Nations communities, told through the lens of an Aboriginal filmmaker, Whitehorse based director Dennis Allen. Stories are shared without apology or laying of blame. It is a 'sober' look at a devastating, and sometimes fatal, addiction. Pg13

".if you think about it, not one substance, force, or event from residential schools to the deadly epidemics of smallpox and influenza have had such a powerful effect on us. Like many aboriginals, my own life has been effected by alcohol abuse, my own and others. This is my thesis for my masters in life." Dennis Allen

With guest Monique Gray Smith about her and her recent book "Tilly".

Monday 7 Apr 2014

Birth Story: Ina May Gaskin and The Farm Midwives

Birth Story celebrates Ina May Gaskin and her spirited friends, who began delivering each other's babies in 1970. "Warm, spirited and occasionally slathered in goo, "Birth Story" is a celebratory tribute to the endangered art of midwifery and its most influential practitioner, Ina May Gaskin. A disarming example of documentary filmmaking that stakes out an opinion with plain-spoken, commonsensical wisdom, this insightful effort from directors Sara Lamm and Mary Wigmore doubles as a defense of natural childbirth and an affectionate look back at the movement's '70s countercultural roots."

with guest Eva Bild, Mothering Touch, Childbirth Educators are Lamaze-Certified childbirth educators, breastfeeding educators and DONA-trained doulas.

Monday 14 Apr 2014

Good Ol' Freda

Freda Kelly was just a shy Liverpudlian teenaged fan when she was asked to work for a local band hoping to make it big. Though she had no concept of how far they would go, Freda had faith in The Beatles from the beginning, and The Beatles had faith in her.

Freda remained a staple in the Beatles' world for 11 years because of her unfaltering loyalty and dedication. As the Beatles' devoted secretary and friend, Freda was there as history unfolded; she was witness to the evolution – advances and setbacks, breakthroughs and challenges – of the greatest band in history.

In Good Ol' Freda, Freda tells her stories for the first time in 50 years. The film offers an insider perspective on the beloved band that changed the world of music. Freda has a refreshing integrity that is uncommon in our tell-all celebrity world. Pg13

Monday 21 Apr 2014

Gabrielle

Gabrielle is a young woman with Williams syndrome who has a contagious joie de vivre and an exceptional musical gift. Since she met her boyfriend Martin, at the recreation centre where they are choir members, they have been inseparable. However, because they are 'different,' their loved ones are fearful of their relationship. As the choir prepare for an important music festival, Gabrielle does everything she can to gain her independence.

Canada's bid for Best Foreign Film at this year's Oscars. French Canadian (subtitled) R

Monday 28 Apr 2014

The Last Dogs of Winter

Shot entirely in Churchill, Manitoba The Last Dogs of Winter is the incredible and controversial story of rebel outsider Brian Ladoon's efforts to preserve and breed Canadian Eskimo dogs in the harsh Northern landscape. The dogs, ala Qimmiq or Inuit Sled Dogs were once indispensable to human life in the Canadian arctic. Today, the breed faces extinction. Stunning footage of polar bears and dogs interacting and a window for us comfy Southerners into that rugged environment and the equally rugged individuals who choose to live there. Pg13

New Zealand filmmaker Costa Botes will take our call for more about the making of this film!

Wednesday 30 Apr 2014

Inside Llewyn Davis

Inside Llewyn Davis follows a week in the life of a young folk singer as he navigates the Greenwich Village folk scene of 1961. Guitar in tow, huddled against the unforgiving New York winter, he is struggling to make it as a musician against seemingly insurmountable obstacles-some of them of his own making. This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 5 May 2014

The Anonymous People

A feature documentary film about people living in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. Deeply entrenched social stigma and discrimination have kept recovery voices silent and faces hidden for decades. Just like women with breast cancer, or people with HIV/AIDS, courageous addiction recovery advocates are starting to come out of the shadows to tell their true stories. The moving story of The Anonymous People is told through the faces and

voices of the leaders, volunteers, corporate executives, and celebrities who are laying it all on the line to save the lives of others just like them. An American film, local context. Pg 13

Monday 12 May 2014

Philomena

Judy Dench is priceless in this role as a woman who lost her child to an Irish convent that dealt with unwed mothers back in the early 50s. She never stopped searching and with the help of a world-weary political journalist (Steve Coogan, who produced and wrote the screenplay as well) learned her child's fate late in life. A lovely, surprising story. Pg13

Monday 19 May 2014

All Is Lost

Deep into a solo voyage in the Indian Ocean, an unnamed man wakes to find his 39-foot yacht taking on water after a collision with a shipping container left floating on the high seas. With his navigation equipment and radio disabled, the man sails unknowingly into the path of a violent storm. A film with just a few words and one actor. Immerse yourself! Pg13

Monday 26 May 2014

Watermark

The film illuminates our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, how we use it and the consequences of that use. We see massive floating abalone farms off China's Fujian coast and the construction site of the biggest arch dam in the world—the Xiluodu, six times the size of the Hoover. We visit the barren desert delta where the mighty Colorado River no longer reaches the ocean, and the water-intensive leather tanneries of Dhaka. We witness how humans are drawn to water, from the US Open of Surfing in Huntington Beach to the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, where 30 million people gather at the same time for a sacred bath in the Ganges. We speak with scientists who drill ice cores two kilometres deep into the Greenland Ice Sheet, and explore the sublime pristine watershed of Northern British Columbia.

This boldly cinematic film shows the magnitude of our need and use of the world's most precious resource - from award-winning Victoria-born filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal and renowned photographer Edward Burtynsky marks their second collaboration after 2006's *Manufactured Landscapes*.

Wednesday 28 May 2014

Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls

Topp Twins - Untouchable Girls This film is the most fun I've had at the movies for years. These NZ yodelling twins have been performing since they were girls and, with brilliant humour and music, have tackled everything from Aboriginal rights, nuclear weapons proliferation, GLBT issues. Even breast cancer succumbs to their

spirit and their special brand of silliness.(more fun than a possum up your trousers) Pg13

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 2 Jun 2014

Importance Of A Forgiving Heart: The Bill Williams Story

A documentary about the important topic of forgiveness, focused around the treatment of First Nation Peoples in Canada. The documentary explores Bill's story of abuse and the process of forgiving his abusers.

Tuesday 3 Jun 2014

Importance Of A Forgiving Heart: The Bill Williams Story

A documentary about the important topic of forgiveness, focused around the treatment of First Nation Peoples in Canada. The documentary explores Bill's story of abuse and the process of forgiving his abusers.

Monday 09 Jun 2014

Before Sunrise & Before Sunset

In the first two charming romantic dramas in a trilogy of films by the same actors, Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy and director Richard Linklater, we drop in on pivotal days, each 9 years apart.

In Before Sunrise (105 min, 1995) R (language), a young American meets a French girl on a train to Vienna where they get to know each other overnight before he leaves on his flight home. In the second, Before Sunset (80 min, 2004) R (language), they meet again after 9 years.

You'll want to see these two together. In a month, we'll show the third, Before Midnight (2013), that continues this fascinating relationship of both fictional characters and creators in this hopefully ongoing series.

Monday 16 Jun 2014

Oil Sands Karaoke

Forget about Sudbury Saturday night; Thursdays at Bailey's Pub in Fort McMurray, Alberta, is the place to be. Oil sands workers by day become divas and country superstars when the sun goes down, encouraged by a few drinks and a dream. Director Charles Wilkinson goes beyond the songs to dig deeper into stories of those who work in the often-lonely place to make top dollar by asking them to consider the ethics of working in one of Canada's most controversial industries.

Monday 23 Jun 2014

Wagner's Dream

The stakes could not be higher as visionary director Robert Lepage, the world's greatest singers, and the Metropolitan Opera tackle Wagner's Ring cycle. An intimate look at the enormous theatrical and musical challenges of staging

opera's most monumental work, the film chronicles the quest to fulfill Wagner's dream of a perfect Ring. A Bob Eisenhardt Susan Froemke Film.

Wednesday 25 Jun 2014

Muscle Shoals

Located alongside the Tennessee River, Muscle Shoals, Alabama has helped create some of the most important and resonant songs of all time. Overcoming crushing poverty and staggering tragedies, Rick Hall brought black and white together to create music for the generations. He is responsible for creating the "Muscle Shoals sound" and The Swampers, the house band at FAME Studios that eventually left to start its own successful studio known as Muscle Shoals Sound. Gregg Allman and others bear witness to Muscle Shoals' magnetism, mystery and why it remains influential today.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 30 Jun 2014

Going: Remembering Winnipeg Movie Theatres

For nearly a century, from the invention of movies to the rise of home video and the Internet, going to the theatre was the major form of entertainment in cities like Winnipeg. In their heyday, there were almost fifty theatres operating in the city at one time, from the big showpiece venues downtown to the many more modest neighbourhood houses. And over the entire century, well over one hundred theatres came and went.

In my documentary Going: Remembering Winnipeg Movie Theatres, two dozen Winnipeggers reminisce about an experience which largely disappeared as traditional theatres closed, to be replaced by multiplexes and other forms of entertainment – people whose families owned theatres, people who worked in theatres, and most of all people who just loved to sit in the dark entranced by the images up there on the big screen.

Monday 7 Jul 2014

Before Midnight

Following our double feature screening of Before Sunrise and Before Sunset here is the third in the trilogy. Nine years on we catch up with our couple. Things are settled in, (worn in?), and shaded with some touches of Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf. Will their relationship survive? Like its predecessors, the film was directed by Richard Linklater. Co-written by Linklater, Hawke and Delpy. Like the others widely acclaimed and nominated for Academy Award for screenplay.

Wednesday 9 Jul 2014

Huntington's Dance

Huntington's Dance chronicles the life of film maker Chris Furbie from childhood to age 47 as he at first attempts to make sense of the strange movements and behaviors of his grandfather, and a few years later those of his mother. Upon learning that his family carries the genetic material for a disease called

Huntington's Disease he begins to wonder if he too is at risk for developing the disease. (Huntington's is the disease that claimed the life of legendary folk singer and writer Woody Guthrie.) Making of this film spans an 18 year period of Chris' life.

The film premiered at the Slam Dance Film Festival in January 2014 where it won a Special Jury Award. The Hollywood Reporter calls the film "compelling, suspenseful and deeply moving, enhanced by a lyrical musical score". This is a story of love and compassion between mother and son, the need to know and the simultaneous need not to know and how one learns to navigate the array of emotional experience that at any moment threatens to sweep one's very life away. Huntington's Dance is a rare look inside the mind and life of a man courageous enough to pull back the veil of ignorance in order to reveal the future. Pg13

This one time screening is a special Fund Raising event to assist in the launch of Huntington's Dance. The suggested minimum gift to the film is \$15-20 at the door.

Director Chris Furbee will join us by phone from California after the screening and producers Gene Furbee and Sarah Kendall will be with us in person.

Monday 14 Jul 2014

Andre Gregory: Before And After Dinner

This portrait of groundbreaking director, actor, and artist Andr  Gregory by Cindy Kleine (who is also his wife, pictured here) is a delightful, ruminative appreciation of one man's life and work. A brilliant and often hilariously funny raconteur, Gregory discusses the making of My Dinner With Andr  (1981 – an early MM choice). He speaks warmly of his lifelong friendship with Wallace Shawn, his co-writer/star in that film and life-long collaborator. And there's his problematic relationship with his European parents, described as "Jews who forgot to tell their children they were Jews" and, "like the insane rulers of a little Balkan country." Andr  Gregory is a master storyteller, whose own life encompasses compelling passions, fears, and mysteries worthy of his theatrical mentors.

Monday 21 Jul 2014

Finding Vivian Maier

This film is my choice of Best Doc of 2013, right up there with 2012's Searching For Sugar Man, as an exciting discovery of a hidden life and stunning late-discovered talent. A mysterious nanny, who secretly took over 100,000 photographs that were hidden in storage lockers and discovered decades later, is now considered among the 20th century's greatest photographers. Maier's strange and riveting life and art are revealed through never before seen photographs, films, and interviews with dozens who thought they knew her. A sparky young man, co-director, John Maloof, uncovers the mystery and reveals it in a most entertaining way.

Wednesday 23 Jul 2014

Departures

Daigo Kobayashi is a devoted cellist who finds himself without a job. He answers a classified ad entitled "Departures" thinking it is an advertisement for a travel agency only to discover that the job is actually for a "Nokanshi" or "encoffineer," a funeral professional who prepares deceased bodies for burial and entry into the next life. While his wife and others despise the job, Daigo takes a certain pride in his work and begins to perfect the art, acting as a gentle gatekeeper between life and death, between the departed and the family of the departed. The film follows his profound and sometimes comical journey with death as he uncovers the wonder, joy and meaning of life and living.

Monday 28 Jul 2014

Linsanity

Sports documentary Linsanity follows the career of NBA point guard Jeremy Lin – born in Los Angeles to Taiwanese parents – who came off the bench as an unknown in February, 2012, to lead the struggling New York Knicks to the NBA playoffs. The term "Linsanity" was coined for his phenomenal rise and performance.

Along the way, he became an international symbol of Asian-American progress and hero to underdogs everywhere. With plenty of archival footage from his childhood games and a couple of jaw-dropping clips from his sizzling month in 2012, Linsanity offers lots for b-ball fans," but also makes for a very thrilling film experience even for those, like me, who never have watch a game.

Monday 4 Aug 2014

Jack Hodgins' Island

This very BC film, made by NFB 33 years ago, is a fond trip back in the past to writer Jack Hodgins' Vancouver Island, the community that inspired his breakout short story collection, Spit Delaney's Island, and many others in his long and illustrious career. This almost forgotten gem of a film features beautiful background of his family of origin, other hard working Island folks, the industry and logging sports days around his north island Merville home, his life and times – a portrait of the artist as a young man, now 76 and a Victoria resident. G

Plus some other good stuff from Hodgins' career.

With special guest Jack Hodgins.

Monday 11 Aug 2014

Of Two Minds

The great thing about "Of Two Minds," a documentary on bipolar disorder, is that it doesn't dwell on the clinical or pharmaceutical. We hear from the experts, and we learn about medications and health insurance nightmares. But this is a film about people, brave souls willing to reveal personal stories of the torment raging

inside their brains. Writer-directors Doug Blush and Lisa Klein (whose late sister suffered from bipolar disorder), took great pains and untold hours documenting a wide range of folks who share their histories and emotions through interviews, videos, artwork and journals." - Clint O'Connor, The Plain Dealer - Cleveland

This documentary is a fantastic starting point for discussion with the Co-Leads on an exciting new collaborative project with youth who live with bipolar disorder: The Bipolar Youth Action Project!

Dr. Erin Michalak of the UBC Dept. of Psychiatry and Andrea Paquette, the renowned Bipolar Babe and Executive Director of the Bipolar Disorders Society of BC, will join us for a lively conversation about mental health, to share information about the Bipolar Youth Action Project and how you can get involved, and, especially, to answer your questions.

A great starting point for discussion with guests from CREST BD, Bipolar Babe and Mood Disorders Association of BC

Monday 18 Aug 2014

Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa

A conniving but hapless DJ (played brilliantly by Steve Coogan) finds himself in the middle of a hostage taking by a disgruntled fellow employee at his station. Here's his chance to be a hero, if he wasn't such a self-serving coward. Best fun I've had in the theatre in years when I caught it at VFF, but I heard someone say when the lights came up and laughter subsided, "Don't really like British humour." If you do, don't miss this treat. R

Monday 25 Aug 2014

Ping Pong

8 players with 703 years between them compete in the World over 80s Table Tennis Championships in Inner Mongolia. Terry (81) having been given a week to live, gets in sight of winning gold. Inge (89) has used table tennis to train her way out of the dementia ward she committed herself to. Australian legend Dorothy deLow is 100, and finds herself a mega celebrity in this rarefied world and Texan Lisa Modlich, a new-comer at 85 years old, is determined to do whatever it takes to win her first gold. This film is as much about the tenacity of the human spirit as it is a meditation on mortality.

Wednesday 27 Aug 2014

Song For Marion

Located alongside the Tennessee River, Muscle Shoals, Alabama has helped create some of the most important and resonant songs of all time. Overcoming crushing poverty and staggering tragedies, Rick Hall brought black and white together to create music for the generations. He is responsible for creating the "Muscle Shoals sound" and The Swampers, the house band at FAME Studios that eventually left to start its own successful studio known as Muscle Shoals Sound.

Gregg Allman and others bear witness to Muscle Shoals' magnetism, mystery and why it remains influential today.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 8 Sep 2014

The Lunchbox

A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's famously efficient lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older man in the dusk of his life as they build a fantasy world together through notes in the lunchbox. Delicious and charming visit to India. Pg

Monday 15 Sep 2014

Walking The Camino

Walking the Camino is an up-close look at one of humanity's most time-honored traditions. By following pilgrims from all walks of life as they attempt to cross an entire country on foot with only a backpack, a pair of boots and an open mind, we witness the Camino's magnetic and miraculous power to change lives. Driven by an inexplicable calling and a grand sense of adventure, each pilgrim throws themselves heart-and-soul into their physical trek to Santiago and, most importantly, their personal journey to themselves.

This film plays to packed houses whenever it screens. We'll have pilgrims for Q&A.

Monday 22 Sep 2014

Northern Grease

Not a European destination Northern Grease follows skateboarder/snowboarder/surfer dudes, Beyond Boarding, as they travel in a vegetable oil fueled bus throughout British Columbia and Alberta on a mission to understand Canadian resource extraction projects, visit industrial towns, interview the people involved with and affected by resource extraction, and learn about some of the problems presented by practices like fracking and building transmission lines. They find a complex and disturbing landscape, against which environmental stewardship is threatened by misinformation and biased marketing. Along the way, the boys spend time with the people who, using alternative and renewable energy sources, lead lifestyles that present solutions. All in all, Northern Grease tells a story of awareness, criticism, and forward thinking, against a backdrop of our country's beautiful wilderness, (amazing boarding, skiing, surfing footage) and fascinating people. Pg

Wednesday 24 Sep 2014

Good Will Hunting

The most brilliant mind at America's top university isn't a student, he's the kid who cleans the floors. Will Hunting is a headstrong, working-class genius who is failing the lessons of life. After one too many run-ins with the law, Will's last chance is a psychology professor, who might be the only man who can reach him.

Finally forced to deal with his past, Will discovers that the only one holding him back is himself.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 29 Sep 2014

Her

While that cat's away, (Bruce is on holiday), Mark Clarkson, philosopher and MM concession guy, and Gene Furbee, film producer (Huntington's Dance), Laughing Yoga practitioner and psychotherapist, will present a favourite film of theirs - HER.

Heartbroken after the end of a long relationship, Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix), a complex, soulful man, becomes intrigued with a new advanced operating system, which promises to be an intuitive entity in its own right, individual to each user. Upon initiating it, he is delighted to meet "Samantha," (voiced by Scarlet Johansson), who is insightful, sensitive and surprisingly funny. As her needs and desires grow, in tandem with his own, their friendship deepens into an eventual love for each other. R

Monday 6 Oct 2014

Two films from Victoria's Angus Adventures: The Yenisey River Expedition & Beyond The Horizon

The Yenisey River Expedition The Yenisey River is born in the heart of Mongolia and flows north, through Siberia, and on to the Arctic Ocean. It is the fifth longest river on the planet, and at the arrival of the new millennium no one had ever navigated its entirety. Colin, along with his adventuring friend, Ben Kozel, and two others, endeavored to be the first to run the Yenisey. The 5,500 km river is frozen for more than half the year, so the small team would have just a five month window to accomplish this feat. During the course of their expedition, Colin became separated from the team in remotest Mongolia. He had no shirt, no shoes, no wallet, no passport, and it would be 12 days before he would see his companions again. Best Adventure Film - Telluride Mountain Film festival.

and Beyond The Horizon In June, 2004, a team of three, including Colin Angus and his fiancée (now wife), Julie Wafaei, left Vancouver on their bicycles. Nearly two years later, they rolled back in, looking like castaways, and having completed the first human-powered circumnavigation of the globe - a feat involving rowing unsupported across two oceans and trekking through 17 countries. The team cycled, skied, canoed, hiked and rowed a route that took them to Alaska, across the Bering Sea and the Siberian winter, across Europe from Moscow to Portugal, then across the Atlantic to Costa Rica-a 156-day rowing odyssey. From there it was a 'short' 8,300 kilometre ride back to Vancouver.

Best Adventure Film - Taos Mountain Film Festival named National Geographic Adventurers of the Year NPR story.

With special guest Colin Angus, half of this amazing adventuring couple now living in Victoria raising their young family. Other adventures: Amazon From Source to Sea, biking and rowing from Scotland to Syria, and most recently, a journey to reveal the history of the olive. Julie's book "Olive Odyssey: Searching For Secrets of the Fruit that Seduced the World" highlighted in August 2014 Focus Magazine.

Monday 13 Oct 2014

Romantics Anonymous

Romantics Anonymous tells the story of Angélique (Isabelle Carré), a gifted chocolate-maker whose uncontrollable shyness prevents her from acknowledging her talents. Struggling chocolatier Jean-René (Benoît Poelvoorde), who also suffers from a similar case of awkward bashfulness that threatens to drown his company, hires Angélique as his new sales associate. Realizing she's attracted to her boss, Angélique decides to anonymously develop a new line of chocolates to save the company. With the future of the business hanging in the balance, Angélique and Jean-René must overcome their limitations and confess their sweet affections for one another in this delectable comedy.

Wednesday 15 Oct 2014

Complaints Of A Dutiful Daughter + Grief Loss And Dementia

Complaints Of A Dutiful Daughter - a favourite that shows a complex mother/daughter relationship as it evolves as daughter becomes caregiver and the issue of moving mum to a care facility looms. Made by the deeply caring and complaining daughter 44 min 1994

Grief Loss And Dementia is a local, Island Health Authority-made, documentary – not a catchy title but an excellent and helpful film. (And it provides some examples of men with dementia and their caring spouses, in our women heavy film examples)

Caregivers share their journeys. This new educational film is an honest, poignant conversation with the spouses and children of people with dementia. Their emotional journey is full of bumps and unpredictable turns, as well as surprising beauty, even humour. Their insights are an education for anyone who is involved with someone with dementia, whether as a family member or a health care professional. In four 8-11min segments which will fit in here and later sessions 2011 Pg

This was an 'Insights' film.

Monday 20 Oct 2014

Bound For Glory

Woody Guthrie's early days are portrayed in a wonderful, evocative screenplay that avoids the pitfalls of biopic to present a moving, complex portrait of a creative spirit. Guthrie became the voice of a difficult time in American history - from the dust bowl and the Great Depression. His voice rallied exploited workers

and his songs spoke to all about minority rights and what America could be. "Riding the rods" was his escape. David Carradine is great as Woody. Pg

Wednesday 22 Oct 2014

Iris

This moving film captures the remarkable relationship of acclaimed writer, Iris Murdock, and her husband, soulmate, and also writer/teacher, John Bayley – their young summer season of their lives together and the winter as Iris succumbed to dementia.

This was an 'Insights' film.

Monday 27 Oct 2014

Cavedigger and Inocente

Inocente - an Oscar winning short film about a girl from a homeless family with an incredible talent and drive to create.

and Cave Digger an equally determined outsider artist Ra Paulette digs other-worldly, sculptural caves using nothing but hand tools. whose medium is underground sandstone cathedral-like spaces he carves in the New Mexico hills.

Wednesday 29 Oct 2014

Les Misérables

Les Misérables is a French historical novel by Victor Hugo, first published in 1862, that is considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. In the English-speaking world, the novel is usually referred to by its original French title. Beginning in 1815 and culminating in the 1832 June Rebellion in Paris, the novel follows the lives and interactions of several characters, focusing on the struggles of ex-convict Jean Valjean and his experience of redemption.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 3 Nov 2014

Armstrong Lie

A documentary chronicling sports legend Lance Armstrong's improbable rise and ultimate fall from grace. He was a brilliant, heroic cyclist, with a consuming drive to win. recovered from a serious bout with cancer and became the ultimate poster boy; an ambassador for recovery and beating the odds. And he was an incredibly convincing liar. The film, made by a documentarian who started a film about Armstrong comeback 2009 Tour De France challenge ended up sitting down with Armstrong and colleagues to try to understand how it all happened. The film also has a great insight to the amazing world of bike racing. Pg13

Q&A with special Guest Jon Watkin

For 3 years (1989 to 1992), Jon raced with an elite amateur team in Germany and continued racing in Canada/USA in from 1993 to 2001. Since 2003, Jon has been involved as an active supporter and organizer of cycling events in British

Columbia. He is the co-founder of the Victoria International Cycling Festival and Race Director of the Robert Cameron Law Cycling Series which features the annual Bastion Square Grand Prix. He is also the General Manager of the Accent Inns/Russ Hay's Cycling Team, which claimed the 2013 Canadian National Time Trial Cycling Championship title, and the 2014 Grand Prix Cycliste Quebec Sprint Challenge.

As a Pro Cycling consultant Jon has represented his employer, Schneider Electric, in the pursuit of marketing opportunities in the sport. He has been a VIP guest at major events such as the Tour de France, Tour of California, Tour of Alberta, and the USA Pro Cycling Challenge. Most recently, he has liaised a sponsorship deal between the US Based Smartstop Pro Cycling Team and Schneider Electric as part of a cross-promotion strategy with BMW's electric vehicle business.

Monday 10 Nov 2014

Thirteen Days

With the Cold War heating up again, we baby boomers are reminded of the Cuban Missile Crisis. As an early teen I and my classmates were practicing climbing under our desks and we felt like we were under imminent threat of world destruction. This tense drama portrays that time when Americans and Russians stood toe to toe over Soviet placement of warheads on Cuba, within easy striking distance of American targets.

In October, 1962, U-2 surveillance photos reveal that the Soviet Union is placing nuclear weapons in Cuba. President Kennedy is determined to show that he is strong enough to stand up to the threat, and the Pentagon advises military strikes against Cuba, followed by an invasion. But Kennedy wants to avoid a chain reaction that will lead to a nuclear war. As assembly of the missiles in Cuba nears completion, consultations at the White House reach a fever pitch, resulting in the controversial decision to enforce a naval blockade of the island. Bruce Greenwood as Kennedy and Kevin Costner as his Special Assistant. Pg13

Wednesday 12 Nov 2014

Alive Inside

A truly hopeful film about Alzheimer's and aging is something unexpected. This hugely affecting documentary won the Audience Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, and it's easy to see why. It's a portrait of a man on a mission, Dan Cohen, founder of the non-profit Music & Memory, as he fights bureaucrats and austerity budgets with the palpable evidence of how very simply the gift of an iPod can restore vitality and spiritual well-being to patients suffering from dementia and depression.

This was an 'Insights' film.

Monday 17 Nov 2014

Hidden Pictures

Dr. Delaney Ruston's renowned film that looks at attitudes about mental illness in India, China, France, Africa, and Ruston's own USA and her hometown children's school in Seattle. What emerges are scenes of profound frustration, along with moments of true compassion. Ultimately we witness the force of change that individuals are bringing about, including actress Glenn Close and her family's movement to fight stigma. Pg

Wednesday 19 Nov 2014

Young @ Heart

Young @ Heart documents the true story of the final weeks of rehearsal for the Young at Heart Chorus in Northampton, MA, whose average age is 81, and many of whom must overcome health adversities to participate. Their music is unexpected, going against the stereotype of their age group, performing songs, for example, by James Brown, and Sonic Youth. Although they have toured Europe and sang for royalty, this account focuses on preparing new songs, not an easy endeavor, for a concert in their home town, which succeeds in spite of several real heart breaking events.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 24 Nov 2014

Our Man In Tehran with Argo trailer

Hollywood told the story in its way in the political thriller ARGO (2012). Here's the real story, and from the Canadian perspective there is much to celebrate about our role. This documentary gives an excellent history that led to the 1979 Iranian uprising that led to a hostage taking, and our embassy's sheltering of six diplomatic personnel from the US Embassy. Ken Taylor, (pictured here then and now), Joe Clark, Flora MacDonald are some of our heroes. The hostages' eventual escape with a cover story of a film crew scouting for a fake sci-fi film called Argo did happen. Again, the real story is better than fiction! Pg

Wednesday 26 Nov 2014

Still Mine

This feature by director Michael McGowan (ONE WEEK, a MM fave) filmed in the New Brunswick is an exquisitely crafted and deeply affecting love story about a couple in their twilight years. Based on true events and laced with wry humor, Still Mine tells the heartfelt tale of Craig Morrison (James Cromwell), who comes up against the system when he sets out to build a more suitable house for his ailing wife Irene (Geneviève Bujold). A poignant look at family dynamics around a person with oncoming dementia.

This was an 'Insights' film.

Monday 1 Dec 2014

United in Anger

United in Anger puts the audience on the ground with activists of ACT UP, or the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power. From the grass roots, the film depicts the grief, anger, sexiness and incredible energy of ACT UP as it battles corporate greed,

social and government indifference. Please come out for World AIDS Day to hear speakers, to show support for people living with HIV, to honour loved ones who have died, and to continue the fight against stigma and discrimination. 90min 2012 PG13 Co-hosted by Persons Living With HIV/AIDS Society.

Monday 8 Dec 2014

TJ Dawe performs his solo play Medicine

TJ Dawe is well known for his original, funny, challenging and often verbally acrobatic solo shows at the Victoria Fringe. I saw him perform this show in September and had to bring it to the Movie Monday Theatre.

Medicine is an autobiographical monologue about a retreat TJ attended, on a hobby farm on the outskirts of Victoria, involving the ingestion of the Peruvian shamanic psychotropic plant medicine ayahuasca. The retreat was led by Dr Gabor Maté; whose work TJ made an integral part of his previous show, Lucky 9. As in all TJ's art, he has taken this life changing experience and made it intensely personal, amusing, gripping and broadly meaningful piece.

The show is approximately 90 minutes long followed by a Q&A with TJ Dawe.

Wednesday 10 Dec 2014

The Genius Of Marian & Nebraska

The Genius Of Marian is a visually rich, emotionally complex story about one family's struggle to come to terms with Alzheimer's disease. After Pam White is diagnosed at age 61 with early-onset Alzheimer's, life begins to change, slowly but irrevocably, for Pam and everyone around her. Her husband grapples with his role as it evolves from primary partner to primary caregiver. Pam's adult children find ways to show their love and support while mourning the gradual loss of their mother. Her eldest son, a filmmaker, Banker, records their conversations, allowing Pam to share memories of childhood and of her mother, the renowned painter Marian Williams Steele, who had Alzheimer's herself and died in 2001.

and as background to the course do take a look at Nebraska, one of the best recent films and a great look at a father/son relationship coping with losses, curmudgeonly traits, and adapting to new realities.

This was an 'Insights' film.

Monday 15 Dec 2014

School Of Rock

I was wrong. Jack Black was terrific in Bernie, but he was even more brilliant in this earlier collaboration with Richard Linklater. A wannabe rock star in need of cash poses as a substitute teacher at a prep school, and tries to turn his class into a rock band. Joan Cusack is the principal. PG 13

cast: Jack Black, Sarah Silverman, Joan Cusack, Mike White, Miranda Cosgrove

Wednesday 17 Dec 2014

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Inside a snowflake exists the magical land of Whoville. In Whoville, live the Whos, an almost mutated sort of munchkinlike people. All the Whos love Christmas, yet just outside of their beloved Whoville lives the Grinch. The Grinch is a nasty creature that hates Christmas, and plots to steal it away from the Whos which he equally abhors. Yet a small child, Cindy Lou Who, decides to try befriend the Grinch.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 22 Dec 2014

White Christmas - The films 60th Anniversary!

A successful song-and-dance team become romantically involved with a sister act and team up to save the failing Vermont inn of their former commanding general. It always snows in Vermont for Christmas, doesn't it? You know the drill. White Christmas can be blown off as a "weird sappy opus" but it's a lot of fun, and a great tradition to share in good company on the big screen. G

cast: Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, Dean Jagger

Monday 29 Dec 2014

The Bachelor Weekend also known as THE STAG in UK

A very modern groom-to-be reluctantly agrees to a stag weekend with his urban friends, wild camping in the great outdoors of the west of Ireland. To their horror they are joined by the bride's unpredictable brother, an alpha male known as "The Machine" whose explosive personality and wild leadership takes them on a journey they'll never forget. Actually quite touching! PG13

"Bachelor Weekend works it's comedy formula to perfection" - Twitchfilm

cast: Andrew Scott, Hugh O'Connor, Peter McDonald, Brian Gleeson, Michael Legge

Archives 2015

Monday 5 Jan 2015

Gore Vidal: The United States of Amnesia

This remarkable documentary captures Gore Vidal's professional life which spans more than 50 years of American politics and letters. Featuring candid vérité footage of Vidal in his final years, the film explores his enduring global impact on art, politics, and everything in between. His overview of the current state of the Republic and the health of US democracy is unique and incisive. As an outspoken gay man, who brought explicitly gay novel before the public as early as 1948, he broke new ground.

This documentary is a fascinating and wholly entertaining portrait of the last lion of the age of American liberalism, known for his ability to say what everyone secretly knows and to make it unsettling without worrying about the implications, for himself or his reputation. Pg13

Monday 12 Jan 2015

Codebreaker

This drama-documentary explores the genius and weakness of Britain most famous codebreaker, whose team was responsible for unraveling the enigma code, so vital to the allies' success in WWII. He is revered as a pioneer of computer science - and the subject of a new film dramatic film The Imitation Game.

This telling's screenplay hinges around psychiatric appointments, a particularly interesting angle for us to watch in the MM Theatre. Pg13

I'm very excited to have Olive Bailey as our guest. At 93 she has many colourful stories about her time as a codebreaker at Bletchley Park and her recollections of working with Alan Turing.

Monday 19 Jan 2015

Alive Inside

A truly hopeful film about Alzheimer's and aging is something unexpected. This hugely affecting documentary won the Audience Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, and it's easy to see why. It's a portrait of a man on a mission, Dan Cohen, founder of the non-profit Music & Memory, as he fights bureaucrats and austerity budgets with the palpable evidence of how very simply the gift of an iPod can restore vitality and spiritual well-being to patients suffering from dementia and depression.

Special guest Michelle Porter, an RN from Kiwanis Pavilion, Victoria's Certified Music & Memory Facility, will give us a local update. She and colleagues are using the process and seeing positive outcomes that prove its usefulness here.

Monday 26 Jan 2015

Viking

Set against a backdrop of the icy dangers of the Newfoundland seal hunt in 1920s, this is an exciting tale of hardship and redemption. "It follows a conflict between two rural men out to sea and onto the ice floes where they settle their differences for good and all."

An example of early maverick filmmaking, it was the first sync-sound feature shot in Canada and is both an authentic document of those times and the rugged industry and a great example of early story-telling on film. Pg

Often touted as the first sync-sound feature shot in Canada, *The Viking* (1931) was considered a lost film until the mid-1960s when a print was discovered in a fish storage plant in Newfoundland. Though shot in the Quidi Vidi neighborhood of St. John's, Newfoundland, this ambitious tale of the North Country was actually not a Canadian production. American adventurer Varick Frissell, who was enamored with the culture and people of Newfoundland through his work with Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, secured financial backing from Paramount Pictures and used a New York cast and Hollywood crew. Though shooting the film in sync sound was a courageous choice, *The Viking's* real significance lies in its documentary-style approach to the narrative, which later became a hallmark of Canadian filmmaking. The integration of nonfiction techniques with a fictional narrative resulted in a rich sense of place that focused on the relationship between people and their environment. This approach distinguished many later Canadian feature films.

Sadly, *The Viking* is also known for the tragedy that occurred when an explosion destroyed the back of the vessel, killing 27 men, including Frissell. The unfortunate off-screen events tend to overshadow the film's remarkable achievement in cinematography and its documentary-like chronicling of a culture and way of life now long past. 73min Pg (incl. intro by Dr Wilfred Grenfell)
cast: Charles Starrett, Louise Huntington, Arthur Vinton, Bob Bartlett, Wilfred Grenfell

Friday 30 Jan 2015

Jersey Boys

Clint Eastwood's big screen version of the Tony Award-winning musical tells the story of the four young men from the wrong side of the tracks in New Jersey who came together to form the iconic '60s rock group The Four Seasons. Their trials and triumphs are accompanied by the hit songs that influenced a generation, and are now being embraced by a new generation of fans through the stage musical. R (for language)

cast: Vincent Piazza, John Lloyd Young, Steve Schirripa, Christopher Walken, Kathrine Narducci

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 2 Feb 2015

Boyhood

Filmed over 12 years with the same cast, Richard Linklater's Boyhood is a groundbreaking story of growing up as seen through the eyes of a child named Mason (a breakthrough performance by Ellar Coltrane), who literally grows up on screen before our eyes. Starring Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette as Mason's parents and newcomer Lorelei Linklater as his sister Samantha, BOYHOOD charts the rocky terrain of childhood like no other film has before. It'll have you thinking about yours. R

Monday 9 Feb 2015

The Mountain Runners

From 1911 to 1913, a legitimately "amazing race" was run. Envious of the tourists flocking to Seattle, the civic leaders of fledgling Bellingham devised an elaborate PR stunt: America's first mountain adventure race. Offering up \$100 in gold coins to the first runner who could clamber up and down nearby Mount Baker, they attracted 14 contestants consisting of wrestlers, milk inspectors, loggers, farmers and miners. Whisked to the base of the mountain by newfangled automobiles racing a tried-and-true steam train, these amateur athletes had no idea of what they'd just signed up for. And while it may have been prize money that lured them, it was their sense of adventure and pioneer spirit that allowed them to persist. A rollicking docudrama about a largely unknown bit of history right on our horizon! Pg

Monday 16 Feb 2015

Picture Day

Forced to repeat her senior year in high school, Claire's reputation is sliding from bad-ass to bad joke. At night, she escapes to would-be rock star Jim, while at school, she bonds with Henry, a nerdy freshman she used to babysit. Eventually, Claire learns the difference between sex, intimacy, and friendship. A strong principle cast with Tatiana Maslany (a Regina native and series "Orphan Black" star) really standing out.

Picture Day won that year's Whistler fest prizes for Actor and Best Canadian Feature, and much more recognition. R

Monday 23 Feb 2015

Death By Joy

Death By Joy is a candid story of one woman's choice to find joy in dying. Saying no to aggressive medical intervention for a brain tumor, Mary embarks on a clear-headed quest for the true meaning of healing. Her unforgettable discoveries along the way can change profoundly your understanding of life, healing, and death.

The path of epic journeys, however, is seldom straight or free of struggle, a truth Mary experiences as she confronts the chilling reality of her shocking past.

Ultimately, Death By Joy is about a great paradox: Can Mary survive long enough to be healed before she dies?

It's a remarkable example of family and community collaborating with someone to help them die well. Pg13

Friday 27 Feb 2015

Get on Up

Based on the incredible life story of the Godfather of Soul, the film will give a fearless look inside the music, moves and moods of James Brown, taking audiences on the journey from his impoverished childhood to his evolution into one of the most influential figures of the 20th century. Chadwick Boseman is joined in the drama by Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Nelsan Ellis, Lennie James, Tika Sumpter, Jill Scott and Dan Aykroyd.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 2 Mar 2015

Tracks

It is an adaptation of Robyn Davidson's memoir of the same name, chronicling the author's nine-month journey with camels across the Australian desert. An exotic (to us) setting, a woman finding herself on a perilous solo journey (like current hit Wild), a kind of love story - all well adapted in a feature film. It's fascinating to follow up the real people. Let's go "walkabout". Pg13

Monday 9 Mar 2015

Life Itself

Based on his bestselling memoir of the same name, Life Itself, explores the impact and legacy of Roger Ebert's life, from his Pulitzer Prize-winning film criticism at the Chicago Sun-Times to becoming one of the most influential cultural voices in America. If you love movies you will have loved Ebert's reviews and especially his long running tv critiques with Gene Siskel, "Thumbs up, Thumbs down". The grace with which he lived with the loss of his lower jaw and audible voice to cancer surgeries in early 2000s was amazing, and in 2007 his reviews began appearing again with more followers than ever. R

Monday 16 Mar 2015

This Is It Michael Jackson

I never really "got" Michael Jackson while he was alive. This film, scavenged from another closing video store, won me over to being one of his fans. This behind-the-scenes look at the performer as he developed, created and rehearsed for his sold-out concerts that would have taken place beginning 2009 summer in London. He died just 18 days before the opening. Chronicling the months from March through June, 2009, the film is produced with the full support of the Estate of Michael Jackson and drawn from more than one hundred hours of behind-the-

scenes footage, featuring Jackson rehearsing a number of his songs for the show. In raw and candid detail, "Michael Jackson's This Is It" captures the singer, dancer, filmmaker, architect, creative genius, and great artist at work as he creates and perfects his final show. Pg

Monday 23 Mar 2015

Shining Night - A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen

A tribute to a living legend, celebrating the life and music of the artist whom musicologist Nick Strimple has called 'the only American composer in history who can be called a mystic'. National Medal of Arts recipient and most frequently performed American choral composer, Morten Lauridsen spends summers on a remote Waldron Island, WA in the Pacific Northwest. Featuring intimate interviews in California, Scotland and his island retreat, interwoven with performances of his masterworks and commentaries by music contemporaries. Revealed through the lens of his passion for nature and music, Lauridsen expresses a presence of fierce compassion and unwavering dedication to the craft of composition.

Friday 27 Mar 2015

Whiplash

A promising young drummer enrolls at a cut-throat music conservatory where his dreams of greatness are mentored by an instructor who will stop at nothing to realize a student's potential.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 30 Mar 2015

The Theory Of Everything

This is the extraordinary story of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who falls deeply in love with fellow Cambridge student Jane Wilde. Once a healthy, active young man, Hawking received an earth-shattering diagnosis at 21 years of age . With Jane fighting tirelessly by his side, Stephen embarks on his most ambitious scientific work, studying the very thing he now has precious little of - time. Eddie Redmayne won the Oscar for his performance. PG13

Monday 6 Apr 2015

Pride

U.K. gay activists work to help miners during their lengthy strike of the National Union of Mineworkers in the summer of 1984. It's based on a true story of an unlikely alliance. Typically, this British screenplay, with great performances by a host of actors like Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, lifts off. R

Monday 13 Apr 2015

Wild

With the dissolution of her marriage and the death of her mother, Cheryl Strayed has lost all hope. After years of reckless, destructive behavior, she makes a rash

decision. With absolutely no experience, driven only by sheer determination, Cheryl hikes more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, alone. Wild powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddens, strengthens, and ultimately heals her.

Monday 15 Apr 2015

Dr Sparhawk presentation - Calm Seas

Monday 20 Apr 2015

Alien Boy with guest presenters Victoria Police Chief Frank Elsner and filmmaker Brian Lindstrom

There's concern about police stops on Victoria's streets, social profiling, targeting vulnerable people - and the role that police are thrust into as first responders to those with mental health and addiction crises. Such a stop went terribly wrong in Portland Oregon in 2006 when a man died in police custody.

Filmmaker Brian Lindstrom examined victim James Chasse's story; his childhood, his intense involvement in the early Portland punk music scene as a writer, illustrator and musician (The Wipers wrote the song "Alien Boy" about him), his heartbreaking teenage onset of mental illness, and his brave efforts to avoid institutionalization and maintain his independence. This film follows the struggle for his family to find justice after his tragic death, and a city and a system grappling with accountability. Portland's experience and changes since this event have lessons for our city. 91min 2013 R

Brian Lindstrom and Victoria Police Chief Frank Elsner will be on hand for the discussion that will follow our screening.

".At an annual Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Victoria in August, a report was released calling for improvements to police training and education in dealing with people who have mental health issues.

The report recognized a decline in mental-health services over the past seven years has led to a dramatic increase in police interactions with the mentally ill, and cited public concern over several high-profile fatal police shootings in B.C. John Gibson's situation and Rod's -released from EMP into police custody."

Tuesday 21 Apr 2015

Mothering Inside at William Head

Tuesday 21 Apr 2015

Finding Normal - Special Screening - At Our Place

Portland, Oregon Director Brian Lindstrom will present this film, from his home town, about a program that has run there for 16 years, from an organization much like Our Place**. It accepts folks who really want to get away from their substance abuse habit after failing several other attempts. The program has an

unusually high success rate, largely because of their highly motivated mentors.
Pg13

"The movie, by Brian Lindstrom, follows several drug and alcohol counselors as they work with groups of recovering addicts, many of them ex-cons. With its basis in the grim world of addiction and street level recovery, Finding Normal sounds like it could be a real slog. It's not. A surfeit of down to earth humor runs throughout the film, which, along with the truly charismatic personalities of the counselors makes the movie a rather joyful experience." D Thompson review.

Friday 24 Apr 2015

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

A transsexual punk-rock girl from East Berlin tours the U.S. with her band as she tells her life story and follows the former lover/band-mate who stole her songs.

This is a special event in co-operation with the Friends Of Music Society.

Monday 27 Apr 2015

Altman

Ron Mann's new documentary Altman is an in-depth look at the life and times of filmmaker Robert Altman (M*A*S*H, McCabe and Mrs. Miller, Nashville, The Player, Gosford Park, and many more.) While refusing to bow down to Hollywood's conventions, or its executives, Altman's unique style of filmmaking won him friends and enemies, earned him world-wide praise and occasionally scathing criticism, and proved that it IS possible to make truly independent films.

By Canadian filmmaker and producer Ron Mann, a maverick himself, who is renowned for his genre-bending approach to documentary cinema that explores art forms and contemporary popular culture with vision and verve. From jazz (Imagine the Sound, 1981), spoken word (Poetry in Motion, 1982), comics (Comic Book Confidential, 1988), dance (Twist, 1992), marijuana (Grass, 1999), car culture (Tales of the Rat Fink, 2006), and fungus (Know Your Mushrooms, 2009), Mann's films invoke the ethos and spirit of his subjects in resonant and contemporary ways.

Monday 4 May 2015

Clara's Big Ride for Mental Health Week

The purpose of "Clara's Big Ride" was to get people talking about mental illness and erase the stigma. It's an initiative that grew out of the Bell Let's Talk campaign, for which Hughes is spokesperson; she herself has struggled with mental illness. Communities and companies raised money, to give directly to mental health initiatives of their choice. For example, Hughes was riding through Iqaluit in early May when NorthwesterTel presented a \$68,000 cheque to Nunavut Help Line.

Monday 11 May 2015

Black Fly with Director Jason Bourque in person

"A troubled teenager and his older brother reconnect, setting off a powder keg of buried secrets, paranoia and murder. Inspired by true events."

A bit of a departure for MM, this thriller is the realization of a story that has been smouldering in director Jason Bourque's psyche since he found 30 years ago that he and his family had been living in the neighbourhood of a serial killer.*

It's a riveting story, beautifully realized. Great performances, superb use of the medium. It'll have you totally engrossed.

And you'll be able to meet the Victoria boy who made it. We'll talk! R

cast: Matthew MacCaull, Dakota Daulby, Christie Burke

Monday 18 May 2015

The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya

The latest from Studio Ghibli, this charming artfully animated adaptation of an old folk tale. Pg

Monday 25 May 2015

The Wisdom To Survive: Climate Change, Capitalism & Community

The Wisdom To Survive accepts the consensus of scientists that climate change has already arrived, and asks, what is keeping us from action? The film explores how unlimited growth and greed are destroying the life support system of the planet, the social fabric of the society, and the lives of billions of people. Will we have the wisdom to survive? The film features thought leaders and activists in the realms of science, economics and spirituality discussing how we can evolve and take action in the face of climate disruption. They urge us to open ourselves to the beauty that surrounds us and get to work on ensuring it thrives. Pg

Guests: Gertie Jocksch and Margaret Walters who are facilitators with Earth Literacies, whose vision is to ignite our sense of connectedness with our Earth.

Friday 29 May 2015

Song of the Sea

A beautifully moving film with wonderful music and art, which is rare in the times of CGI animation. The homeward bound story of Ben and his selkie sister, Saoirse, is touching on a spiritual level and may very well leave you in tears.

Monday 1 Jun 2015

Granny Power

A documentary about a very original activist movement – the Raging Grannies. Spanning 10 years, the film follows several passionate, activist grandmothers and their “gaggles” as they fight for peace, social justice and the environment. From its beginnings 25 years ago here in Victoria, B.C., to its present as an

international movement, it has relied on the power of elder ladies, using humour and the power of granny-ism to get their points across.

I mean, really, who has the heart to get tough with grannies singing biting-but-funny songs, wearing flowery hats? Pg13

Monday 8 Jun 2015

Still Alice

Alice Howland, happily married with three grown children, is a renowned linguistics professor who starts to forget words. When she receives a diagnosis of Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease, Alice and her family find their bonds thoroughly tested. Her struggle to stay connected to who she once was is frightening, heartbreaking, and inspiring. Julianne Moore is absolutely brilliant in this role. The film delivers a very realistic, sensitive look at one family's experience. With Alec Baldwin, Kristen Stewart. Pg13 with discussion

Monday 15 Jun 2015

This Ain't No Mouse Music

Born a German count, Chris Strachwitz fled his homeland at sixteen after WWII. In the US, he discovered, and shared, a musical landscape that most Americans missed, the people's music. Founder of Arhoolie Records, here is a man who has followed his bliss for the last fifty years, as has carried his tape recorder from sharecrop shacks to roadside honkytonks, from cantina dives to wild Blues clubs, sold records from his trunk - and brought a whole lot of people along with him in the joyous pursuit of authentic music. He takes us on a hip-shaking stomp from Texas to New Orleans, Cajun country to Appalachia, as he continues his passion for the musical soul of America. Pg

Monday 22 Jun 2015

Heartbeat

Justine hasn't played her guitar since stage fright forced her to give up her dream of becoming a musician. After her boyfriend leaves town, Justine, depressed and unfulfilled, picks up her neglected guitar which takes her on a journey that gets her heart beating for the first time in years. From the creative team, filmmaker Andrea Dorfman and musician, poet Tanya Davis who brought the charming short film, How To Be Alone to 8 million viewers. This feature brings together all of that same charm, music and sprinkling of animation to our 'big screen'.

MM is very pleased to bring Andrea to Victoria for Heartbeat's Victoria premiere.

Friday 26 Jun 2015

Begin Again

A soul-stirring comedy about what happens when lost souls meet and make beautiful music together. Gretta (Keira Knightley) and her long-time boyfriend Dave (Adam Levine) are college sweethearts and songwriting partners who decamp for New York when he lands a deal with a major label.

Monday 29 Jun 2015

God Save Justin Trudeau

This documentary feature follows the much-hyped 2012 charity boxing match between Liberal MP Justin Trudeau and Conservative Senator Patrick Brazeau. A behind-the-scenes look at the fight to win, whether in politics or in the ring, gives new, surprising insights into what makes these ambitious political leaders tick, and reminds us that outcomes are never certain. Pg

Monday 6 Jul 2015

Two 4 One

Victoria filmmaker Maureen Bradley's debut feature is a bittersweet comedy centred around an unimaginable predicament. Forty-year-old Adam's (This Hour Has 22 Minutes' Gavin Crawford) lonely, quiet life is interrupted when he gets a phone call from his hysterical ex-girlfriend, Miriam (Mr. D's Naomi Snieckus). Miriam is trying to get pregnant with a donor's sperm and a syringe, but she needs help. Adam tries to convince her she's unfit to be a mother and, against his better judgement, they wind up hanging out again. She wants his moral support as she tries to get pregnant. She gets a lot more. The day she inseminates herself, they wind up in bed together. 14A

Now for the twist: Adam is transgendered. Four years ago, he started his transition from female to male but it isn't quite complete. In fact, he gets a little bit pregnant himself. He's torn between his feelings for Miriam, his need for a masculine identity and his eccentric pot-smoking mother's (Gabrielle Rose) desire for grandchildren in this funny and thought-provoking farce. R Best Canadian Feature at Victoria Film Fest, Audience Award at Seattle's Trans/lations Film Fest.

If the plot description has you humming and sticking fingers in your ears, check this one out. It is the filmmaker's point, to, with a sharply written romantic comedy, shift attitudes a little about LGBT lives.

Maureen Bradley is a prof at UVic where she is Graduate Advisor Associate Professor in the Writing. She is also an award-winning filmmaker focusing on queer media arts. She has made more than forty short films that have screened at festivals around the globe. This is her first feature.

Monday 13 Jul 2015

Service Dogs

"On July 13th, join me at Movie Monday for an evening of learning about service dogs. The event will be hosted by me, Celeste, and will help to raise funds for my own service dog.

Through videos, photographs, and speakers, we will explore what service dogs are, what they can do, and how they help people with a wide range of disabilities and conditions. The evening will have a special focus on psychiatric service dogs,

with me sharing of my own experiences of working to get a psychiatric service dog." approximate 90 min presentation with short videos, guests and Q&A.

Special guest Linda Bartram who has worked with seeing eye dogs for many years and knows the service dog field.

Monday 20 Jul 2015

Mr Turner

Mike Leigh's latest film is an exploration of the last quarter century of the great if eccentric British painter J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851). Timothy Spall inhabits the character as he travels, paints, stays with the country aristocracy, visits brothels, is a popular if anarchic member of the Royal Academy of Arts, and is both celebrated and reviled by the public and by royalty. It's a strange story but one you'll mull over for ages – and you'll want to know more about this iconic artist's life. R

Monday 27 Jul 2015

The Alma Drawings

Alma Rumball was a sweet, simple woman who spent most of her years living in a small cabin in rural Ontario, Canada. But as she neared the age of 50, something remarkable happened: Alma had a vision in which Christ told her to bring a message to the world. Soon after, she began to produce hundreds of mystical, mythical drawings, full of astonishingly vivid detail. Tibetan gods, Joan of Arc figures and tales of Atlantis revealed themselves. They have been called "the Sacred Language of Light, activation drawings, with codes embedded in them for the evolution of humanity at this time."

She claimed no authorship of these works, explaining that "The Hand" produced them automatically, without conscious guidance. Was she in the grip of some madness? Or did Alma possess unique access to a world beyond our own? In this visually stunning documentary, filmmaker Jeremy Munce seeks to unravel the abiding mystery of Alma's life and art.

WINNER: Best Direction – Short to Mid-Length, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.

Q&A by phone with Wendy Oke. Wendy is married to Alma's nephew, Colin; together they have been 'keepers of the Alma drawings'. Wendy has been a teacher/counselor/therapist/multi-faith minister and journalist, as well as Creative Consultant on the Hot Docs award-winning documentary, 'The Alma Drawings'. She is currently presenting workshops comparing Alma's Atlantis writings and imagery with Edgar Cayce's readings. She also offers presentations on the Sacred Language of Light, as it relates to Alma's sacred art.

Our gallery will feature art and artists from Victoria's Pandora Arts Collective.

Monday 3 Aug 2015

Foreverland

Foreverland tells the story of Will Rankin, a young man stricken with Cystic Fibrosis, a terminal illness, who is tasked with delivering his friend's ashes to a legendary healing shrine in Mexico. Joined by the sister of his fallen friend, Will embarks on an epic journey down the Pacific Coast Highway to the desert heart of Baja, encountering a memorable cast of characters along the way. In the spirit of Into the Wild and Little Miss Sunshine, it's about dreams and the courage to pursue them. Hope, laughter, and life's small miracles.

Monday 10 Aug 2015

Pristine Coast

Something is rotten in British Columbia's marine ecosystem. With declining wild fish populations since the late 70s, the open-net fish-farm industry began to grow salmon locally to offset growing pressure on wild stocks. When marine biologist Alexandra Morton spoke out about diseases from fish farms killing wild salmon, filmmaker Scott Renyard dove in and found further destructive farm links to several fish species on Canada's west coast - with global implications.

The Pristine Coast examines how government inaction has allowed questionable industries to thrive in order to solve other concerns, and may inadvertently spell the end of wild salmon fishing. Pg

Monday 17 Aug 2015

Music For Mandela: A Legacy With A Backbeat

"Music for Mandela" explores the role music played in the remarkable life of one of the world's most important icons. The effects of this relationship continue to ripple through the poorest South African townships as well as the world stage.

From Nelson Mandela singing at his own prison concert to the present day celebrations of his legacy, the music born out of his inspirational journey is commented on by his closest friends, former exiled musicians, current international artists and community volunteers who use music today to motivate and educate. The documentary also explores what music means to all South Africans and how it became both a unifying force and weapon against apartheid.

Musical performances include celebrated artist Vusi Mahlasela, Grammy award-winning group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and new music from the internationally acclaimed Soweto Gospel Choir. Interviews include the legendary BB King, Sean Paul, Estelle, Welsh opera star Katherine Jenkins and Mandela's grandson – hip hop artist Bambatha Mandela.

Combining striking visuals with freedom songs, pop music and hip hop, "Music for Mandela" is both a stirring tribute to the man himself and to the ultimate power of music. Pg

Q&A with director Jason Bourque.

Monday 24 Aug 2015

Pretend We're Kissing

All Benny wants to do is be more confident, stop thinking so much and fall in love. He may finally have the opportunity. That is, if he can get out of his own way and out of his head. Actor Dov Tiefenbach plays awkward Benny, who is looking for love in every day life when he has a chance encounter with Jordan, a woman obsessed with the notion of fate and a magical kind of love. Pretend We're Kissing is a film for all of those who don't think their love life resembles a romantic comedy.

How do you battle that monitoring, critical, inner voice that haunts so many of us? How keen but uncomfortable were those first few intimate encounters? This film will take you back. 14A

Q&A by phone with Toronto Director Matt Sadowski.

Monday 31 Aug 2015

Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth

"Alice Walker made history as the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her groundbreaking novel, *The Color Purple*. Her early life unfolded in the midst of violent racism and poverty during some of the most turbulent years of profound social and political changes in North American history during the Civil Rights Movement. Mixing powerful archival footage with moving testimonials from friends and colleagues such as Howard Zinn, Angela Y. Davis, Gloria Steinem, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Quincy Jones, Steven Spielberg and Danny Glover, *Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth* offers audiences a penetrating look at the life and art of an artist, intellectual, self-confessed renegade and human rights activist." Just a wonderfully drawn portrait of an extraordinary and complex woman. Pg13

Monday 14 Sep 2015

All The Time In The World

In search of a new perspective, a family of five leave the comforts of home to live remotely in the Yukon wilderness during the long northern winter. The parents leave their jobs and take their three children, ages 10, 8 and 4, to spend nine months living in a small cabin off the grid: with no road access, no electricity, no running water, and no internet, no TV, no phone and, most importantly, no clocks or watches.

All The Time In The World explores the theme of disconnecting from our hectic and technology laden lives in order to reconnect with each other, ourselves and our natural environment – parents connecting with children, children connecting with nature. Edited here in Victoria and previewed before lock at MM, this film has taken fests by storm. G

Suzanne Crocker, mum and filmmaker, will be our guest by phone!

Monday 21 Sep 2015

Like Father, Like Son

Ryota is a successful Tokyo architect who works long hours to provide for his wife and six-year-old son. But when a blood test reveals theirs and another baby were switched at birth, two very different families are thrown together and forced to make a difficult decision while Ryota confronts his own issues of responsibility and what it means to be a father. Like Father, Like Son extends the Japanese cinema tradition of familial exploration to deliver a gentle and moving story of personal redemption that navigates its way through the drama. Pg subtitled

Monday 28 Sep 2015

Slums: Cities Of Tomorrow

Today, one person in six lives in a slum, a squat, or any other precarious dwelling. Governments consider these to be problems and try to stamp them out by building public housing, but most citizens refuse to live in environments that fail to address their reality. Instead, they prefer to construct their own homes using the resources at their disposal.

The documentary Slums: Cities of Tomorrow seeks to address the housing problem in the age of urban overcrowding by looking at structures built on a human scale from a sociological and philosophical perspective. Director Jean Nicolas Orhon gives us an intimate look at the inhabitants and families who, through resilience and ingenuity, have built homes that are well suited to their needs, often finding inspiration from the architectural traditions of their places of origin.

Slums: Cities of Tomorrow takes us on a human and aesthetic journey across the continents: in Mumbai, India, home of the largest slum in all of Asia; in Rabat, Morocco, on what was once fertile farmland; in a tent city in Lakewood, New Jersey; in a trailer district in Marseille, France; and in the native community of Kitcisakik, Quebec. Pg13 in French(subtitled) and English.

Monday 5 Oct 2015

Clouds Of Sils Maria

"The Sils Maria of the title is the glorious above-the-clouds backdrop in the Swiss Alps for Juliette Binoche's riveting turn as an actor deciding whether or not to revisit the play that made her a star 20 years before. The problem? This time she has been asked to essay the role of the older woman, not the ingenue.

Travelling with her ever-present assistant Val (Kristen Stewart), 40-ish star Maria Enders (Binoche) is dealing with a divorce and the self-reflection that accompanies such things when the opportunity presents itself to take the "senior" role in a taut lesbian drama about a young woman who manipulates her older lover to the point of madness. When her co-star, the wild, Hollywood starlet

arrives on the scene, Maria is pushed even further into herself. Writer-director Olivier Assayas' deep meditation on ageing, the art of acting and the role of women on film and in life is both moving and profound." R

Monday 12 Oct 2015

Selma

Selma is the story of a movement. The film chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. Director Ava DuVernays Selma tells the real story of how the revered leader and visionary Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his brothers and sisters in the movement prompted change that forever altered history.

Monday 19 Oct 2015

Mountain Men

Mountain Men is a comedy/drama that follows two estranged brothers as they journey to a remote family cabin in the mountains to evict a squatter. Buried resentment and bruised egos soon derail the plan and when the smoke clears they've destroyed their car and burned down the cabin, leaving them stranded in the cold Rocky Mountain winter. With their very survival at stake, they must learn to work together as brothers to get back to civilization. Funny and with a sweet theme of brotherhood, here is great homegrown cinema, filmed in Revelstoke. 14A

By Vancouver filmmaker Cameron Labine with actor/brother Tyler as one of the brothers. Filmmaker discussion to follow the screening.

Monday 26 Oct 2015

Lowdown Tracks

Their songs are melodies for the masses, filling subway platforms and street corners, yet the singers remain unknown. Some are homeless, others "home free." Their personal histories vary as much as their voices, but their music unifies their point of view from the margins of society. Inspired by depression-era recordings of early American folk songs, filmmaker Shelley Saywell and singer and activist Lorraine Segato of The Parachute Club set out to document a new catalogue of songs and stories from five of Toronto's modern troubadours. Their lyrics are honest, heartfelt and passionate, but their freedom to perform is threatened by the city's bureaucratic busker system. Shining a light on the struggles they face-be it in shelters, with social programs, with their addictions and abuse-a soundtrack evolves from the island ferry docks and freeway underpasses, rooming houses and rooftops, showing us that music is the common language in this empowering celebration of survival. Pg13

Q&A with director Shelley Saywell.

Monday 2 Nov 2015

In The Turn

In The Turn follows Crystal, a 10-year-old transgender girl growing up in rural Canada, as she navigates the difficult and complicated world that surrounds her. Tormented at school by teachers and peers alike, she faces daily assaults in the form of insults and physical altercations. The pain she endures at school takes a toll on not only her self-esteem, but also on the emotional stability of her family.

After being denied the right to join local athletics teams due to her gender, Crystal and her mom serendipitously discover the Vagine Regime, an international queer collective of roller derby players comprised of people of all shapes, sizes, backgrounds and identities. The Vagine Regime not only accepts Crystal, but actively supports her journey. Crystal emerges from exclusion into empowerment: she steps out of the shadows and onto the track.

In The Turn weaves Crystal's story into the broader narrative of the evolution of roller derby from a niche sport into a social movement with strong roots in the LGBTQ community. Crystal's story finds its place among the journeys of other queer skaters whose stories from across the United States.

Erica Tremblay is an award-winning filmmaker based in Boston where she works as a producer for the creative agency Digitas. She is the co-founder of Homespun Pictures and her films have been featured on PBS and the Independent Film Channel. In 2012, she received the Emerging Filmmaker award at the Kansas City Film Festival for her documentary "Heartland." Erica is enjoying her 9th season of roller derby with the Boston Derby Dames.

Monday 9 Nov 2015

For The Moment

For the Moment is a 1993 film written and directed by Aaron Kim Johnston and starring Russell Crowe (in his breakout role) and Christianne Hirt. The plot revolves around airmen training in rural Manitoba, Canada, with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during the Second World War. Central to the story is the wartime romance between Russell Crowe's character and a local girl. Johnston was inspired to write the screenplay based on the stories of his father who was an instructor and bomber pilot in the war, and his mother's experiences as a young woman on the home front. PG13

Q&A with Director Kim Johnston by phone from Winnipeg.

Monday 16 Nov 2015

Inside Out

Growing up [life generally] can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her emotions: Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness. The emotions live in Headquarters, the control center inside Riley's mind, where they help advise her through everyday life. Although Joy, Riley's

main and most important emotion, tries to keep things positive during a family move to San Francisco, the emotions conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house, and school. Lots to talk about here, in what can be seen as a brilliant graphic presentation how our memory and emotions work. PG

Monday 23 Nov 2015

Love and Mercy

In the 1960s, Beach Boys leader Brian Wilson struggles with emerging psychosis as he attempts to craft his avant-garde pop masterpiece. In the 1980s, he is a broken, confused man under the 24-hour watch of shady therapist Dr. Eugene Landy. Powerful depiction of a life lost for decades to mental illness and mistreatment and then regained. Pg13

Monday 30 Nov 2015

The Backward Class

"The students of Shanti Bhavan residential school in Bangalore, India, imagine a future that defies their "untouchable" caste. Ostracized and oppressed by virtue of birth alone, the young men and women of Shanti Bhavan's Grade 12 class intend to break a cycle entrenched for generations by becoming the first Dalit students in India's history to undertake the national Indian School Certificate exams. After 13 years of preparation, the students nervously focus on exam day. As pressure mounts, confidence wavers. Inflation has made it difficult to attract good teachers and questions arise as to whether or not the class is ready for the exam challenge. Some students crack under the weight of parental expectations, while others fear bad luck will forever seal their fate. With their futures hanging in the balance, the students look to one another for support in this powerful testimonial from those who refuse to be silenced." - Michelle Latimer

HotDocs Winner, 2014 Audience Award. Pg

Monday 7 Dec 2015

Snowman

From childhood, Kevin Fogolin dreamed of living and working in the mountains. After breaking the shackles of small-town expectations, the dream comes crashing down in a helicopter avalanche bombing mission gone horribly wrong. In the aftermath, Kevin and his childhood friend and freeskiing icon, Mike Douglas, are forced to confront the risks and rewards of following their passion for the mountains. Set in British Columbia's rugged Coast Range mountains, SNOWMAN is a familiar tale of dreaming big and a lifestyle where the greatest risk is not daring to dream at all. PG13

With Director and Godfather of Freeskiing Mike Douglas.

Monday 14 Dec 2015

The Fugitive

Can it be 50 years ago the TV series was prime time watching in the 4 channel universe? 22 years back this terrific movie version with Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones came out. Dr Richard Kimble is wrongfully accused of murdering his wife. His only chance for freedom is to find a one armed man responsible, while being chased by Gerard, a dogged US Marshals Deputy. A film with a story reminiscent of Javert's relentless pursuit Jean Valjean in Les Miserables and a really fun action thriller to watch. Pg13

Monday 21 Dec 2015

Becoming Santa

Becoming Santa follows an aspiring Santa's journey as he transforms himself into Santa Claus and fully immerses himself in Santa culture. As his story unfolds, he works to fulfill as many of Santa's responsibilities as possible—from appearing in a Christmas parade, to ringing a bell on a street corner in New York City, to collecting children's wishes—learning along the way about the ordinary people keeping Santa's spirit alive. Interwoven with his story are interviews with professional Santas, Santa enthusiasts and historians who provide the fascinating little known history of Santa Claus in America and how the Civil War helped to shape the Christmas holiday as we know it today. Pg

Monday 28 Dec 2015

Mavis!

From the freedom songs of the '60s and hits like "I'll Take You There" in the '70s, to funkyed-up collaborations with Prince and her recent albums with Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, Mavis has stayed true to her roots, kept her family close, and inspired millions along the way. Featuring powerful live performances, rare archival footage, and conversations with friends and contemporaries including Bob Dylan, Prince, Bonnie Raitt, Levon Helm, Jeff Tweedy, Chuck D, and more, MAVIS! reveals the struggles, successes, and intimate stories of her journey. At 75, she's making the most vital music of her career, winning Grammy awards, and reaching a new generation of fans. Her message of love and equality is needed now more than ever.

Archives 2015

Monday 4 Jan 2016

How To Change The World The Story of Greenpeace

How to Change the World chronicles the adventures of an eclectic group of young pioneers - Canadian hippie journalists, photographers, musicians, scientists, and American draft dodgers - who set out to stop Richard Nixon's atomic bomb tests in Amchitka, Alaska, and end up creating the worldwide green movement. The story is framed by Bob Hunter's first person narrative as from 1971 to 79 he managed to bind together the 'mystics and the mechanics' into a group with a single purpose, often at huge cost to himself. The organization morphed as, victims of their own success, the founders gave away their central role to create Greenpeace International.

How To Change The World is an intimate portrait of the group's original members and of activism itself-idealism vs. pragmatism, principle vs. compromise. They agreed that a handful of people could change the world; they just couldn't always agree on how to do it.

Monday 11 Jan 2016

Infinitely Polar Bear

"Infinitely Polar Bear brings us back to a semi-forgotten, not-so-innocent era - America in the 1970s, when kids were less supervised and parents let it all hang out. It was a time when a woman could leave her young daughters in the care of their bipolar dad, who was frequently off his meds and smoked like a chimney, and the neighbours' sole source of tongue wagging was the prospect of a man doing domestic chores."

This is a daughter's eye view of her glamorous, heartbreaking father, inspired by writer/director Maya Forbes' own childhood. Mark Ruffalo heads up great performances in this realistic portrayal of a family living with bipolar. R Of course we'll talk about this one.

Intimate yet expansive, clear-eyed yet deeply personal, [this] marks an irresistible feature debut for writer-director Maya Forbes. Drawing on a tough but rewarding chapter of her own childhood, during which she and her sister were raised by their bipolar father while their mother went to grad school, Forbes brings a marvellous warmth and specificity to this story of a mixed-race family struggling to survive, aided considerably by one of Mark Ruffalo's richest, most appealing performances.

While Forbes divides the story among all four members of the unconventional Stuart clan, it's perhaps her most empathetic gesture that she places the viewer's primary point of identification with the family's most problematic individual. That would be Cam (Ruffalo), a blue-blooded New Englander who, as revealed in a lovely prologue consisting of Super 8 home movie footage, was officially diagnosed with manic-depressive disorder in 1967. His African-American

girlfriend, Maggie (Zoe Saldana), married him regardless, partly because it was the '60s and mental health was all relative anyway. Fast-forward a decade to 1978: Cam is now a boisterous, outgoing father to their two young daughters, Amelia (Imogene Wolodarsky) and Faith (Ashley Aufderheide), but a less-than-reliable and increasingly unpredictable husband to Maggie.

[This] is the sort of sweetly immersive slice-of-life storytelling that, as it unfolds over several consecutive seasons, finds humor and conflict in simple daily activities... As embodied by Ruffalo with a bracing combination of belligerence, restraint, outright silliness and a peculiar sort of grace, Cam is a satisfyingly complex creation who comes off as far more than the sum of his erratic behaviours. - Justin Chang, Variety

Friday 15 Jan 2016

A Climate Revolution For All – COP21: An Inside View

This world premiere of a 50 minute documentary will be presented with a Q&A with co-producer and health sciences librarian, Elizabeth Woolworth, who attended the Paris climate summit in December, and local engineer, Brian Burchill, who are both familiar with the looming CO2 crisis.

Elizabeth Woolworth spent most of 2015 voluntarily promoting a climate mobilization book "Unprecedented: Can Civilization Survive the CO2 Crisis?" by Dr. David Griffin that outlines a mobilization approach to global warming that is ahead of the curve on what governments and citizens can do to restrain carbon emissions.

The COP21 conference was attended by delegates from 195 nations, and by 40,000 people from around the world. Its venue was a square kilometre in size.

The documentary offers a fascinating look at how the draft climate agreement evolved through its precarious two-week course. From the outset, the delegates understood that it would fail if even one of the 195 nations declined to approve the draft agreement.

This film, co-produced by independent Parisian film director Debora Blake, depicts how the process looked to a Victoria citizen who found a last-minute way into the conference. An agreement was approved - but is it enough?

Monday 18 Jan 2016

Putzel

For some, life is an adventure filled with opportunities to excel and places to explore. For Walter Himmelstein, a young man, endearingly known as Putzel, life literally doesn't go beyond his family's fish store and his community on the upper west side of Manhattan. In this heartwarming comedy, Walter's aspirations are disrupted by the arrival of Sally, who becomes romantically involved with his

about-to-retire and very-married uncle. Walter finds his circumscribed life thrown off kilter, and, after years of being undermined by his family and friends, he finally starts to realize his full potential. With Sally's help, Walter confronts his fears and proves he is more than a Putzel.

With Jack Carpenter, Melanie Lynskey, John Pankow 88min 2012 R

Monday 25 Jan 2016

The Genius of Marian

The Genius of Marian is a visually rich, emotionally complex story about one family's struggle to come to terms with the changes Alzheimer's disease brings. After Pam White is diagnosed at age 61 with early onset Alzheimer's, life begins to change, slowly but irrevocably, for Pam and everyone around her. Pam's husband grapples with his changing role from primary partner to primary caregiver. Her adult children find ways to show their love and support while mourning the slow loss of their mother.

As she loses the ability to write, Pam's eldest son, Banker, a documentary filmmaker, begins to record their conversations, allowing her to share memories of childhood and of her own mother, the renowned painter Marian Williams Steele who died of Alzheimer's in 2001. The Genius of Marian paints a powerful contemporary portrait of the impact of Alzheimer's disease, the power of art and the meaning of family. Pg

Monday 1 Feb 2016

What Happened Miss Simone?

On stage Nina Simone was known for her utterly free, uninhibited musical expression, which enthralled audiences and attracted life-long fans. But amid the violent, haunting, and senseless day-to-day of the civil rights era in 1960s America, Simone struggled to reconcile her artistic identity and ambition with her devotion to a movement and abusive relationships. Culled from hours of autobiographical tapes, this new film unveils the unmitigated ego of a brilliant artist and the absurdities of her time. Late in her life it was recognized that she struggled with bipolar disorder. At the height of her fame Simone walked away from her family, country, career and fans, to move to Liberia and give up performing. R

With special guest Erin Michalak, PhD, Network Lead Associate Professor, Mood Disorders Centre, Department of Psychiatry, UBC.

She is the founder and leader of the 'Collaborative RESearch Team for the study of psychosocial issues in Bipolar Disorder' (CREST.BD) Her research interests are in bipolar disorder, quality of life, knowledge translation, self-management, e-health, seasonal and nonseasonal depression, and assessment scales for mood disorders.

Monday 8 Feb 2016

Monsoon

Monsoon is a feature documentary from multiple award-winning filmmaker Sturla Gunnarsson. Filmed over the course of India's 2013 monsoon season in ultra high definition 4K, the filmmakers chased the monsoon on its annual journey from the southern state of Kerala, where it first makes landfall, to India's north-eastern state of Meghalaya ('Place of the Clouds'), where the clouds go to die. Along the way, they meet a remarkable group of individuals whose lives are in different ways entwined with the phenomenon that some call 'the soul of India'.

A cinematic journey into the terrain where nature, science, belief and wonder converge in one of the most astonishing and breathtaking landscapes on earth, Monsoon is a film that captures the timelessness and rich human drama of our engagement with the natural world.

Monday 15 Feb 2016

Prairie Sunset: A Story of Change

Dion Manastyrski will be showing images on our big screen, and reading of the stories from his beautiful new hardcover historical photography book, "Prairie Sunset: A Story of Change".

In 2003, Dion Manastyrski began work on a project to photograph abandoned artifacts in the Canadian prairies. These old homes, barns, schools, and churches were left behind from an earlier time, when the small family farm was at the heart of rural life on the prairies: neighbours within walking distance, vibrant small towns, and a rich sense of community.

He also interviewed over 70 people, and asked, "What can you tell me about rural life several decades ago, and about how things have changed?"

The 240 page book is filled with photos and personal, often heartfelt anecdotes about many aspects of life beginning in the pioneer years, and covering a span of about 100 years. Within their words, the book also raises questions about what has been lost or gained during the rapid change.

The author describes, "In my search for understanding as I roamed the homesteads of a vanishing era, I photographed the abandoned structures, and talked to people of the prairies. Collectively, they have a remarkable story to tell, and I would like to share this with you."

Dion Manastyrski has been photographing professionally for over 20 years. He has lived in the three prairie provinces, and now resides in Victoria, British Columbia.

Approximately two hours with interactive discussion. Any who have Prairie connections will love this presentation and book.

Monday 22 Feb 2016

Drunktown's Finest

Three young Native Americans, an adopted Christian girl, a rebellious father-to-be, and a promiscuous transsexual, strive to escape the hardships of life on an Indian reservation. A first and powerful feature film from Sydney Freeland who grew up on the rez in Gallup New Mexico where the film was shot. Robert Redford came on as Exec Director and the film was workshopped at Sundance.

It's one of those special gems that comes with an authentic heart. R.

Director Sydney Freeman will join us by Skype.

Monday 29 Feb 2016

Grandma

Lily Tomlin stars as Elle who has just gotten through breaking up with her girlfriend when [her] granddaughter Sage unexpectedly shows up needing 600 bucks before sundown. Temporarily broke, Grandma Elle and Sage spend the day trying to get their hands on the cash as their unannounced visits to old friends and flames end up rattling skeletons and digging up secrets. R

Monday 7 Mar 2016

Elder In The Making

With the unjust stereotypes of Canada's Aboriginal population in mind, first generation Chinese Canadian filmmaker Chris Hsiung embarks on a journey of discovery deep into Alberta's Blackfoot territory. With an underlying theme of reconciliation, Hsiung sets out to better understand the Blackfoot Nation, discovering that he has a significant heritage in common with his Aboriginal guide, Cowboy Smithx.

As Hsiung says, "Elder in the Making is my personal way of exploring the forces of history large and small that have led us to where we are now. It is an invitation for you to connect with a rich and diverse aboriginal culture that has much to share about our home and about our relationship with the land." It is a particular, but also universal, story of European impact on Indigenous peoples.

On this road trip with Hsiung and Smithx, you'll travel through thousands of years of ancient history, across ancient prairie grasslands, and meet modern day indigenous and non-indigenous elders.

Director's note: In between oil-rich Calgary where I live and the tourist town of Banff, there is an Indian reserve. The first time I visited it I was shocked by the broken down homes, the levels of addiction, and the lack of basic infrastructure. How is it possible that we have such levels of poverty in the middle of a land of wealth?

However, I had no aboriginal friends to ask about the situation. The few interactions I did have through media or on the streets were generally not positive. And like many Canadians, my grasp of the history was superficial. I decided I had to learn more. So I headed on a road trip across traditional Blackfoot territory with Cowboy Smithx as my guide and a film crew for documentation.

Elder in the Making is my personal way of exploring the forces of history large and small that has led us to where we are now. It is an invitation for you to connect with a rich and diverse aboriginal culture that has much to share about our home and about our relationship with the land.

The film is only a small start on a long road of reconciliation. Below you will find other ways to engage such as face-to-face workshops, educational material, and resources. Reconciliation is a multi-generational affair that requires an on-going repair and renewal of a relationship with the people that helped build our country. It is my hope that you can be a part of it.

Also: 6:30 Tuesday March 8, at the Native Friendship Centre Elder In The Making with Cowboy Smithx in the Amphitheatre Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Friday 1 Mar 2016

Bye Bye Blues

A 1940s romance about a young mother who pursues a dream of becoming a singer while her husband is serving in the military. The inevitable choice between loyalty to her husband and family, and the desire for independence propels this nostalgic love story to a climatic ending. Starring Rebecca Jenkins - and the film has been resurrected and re-mastered to a beautiful Hi-Def version by her and husband Joel Bakan. PG

Legendary Canadian filmmaker Anne Wheeler is here doing a writing workshop with UVic and Cinevic, so while in town will be treating us to this classic that she wrote and directed.

Anne Wheeler will also be presenting her recent documentary Chi at CineVic on Thursday March 10th 7:00 pm - free and open to the public.

Monday 14 Mar 2016

The Great Alone

Framed around the 2013 Iditarod race, The Great Alone offers a glimpse into the life of Lance Mackey, one of dog-sledding's most celebrated and eccentric champions. Living in the shadow of both a father and brother who were champions of the sport themselves, and after a battle with substance abuse, Mackey describes how dog-sledding became his path to salvation. Even as he battles a life-threatening cancer diagnosis during the 2001 Iditarod, the film details how Mackey refuses to stop racing, with nearly disastrous results.

As we follow Mackey's attempt to win his fifth title, the harsh Alaskan conditions and mounting setbacks threaten to defeat him. Offering stunning cinematography of the Alaskan wilderness, *The Great Alone* tells the incredible story of one man and his dogs, and how they came to save each other. Pg13

Monday 21 Mar 2016

Al Purdy Was Here

Al Purdy Was Here is a tribute documentary to Purdy, a Canadian literary icon but also a throwback to a time in this country when culture and arts played a more significant role. Mixing a ton of incredible archival footage with a contemporary story about restoring Purdy's old A frame cabin as a writer's retreat. With performances by Doug Paisley, Sarah Harmer, Tanya Tagak, Joseph Boyden, Jesse Zubot, Bruce Coburn and others, and readings by Gord Downie, Gordon Pinsent, Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, Leonard Cohen and more - this is a feast of Canadiana, all paying tribute to a true legend!

This was a highlight at the recent VFF. Made by Brian D Johnson, longtime film critic at *MacLeans Magazine* who, happily for us, fell into the role of Purdy's biographical filmmaker. It's a great story and one he'll share with us in our after screening phone QA.

Brian D. Johnson is one Canada's leading film critics and cultural commentators. He is also an author, filmmaker, musician and broadcaster. He is president of the Toronto Film Critics Association, where he created the annual TFCA Awards gala in 2008, now home to the \$100,000 Rogers Best Canadian Film Award. From 1985 to 2014, he was a Senior Writer with *Maclean's* magazine, where he remains a Contributing Editor.

Monday 28 Mar 2016

Wolf Pack

Imagine a small, dingy Manhattan apartment; imagine you can't leave; and imagine: The only contact you have with the outside world is through movies. Growing up like this, anyone could imagine that things could get pretty weird—and the Angulo family, a literal band of brothers raised in isolation by their paranoid parents, are indeed an interesting bunch. Their only outlet for creativity, undertaken as a way to basically stave off boredom, is to recreate their favorite films (like *Reservoir Dogs*, *The Dark Knight* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*), crafting costumes out of cereal boxes, yoga mats and whatever other resources they can get their pale hands on. In *The Wolfpack*, director Crystal Moselle has nearly unlimited access to the Angulo brothers; at one point they inform her that she is the only person who has ever been invited over to their home, and is the only guest they've ever had. Sad and strange, funny and touching, wholly unusual and like nothing you've ever seen before, *The Wolfpack* is both powerful and unsettling.

Monday 4 Apr 2016

Spotlight

The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese. What started as the paper's crack team's investigative piece on one or two local cases broadened to exposing a much bigger problem, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. The film has the same exciting feel as "All The Presidents Men" and deservedly came out on top of a strong bunch of features at the Oscars. 14A

Monday 11 Apr 2016

Hadwin's Judgement

A compelling hybrid of drama and documentary, this feature film covers the events that led up to the infamous destruction of an extraordinary 300-year-old tree held sacred by the indigenous Haida nation of Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. Inspired by John Vaillant's award-winning book *The Golden Spruce*, the film introduces us to the complex character of Grant Hadwin, a logging engineer and survivalist who lived and worked happily for many years in BC's ancient forests. Witnessing the devastation wrought by clear-cutting, Hadwin was finally driven to commit what some would say was an extraordinary and perverse act, one that ran contrary to all he had come to value. Interweaving speculation, myth and reality, the film charts Hadwin's emotional crusade against the destruction of the world's last great temperate rain forest and explores the possible motives for his unprecedented crime. This is a premiere for Victoria! Pg.

Producer Elizabeth Yake's films have been nominated for 17 Genie Awards (Canadian Oscars). Based on the west coast of Canada, her company True West Films focuses on producing international co-productions, both dramatic and documentary, for the world market such as award-winning *EVERYTHING'S GONE GREEN* (BC/ON), *IT'S ALL GONE PETE TONG*, *MISS TEXAS*, *DESIRE*. Her last 2 feature films had theatrical release in both the USA and Canada. *IT'S ALL GONE PETE TONG* was named one of the Top Ten Films of the Decade (2000-2010) by Playback magazine.

Monday 18 Apr 2016

Hyena Road

Paul Gross dips into the timeline of the seemingly intractable war in Afghanistan as coalition forces led by NATO and the US are still well-entrenched in a continuing battle to eradicate Taliban forces from the countryside. Stationed with Canadian ground troops at Kandahar airfield, Ryan Sanders (Rossif Sutherland) leads a team of snipers protecting construction crews building a highway through the interior of the country, colloquially known as Hyena Road. This film takes us into the middle of this difficult conflict, giving us a gut feel of that scenario and the strange ground rules, the quagmire of an unconventional war. Written and directed by Paul Gross. R

Monday 25 Apr 2016

Room

Both highly suspenseful and deeply emotional, Room is a unique and unexpectedly tender exploration of the boundless love between a mother and her child under the most harrowing of circumstances. Based on the award-winning global bestseller by Emma Donoghue, Room tells the extraordinary story of Jack, a spirited 5 year-old who is looked after by his loving and devoted Ma.

Like any good mother, Ma dedicates herself to keeping Jack happy and safe, nurturing him with warmth and love and doing typical things like playing games and telling stories. Their life, however, is anything but typical -- they are trapped -- confined to a windowless, 10-by-10-foot space. Even in this treacherous environment, Ma ensures Jack is living a complete and fulfilling life. But as Jack's curiosity about their situation grows, and Ma's resilience reaches its breaking point, they decide to enact a risky plan to escape. R

Monday 2 May 2016

Fire In The Frame

With filmmaker Toni Girardin

Giuseppe Marinoni found his calling when he transitioned from champion cyclist to master bike craftsman. But after years hunched over toxic fumes, his passion almost killed him. Today, at age 75, Marinoni is back in top shape, and decided to attempt the world hour record for his age group, all on a bike he built with his own hands almost 40 years ago. His perfectionism, combined with a curmudgeonly nature, makes him impatient with first-time director Tony Girardin, adding much humour to this inspiring film. One of the most moving scenes involves Marinoni catching up with his dear friend Jocelyn Lovell, one of Canada's greatest cyclists during the 60s and 70s, whose storied career was sadly ended by a famous and fateful accident that left him a quadriplegic. This is a film not only for the spandex-and-helmet crowd but for anyone who believes that a man's reach should exceed his grasp. Pg

Monday 9 May 2016

Lady In The Van

Maggie Smith is adorably cantankerous in this true story of a homeless woman who parked her van in the driveway of a playwright's London home and didn't leave for 15 years. The Lady in the Van is based on Alan Bennett's play of the same name, inspired by his real-life experience with a woman who requested to be addressed exclusively as Miss Shepherd. Nicholas Hytner's film has plenty of hard-earned lessons about tolerance, generosity, and kindness. Pg13

Monday 16 May 2016

Fractured Land

"Deep down we're all fractured," an oil and gas representative tells young Aboriginal leader and lawyer Caleb Behn, the grandson of a chief. Behn knows the

feeling all too well as he struggles with his role in protecting his northern British Columbia territory and its people, currently under siege from some of the world's largest natural gas and fracking operations.

The troubling reality is that the same industry threatening the land is also responsible for providing them jobs – including his parents who helped provide him with an education in law. His mother is a high-ranking oil and gas officer trying to make change from the inside and his father is a residential school survivor and staunch environmentalist.

Fractured Land explores the practice of fracking and the strain it has put on the country's First Nations communities and government relations, especially in Northern B.C., which has recently seen the most aggressive fracking development in the country. Following Behn from the pristine North to downtown Vancouver and a fracked territory in New Zealand, The film provides optimism and empowerment toward issues that can seem dire and insurmountable.

With filmmaker Fiona Rayher the co-director and co-producer of Fractured Land. Fiona's past films include Generation Why (2010) and Most Livable City (2010), included in numerous short film festivals. She is also on the board of DOC BC - the BC chapter of the Documentary Organization of Canada, and the Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival. She frequently speaks at schools and events about engagement through media.

Monday 23 May 2016

My Internship in Canada

An idealistic young Haitian travels to rural Quebec to intern for an independent Member of Parliament when a national debate erupts that finds the MP holding the tie-breaking vote. While groups of lobbyists get involved in a debate that spins out of control, the MP will have to face his own conscience. A comedy about how we do things in Canada. Pg

Monday 30 May 2016

Brooklyn

Brooklyn tells the profoundly moving story of Eilis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan), a young Irish immigrant navigating her way through 1950s Brooklyn. Lured by the promise of America, and few prospects at home, Eilis departs Ireland for the shores of New York City. The initial shackles of homesickness quickly diminish as she is swept up in a job and romance. But soon, her new vivacity is disrupted by her past, and Eilis must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within. Pg13

Monday 6 Jun 2016

Breach

Salmon, as staple and icon, have always been central to life in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle filmmaker, and former fishing guide, Mark Titus journeys north to examine its history and present dangers: dams in Oregon and Washington, fish

farms in BC, and giant-scale mining in Alaska. Mapping the impending disaster if we don't protect the ecosystems in the world's largest source of this miraculous species, he offers an inventive, visually delightful and clear-eyed overview of an essential issue. The "breach" is the breaking of our pact with the salmon for mutual care. Besides the advocacy message, this is a truly beautiful film and it includes even the voice of the fish itself! Pg

Monday 13 Jun 2016

Bye Bye Blues

Our last screening of this special film, with director Anne Wheeler, was on a Friday and had only 40 people attend. It deserves a second run and is worthy of our anniversary celebration. Of course there'll be cake!

A 1940s romance about a young mother who pursues a dream of becoming a singer while her husband is serving in the military. The inevitable choice between loyalty to her husband and family, and the desire for independence propels this nostalgic love story to a climatic ending. Starring Rebecca Jenkins - and the film has been resurrected by Jenkins and husband Joel Bakan and re-mastered to a beautiful HiDef version by director Anne Wheeler. Pg

Rebecca Jenkins and Joel Bakan will be with us! Rebecca offered to come by to talk about her role in making this film - and also to sing a few tunes from the film - and is bringing along husband Joel who is a renowned jazz guitarist. Joel is a law professor, writer of the book, and co-creator of the film version of The Corporation. Rebecca is my fave Canadian actress, illuminating many terrific Canadian and international films, special favourites of mine: Marion Bridge, Wilby Wonderful, A Whole Other Thing and the recent Stories We Tell.

Monday 20 Jun 2016

Rebels With A Cause

Rebels tells the story of the ordinary citizens who banded together to protect and preserve open spaces near the San Francisco Bay Area for parks and farms from rampant development and, in so doing, brought about America's system of national seashores and recreation areas. Narrated by Academy Award-winning actress, Frances McDormand, the film begins in the 1950s and tells the tale of this disparate band of activists who, despite reversals, diversions, and disappointments, persist in their mission for twenty years. It can be seen as a template for what citizens might do here. Pg

Narrator: Frances McDormand

Monday 27 Jun 2016

Being Canadian

Robert Cohen, a proud Canadian, who left his hometown of Calgary and moved to the U.S. to start a career as a TV comedy writer. He started noticing how people outside Canada knew very little about his beloved homeland. After decades of ignorance, insults, and indifference, he decides to do something about it. Rob sets

off on an epic personal quest, driving across Canada from East to West, to confirm the country he's been fighting for is still what he remembers. Interwoven with this journey are interviews with a variety of famous Canadians, along with people he meets along the way. His deadline? Midnight on Canada Day, in Vancouver. Imagine 'Sherman's March', but wearing a toque! 14A

Monday 4 Jul 2016

Time Out Of Mind

George (Richard Gere) is a desperate man. With faltering health and nowhere to turn, he finds himself thrust onto New York City's unforgiving streets. After exhausting all other avenues of temporary housing, he is accepted into the largest homeless men's shelter in Manhattan and makes a rare human connection with a gregarious former jazz player (Ben Vereen), he begins to harbour hope of repairing his relationship with his estranged daughter (Jena Malone). This moving feature is realistic and artfully shot. It is slow and grinding, heartbreaking - but homelessness can be that way. Pg13.

We'll have a discussion after the film involving folks who know the life.

cast: Richard Gere, Ben Vereen, Jena Malone, Steve Buscemi, Jeremy Strong

Monday 11 Jul 2016

Carfree Stories From The Non-Driving Life

This doc by Winnipeggers Janine Tschuncky and Kenneth George Godwin, examines what it's like to live in a city which has been built around the needs of traffic when you make a conscious decision not to drive. We tend to take cars so much for granted that we become unconscious of just how much they shape the way we live. For the people in this documentary, the decision not to drive has profound effects on the way we live our lives and think about the world around us. G

Janine Tschuncky is committed to walking as a means of transportation and transformation. She is a Winnipeg writer, mentor and educator. She has worked in publishing for over twenty-two years and is currently the managing editor at Prairie Fire Press. Her work has been published in various journals. Currently, Janine and her partner are writing and illustrating a series of children's books set in the boreal forest of Manitoba. Janine is passionate about leadership, community, and helping people connect to their wildness through nature and the written word.

Kenneth George Godwin is a film buff, writer and longtime film editor living in Winnipeg. His interest in David Lynch has produced two books on his works, *Eraserhead* and *Dune*. He has made several short films and was editor for many NFB documentaries and several films for others. His first feature, *GOING: Remembering Winnipeg's Movie Theatres* (2012), was featured at MM in June 2014.

With Winnipeg filmmaker and ardent walker, and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, ardent cyclist and champion of walking and cycling infrastructure and public transit.

Monday 18 Jul 2016

Peace Out & Haida Gwaii: On The Edge Of The World

double feature: two films by filmmaker Charles Wilkinson

Charles Wilkinson - director of last year's MM feature Oil Sands Karaoke

Peace Out asks and answers the question: are we ripping up our back yard for energy - or not? The film seeks to engage those of us who do not connect our daily decisions with global land use issues. It focuses on the North Western Canadian wilderness, however the issues are universal. The film pits energy executives, Tar Sands reps, nuclear spokesmen against academics and activists in an intelligent debate that leaves the viewer to decide what to believe. The film presents a beautiful, thought provoking look at a rapidly transforming landscape and challenges us all to be part of saving it. Pg

Peace Out won Special Jury Prize at Hot Docs 2012 and Vancouver Film Fest's Most Popular Documentary. The film is even more relevant now.

We'll have an update from folks participating in the Paddle For The Peace.

Charles Wilkinson's assessment of the project: "Site C is a wilful mistake, pure and simple."

Haida Gwaii: On The Edge Of The World A love song to breathtaking Haida Gwaii and the spirited people who populate it. The natural beauty of this culturally rich archipelago has served as a backdrop for tragedies such as outbreaks of smallpox and the exploitation of natural resources. And yet, the Haida Nation remains undaunted, drawing on 14,000 years of tradition in preparing for a showdown over the Northern Gateway pipeline and planning for a more sustainable future.

Best Canadian Feature Documentary, Hot Docs 2015

Our guests: Charles Wilkinson and Tina Schliessler.

Charles Wilkinson earned a BA in filmmaking & communications, directed a very successful documentary for the NFB prior to graduating, and went on to direct several decades worth of feature films, US network TV movies, episodic series and documentaries. Charles enrolled again in university, earned an MBA in film and creative writing, had 2 books published and returned his focus to where it started – social commentary pov documentary. Charles lives and works on a coastal inlet, Deep Cove, near Vancouver, Canada. MM featured the second in this trilogy, the excellent Oil Sands Karaoke, for our 21st anniversary celebration. He recently published a book, Peace Out, as well.

Tina Schliessler is co-producer and life partner with Charles and artist in her own right.

Monday 25 Jul 2016

Bridge Of Spies

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union captures U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers after shooting down his U-2 spy plane. Sentenced to 10 years in prison, Powers' only hope is New York lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks), recruited by a CIA operative to negotiate his release. Donovan boards a plane to Berlin, hoping to win the young man's freedom through a prisoner exchange. If all goes well, the Russians would get Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance), the convicted spy who Donovan defended in court. Gripping and amazingly, with some small story-telling licenses, quite true to the story. Pg13

"Spielberg has taken an important but largely forgotten and hardly action-packed slice of the Cold War and turned it into a gripping character study and thriller that feels a bit like a John Le Carre adaptation if Frank Capra were at the controls"
Richard Roeper of the Chicago Sun Times.

cast: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Scott Shepherd, Amy Ryan, Sebastian Koch, Alan Alda

Monday 1 Aug 2016

Delicate Art Of Parking

In this "mockumentary", a wannabe documentary filmmaker who has had his car towed for the umpteenth time, sets out to film a scathing exposé of the corrupt institution of parking enforcement. You've got to love this classic about the people we all love to hate, the conscientious enforcement officer played perfectly here by Fred Ewanuick, (better known as Hank on Corner Gas). Complete with conniving filmmaker (Dov Tiefenbach), and a loveable Québécois tow truck driver, this is a BC-made treat. Pg13

cast: Andrew McNee, Diana Pavlovská;, Dov Tiefenbach, Rob Bruner, Gladys McNab

Monday 8 Aug 2016

Devout

In this crisis-of-faith drama, explores themes around reincarnation, faith and love. The film tells the story of Darryl (Charlie Carrick) and his wife Jan (Ali Liebert) a couple whose faith is tested when he starts to believe that his very ill daughter (Olivia Martin) was an astronaut in a past life. He's an evangelical Christian whose faith isn't offering him the inner peace he desperately needs while watching his little girl suffer. Liebert's character is well-drawn, tossed around on waves of love and fear. Despite his overwhelming desire to grasp at any straw that might prolong his daughter's life, Darryl must ultimately

acknowledge the possibility that the spiritualist (David Nykl) he consults is a charlatan.

Gaston leaves the door open on the subject of past lives and reincarnation, while questioning the wisdom of devout beliefs. Canada, Pg

Victoria writer/director Connor Gaston's first feature recently was celebrated at 2016 BC Film Awards with 7 Leos, including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, and Best Supporting Actress for young Olivia Martin!

With Director Connor Gaston and Exec Director Daniel Hogg.

cast: Charlie Carrick, Ali Liebert, Olivia Martin, Gabrielle Rose, David Nykl

Monday 15 Aug 2016

Song Of Lahore

An experimental album fusing jazz and South Asian instruments brings Sachal Studios worldwide acclaim. Their rendition of Dave Brubeck's Take Five becomes a sensation, and Wynton Marsalis invites them to New York to perform with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. After a groundbreaking week of rehearsals fusing the orchestras from Lahore and New York, the musicians take to the stage for a remarkable concert. Pg

"Like 'Buena Vista Social Club' set to the beat of traditional Pakistani music, Song of Lahore is a feel-good exploration of making music as an act of defiance." - Toronto Star

Monday 22 Aug 2016

Bob Roberts

Written and directed by actor Tim Robbins (who also plays the title role), this 1992 mock documentary [of course this could never happen in the USA!] about an upstart candidate for the U.S. Senate is smart, funny, and scarily prescient in its foreshadowing of the Republican revolution of 1994. Bob Roberts is a folksinger with a difference: He offers tunes that protest welfare chiselers, liberal whining, and the like. As the filmmakers follow his campaign, Robbins gives needle-sharp insight into the way candidates manipulate the media. While the film follows Roberts campaign, it also covers a fringe journalist, who may have dug up the kind of dirt to push Roberts campaign off the rails. Robbins captures the chilly insincerity of this right-wing populist and fills his cast with terrific supporting players, including Alan Rickman as the campaign's shadowy financier and Susan Sarandon and Peter Gallagher, as a pair of airhead TV news anchors. - Marshall Fine - and Helen Hunt as reporter, and a young Jack Black as a wild-eyed Robert's Youth. R for language

cast: Tim Robbins, Giancarlo Esposito, Alan Rickman, Ray Wise, Brian Murray, Gore Vidal

Monday 29 Aug 2016

Mustang

It's the beginning of the summer. In a village in northern Turkey, Lale and her four sisters come home from school, innocently playing with boys. The supposed debauchery of their games causes a scandal with unintended consequences. The family home slowly turns into a prison, classes on housework and cooking replace school, and marriages begin to be arranged. The five sisters, driven by the same desire for freedom, fight back against the limits imposed on them. 97min Pg13 Turkish w English subtitles.

"As depressing as all this sounds—and as quietly damning as 'Mustang' is in its depiction of patriarchal oppression—the way the girls react to the tightening of the vice around them provides a consistent source of surprise and even hope."
Christy Lemire – Roger Ebert

Monday 12 Sep 2016

Burning Bright

As one of Canada's brightest lights on the folk/roots scene, David Francey's path to success is unquestionably unique. After spending much of his life as a construction worker, this Scottish immigrant, who came to Canada 12 years old, kept his song writing passion to himself. When he began performing in public his career took off, making him in demand around the world - a career "Burning Bright".

Filmmaker Tony Girardin who met Francey as his career was taking off, has made several music videos with him, so was well equipped to make this award-winning documentary about Francey's life and song writing process. Pg

Plus.Plus World Premiere of Girardin's latest music video featuring the song "Fool" from Francey's new album Empty Train. 3 min

Plus Hoppy The Deer This charming story of an orphaned fawn, Hoppy, raised by human parents in Quebec. Hoppy was first picked up by CBC and the story has since travelled the world. Narrated by David Francey. 28min 2007 G

Our guest: Tony Girardin, maker of Marinoni: Fire In the Frame which packed our theatre in May, is back with us to present these two earlier films, plus his latest music video for Francey. He will be with us in person for a Q&A.

Monday 19 Sep 2016

I Am The Blues

I Am The Blues takes the audience on a musical journey through the swamps of the Louisiana Bayou, the juke joints of the Mississippi Delta and Moonshine soaked BBQs in the North Mississippi Hill Country. The film visits blues musicians rooted in the genre's heyday, many in their 80s, still living in the American deep south and touring the Chitlin' Circuit. Let Bobby Rush, Barbara Lynn, Henry Gray,

Carol Fran, Little Freddie King, Lazy Lester, Bilbo Walker, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, RL Boyce, LC Ulmer, Lil' Buck Sinegal and their friends awaken the blues in all of us. It's an important window on a disappearing generation of artists. and it's so true to the Delta and its vibe.

Monday 26 Sep 2016

Touched With Fire

Touched with Fire stars Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby as two poets with bipolar disorder whose art is fueled by their emotional extremes. When they meet in a treatment facility, their chemistry is instant and intense driving each other's mania to new heights. They pursue their passion which breaks outside the bounds of sanity, swinging them from fantastical highs to tormented lows until they ultimately must choose between sanity and love.

Inspired by the film maker's own struggles overcoming bipolar disorder, Paul Dario wrote, directed, edited and scored his feature film debut. R With discussion.

cast: Katie Holmes, Luke Kirby, Christine Lahti, Griffin Dunne, Bruce Altman

Monday 3 Oct 2016

Marion Bridge

Three estranged sisters reunite to care for their dying mother and old conflicts and secrets return to the surface. This entertaining drama set in Nova Scotia broaches topics like sibling rivalry, addiction, family secrets and relationships and stars Molley Parker, Rebecca Jenkins, Stacy Smith, and introduced Ellen Page. Written by Daniel MacIvor and an assured directorial hand by first-timer Atom Egoyan, this film won Outstanding Writer Award at the Atlantic Film Festival & the Best First Feature Award at TIFF – AND is one of MM's all time favourites.
Pg13

"Marion Bridge is one of the most confident and clearly directed features to be made in Canada. Every element of this impressive production is completely integrated and beautifully performed." – Atom Egoyan, Director

I'm thrilled that actor Rebecca Jenkins will be joining us to talk about her part as the older sister in this amazing film.

Monday 10 Oct 2016

Dark Horse

Louise Osmond's Dark Horse is an account of impecunious Welsh villagers who team up to sponsor a race horse that surprises everyone by turning out a winner, has all the elements of crowd-pleasing Britflicks such as "The Full Monty," "Billy Elliott" and "Pride.". though, it would be hard for any fictional treatment to beat the pleasures of Osmond's genial, enthralling documentary. Godfrey Cheshire

Monday 17 Oct 2016

Life Animated

Life Animated, is the inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing themselves in the world of classic Disney animated films. Over time, through repeated viewings of Disney classics like The Little Mermaid and The Lion King, Owen found useful tools to help him to understand complex social cues and to re-connect with the world around him. Now in his early 20s, Owen's become an internationally recognized spokesperson for the concept of "affinity therapy," which uses the hobbies and interests of kids on the spectrum as a way of teaching them life skills, rather than treating their single-minded obsessions as a crippling disability. From Academy Award® winning director Roger Ross Williams. Pg

With Joseph Sheppard, Co-Director of Center for Autism Research Technology and Education.

Monday 24 Oct 2016

Back To The Future

We go back to the past over three decades to celebrate this all-time audience favourite. Michael J. Fox stars as Marty McFly, a 1980's teenager transported back in time to 1955 where he accidentally changes the course of history through a series of comic misadventures, and finds he must return things to the way they were, back to the future. Pg

Our projectionist and "Movie Guy About Town" Jason Whyte's special birthday choice.

cast: Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Crispin Glover, Thomas F. Wilson

Monday 31 Oct 2016

Ed Wood

Make this your 'after trick or treat' Halloween destination.

Tim Burton's biopic of the life and work of the legendary 'worst director of all time', Edward D. Wood, Jr (Johnny Depp)., concentrating on the best-known period of his life in the 1950s, when he made 'Glen or Glenda', 'Bride of the Monster' and 'Plan 9 From Outer Space'. It reveals his enthusiastic but terrible movie making, his transvestism, but particularly touching is his friendship with the once great but now ageing and unemployed horror star Bela Lugosi (Martin Landau in an Oscar winning performance), Sarah Jessica Parker and Bill Murray. G
cast: Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette, Bill Murray

Monday 7 Nov 2016

The Dark Horse

The Dark Horse is based on the true story of Genesis 'Gen' Potini (Cliff Curtis), a Maori speed-chess champion seeking redemption and a new purpose in life despite his struggles with bipolar disorder. A former chess prodigy, Gen is brilliant and charismatic, bringing unusual, potent energy to a game most often played with quiet reserve. Upon his release from an institution, he is remanded into the custody of his older brother, the leader of a rough street gang planning the initiation of Gen's reluctant teenage nephew. When Gen volunteers to coach the ragtag young members of the Eastern Knights chess club he brings hope to the children of the club, including his nephew, and sees it as a chance to possibly turn his troubled life around. R

This moving story won Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor and Best Score at the 2014 New Zealand Film Awards and many international ones as well.

Monday 14 Nov 2016

Last Cab To Darwin

Rex is a loner, a cabbie in a small town with just a few mates. When he's told he doesn't have long to live, he embarks on an epic drive through the Australian outback from Broken Hill to Darwin to die on his own terms. On his way he picks up some companions, a rudderless young indigenous drifter and English barmaid nurse-turned-backpacker. Their adventures together, as well as what Rex learns from the doctor who might help him die, the legal system and his own heart, lead him to a decision that surprises even himself. Terrific cast, Australian locations and wonderful score enhance this very human story. 14A

Our guests Ellen Agger and Jeffrey Brooks, Co-chairs of Dying With Dignity Canada Victoria Chapter, will be with us for a post-film Q&A about current, local Medically Assistance in Dying (MAiD) rules & resources.

With opening music by The Big Weee, (formerly Big Mike and the Riff Riders).

The Big Weee, as in having "too much fun" is a Wonky Tonk Busker Band founded by Mike Raymer (guitar, vocals) and Joy Kruger (banjitar, vocals) frequently joined by Sam Torrance (bass and vocals) and Sophia Higgins on fiddle and vocals. Think Johnny Cash on the road with Tom Waits and John Prine and you'll get an idea of a Wonky Tonk good sing along time. Warm up your vocal cords and blow off some steam with the Big Weee.

cast: Michael Caton, Ningali Lawford, Mark Coles Smith, Emma Hamilton, Jacki Weaver

Monday 21 Nov 2016

Where The Universe Sings: The Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris

Here is an intimate portrait of Canada's most renowned artist, and the expansive landscapes that inspired him. Co-founder and leader of the legendary Group of Seven, he underwrote their schemes (and he gave huge encouragement to our Emily Carr). Harris has become the most valued artist in Canadian history. He was a curious man, raised in a family of wealth and privilege, whose notebook doodlings compelled a professor to suggest he try art studies in Europe as a young man. Harris was determined to battle the critics and paint a radical new vision of Canada. His work gradually morphed into the realm of stylized abstraction. Pg

Q&A with co-director/producer Nancy Lang by phone. Nancy works with as researcher, producer and director with White Pine Pictures that, among many other great documentaries, lately has brought us wonderful films West Wind: the Vision of Tom Thomson, Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven, and Winds Of Heaven: Emily Carr.

Monday 28 Nov 2016

Slingshot

An eccentric genius inventor (mostly of medical devices and, famously, the Segway) with a provocative worldview, Kamen takes on grand-challenges, helping people in need and inspiring young scientists. Half of all human illness comes from water-borne pathogens. Kamen's SlingShot is an energy-efficient machine that turns any unfit water (seawater, poisoned wells, river sludge...) into pure, safe water – no chemicals or filters needed. SlingShot is both an inspirational character study and a look at the trajectory of Kamen's vapor compression distiller from its earliest development through recent trials in rural Ghana and beyond. Pg

Monday 5 Dec 2016

Elephant Song

A psychiatrist, Dr Green (Bruce Greenwood) is drawn into a complex mind game when he questions a disturbed patient (Xavier Dolan) about the disappearance of a colleague. The patient sets three rules: Green shouldn't read his file, he will give Michael chocolate, the doctor will keep Nurse Peterson (Catherine Keener) out of their discussions. Dr. Green agrees - and the dance begins. Pg

"Elephant Song is riveting from start to finish. It's based on Nicolas Billon's play of the same name. Xavier Dolan's performance as Michael is absolutely outstanding. Elephant Song is one of the strongest dramas I've ever seen." - Reviewer Lois Siegel. I agree.

Winner Canadian Screen Awards 2015 Best Adapted Screenplay.

cast: Bruce Greenwood, Xavier Dolan, Catherine Keener, Nurse Susan Peterson, Carrie-Anne Moss

Monday 12 Dec 2016

Born To Be Blue

Born to be Blue re-imagines Baker's life as a mixture of fact and fiction, picking up his story late in his career when, after years of heroin abuse, financial loss, and public disgrace, he attempts to stage a comeback. Starring in a film about his own infamous life, Baker (a riveting performance by Ethan Hawke) strikes up a passionate romance on and off the set with Jane (Carmen Ejogo), the actress playing one of his lovers, but his hopes for a bright future are suddenly darkened when he suffers a brutal beating in a parking lot after a gig. 97min 2015 14A

Director Robert Budreau was born in London, Ontario. He studied at the Vancouver Film School and worked as a lawyer before directing his first feature, *That Beautiful Somewhere* (06). His shorts include *Dry Whiskey* (2005) and *The Deaths of Chet Baker* (2009). *Born to be Blue* (2015) is his latest feature.

cast: Ethan Hawke, Carmen Ejogo, Callum Keith Rennie, Tony Nappo, Stephen McHattie

Monday 19 Dec 2016

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker Ballet is the perfect outing for the whole family to celebrate the holiday season.

This sumptuous traditional production, with conductor Valery Gergiev, was filmed at the historic Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia where the original Nutcracker was first performed over 120 years ago.

The Nutcracker tells the story of a young girl Clara, who is given a nutcracker doll for Christmas. After being broken by her brother, Clara cares for the wounded nutcracker, which later saves her from the evil Mouse King and is then transformed into a heroic prince. Together the prince and Clara travel to an enchanted island where celebrations, hosted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, are held in their honour.

Bluray presentation and an elaborate multi-camera shoot. G

Archives 2017

Monday 2 Jan 2017

Eight Days A Week

A wonderful film to kick off our New Year of programming! In the 1960s, the Beatles exploded on to the public scene, seemingly out of nowhere as the band's formative years of constant performing at home and in Hamburg, and Brian Epstein's grooming, finally paid off beyond their wildest dreams. Accompanying new interviews of the remaining Beatles, their associates and fans as well as archival interviews of the late ones, this film features footage of the heady concert years of 1963 to 66 when the band became a worldwide cultural phenomena topping them all. Furthermore, it also follows how the Fab Four began to change and grow while the excitement of Beatlemania began to sour their lives into an intolerable slog they needed to escape from to become more than what their fans wanted. Written by Kenneth Chisholm. Pg.

cast: Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon, George Harrison

Monday 9 Jan 2017

Sunshine on Leith

Sunshine on Leith is based on the sensational stage hit of the same name, featuring music by pop-folk band The Proclaimers. The film follows the stories of Davy and Ally, who have to relearn how to live life in Edinburgh after coming home from serving in Afghanistan. Both struggle to adapt to civilian and to deal with the everyday struggles of family, jobs and relationships. "I'm On My Way", "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)", "Let's Get Married" are just of a few the great songs by the Scottish twins that drive this lively, joyous screenplay. Pg

cast: George MacKay, Kevin Guthrie, Freya Mavor, Antonia Thomas, Jane Horrocks, Peter Mullan

Monday 16 Jan 2017

The Kid Stays In The Picture

This award-winning documentary film is based on Robert Evans' autobiography, universally recognized as the greatest, most outrageous, and most unforgettable show business memoir ever written. The legendary actor, turned producer, and Hollywood studio chief, during his tenure, was responsible for such revolutionary films as The Godfather, Rosemary's Baby, Love Story, The Odd Couple, Harold and Maude and Chinatown. Narrated by Evans himself, the film shows a man who was plagued with scandal later in his career, but still, through his career, 'stayed in the picture'. Pg13.

Monday 23 Jan 2017

Sleeping Giant

Three teen protagonists: shy Adam, brash Nate and even-keeled Riley, are on the cusp of adulthood, a time when jealousies and sexual anxieties loom as large and

as a dangerous local cliff that challenges the brave and crazy to jump. A slow burn at first, just kids messing about. But the film really grabs you in the second half, with big ideas and powerful performances by the three young, first time actors. This resounding feature debut by Toronto director Andrew Cividino, a prize winner at TIFF 2015, and big attention at Cannes Film Fest.

Named one of IndieWire's "Directors to Watch" in 2015, Andrew Cividino is an award-winning director hailing from Toronto, Canada. Over the past 10 years, Andrew's talent for rich, visual storytelling and nuanced characters have propelled him onto the international stage. After graduating from Ryerson University's prestigious Film Studies program, he continued honing his craft directing short films, garnering international acclaim for his films *We Ate The Children Last*, *Yellow Fish*, and *Sleeping Giant*. Andrew's original concept for *Sleeping Giant* began as a short film that had its world premiere at Locarno in 2014, landing him with the coveted Jury Prize. After adapting the short into a feature-length film the following year, *Sleeping Giant* was selected to open the competition at the 2015 edition of *Semaine de la Critique* in Cannes, an honour Andrew shares with Wong Kar-wai, Jeff Nichols, and Alejandro González Iñárritu. The feature went on to win over a dozen awards, including Best First Feature Film at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival, and played at over 60 festivals worldwide. *Sleeping Giant* secured distribution in over a dozen territories and maintains a Rotten Tomatoes rating of 90%. Andrew was recently named TIFF's Artist in Residence for 2016, where he is currently developing an adaptation of Nicolas Billon's *Butcher*.

Skype Q&A with filmmaker Andrew Cividino.

cast: Jackson Martin, Katelyn McKerracher, Nick Serino, Erika Brodzky, Reece Moffett

Friday 30 Jan 2017

Eclipse, The Highway & Guilt Trip

Three films from Mike Douglas and Anthony Bonello of Whistler's Switchback Entertainment, three films that bring the thrill of extreme ski adventuring (and some sobering messages) for our armchair enjoyment.

Eclipse Despite long odds of clear weather, the very remote location and severe Arctic weather, an intrepid crew set out on an expedition to realize photographer, Reuben Krabbe's, grand vision to capture a single unique image - one of a skier framed by a solar eclipse.

The Highway Every year professional skier Stan Rey plans to ski the challenging Tantalus Mountain Range, just off the Whistler highway, but day to day life always seems to get in the way. When his sister, Olivia, was badly injured in a car accident on that highway in November 2015, Stan reconsiders his priorities and a dream is finally realized.

Guilt Trip The only thing greater than this group of skiers' desire to claim a first ski descent on Greenland's second highest peak is the size of their carbon footprint to get there. Loaded with guilt, they decide to bring along renowned glaciologist, Alun Hubbard, who's scientific hypothesis, if proven, could rewrite popular projections of global sea-level rise. However, the entire expedition is put in question when they arrive in Greenland and discover their objective is beyond the range of all available aircraft.

All three films feature stunning alpine locations and amazing skiing!

Monday 6 Feb 2017

A Change Of Mind

Every year, 165,000 Canadians receive a traumatic brain injury - excluding concussions. This documentary from Victoria's >Hilary Prior of May Street Productions, explores the pervasiveness of the injuries and the effect TBIs have on society. While looks at the big picture, it illuminates the subject with brave and touching stories from people who live lives effected by brain injury. There's lots to learn and hope to be found here. Pg

Monday 13 Feb 2017

Maggie's Plan

Maggie Hardin, (Greta Gerwig) a vibrant and practical, but slightly naive thirty-something New Yorker tries to organize her life and others in her orbit. Her plans for solo motherhood go a little sideways when she meets a charming but married professor and struggling novelist (Ethan Hawke) who is in an unhappy marriage with Georgette Harding (Julianne Moore), another complicated person. In this wry comedy, Maggie sets in motion another plan and learns that sometimes destiny should be left to its own device. R

cast: Greta Gerwig, Ethan Hawke, Julianne Moore, George Ashiotis, Bill Hader, Monte Greene, Travis Fimmel

Monday 20 Feb 2017

Cinerama Adventure

"Ladies and gentlemen. This Is Cinerama!" With those famous words spoken by legendary newscaster and showman Lowell Thomas, a new era in cinema was born. Cinemascope? IMAX? Sensurround? 3D? Cinerama Adventure is a unique, feature length documentary that explores the history of the original three-projector Cinerama curved ultra-wide-screen process and exhibition. From its start it was a game changer; as a WWII training simulator in the 1940s, its official start as a movie format in 1952 with This Is Cinerama (to lure people away from the then-new technology of television) through its many years of travelogue and roadshow engagements. Its impact was felt throughout the 1960's with feature films like How The West Was Won and then as a single-lens format for features like It's A Mad Mad Mad Mad World and 2001: A Space Odyssey. 95min 2002 G Featuring interviews with Leonard Maltin, Joe Dante, Paul Mantz

and the late Debbie Reynolds, along with archival footage including special Cinerama sequences presented in a simulated "Smilebox" effect (which looks great on our screen), Cinerama Adventure is one of the great tributes for anyone who loves movies, and essential viewing for any documentary fan as well! Suitable for all audiences.

Special Presentation: With director and Cinerama preservationist David Strohmaier by Skype after the show!

Friday 27 Feb 2017

Victoria

Imagine a one take film, non-stop, full range of acting, directing, cinematography. Somehow a whole night of drama is compressed into a little over 2 hours - with no edits. no rests or breaks for the actors or crew - in a story that really works. The story: A young Spanish woman who has newly moved to Berlin finds her flirtation in a club with a local guy turns potentially deadly. Their night out with his friends reveals a dangerous secret. The lead performance from the Laia Costa is absolutely captivating. This is a film you will be thinking about and telling friends about for ages. 14A partly subtitled

cast: Laia Costa, Frederick Lau, Franz Rogowski, Burak Yigit, Max Mauff

Monday 6 Mar 2017

KONELINE our land beautiful

Nettie Wild's stunning feature about the BC Tahltan tribe's dilemma over how to deal with mining interests taking over their gorgeous land may sound like a story you've heard before. But you've never seen it told with such spectacular imagery, subtle nuance and compelling characters. Pg

Hotdocs Best Canadian Documentary: "In this exquisite exposé, the filmmaker bears witness to a changing world and documents a way of life that will surely be lost. This filmmaker fearlessly allows the images to unfold- taking the time for the atmosphere to envelope the audience. The film's poetry in motion leads the audience to its own conclusion and in doing so viewers find solace not only in what has gone before – but also – in what can be possible." - Elizabeth Yake, jury member

Monday 13 Mar 2017

Eddie The Eagle

Inspired by true events, Eddie the Eagle is a feel-good story about Michael "Eddie" Edwards (Taron Egerton), an unlikely but courageous British ski-jumper who never stopped believing in himself - even as an entire nation was counting him out. With the help of a rebellious and charismatic coach (played by Hugh Jackman), Eddie takes on the establishment and wins the hearts of sports fans around the world by making an improbable and historic showing at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. G

Monday 20 Mar 2017

The Last Of The Blonde Bombshells

An all-star cast including Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian Holm, Olympia Dukakis, Leslie Caron and Dame Cleo Laine return to the stage for one more night of music and glory in this sweet comedy. Half a century after the WWII London Blitz era band heydays, one has dementia, another is dead. A third is in prison, a fourth the worse for liquor. A fifth has sworn off the devil's music and the sixth, Elizabeth, is daydreaming about re-forming the band. As a teenager in those heady war years, Elizabeth was a sax player with the Blonde Bombshells, until a scandal blew the band apart. But now, some five decades later, encouraged by Patrick, an old rogue from her youth and no less of a rogue today, she sets off in search with a dream of recreating their former glories.

Monday 27 Mar 2017

Us & Them

Ten years in the making, this feature documentary, portraying life on the gritty side of our city, might be called 'the Boyhood of impact docs'. A woman chronicles her experience befriending four addicted and homeless street people with tragic pasts and using the First Nations Medicine Wheel. As she attempts to help them, they ultimately change the course of her life. With sage advice from Rev Al Tysick, Chief Phil Lane Jr, and Dr Gabor Maté. Krista warns, "You may never look at a street person in the same way again."

Directed by Krista Loughton and Jennifer Abbott (The Corporation) R

Q&A with Krista Loughlin Krista Loughton has been passionately working on her first feature length documentary, *Us and Them*, over the past decade.

Conception began in 2006 when Loughton made *Our Hero*, a short film about Reverend Allen Tysick, a street minister who has dedicated his life to serving the poorest of the poor. She also made a short film called *The New Our Place* about the building of a new facility for the street community in Victoria, BC. These films both won awards at My Victoria Film Competition, put on by the Victoria Film Festival. Encouraged by this success, Loughton created the concept for *Us and Them* -- a feature documentary that chronicles her experience befriending four addicted and homeless street people with tragic pasts, who ultimately change the course of her life. She participates on-screen in the film, while producing and being one of its writers and directors.

Loughton was the Programming and Community Liaison at CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers from 2008-2016, and is a central figure in the local independent film scene in her city. She has also worked extensively as a producer, director, editor and videographer on many short independent narratives, documentaries and music videos. She owns and operates MindFuel Films Inc., in Victoria, British Columbia.

Monday 3 Apr 2017

Rehearsal with filmmaker Carl Bessai

An aging British theatre director is forced to hire a cocky but inexperienced young Hollywood action star to guarantee an audience for the Anton Chekhov play, *The Seagull*, he is mounting. Complicating things further, the young upstart, whose contract includes casting authority, settles on an inexperienced young actress to be his co-star. Bruce Greenwood heads up a terrific ensemble cast. PG13

Here's a greatly entertaining, thrifty Canadian film that, sadly, you've probably never heard about. I'm pleased that we'll have Vancouver-based filmmaker Carl Bessai with us to talk about this project and his prolific career (*Fathers & Sons* is a MM favourite).

Carl Bessai is a director, producer, writer and cinematographer. His award winning feature films have won international critical acclaim at numerous festivals including Sundance, Berlin, and Toronto and have been released theatrically around the world. He got his start directing documentary films before moving to Vancouver and directing his debut feature film *Johnny* in 1999. Bessai has made a career working on low-budget independent features but has often worked with A-List actors including Ian McKellen and Carrie-Anne Moss. His latest feature *The Lears*, a comic adaptation of William Shakespeare's "King Lear," with Bruce Dern, is currently in post-production.

cast: Breanne Hill, Bruce Greenwood, Deborah Kara Unger, Rob Morrow, Dean Geyer

Monday 10 Apr 2017

Harry and Snowman

It won't spoil it to know the story ahead of time, but unlike *The Titanic* this one has a happy ending.

Dutch immigrant, Harry deLeyer, journeyed to the United States after World War II and developed a transformative relationship with a broken down Amish plow horse he rescued off a slaughter truck bound for the glue factory. Harry paid eighty dollars for the horse and named him Snowman. In less than two years, Harry & Snowman went on to win the triple crown of show jumping, beating the nations blue bloods. They were famous for their day and traveled around the world together. Their chance meeting at a Pennsylvania horse auction saved them both and crafted a friendship that lasted a lifetime. Eighty-six year old Harry tells their Cinderella love story firsthand, as he continues to train on today's show jumping circuit. Pg

Monday 17 Apr 2017

The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty

Many of us missed this in the theatres but it is a delightful, unpredictable ride. When his job along with that of his co-worker are threatened, Walter takes action

in the real world embarking on a global journey that turns into an adventure more extraordinary than anything he could have ever imagined. And he is blessed/cursed with an active imagination! With Ben Stiller (director and lead), Kristen Wiig, appearances by Shirley MacLaine, Sean Penn. G

Wednesday 19 Apr 2017

Getting Married In Buffalo Jump

150 films great Canadian films were offered to screen for participants of the Biggest Film Festival Ever, folks all over the country enjoying our own films on one day. This is my choice, #151, one I've been wanting to show for years, a quintessentially Canadian story, that, typically, most of us are not aware of.

After her father's death Sophie (the lovely Wendy Crewson) returns to her home town in hopes of running the Prairie family ranch. She struggles with the awkwardness of being home as she is now used to living in a big city as an accomplished musician. She is surprised when Alex (The studly but gentle Paul Gross), the farm's handyman, offers her a marriage of convenience in order to keep the farm afloat. A sweet, unashamedly old-fashioned love story, charismatic actors in their prime, beautiful Alberta prairie setting (Pincher Creek, Cowley and Lundbreck), tunes by k d lang, AND a memorable skinny dipping scene - what's not to like? Nominated for 4 Geminis. Pg13

Live music on a Canadian theme from Friends Of Music before the show!
cast: Wendy Crewson, Paul Gross, Marion Gilseman, Victoria Snow, Murray Cruchley

Monday 24 Apr 2017

Bugs On The Menu

We'll have bugs on our menu. Shakings for the popcorn and cricket cookies and other delights for you to try, baked by the film's producer Mark Bradley.

Two billion people are eating bugs part of their regular diet. And the trend is catching on. Don't you feel you are missing out?

Bugs on the Menu follows startup companies, such as Entomo Farms, as well as Salt Lake City's Shark Tank-winning Chapul, Boston's female-led insect chip company Six Foods, Austin's Hult Prize-winning Aspire Food Group, Vancouver's famed Indian restaurant Vij's, and Seattle's celebrity cook, The Bug Chef. These and other restaurateurs, cricket farmers, scholars, and scientists are part of a movement to normalize insect eating in the west, as an alternative to accepted, but resource intensive proteins like chicken, pork, and beef.

With Producer Mark Bradley of Victoria's own 291 Film Company and sometimes bug chef.

Peruse the fabulous website. There are lots of surprising stats and even tasty recipes!

Monday 1 May 2017

Screenagers with filmmaker Dr Delaney Ruston

Award-winning Screenagers probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including the director's own, and depicts messy struggles, over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Kids are now growing up in a tech saturated world where a balance needs to be drawn between screen time and screen free time. Through surprising insights from authors and brain scientists solutions emerge on how we can empower kids to best navigate the digital world.

For any of you wrestling with this issue, I loved the documentary, Screenagers. It combines smart insights and practical tips for raising happy, healthy, technologically-empowered teens." — Melinda Gates

Delaney Ruston is an physician and filmmaker (and past MM presenter Unlisted about her father's schizophrenia, Crisis in Control, about psychiatric advance directives, and Hidden Pictures,) from Seattle, now living with two teenagers in NY.

Monday 8 May 2017

West 47th Street

This multi-award winning classic documentary, West 47th Street, was my introduction to Fountain House, the Clubhouse International founding organization.

The film covers the experience of just four members over three years as they find opportunities for meaningful work, education, housing, and a real sense of belonging and purpose - all under one roof. Pg

We will bring the film into the context of Victoria's initiative, Connections Place, which has it's big fundraising dinner Thursday May 11.

With special guest Jonathan Beard.

In the 1940's a group of people who had suffered from mental illness, started "We Are Not Alone". With the help of some philanthropists they developed Fountain House, an organization that would help them recover by giving them an opportunity to actively live, work and learn. They knew what they needed to live a full life. For that time consumers of mental health services founding and running a mutual and self help organization was an astonishing achievement. It has become a Best Practice in mental health rehab and the model has been replicated all over the world. Its own site. Jonathan's father John Beard, became Fountain

House's director in 1955 and fine-tuned the Clubhouse model. Jonathan is an impressive man in the field himself.

Jonathan is coming speak at this Movie Monday screening a few days before the fundraising dinner for Connections Place at Uptown Mall May 11, where he is one of the guest speakers.

Read this book, Fountain House: Creating Community In Mental Health Practice, about the history, philosophy and practice of the International Clubhouse model (Look Inside has most of the introduction).

Monday 15 May 2017

Lion

Five year old Saroo gets lost on a train which takes him thousands of miles across India, away from home and family. He must learn to survive alone in Kolkata, before ultimately being adopted by an Australian couple. Twenty-five years later, armed with only a handful of memories, his unwavering determination, and a revolutionary technology known as Google Earth, he sets out to find his lost family and finally return to his first home. Based on a book by the man who lived that journey. Pg

cast: Sunny Pawar, Abhishek Bharate, Nicole Kidman, Priyanka Bos, Khushi Solanki, Shankar Nisode

Monday 22 May 2017

Sully

Chesley Sullenberger, an American pilot, became an international hero after landing his damaged plane on the Hudson River in order to save the flight's passengers and crew. It's a rollicking good story with clear heroes and villains and with Clint Eastwood at the controls. It takes some large diversions from the real flight path. We'll talk about that, but enjoy the ride! Tom Hanks and Aaron Eckhart. Pg

cast: Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart, Valerie Mahaffey, Delphi Harrington, Mike O'Malley

Monday 29 May 2017

Spirit Unforgettable

Vancouver Director Pete McCormack (Facing Ali, VIFF 09) brings us the story of John Mann, lead singer of the iconic Vancouver band Spirit of the West, and his struggle with early onset Alzheimer's. McCormack has built a compelling and emotionally powerful narrative around archival clips and intimate interviews that reveal Mann, his wife Jill and his bandmates to be endlessly engaging and surprisingly candid. This affecting documentary builds to the sort of riveting performance that's made the band a local legend. Pg

Pete McCormack will be with us for Q&A by phone.

In May's Monday Magazine they have the wrong description of this film. The description they give is for the Marriage in Buffalo Jump from April.

Also: A segment of Before She's Gone. A documentary Love Story (5:35 min) which is also an Alzheimers story.

Monday 5 Jun 2017

La La Land

La La Land tells the story of Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a dedicated jazz musician, who are struggling to make ends meet in a city known for crushing hopes and breaking hearts. Set in modern day Los Angeles, this original musical about everyday life explores the joy and pain of pursuing your dreams. Nominated for 14 Oscars, this film is intriguing in that many are rapturous about it, some are desenters. Where will you be? We'll talk when the lights come up. Pg.

cast: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, Amiée Conn, Terry Walters, Thom Shelton

Monday 12 Jun 2017

The Music Of Strangers

The Music of Strangers tells the extraordinary story of The Silk Road Ensemble, an international musical collective created by legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The Sound of Silk follows this group of diverse instrumentalists, vocalists, composers, arrangers, visual artists and storytellers as they explore the power of music to preserve tradition, shape cultural evolution and inspire hope. G

Monday 19 Jun 2017

A Change Of Mind

Every year, 165,000 Canadians receive a traumatic brain injury - excluding concussions. This documentary from Victoria's Hilary Pryor of May Street Productions, explores the pervasiveness of the injuries and the effect TBIs have on society. While it looks at the big picture, the film illuminates the subject with brave and touching stories from people who live lives effected by brain injury. There's lots to learn and hope to be found here. Pg

With guests From VBIS Victoria Brain Injury Society for our post-film discussion and Hilary Pryor, director, producer of the film Hilary is the founder of May Street and has a lovely collection of international awards to show for her two decades of production.

As versatile as a Swiss army knife, Hilary Pryor transitions seamlessly between writing, directing, producing and editing TV, feature films and interactive content. Hilary's highly respected credits include dozens of documentaries, children's shows and two feature films currently in development.

Monday 26 Jun 2017

Weirdos

Nova Scotia. 1976. The weekend of the American Bicentennial. When 15-year-old Kit decides that living with his father is too repressive, he hits the road to move in with his mother. Accompanied by his girlfriend Alice, Kit will explore his very core - his sexuality, his sense of place and self - in an attempt to find a place to call home. Another gem from director Bruce McDonald and screenwriter Daniel MacIvor with Molly Parker (starring in "Marion Bridge" and "Trigger" both with this filmmaking team, in a very different role), Dylan Authors and the charming Julia Sarah Stone who you may remember from "When Dolly Parton Was My Mother". In beautiful black and white. Pg

Daniel MacIvor will be taking our call for a Q&A with Weirdos.

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Monday 3 Jul 2017

Moonlight

"Moonlight charts the life of Chiron across three defining chapters of his life - starting out as a young black man growing up in turbulent Miami, it follows his ongoing struggles with his sexuality and unstable family life.

As we follow his life through his teenage years and into manhood - the film becomes a much broader inspection into identity as a whole, showing how his damaged upbringing with drug-addict mother Paula, and high school [bullying] shape his road ahead.

... the film is 'extremely moving' which 'speaks of the struggles of black men in marginalized communities, of the push and pull of nature versus nurture, and finding yourself - no matter how long it takes.'" Metro.ca.uk Justifiably awarded the Best Picture Oscar. R (we'll show it with subtitles as some dialogue is tricky to catch).

cast: Naomie Harris, Andr#233; Holland, Mahershala Ali, Janelle Mon#225;e, Trevante Rhodes, Ashton Sanders

Monday 10 Jul 2017

Mr Zaritsky On TV with guest John Zaritsky

Academy Award-winning filmmaker John Zaritsky is determined to capture what he believes is the biggest and best story he's ever encountered. His 'swan song', No Limits: The Thalidomide Saga, is his last instalment in a documentary trilogy about Thalidomide's disastrous legacy. With a film crew at his side, John embarks on an road trip that confronts the best and worst in the aging director.

Both a portrait and candid behind-the scenes, Mr Zaritsky On TV shows the too often under-appreciated aspects of documentary filmmaking as experienced by a man reclaiming his place in the filmmaking landscape. This portrait captured by directors Jennifer, and his DOP Michael Savoie Pg13

John Zaritsky will be with us in person to talk about his long and colourful career.

Monday 17 Jul 2017

The BFG

Disney presents a Roald Dahl classic directed by Steven Spielberg. In an imaginative tale filled with magic, wonder and unexpected friendship, a young orphan girl is launched on an enormous adventure when she crosses paths with a mysterious being called the Big Friendly Giant. Not all giants are as friendly, many are nasty man-eaters, especially child eaters, so adventures, that include the Queen of England, ensue. Gobsmaekingly wonderful imagery and a delightfully complex BFG character played by Mark Rylance. Pg (some scary scenes)

cast: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton, Jemaine Clement, Rebecca Hall

Monday 24 Jul 2017

The Nature Of Inspiration with cinematographer Ian Toews

The Nature of Inspiration features intimate interviews with some of Canada's best visual artists, who discuss their work and its relationship to the environment. Featuring photographer Edward Burtynsky, mixed media artists Marlene Creates, Peter von Tiesenhausen, sculptor Dempsey Bob, and others. The Nature of Inspiration travels from coast to coast, documenting not only Canada's best artists, but some of its most breathtaking locations. Shot over a period of six years, the program is an unprecedented glimpse into the minds of the country's most important artists. Written, directed and shot by Ian Toews. G

A truly beautiful meditation on creativity where the cinematographer's art almost overwhelms as it portrays the artists themselves in their expression of the natural world.

plus other examples of Ian Toews' and 291Film Company's work

With producer/director Ian Toews for Q&A.

Monday 31 Jul 2017

Maudie

Maudie, based on a true story, is an unlikely romance in which the reclusive Everett Lewis (Ethan Hawke) hires a fragile yet determined woman named Maudie (Sally Hawkins) to be his housekeeper. Maudie, bright-eyed but hunched with crippled hands, yearns to be independent, to live away from her protective family and she also yearns, passionately, to create art. Unexpectedly, Everett finds himself falling in love. MAUDIE charts Everett's efforts to protect himself from being hurt, Maudie's deep and abiding love for this difficult man and her surprising rise to fame as a folk painter. Pg

We'll add an NFB short about Maud Lewis and discuss this modest but persistent outsider artist's legacy.

cast: Ethan Hawke, Sally Hawkins, Kari Matchett, Gabrielle Rose, Zachary Bennett

Monday 7 Aug 2017

Seven Year Itch

The perfect film for a warm summer evening, the kind where you might want to have your underwear cooling in the fridge.

In the midst of a summer heat wave, New Yorker Richard Sherman (Tom Ewell) ships his wife, and their son off to Maine for vacation. Left alone to work back in Manhattan, Richard encounters a gorgeous blonde model (Marilyn Monroe) who has moved into the apartment upstairs, and becomes immediately infatuated. While pondering infidelity, Richard dreams of his beautiful new neighbor -- but will his fantasies about her become a reality? Cleverly adapted for the screen (and self governing industry Hays Office censor board of the time) it includes some novel fantasy sequences and wonderful performances. We'll screen from a beautifully restored Bluray with extras. Pg

Sadly on the anniversary of Marilyn Monroe's death 55 years ago, Aug 5 1962 at 36.

cast: Marilyn Monroe, Tom Ewell, Evelyn Keyes, Sonny Tufts, Robert Strauss, Oskar Homolka

Monday 14 Aug 2017

Elvis & Nixon

1970, the King of Rock'n' Roll showed up on the lawn of the White House to request a meeting with President Nixon. He was looking to help out America by becoming a Special Agent. The badge would allow him to carry weapons and whatever else. In turn he would be an under cover agent, protecting his country from Communists and drugs. The official photo taken with Nixon has become the most requested in National Archives.

Kevin Spacey channels Nixon and Michael Shannon resurrects The King. for language (Nixon was bad for that)

It's been 40 years since Elvis died Aug 16 1977

cast: Michael Shannon, Kevin Spacey, Alex Pettyfer, Johnny Knoxville, Colin Hanks

Monday 21 Aug 2017

Call Of The Baby Beluga

Presented by filmmakers Michael Parfit

The story of this baby whale leads us on a larger journey through the amazing world of the endangered St. Lawrence beluga whales and the scientists who have worked for decades against long odds to help them. Like the story of the baby beluga, it is a tough trip in a beautiful place, a true tale of drama, uncertainty, camaraderie, hard work, achievement, perseverance, and love, brightened by a glimpse of hope. G with Michael Parfit narrating.

Plus a look at the work of this local filmmaking family (their son, David Parfit is a composer for film as well), makers of Saving Luna and many other projects, including books and work on IMax and National Geographics projects.

Monday 28 Aug 2017

I Called Him Morgan

On a snowy night in February 1972, celebrated jazz musician Lee Morgan was shot dead by his wife Helen during a gig at a club in New York City. The murder sent shockwaves through the jazz community, and the memory of the event still haunts those who knew the Morgans. This documentary is a love letter to two unique personalities and the music that brought them together. A film about love, addiction, murder, jazz and America, with amazing archival photos, great music and crisp interviews. 91min 2016 Pg

Thanks again to distributor FilmsWeLike - we like a lot of the same films.

Monday 11 Sep 2017

A Street Cat Named Bob

A Street Cat Named Bob This film tells the moving and life-affirming true story of the unlikely friendship between a young homeless busker, James Bowen, and the stray ginger cat named Bob who changed his life. With the real cat in the title role! Pg

Our guest: Dr Jane Vermeulen founded Vets For Pets in 2009 to help care for the animal companions of the homeless and low-income pet owners in Victoria. The clinic is partnered with Our Place Society and animals are seen on the second Thursday of each month (except February and July) in the courtyard and shipping/receiving room. The program is completely funded through donations and volunteer veterinary professionals from Victoria and southern Vancouver

Island. When the program started, there were 6 volunteers and 8 pets were seen. Now, there are over 15 volunteers and over 70 pets are seen each month.

Who better to bring this story home - about the value of pets?

cast: Luke Treadaway, Bob the Cat, Ruta Gedmintas, Joanne Froggatt, Anthony Head

Monday 18 Sep 2017

Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened

One of the truly legendary musicals in the history of Broadway, Merrily We Roll Along opened to enormous fanfare in 1981, and closed after sixteen performances. For the first time, Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened draws back the curtain on the extraordinary drama of the show's creation - and tells the stories of the hopeful young performers whose lives were transformed by it. Directed by Lonny Price, a member of the original cast, the film is a bittersweet meditation on the choices we all make, and the often unexpected consequences of those choices - through success and failure. Featuring exclusive appearances by Stephen Sondheim, Hal Prince, Jason Alexander, Mandy Patinkin, Adam Guettel, Frank Rich and the original Broadway cast of Merrily We Roll Along. Pg Simply THE BEST! I love this doc! Pg

Monday 25 Sep 2017

Drunktown's Finest with director Sydney Freeland

In collaboration with Transgender Studies and Writing Dept at UVic.

Three young Native Americans, an adopted Christian girl, a rebellious father-to-be, and a transgender woman, strive to escape the hardships of life on Navajo reserve. A first and powerful feature film from Sydney Freeland who grew up on the rez in Gallup New Mexico where the film was shot. Robert Redford came on as Exec Director and the film was workshopped at Sundance. It's one of those special gems that comes with an authentic heart. R.

Director Sydney Freeland, Trans and Aboriginal herself, will join us by Skype.

cast: Jeremiah Bitsui, Carmen Moore, MorningStar Angeline , Tailinh Agoyo, Loren Anthony

Monday 2 Oct 2017

The Stairs

In collaboration with CARBC Centre for Addictions Research of BC and Cinecenta**

The Stairs tells the story of Marty, Greg and Roxanne, each of whom survived decades of street-involvement. Using their experiences to ease the paths of others, each performs social work in their old neighbourhood, while struggling to maintain their newly-found stability. Told over five years, The Stairs is a non-

judgemental character study of life on society's margins. Defying stereotypes through intimate portraits, its remarkable subjects are by turns surprising, funny, shocking and moving. 95min 2016 R

Intro and Q&A with Toronto director Hugh Gibson in person. This, his first feature, won the \$100,000 Rogers Best Canadian Film Award at the Toronto Film Critics Association Gala December 2016 and hopefully Jack Phillips, a Victoria street outreach worker and harm-reduction trainer for the Society of Illicit Drug Users.

Monday 9 Oct 2017

The Sun At Midnight

Kirsten Carthew's first feature film and first from the NWTerritories, this is story of an unexpected friendship between 16-year old runaway 'urban princess', and an older Gwich'in hunter. With central themes of environment and indigenous rights, this micro-budget, film captures the beauty and mood of life on the land in a northern summer (without the mosquitos) and a terrific adventure. Moving performances from leads Devery Jacobs and Duane Howard. Pg
cast: Devery Jacobs, Duane Howard, Mark Anderako, Sarah Jerome, William Greenland

Monday 16 Oct 2017

Waterwalker

With Ken Buck Bill Mason's canoeing partner and cinematographer

An ode to wilderness and those who have brought it to us.

We'll celebrate this feature-length documentary that follows naturalist Bill Mason on his journey by canoe into the Ontario wilderness. The filmmaker and artist begins on Lake Superior, then explores winding and sometimes tortuous river waters to the meadowlands of the river's source. Along the way, Mason paints scenes that capture his attention and muses about his love of the canoe, his artwork and his own sense of the land.

Mason also uses the film as a commentary on the link between God and nature and the vast array of beautiful canvases God created for him to paint. Features breathtaking visuals and exciting whitewater footage, with a musical score by Bruce Cockburn! 86min 1984 G

"Mason had always wanted the film to play theatrically, as he believed the big screen was the only way he could truly share the awe and wonder of Lake Superior with his audience." Here is your chance!

Q&A with Ken Buck, Mason's canoeing partner and cinematographer Ken Buck by phone. He was Bill Mason's friend and canoeing partner and he created the book Bill Mason: Wilderness Artist From Heart to Hand with the cooperation of the Mason family. He is a retired secondary school teacher of English literature, media studies and outdoor education. He worked as Bill Mason's cinematographer and

assistant editor for the award-winning series of films Path of the Paddle, Song of the Paddle and Waterwalker.

Monday 23 Oct 2017

The Big Sick

Based on the real-life courtship between Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon, THE BIG SICK tells the story of Pakistan-born aspiring comedian Kumail (played by himself), and a Caucasian American girl, played by Zoey Kazan, a relationship disapproved of by his traditional Muslim parents. When Emily is beset with a mystery illness, it forces Kumail to navigate the medical crisis with her parents, Beth and Terry (Holly Hunter and Ray Romano) who he's never met, while dealing with the emotional tug-of-war between his own family and his heart. R

cast: Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan , Holly Hunter, Ray Romano, Anupam Kher

Monday 30 Oct 2017

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial

35 years later we'll re-visit this classic Sci-fi story that has a Halloween twist. Elliott, a lonely boy who befriends an extra terrestrial, dubbed "E.T.", who is stranded on Earth. Elliott and his siblings help E.T. return home while attempting to keep him hidden from their mother and the government. The concept was apparently based on an imaginary friend Spielberg created after his parents' divorce in 1960.

It ranks as the greatest science fiction film ever made in many film ratings. G

cast: Dee Wallace, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote, Robert MacNaughton, Drew Barrymore

Monday 6 Nov 2017

Under The Sun

After years of negotiation the Russian director Vitaly Mansky was invited by the North Korean government to make a film about one girl and her family in the year she prepares to join the Children's Union, on the 'Day of the Shining Star' (Kim Jong-Il's birthday). "My father says that Korea is the most beautiful country." says eight-year-old Zin-mi. And so it might seem as Mansky films her in joyous, patriotic school pageants and in dance class, or with her parents, eating delicious food in their picturesque apartment. That's the propagandists' intent.

But they did not realize that Mansky kept filming even after they had shouted "Cut." UNDER THE SUN is the jaw-dropping result, a "surreal and sinister. real-life version of THE TRUMAN SHOW." A look into N Korea that will haunt you. -The Hollywood Reporter Pg Courtesy Icarus Films.

Monday 13 Nov 2017

The Glass Castle

Based upon Jeannette Wall's 2005 award-winning memoir, *The Glass Castle*, follows nonconformist nomadic parents (Woody Harrelson and Naomi Watts), whose aspirations and poor life skills make for a turbulent family life. Particularly colourful is their alcoholic father who would stir the three daughters and one boy's imagination with hope as a distraction to their poverty. A superb ensemble film featuring Brie Larson (*Room*). Lots to talk about here.

cast: Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, Naomi Watts, Ella Anderson, Chandler Head

Monday 20 Nov 2017

Harold & Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story

A fascinating and deeply moving account of the romantic and creative partnership between storyboard artist Harold Michelson and his wife, film researcher Lillian - a talented and generous couple once considered to be the heart of the industry. They became the film industry's secret weapons. Nobody talked about them, but everybody wanted them. Harold visioned the imagery Lillian made sure the details were right.

For sixty tumultuous years, Harold and Lillian weathered personal and professional setbacks while working on hundreds of films, many of them now classics, including *The Ten Commandments*, *The Apartment*, *The Birds*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Graduate*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, *Scarface*, *Full Metal Jacket*. Although the couple was responsible for some of Hollywood's most iconic examples of visual storytelling, their contributions remain largely uncredited.

Through an engaging mix of love letters, film clips and interviews (including candid conversations with Harold and Lillian, Danny DeVito, Mel Brooks, and Francis Coppola), home movies, and rare production art, *Harold and Lillian* lovingly chronicles a remarkable relationship and two extraordinary careers spanning six decades of movie-making history. Pg

Monday 27 Nov 2017

Angry Inuk

Anti-seal hunting campaigns have attracted high profile supporters, and with them, hefty financial contributions. Meanwhile, seal hunters are unjustly targeted for traditional practices that have supported them for centuries. With a way of life on the cusp of extinction, who's really at fault? How does a culture that exercises understated anger and finds peaceful ways to resolve conflict compete with animal activist groups that rely on anti-sealing sentiment they aggressively cultivate to underwrite their other causes?

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, whose family lives on Baffin Island, one of the regions hardest hit in economic terms by various protests and bans, uses her filmmaking

skills to organize and embolden a new tech-savvy generation of Inuit to stand up for their rights. PG

Hand.Line.Cod Set in the coldest waters surrounding Newfoundland's rugged Fogo Island, this short film follows a group of "people of the fish"- traditional fishers who catch cod live by hand, one at a time, by hook and line. Filmmaker Justin Simms takes viewers deep inside the world of these brave fishermen. Travel with them from the early morning hours, spend time on the ocean, and witness the intricacies of a 500-year-old tradition that's making a comeback. G

Monday 4 Dec 2017

Rumble: Indians who rocked the world

Here's the story of a profound, essential, and, until now, missing chapter in the history of American music: the Indigenous influence. Featuring music icons Charley Patton, Mildred Bailey, Link Wray, Jimi Hendrix, Jesse Ed Davis, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Robbie Robertson, Randy Castillo, and others, Rumble will show how these talented Native musicians helped shape the soundtracks of our lives. "Rumble" was Link Wray's raunchy 1958 instrumental that was deemed so dangerous it was banned on a bunch of radio stations - and revered by many rockers who followed. Pg

Monday 11 Dec 2017

He Named Me Malala

He Named Me Malala is an intimate portrait of Malala Yousafzai, who was near-fatally wounded when Taliban gunmen opened fire on her and her friends' school bus in Pakistan's Swat Valley. The then 15-year-old teenager, who had been targeted for speaking out on behalf of girls' education in her region of Swat Valley in Pakistan, was shot in the head, sparking international media outrage. An educational activist in Pakistan, Yousafzai has since emerged as a leading campaigner for the rights of children worldwide. This is a brilliant, elegant telling of her story! Pg13

She won a Nobel prize and has spoken at countless universities. In 2017 she became an honorary Canadian citizen and last August she gained admission to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford to study for a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Monday 18 Dec 2017

The Devil's Horn

From Adolphe Sax's workshop of the 1840's to the legendary era of jazz and bebop, it was forbidden by Nazis and Communists and banned by the Pope – gradually conquering all music genres. Throughout its 175-year history the saxophone has been both the most seductive and most feared instrument. Award-winning Canadian filmmaker Larry Weinstein illuminates and mythologizes the story of the saxophone, featuring its most legendary players as well as astonishing discoveries. The Devil's Horn explores the sax's longstanding curse

that stemmed from the difficult life of its mad inventor, and is still said to affect saxophonists who fall prey to the instrument's dark powers. Pg13

With special guests, two men bitten by sax fever; Joey Picasso and Erik Abbink. Also pianist Jacqueline Perriam.

Monday 28 Dec 2017

Kedi

A love letter to both Istanbul and the cats who live there.

Standing in contrast to the typical political media coverage of Turkey, Kedi provides an insightful, tender counterpoint through a playful cat's-eye view of Istanbul. Since the age of the Ottoman Empire, hundreds of thousands of cats roam free through the city's streets. The cats play an important role in the social fabric of Istanbul, acting as mirrors to the people and allowing them to reflect on their lives in ways nothing else could. The unique relationship between the people of Istanbul and their feline neighbours reveals the enduring humanity at the centre of bustling chaos and rapid gentrification. This one of a kind film explores a local phenomenon that serves as a symbolic meditation of the cultural essence of an ancient troubled city. G subtitled

Archives 2018

Monday 8 Jan 2018

BIG

Let's kick off this year revisiting this classic film from 1988 where a 12 year old, through a little magic, becomes BIG and tackles some of the many thrills and problems of being in an adult body early thirties and brilliant Tom Hanks. Great fun 30 years later. How we've all changed! Remember the piano dance scene? We have a beautiful Bluray version. Pg

Monday 15 Jan 2018

Lane 1974

Based on a true story, Lane is a 13-year-old girl coming of age on a Northern California commune in the 1970s. While Lane enjoys the freedom of living off-the-grid with her mother and younger siblings, she craves a stable "normal" life; a life she's only seen in pictures from a stolen Sears catalog. They begin moving from one unlikely situation to another, leaving normal life far behind. Scrounging for food and hitch-hiking, while her mother cadges cash and begs favors, Lane and her siblings rely on one another in an increasingly desolate and isolated emotional landscape.

Monday 22 Jan 2018

Southern Comfort

In collaboration with Transgender Studies and Writing Department at UVic.

Robert Eads is a middle-aged guy with a craggy face and a penchant for Waylon Jennings-style outlaw wear, lives in a trailer in rural Georgia, drives a pickup and likes to cook up a mess of barbecue for his family. That Robert is dying of a female illness is the biggest, saddest irony.

You're about to visit a group of friends who will win your hearts and your empathy. The documentary's subjects treat their transsexuality offhandedly at times, obsessively at others, and the film offers a glimpse into their rarefied world.

Robert exudes serenity and a commitment to friends, family and a final trip to Southern Comfort, the annual Atlanta convention that serves as a touchstone for transgendered people.... It is his resolute kindness that helps him build a community of friends and loved ones and that gives "Southern Comfort" its punch. - SFgate.com Pg13 With discussion.

Monday 29 Jan 2018

Crazy Art

A compelling documentary on the role of creative expression in recovery from mental illness. The film features three artists, based in Santa Barbara, California: Trinaty Wakefield, Rodger Casier, and Lesley Grogan. The film explores how these

three mid-life adults - who have long wrestled with the symptoms of schizophrenia, mania and depression - use their artistic gifts to help them cope and thrive. Pg

Monday 5 Feb 2018

Victoria & Abdul

The extraordinary true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's (Academy Award winner Judi Dench) remarkable rule. When Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal), a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee, he is surprised to find favor with the Queen herself. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity. Pg13

Monday 12 Feb 2018

Bluefin

Bluefin In the stunning documentary Bluefin, director John Hopkins crafts a tale of epic stakes set in the "tuna capital of the world." Filmed in North Lake, Prince Edward Island, Canada, the film explores the baffling mystery of why the normally wary bluefin tuna no longer fear humans. John Hopkins documents this phenomenon with breathtaking cinematography and brings the issues into sharp focus, at the heart of which lies a passionate concern for the fate of these giant fish. G

Monday 19 Feb 2018

Coming Through the Rye

Coming Through the Rye, set in 1969, is a touching coming of age story of sensitive, 16 year old Jamie Schwartz, who is bullied at his all boys' boarding school. Disconnected from students and teachers, he believes he is destined to play Holden Caulfield, the main character of The Catcher in the Rye and has adapted the book as a play. Aided by a girl who also admires the story, Jamie goes on a quest for J. D. Salinger's unlikely permission to stage his adaptation. With Alex Wolff, Stefania LaVie, and Chris Cooper, the film is written and directed by James Steven Sadwith, based on Sadwith's own quest to find Salinger. Pg13

Friday 26 Feb 2018

A New Economy

What if working together for the good of all was the most common business model? What a Canadian concept! Watch as several organizations strive towards building a more cooperative future. By putting humanity before the bottom line, they are finding their place in a new economy no longer dominated by profits and big business. By Vancouver filmmaker Trevor Meier. G

In our setting the mental health ramifications of good and adequate food, ability to prepare it well, and especially community engagement are important aspects modelled here.

We'll have local food security and community building speakers with us for discussion.

Monday 5 Mar 2018

Brad's Status

A very provocative film that looks at how we compare ourselves with others. Brad in a bit of a midlife introspective crisis is really hi-centered, comparing himself to his more successful cohort of old friends (Luke Wilson, Jemaine Clement, and Michael Sheen), as he attempts to help his boy apply for high end universities. Shades of Ben Stiller's own Walter Mitty film. 101 minutes 2017 14A

Monday 12 Mar 2018

Geek Girls

Geek Girls is the first feature-length documentary exploring the hidden half of fan culture: nerdy women. Although geeky communities have recently risen to prominence as major cultural contributors, very little attention has been directed towards the women who live and work with nerd culture on a daily basis.

Montreal filmmaker Gina Hara addresses this oversight by delving into a world of professional gamers, cute dresses, fake names, and death threats; she follows her subjects through the exhilaration of newfound community and the ennui of ostracization while also exploring her own struggles with her geek identity. PG13

Monday 19 Mar 2018

The Waterboys

Crime novelist Victor and his twenty-year-old cello playing son Zack both have become single. During a trip to Scotland they are forced to confront themselves and finally get to know each other. A funny and touching film about fathers who have to grow up and sons who should take life a little more easy. Great music of The Waterboys helps bring them together. A top pick of the VFFest. 14A Some subtitles

Monday 26 Mar 2018

A Dog's Life

In large cities (and ours) with a substantial homeless population, it's a common sight to see panhandlers on the sidewalk huddled up on a cold winter's day with their loyal dogs. Some wonder how they can afford to take care of a pet, let alone themselves. What's important to realize is that these dogs provide many homeless people with a lifeline-they offer unconditional love to those who have often suffered abuse, as well as stability and warmth on cold nights. But few shelters accept pets, forcing people already isolated and marginalized to make the incredibly difficult decision to give up their beloved animals if they want a roof and a bed. Most choose to live outside instead. A Dog's Life offers touchingly poignant stories of life on the streets of Toronto and Montreal by exploring the

unique relationship between people struggling with homelessness and their canine companions. Lynne Fernie - Hot Docs 14A Some subtitles

Our guest: Dr Jane Vermeulen founded Vets For Pets in 2009 to help care for the animal companions of the homeless and low-income pet owners in Victoria. They partner with Our Place Society where over 15 volunteers work with 70 pets in a clinic each month.

Monday 2 Apr 2018

Pleasantville

An amazing feat of filmmaking and terrific early roles for Tobey Maguire and Rees Witherspoon. They are two siblings who wind up trapped in a B&W 1950s TV show, set in a small Midwest town, where residents are seemingly perfect. In their attempts to fit in, the two become more aware of social issues such as racism and freedom of speech. A film that barely won back its cost at the time, but a nugget. What a fascinating concept - colour gradually starts showing up as they disturb the status quo. Pg

Monday 9 Apr 2018

Lady Bird

Christine "Lady Bird" MacPherson is a high school senior from the "wrong side of the tracks." She longs for adventure, sophistication, and opportunity, but finds none of that in her Sacramento Catholic school. We follow her through her first romance, her participation in the school play, and most importantly, her applying for a distant college, her hope to break from the low expectations all around hold for her. Actor Greta Gerwig's first effort as director is a breakout hit. 14A

Monday 16 Apr 2018

Rebels On Pointe

After the Stonewall Riots in 1994, in the heart of Manhattan's Meatpacking District a dance troupe was formed. Since then, all-male drag troupe Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo have been delighting audiences around the world, performing, among other things, Swan Lake as Tchaikovsky never imagined it in his wildest dreams. In size 11 toe shoes, the Trocs send up the high art and formality of classical ballet, fashioning a spectacle that is entertaining as hell in the process. By Montreal based filmmaker Bobbi Jo Hart PG

Monday 23 Apr 2018

I, Tonya

A favourite pick of mine from last year's crop. There's lots of rough language and domestic violence but a wonderful, unique screenplay and brilliant performances. Tonya was a (another) spirited girl, written off by the skating community as trailer trash, couldn't get a break even though her skating was brilliant. Add a determined but destructive mother and a few other misguided people trying to help her. Here is at least a version of 'the incident', the attack on Tonya's teammate, Nancy Carrigan, before the '94 Olympics. But every story has a many

versions. Tuck into this absorbing, well told story. 14A - shades of Slumdog Millionaire and Bernie. 14A

Monday 30 Apr 2018

Faces Places

89-year-old Agnès Varda, one of the leading figures of the French New Wave, and acclaimed 33-year-old French photographer and muralist, JR, teamed up to co-direct this enchanting documentary/road movie. Together they travel around villages of France in JR's photo truck meeting locals, learning their stories, and producing epic-size portraits of them. The photos are prominently displayed on houses, barns, storefronts, and trains revealing the humanity in their subjects, and themselves. Faces Places documents these heart-warming encounters, as well as the unlikely, tender friendship they formed along the way. France 89. PG subtitles

Monday 7 May 2018

Paddington

Somehow we missed screening this charming animated film when it first came out. Paddington brings a beloved children's character into the 21st century without sacrificing his essential charm, delivering a family-friendly adventure as irresistibly cuddly as its star. A young Peruvian bear travels to London in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone at Paddington Station, he meets the kindly Brown family, who offer him a temporary haven. With Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins. Pg

Paddington 2 coming soon!

cast: Tim Downie, Madeleine Worrall, Lottie Steer, Geoffrey Palmer, Theresa Watson

Saturday 12 May 2018

Unrest

Jennifer Brea's Sundance award-winning feature documentary is a personal journey from patient to advocate to storyteller. Jennifer is twenty-eight years-old, working on her PhD at Harvard, and months away from marrying the love of her life when a mysterious fever leaves her bedridden. When doctors tell her it's "all in her head," she picks up her camera as an act of defiance and brings us into a hidden world of millions that medicine abandoned.

In this story of love and loss, newlyweds Jennifer and Omar search for answers as they face unexpected obstacles with great heart. Often confined by her illness to the private space of her bed, Jennifer connects with others around the globe. Like a modern-day Odysseus, she travels by Skype into a forgotten community, crafting intimate portraits of four other families suffering similarly. Jennifer Brea's wonderfully honest and humane portrayal asks us to rethink the stigma around an illness that affects millions. Unrest is a vulnerable and eloquent personal documentary that is sure to hit closer to home than many could imagine. 98min 2017

Refreshments to be served before the film. Stay for the post screening panel Q&A with people who live with ME/FM.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), commonly known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS, is a devastating multi-system disease that causes dysfunction of the neurological, immune, endocrine and energy metabolism systems. It often follows an infection and leaves 75% of those affected unable to work and 25% homebound are bedridden. An estimated 15-30 million people worldwide have ME.

Monday 14 May 2018

Meet Beau Dick: Maker Of Monsters

Beau Dick was a Kwakwaka'wakw (Alert Bay area First Nation) artist and hereditary chief who died at 61 just last year as this documentary was being finished.

In Meet Beau Dick: Maker Of Monsters, directors LaTiesha Ti'si'tla Fazakas and Natalie Boll share an intimate profile of this charismatic man, with a particular focus on his work and his cultural-activist passion. Beau Dick's remarkable work has been celebrated across the global art scene as vibrant expressions of West Coast Indigenous culture and a sophisticated crossover into the contemporary art world. Dick had an unprecedented ability to tap into the collective memory of his people and breathe new life into age - old traditions. Beau's celebrity status called attention to the injustices done to his people and the environment. Pg

Meet special guest, Linnea Dick

Linnea Dick, Beau Dick's daughter, is an Indigenous writer, orator & activist, from the Nisga'a & Tsimshian nations on her mother's side and the Kwakwaka'wakw nation on her father's side. She became involved in indigenous activism in 2013 with a conviction to create social change and help heal the injustices faced by Indigenous people. Through this work, she began to heal and recognize her purpose in life - to advocate for indigenous youth, culture and sexual assault victims through public speaking and, later, curating. Her late father is one of her greatest inspirations in life, while she continues on her own path in life. Her hope is to inspire others to speak their truths and create a space where they can share their gifts, too.

Monday 21 May 2018

Paddington 2

Paddington 2 finds Paddington happily settled with the Brown family in Windsor Gardens, where he has become a popular member of the community, spreading joy and marmalade wherever he goes. While searching for the perfect present for his beloved Aunt Lucy's hundredth birthday, Paddington spots a unique pop-up book in Mr. Gruber's antique shop, and embarks upon a series of odd jobs to buy it. But when the book is stolen, it's up to Paddington and the Browns to unmask the nefarious thief, played with full gusto by Hugh Grant. G

cast: Michael Gambon, Imelda Staunton, Ben Whishaw, Madeleine Harris, Samuel Joslin

Saturday 26 May 2018

The Unofficial Trial Of Alexandra Morton

Alexandra Morton, a vocal independent biologist turned activist must endure a barrage of questions from industry and government lawyers in a federal inquiry in Canada, the Cohen Commission into the Decline of the Sockeye salmon.

Expecting that her years of research into the detrimental effects of open ocean fish farms would find a place in a sea of evidence, she is instead questioned on her qualifications and integrity.

Here's a courtroom drama as fascinating as any fictional courtroom drama, but this is about the attempt to discredit and muzzle those standing up for our incredibly valuable resource, the salmon. It's a historical event but currently very pertinent to the news breaking about still more problems with in ocean net raising of Atlantic salmon; sea lice, disease transmission, escapement, pollution etc. Our NDP/Green government is currently making critical decisions based on these kinds of inquiry and industry pressure. (Pg?)

Q&A with Scott Renyard, Vancouver-based filmmaker and scientist, with a Masters in Science in Resource Management and Regional Planning from UBC, and long time fish advocate.

And with Alexandra Morton by phone Alexandra Morton is an independent biologist publishing research on the devastating impact of salmon farm disease and sea lice on wild salmon and whales.

Monday 28 May 2018

Shut Up and Say Something

A big man with a big heart and a very big message. Shane Koyczan is a much celebrated Canadian spoken-word poet. He has touched audiences far and wide with the generous intensity of his live performances, viral animated videos, TED Talks, a libretto for the opera Stickboy and the unforgettable opening ceremonies for the 2010 Olympics where hundreds of new fans came on board the Shane train. In her film "Shut up and Say Something", Melanie Wood has captured the performer, the young boy who was bullied, the grandson grateful for the love of his Grandmother, the son trying to forgive his father and the man in search of who he really is. PG - Coarse Language. Q&A with Vancouver filmmaker Melanie Wood.

Thursday 31 May 2018

Chomavision (test screening)

By invitation feedback screening of Bruce Saunders' documentary about bipolar artist Bob Choma.

Monday 4 Jun 2018

Wild Horse Redemption

At a prison in the high desert foothills of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, hardened criminals are taught the training methods of 'horse whisperers' and given 90 days to tame wild mustangs taken from the herd that roams government lands. Failure

means one more defeat for the inmate; success could save both lives. Most of the inmates who volunteer for this unique rehabilitation program have never ridden a horse before. Can two wild creatures - prisoner and mustang - help each other to a better life? With John Zaritsky, the most colourful filmmaker I know.

Monday 11 Jun 2018

All That Jazz

Here's director/choreographer Bob Fosse's outrageous vision based on his own life (and death) story. He details the colourful character of Joe Gideon, a womanizing, drug-using dancer. This is a wild and wonderful screenplay with classic Fosse dance routines, Roy Scheider leading, Jessica Lange as "Angelique", his angel of death and a terrific ensemble of others. Justly nominated for nine Oscars and winning four for Best Music, Original Song Score and Its Adaptation or Best Adaptation Score, Best Art Direction, Best Film Editing and Best Costume Design R strong imagery, some nudity

cast: Roy Scheider, Jessica Lange, Leland Palmer, Ann Reinking, Cliff Gorman, Ben Vereen

Monday 18 Jun 2018

Cannery Row

Cannery Row the film that started this great adventure.

This was the film at a very tentative Movie Monday back on June 14, 1993. Still a favourite, now we are for the first time showing it in a beautiful wide screen DVD version. I love this film for its off-beat, almost surreal setting and colourful characters, based on John Steinbeck stories Cannery Row and Sweet Thursday. The yarn is set in an abandoned sardine cannery with a brooding ocean biologist (Nick Nolte) and a fresh-faced girl (Debra Winger), a novice at the 'oldest profession', plus a group of creative ne'er-do-wells, and a few thousand frogs.

What could possibly go wrong? PG

There's going to be cake!

cast: Nick Nolte, Debra Winger, Audra Lindley, Frank McRae, M. Emmet Walsh

Thursday 21 Jun 2018

Miriam, 15 min

For Jim Knox, a by invitation, crew and community screening for this short film.

Monday 25 Jun 2018

The S Word

The S Word a collaboration with Connections Place, an International Clubhouse in the making.

A suicide attempt survivor is on a mission to find fellow survivors and document their stories of unguarded courage, insight and humour. She discovers a national community rising to transform personal struggles into action. Pg13 with discussion.

By Lisa Klein, the director of THE S WORD. "As a survivor of both my father's and brother's suicides, I have struggled with the 'whys' for years, along with the guilt, shame, and confusion that lingers in suicide's wake. I will never know why my dad ended his life. And, nobody talked about my brother. My mother could never

bring herself to say the words, "My son killed himself." No mother should have to say that. Ever. There is no more highly charged personal issue for me, and for that reason I am driven to document it and open a much needed conversation. It is time for us to boldly talk about suicide because no family should have to experience that which radiates outward for generations to come."

Monday 2 Jul 2018

Maudie

This instant Canadian classic is based on the life story of an East coast folk art legend. In this unlikely romance, the reclusive Everett Lewis (Ethan Hawke) hires a fragile yet determined woman, Maude Lewis (Sally Hawkins) to be his housekeeper. She's hunched and with arthritic hands, but bright-eyed, willing and yearns to be independent, and needs to live away from her discouraging family. She also yearns, passionately, to create art. Maudie charts Maudie's deep and abiding love for this difficult man and her surprising rise to fame as a folk painter. Pg

Monday 9 Jul 2018

Martin's Hagge & Shiners: The Art of The Shine

Double feature: First is Martin's Hagge is Gordon Pinsent's screenplay, a short film that explores quite graphically, a man's struggle with the East Coast concept of depression, in the shape of Sheila McCarthy. PG sexually suggestive scene, coarse language

Phone in Q&A with filmmaker Penny Eizenga of dog-eared productions inc.

Gordon Pinsent talked about The Hagge.

cast for Martin's Hagge: Paul Braunstein, Seema Doad, Martha MacIsaac, Sheila McCarthy

plus: Shiners: The Art of The Shine This beautifully produced documentary travels the world to look at the current art, and it can be a high art, of shoe shining, what it can do for the shoes and the people do are the artists and care-givers. PG coarse language

Monday 16 Jul 2018

The Post

Steven Spielberg directs Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in The Post, a thrilling drama about the unlikely partnership between The Washington Post's Katharine Graham (Streep), the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and editor Ben Bradlee (Hanks), as they race to catch up with The New York Times to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spanned three decades and four U.S. Presidents. Pg (for language and brief war violence)

Monday 23 Jul 2018

DEEJ

Your local autism community invites you to a remarkable evening of autism cultural sharing, with panel speakers, synth music, and an autism documentary "Deej."

This documentary follows nonspeaking young man's dreams of autistic civil rights, challenging his peers and us all to live inclusion.

DJ "Deej" Savarese writes, "I won the lottery when my parents adopted me from foster care; I won it again when they included me in regular education. Now, I seek to help kids much less fortunate than I by showing people what a nonspeaking student with autism can do.

In Deej, the camera intrudes on every aspect of my life. If seeing truly is believing, then perhaps eyes can be opened to the full potential of kids with significant disabilities. Shot over a six-year period, Deej reveals not only what the ideal of full inclusion requires but also what it can accomplish." G sexual language

*Autism's Own Conference is a celebration of Autism's Own Journal. Autism's Own is a University of Victoria peer-reviewed journal about autism culture authored and edited completely by persons on the autism spectrum.

Monday 30 Jul 2018

Living in HOpe

Living in HOpe is a new 4-part documentary series that captures everyday life the new HOpe Psychiatry & Education Centre at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver.

At HOpe Center, patients and practitioners work together on a bold, radically human approach to mental health. A film crew was given unprecedented access to its patients and staff. They spent a year in their lives, and we share their stories.

The filmmaker and research team are pleased to announce a preview screening of Living in HOpe, Part 1: Another Day in Paradise, rating TBA

This screening will be held as part of a study to evaluate the impact of Living in HOpe on attitudes towards people with mental illness. People who attend the screening will be asked to participate in this research project by filling out an online questionnaire before and after the screening and one month later.

Dr. Erin Michalak, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UBC will be the Principal Investigator of the academic research being conducted in association with the television series Living in HOpe . One of the most prevalent barriers to accessing treatment for mental illness is stigma (prejudice and/or discrimination towards people with mental illness). Research shows that experiences of stigma lead some

people to avoid or stop treatment; especially stigma in health care settings. An anti-stigma intervention is a tool that improves public knowledge about mental health and positively impacts attitudes towards people with mental illness. Dr. Michalak will work with Stranger Productions to assess the impact of an arts-based intervention - a 4-part documentary series - on stigma related to mental illness. She has designed a sophisticated mixed-method evaluation (Questionnaire) to measure the short and long term impacts of the documentary series from diverse viewers. The questionnaires will be administered before and after the public screenings. We expect the research to have meaningful impact on the discourse around how to effectively integrate Art and Science to shape society's view of people with mental health conditions.

Monday 6 Aug 2018

Far From Home

Canadian filmmaker Phillip Borsos', had a short but bright career (Grey Fox (1982) Bethune: The Making of a Hero (1990), and several brilliant shorts like Spar Tree and Nails), before being felled by Leukemia. This last film, Adventures, is overlooked as "family entertainment", but it is favourite of mine; a rollicking, realistic story about a boy and his dog surviving on our Vancouver Island's rugged west coast, after his dad's fish boat is wrecked. PG

Monday 13 Aug 2018

Leaning Into The Wind

Leaning Into The Wind - Andy Goldsworthy follows Andy on his exploration of the layers of his world and the impact of the years on himself and his unique and extraordinary art, work that interacts with the natural world. As Goldsworthy introduces his own body into the work it becomes at the same time even more fragile and personal and also sterner and tougher, incorporating massive machinery and crews on his bigger projects.

'Leaning Into The Wind' will be a joy both to lovers of 'Rivers and Tides' and Andy Goldsworthy, but it will also welcome, delight and move newcomers. G

Monday 20 Aug 2018

Coco

Despite his family's generations-old ban on music, young Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel enters the stunning and colourful Land of the Dead. After meeting a charming trickster (dog) named Hector, the two new friends embark on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. A great story and music, this Disney/Pixar show justifiably won the 2017 Oscar for Best Animated Feature. G

Monday 27 Aug 2018

Heaven Can Wait

It's been 40 years since Warren Beatty, Julie Christie lit up the screen with this romantic fantasy. Beatty is a football player mistakenly taken to heaven before his time. The heavenly bureaucracy tries to make amends by dropping him back, but in the body of an eccentric billionaire who's involved in schemes involving the ecological destruction. He's besieged by protesters, including a British ecologist played by Julie Christie. Our protagonist also wants to get back to football. As you can imagine, (or barely remember), it's complicated, and fun. PG

cast: Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, James Mason, Jack Warden, Charles Grodin, Dyan Cannon

Monday 10 Sep 2018

The Rider

Based on a true story, The Rider stars breakout Brady Jandreau as a once rising star of the rodeo circuit warned that his competition days are over after a tragic riding accident, leaving him a brain injury. Back home, Brady finds himself wondering what he has to live for when he can no longer do what gives him a sense of purpose: to ride and compete. Director Chloë Zhao of this wonderfully caught the feel of the country and the cowboy life style, with several of the actors including the lead and family members, playing themselves. R (for language and pot use)

cast: Brady Jandreau, Tim Jandreau, Lilly Jandreau, Cat Clifford, Terri Dawn Pourier

Monday 17 Sep 2018

Son In The Barbershop, Nous Avions, Soggy Flakes, Palissade, Disco Obu Lions In Waiting, Flash Flood

Son In The Barbershop 7:21 min

Nous Avions - Time Flies 18:00 min

Soggy Flakes 5:29 min

Palissade 8:44 min

Lions In Waiting 17:16 min

Flash Flood 6:00 min

Disco Obu 20:00 min

Monday 24 Sep 2018

Song Of Granite

Enigmatic and complex, Joe Heaney was one of the greats of traditional Irish singing (sean nós). Shaped by the myths, fables, and songs of his upbringing in the west of Ireland, his emergence as a gifted artist came at a personal cost. The B&W cinematography is striking and the reverence for the music and unusual, intense style of this film make it stand out. NR

cast: Michael O'Chonfhlaola, Macdara Ó Fátharta, Jaren Cerf, Pól Ó Ceannabháin

Monday 1 Oct 2018

Call Me By Your Name

Here is a sensual and transcendent tale of first love, in the summer of 1983 in the north of Italy, a precocious 17-year-old American-Italian, spends his days in his family's 17th century villa transcribing and playing classical music, reading, and flirting with his friend Marzia. One day, Oliver, a charming American scholar working on his doctorate, arrives as the annual summer intern tasked with helping Elio's father, an eminent professor specializing in Greco-Roman culture. Amid the sun-drenched splendor of the setting, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer. James Ivory wrote the script that handles the story so well. R (for sexual content, nudity and some language)

cast: Armie Hammer, Timothée Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg, Amira Casar, Esther Garrel

Monday 8 Oct 2018

Itzhak

Itzhak Perlman's violin playing evokes the celebration and struggles of real life. Alison Chernick's enchanting documentary looks beyond the sublime musician to see the polio survivor whose parents emigrated from Poland to Israel, and the young man who struggled to be taken seriously as a music student when schools saw only his disability. Itzhak himself is funny, irreverent and self-deprecating, and here his life story unspools in conversations with masterful musicians, family and friends, and most endearingly his devoted wife of 50 years, Toby. G

Monday 15 Oct 2018

Hearts Beat Loud

In the hip Brooklyn neighbourhood of Red Hook, single dad and record store owner Frank (Nick Offerman) is preparing to send his hard-working daughter Sam (Kiersey Clemons) off to college, while being forced to close his vintage shop. Hoping to stay connected through their shared musical passions, Frank urges Sam to turn their weekly "jam sesh" into a father-daughter live act. After their first song becomes an Internet breakout, the two embark on a journey of love, growing up and musical discovery. PG You'll enjoy our projectionist and film-guy-about-town Jason's birthday choice.

This is special presentation of Brett Haley's critically acclaimed new movie. Included is the music video Holding On also directed by Brett Haley, and a post-screening pre-recorded interview with Brett Haley which played earlier this year at the Indie Film Series at Capitol 6.

"The #1 Feel Good Movie of the Summer." — Mike McGranaghan, The Aisle Seat

"This is a movie you not only want to see, but also to put on the turntable." --
Peter Howell, The Toronto Star

cast: Kiersey Clemons, Ted Danson, Toni Collette, Sasha Lane, Blythe Danner

Monday 22 Oct 2018

My Cousin Vinny

Two New Yorkers are accused of murder in rural Alabama while on their way back to college, and one of their cousins--an inexperienced, loudmouth lawyer not accustomed to Southern rules and manners--comes in to defend them. One of the funniest movies of the 1990s with a great comedic lead from Joe Pesci, Fred Gwynne as the lovable judge ("What is a 'yute'?") and featuring an Oscar winning performance from Marisa Tomei for a performance that is still quoted to this day. "Oh, yeah, you blend!" 14a for language A Classic!

cast: Joe Pesci, Ralph Macchio, Marisa Tomei, Mitchell Whitfield, Fred Gwynne

Monday 29 Oct 2018

Three Identical Strangers

Identical triplets who were separated at birth and adopted by three different families miraculously find each other in their late teens and find they have remarkable similarities. Their amazing reunion becomes a global sensation but also unearths an unimaginable secret that has radical repercussions. Was it nature/nurture or genetic propensity that caused them and others to be so same and yet so different? This is a story that gets stranger and broader as it follows them as they age. Pg

cast: Silvi Alzetta-Real, Eddy Galland, Ron Guttman, David Kellman, Adrian Lichter

Monday 5 Nov 2018

RBG

At the age of 84, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a breathtaking legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. But without a definitive Ginsburg biography, the unique personal journey of this diminutive, quiet warrior's rise to the nation's highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans - until now. Her husband has been a huge supporter of her career too. This is first in a series about remarkable women. G

Monday 12 Nov 2018

Das Boot

We seldom hear about war making from the 'other side'. This amazing film takes us into the community of men in a compressed space - hunting and being hunted. It's the fictional but authentic story of the German submarine U-96 and its crew

during the Battle of the Atlantic in the winter of 1941, as they set out on yet another hazardous patrol. We experience both the excitement of battle and the tedium of the fruitless hunt, and meet the men serving aboard U-boats as ordinary individuals with a desire to do their best for their comrades and their country. This is a unique chance to see the 3.5 hour director's cut! R for coarse and suggestive language and wartime violence. Subtitled

Monday 19 Nov 2018

The Woman Who Loves Giraffes

In this lovely documentary we follow Dr. Anne Innis Dagg as she re-traces the steps of her groundbreaking 1956 solo journey to South Africa (at 23) to study giraffes in the wild – years before Jane Goodall started her work with primates. Director Alison Reid weaves through the past and present, her journey gives us an intimate look into the factors cost her her career, made her a crusader for women's equality and the happy circumstances that brought her back. If you liked Sugarman, and like giraffes, you'll love this film! G

Directed by Toronto-based Alison Reid Free Spirit Film.

Monday 26 Nov 2018

Ageless Gardens

Join us for a visual celebration of gardens – and gardeners – with a special emphasis on the role gardens can play in healthy ageing. The physical, mental, and social aspects of gardening can be important therapeutic factors in health and wellness. Gardening can bring us food, exercise, and keep our minds sharp as we age. Learning to adapt to changing physical, familial, and social situations is key to continuing to garden into our retirement years. This series made by Victoria-based filmmakers Mark Bradley and Ian Toews of 291 Film Company and David Springbett of Asterisk Productions. It features a number of great local gardens like Providence Farm and the Jubilee's Dr Inazo Nitobe Memorial Japanese Garden. G With special guests.

Monday 3 Dec 2018

La Bolduc

This is a charming portrait of a real life French Canadian superstar at the beginning of the 20th century. In Montreal, a poor and uneducated mother of a family managed to get her family out of poverty through her a resounding popularity of her Francophone Stompin' Tom-like folk songs. The film explores her challenges with the deeply ingrained mores of her Catholic faith and Quebec society of the time, that the women have the babies (as many as possible) and tend the home while the men should support the family. (Pg13?) subtitles

cast: Debbie Lynch-White, Émile Proulx-Cloutier, Bianca Gervais, Laurence Deschênes, Rose-Marie Perreault

Monday 10 Dec 2018

Jane

An intimate and exclusive documentary about Jane Goodall, featuring restored footage from the National Geographic Archives that has not been seen in 50 years, Helmed by a name documentary director, we'll use this footage to tell the story of one of the most influential and beloved figures in the natural history world, framed as Jane makes a return trip to Gombe 50 years after she first set foot there to launch a career that changed the world. Pg

Monday 17 Dec 2018

Tyrus

People worldwide have seen the Disney animated classic Bambi and been deeply moved by it, but few can tell you the name of the artist who set the unique visual theme of the film. But Tyrus' artist reach went to pottery, kite building, calligraphy, film storyboarding and more. Few are aware of this pioneering artist's impact on American art and popular culture. Until his death at the age of 106, Tyrus Wong (1910-2016) was America's oldest living Chinese American artist and one of the last remaining artists from the golden age of Disney animation. Recently he was honoured by a Google Doodle. What greater honour?! Rating?

Thursday 27 Dec 2018

The Indian In The Cupboard

On his ninth birthday, Omri is presented with many gifts - the most unusual being a cupboard. But this is no ordinary wooden box. It is endowed with magical power that transforms Omri's plastic toy figurines into living creatures. The first miniature to be animated is a 19th Century Iroquois warrior named Little Bear, who is terrified at first by his alien surroundings but soon bonds with his gigantic playmate. But when Omri's friend, Patrick, gets in on the act and brings a six-shooting cowboy (David Keith, U-571) to life, their fantastic secret is in danger of being revealed. The Indian in the Cupboard is terrific family entertainment from director Frank Oz (Bowfinger) and Melissa Mathison, the writer of E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial. Pg

cast: Hal Scardino, Litefoot, Lindsay Crouse, Richard Jenkins, Rishi Bhat

Archives 2019

Monday 7 Jan 2019

Leave No Trace

For years, a teenage girl, Tom, and her veteran father have lived undetected in Forest Park, a vast woods on the edge of Portland, Oregon. A chance passerby sighting alerts the attention of the authorities, causing the pair to be removed from the park and into housing and a more normal domestic lifestyle. But Dad has some demons haunting him. This new setup puts their relationship to the test; her conflicting desire to be part of a community, their close bond and Dad's fierce need for independence. It's a low key human story without typical bad guys, directed with a refreshingly light touch by Debra Granik.

cast: Thomasin McKenzie, Ben Foster, Jeffery Riffard, Derek John Drescher, Michael Draper

Monday 14 Jan 2019

Sammy Davis Jr: I've Gotta Be Me

This portrait of Sammy has everything. He was a song and dance man, so will entertain the heck out of you. He was a black, Jewish Puerto Rican, married a white woman, and a Nixon supporter all in the 80s - when none of those attributes were particularly cool, so uphill all the way. And later in his life blinded in one eye. But he kept on entertaining, singing, dancing impersonating, winning hearts. The most entertaining film I saw in 2018! Pg

Monday 21 Jan 2019

Mankiller

Wilma Mankiller humbly defied the odds and overcame insurmountable obstacles to fight injustice and gave a voice to the voiceless. And yet few people know her name (memorable as it is!). She overcame forced relocation, rampant sexism and personal challenges to emerge as the Cherokee Nation's first woman Principal Chief in 1985. "Mankiller" examines the legacy of this formidable woman, a "uniter", a liberal Democrat who could work constructively with conservative Republicans. In 1998, recognizing her impressive leadership and achievements, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Medal of Freedom. G

Monday 28 Jan 2019

Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far On Foot

The surprisingly touching, dramatized story of John Callahan (Joaquin Phoenix), whose life spirals downwards when, at the age of 21, he is left quadriplegic after a serious car crash. But with encouragement from his AA sponsor (Jonah Hill) and girlfriend (Rooney Mara), he forges a new career as an edgy, irreverent cartoonist. Stay to the end to hear a Callahan song Strong language, sexual references, politically incorrect cartoons. 14A

cast: Joaquin Phoenix, Jonah Hill, Rooney Mara, Jack Black, Tony Greenhand

Monday 4 Feb 2019

Lost In Paris

Fiona is a Canadian librarian who flies to Paris and discovers that her 88-year-old aunt is missing. As Fiona scours the city looking for her, she encounters Dom, a friendly but annoying tramp who won't leave her alone. "With its visually stylish sight gags and broad physical comedy, Lost in Paris blends the whimsy of Wes Anderson with the inventive slapstick of Jacques Tati." W. Post's Pat Padua Directors also play the goofy leads in this whimsical comedy with a Canadian twist. Pg (a few subtitles)

Monday 11 Feb 2019

Juliet Naked

Juliet Naked is the story of Annie (the long-suffering girlfriend of dopey Duncan) and her relationship with once revered, now faded, singer-songwriter, Tucker Crowe. The musician also happens to be the subject of Duncan's musical obsession. Annie writes a scathing review of Tucker's basement tape, a "naked" version of his early hit record. Tucker agrees with her assessment and their unlikely transatlantic romance develops, much to Duncan's consternation. 14A

Monday 18 Feb 2019

This Mountain Life

The awe that mountainous landscapes evoke is universal, yet most of us seldom venture into true wilderness. A mother-daughter team sets out for six months to tent and travel the 2300 km journey from Squamish, BC to Alaska in the winter mountains; a group of nuns inhabit a mountain retreat to be closer to God; a photographer buried in an avalanche; an impassioned alpinist; a focused snow artist; a couple who has been living off grid in the mountains for nearly 50 years. For them, the draw of the mountains is so strong that their lives must revolve around it. Shot in cinematic detail, This Mountain Life is a riveting portrait of human passion set high in the snowy peaks of Canada. Pg

Monday 25 Feb 2019

Lost Rivers

With a special presentation by Friends of Bowker Creek and of Rock Creek Nearly every major city was built near the convergence of many rivers. As cities grew with the Industrial Revolution, these rivers became conduits for disease and pollution. These rivers still run through today's metropolises, but they do so out of sight. Lost Rivers examines hidden waterways in cities around the world and introduces us to people dedicated to exploring and exposing them. Daylighting these lost rivers, like Bowker Creek, can bring a lot of vitality to our neighbourhoods.

Monday 4 Mar 2019

A Star Is Born

"Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga fuse their considerable talents to depict the raw and passionate tale of Jack and Ally, two artistic souls coming together, on stage

and in life. Theirs is a complex journey through the beauty and the heartbreak of a relationship struggling to survive". An easy choice; great music, classic story, well made. R (for language, some sexuality/nudity and substance abuse)

Monday 11 Mar 2019

God Knows Where I Am

God Knows Where I Am is the story of Linda Bishop, a well-educated New Hampshire mother who suffered from severe bipolar disorder with psychosis, who was intermittently incarcerated and homeless, inevitably being committed for three years to a state psychiatric facility. She wanted nothing more than to be out of hospital, to live freely, but after being discharged with no followup died of starvation in an abandoned house during a harsh New Hampshire winter.

"God Knows Where I Am is an extraordinary film that portrays brilliantly the inner reality of an intelligent and creative human being suffering from a serious and life threatening mental illness. The viewer will come away with not only appreciation of this amazing person but also the dysfunction in our system of mental health that allows for preventable tragedy after tragedy. We must do better." PG

Monday 18 Mar 2019

Bohemian Rhapsody

I loved this film start to finish. A great way to be reminded of the music of Queen if you weren't in the demographic at the time and to get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes struggles of this out-of-the-box innovator in the music business in the 70's and 80's. Terrific performances and stunning cinematography. This film was beloved by audiences, panned by many critics - you be the judge. Pg13

cast: Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Gwilym Lee, Ben Hardy, Joseph Mazzello

Monday 25 Mar 2019

Green Book

When Tony Lip, a bouncer from an Italian-American neighbourhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley, a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger - as well as unexpected humanity and humor - they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime.

I felt I was in good hands with this film right from the start. Based on a real story and written by Tony Lip's son. Pg13

"A supremely likable film. Its message might seem obvious and its template overcooked, but it boasts a warm heart, with two astoundingly good lead performances to guide it home."

"Mortensen and Ali both give fabulous performances in this feel-good road-trip drama that's part buddy comedy, part history lesson, and part social commentary on friendship and race. "

- Sandie Angulo Chen Common Sense Media

cast: Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali, Linda Cardellini, Sebastian Maniscalco, Dimitar D. Marinov

Monday 1 Apr 2019

The Search For John Gissing

Alan Rickman and Janeane Garofalo headline writer/director and actor) Mike Binder's fun comedy about an American businessman who is summoned to London under the auspice of overseeing an impending business merger, only to discover that he is actually being groomed to replace his British counterpart - who unfortunately has no intentions of giving up his job. There are many swichteroos in this hilarious film, just right for April Fools Day. PG13

cast: Alan Rickman, Mike Binder, Janeane Garofalo, Sonya Walger, Juliet Stevenson

Monday 8 Apr 2019

The Song And The Sorrow

Gene MacLellan (February 2, 1938 – January 19, 1995) was a Canadian singer-songwriter from Prince Edward Island. Among his compositions were "Snowbird", made famous by Anne Murray, "Put Your Hand in the Hand", "The Call", "Pages of Time" and "Thorn in My Shoe". Elvis Presley, Lynn Anderson, Loretta Lynn, Joan Baez and Bing Crosby were among the many artists who recorded MacLellan's songs. Musician Catherine MacLellan, the daughter of Canadian singer/songwriting legend Gene MacLellan, grew up surrounded by her father's music. He died of suicide when she was 14. Two decades after his loss, Catherine is finally ready to confront the hurtful mystery of her absent parent and embrace his musical legacy. Pg

Plus In The Valley Of The Wild Horses (23 min, 2018) This documentary follows members of the Tsilhqot'in community on a journey, on horseback and by wagon, intended to reconnect the youth back to their land, stories and traditions.

Three Thousand Inuk (14 min, 2017) artist Asinnajaq plunges us into a sublime imaginary universe—14 minutes of luminescent, archive-inspired cinema that recast the present, past and future of her people in a radiant new light.

Monday 15 Apr 2019

Finding Big Country

With filmmakers Michael Grand & Kathleen Jayme

While the Vancouver Grizzlies had a short-lived time in Vancouver, they still created a loyal following. Kat Jayme was one such superfan who fell in love with the team as well as one of its star players. Known as 'Big Country,' Bryant Reeves

was the team's first-ever draft choice. Originally from Oklahoma, he ended up becoming a scapegoat for much of the team's shortcomings. He was also known for his involvement in the community, giving back to children and fans alike. Since he retired with chronic back injuries, Reeves has eluded all of the journalists that have tried to track him down. For over 17 years he has been known as the 'holy grail' of interviews. That is, of course, until now. 44min 2018 G

Director Kathleen Jayme is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC, who is passionate about telling meaningful and personal stories. Her latest project "Finding Big Country" was the winner of the Vancouver International Film Festivals (VIFF) prestigious Audience Choice Award as well as the Must See BC award as voted by the VIFF audience.

She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia's Film Production Program and, among other credits, worked at the National Film Board of Canada where she coordinated and oversaw over thirty documentaries, animations, and digital projects through all stages of production. She also coaches basketball.

Producer Michael Grand spotted a young woman in a Vancouver Grizzlies Big Country Bryant Reeves jersey. Her name was Kat. While producing Finding Big Country is obviously the most important thing to know about Michael, there is more to his story. He was the Writer and Story Producer on the 10 part documentary series Abandoned for Viceland, and the writer of CBC's documentary Unbroken: The Snowboard Life of Mark McMorris. Most recently Michael has been producing comedy content for Kelly&Kelly who produce CBC's This Is That among other hilarious video and podcast content.

Plus The Accord A film about the turbulent relationship between Icelandic surfers and the North Atlantic wind, embodied as a wild, unpredictable Iclander.

Wednesday 17 Apr 2019

You Are Here: A Come From Away Story

What would you do if 6,600 people unexpectedly landed in your small town with no place to stay? For the 11,000 people of Gander, Newfoundland, this incredible event happened in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, when nearly 40 planes were rerouted and grounded there. This documentary shows how this town in Newfoundland came together to feed, shelter and support all of the stranded airline passengers for 6 days.

With interviews from a selection of airline passengers and residents of the town, this emotional and inspirational documentary tells the incredible true story that inspired the smash-hit musical Come From Away. You'll feel great about being Canadian!

Monday 22 Apr 2019

Midnight Run

Here's one that's just plain fun. Robert De Niro is a hard-bitten bounty hunter set on bringing in mild-mannered embezzler (Charles Grodin). Non-stop slam-bang action and chase sequences and some sweet moments as these two bond and double cross each other on a desperate trip from NY to LA in time to claim the 100K bounty. R (adult situations/language, violence)

cast: Robert De Niro, Charles Grodin, Yaphet Kotto, John Ashton, Dennis Farina

Monday 29 Apr 2019

Free Solo

Winner: Best Documentary Feature at the 2019 Oscars! Free Solo is an edge-of-your seat thriller and an inspiring portrait of Alex Honnold, an athlete who challenges both his body and his beliefs on a quest to triumph over the impossible as he tackles El Capitan, revealing the personal toll of excellence.

As the climber begins his training, the armour of invincibility he's built up over decades unexpectedly breaks apart when Honnold begins to fall in love, threatening his focus and giving way to injury and setbacks. Directors Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi succeed in beautifully capturing deeply human moments with Honnold as well as the death-defying climb with exquisite artistry and masterful, vertigo-inducing camerawork. G

Monday 6 May 2019

Dave

A rare big screen presentation in HD of a classic 1993 comedy by Canadian director Ivan Reitman and written by Gary Ross (we showed his legendary movie Pleasantville last year), starring Kevin Kline in one of his most memorable performances! Shifty White House chief of staff Bob Alexander (Frank Langella) hatches a scheme to use a double for the president (Kevin Kline) at a public photo opportunity. Small business owner Dave Kovic (Kline) fits the bill, but after the president suffers a debilitating stroke, opportunist Alexander arranges for Dave to step in full time without even informing the First Lady (Sigourney Weaver). It doesn't take long before the press, the nation and the president's wife realize something is different.

Big laughs, wonderful music score and beautifully filmed, this is a comedy in the spirit of Frank Capra that is rarely seen anymore. Rated PG

cast: Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Frank Langella, Kevin Dunn, Ben Kingsley, Charles Grodin

Monday 13 May 2019

Jordan Manley films - The Vancouver filmmaker presents three of his films

Crossing Home: A Skier's Journey This is the finale of a series by Jordan Manley, a world travelling skier and filmmaker. Chad Sayers and Forrest Coots go back to

the beginning - British Columbia. Embarking on a 3 week expedition, they boat, bushwack, ski, and packraft over the spine of the Coast mountains. A soulful meditation on the attachment to the land, from the Chilcotin to the West Coast, a cast of characters help them understand what that home truly means. (28 min 2016)

Curve Of Time Due to climate change, ski seasons will be markedly shorter by 2050. Lower elevations will receive significantly less snowfall. Professional skiers Greg Hill & Chris Rubens peer into the future and have a conversation with their future selves, contemplating the sobering forecast and the impact their thirst for adventure has on the very environment that sustains and fulfills them. With an eye on the clock, they launch themselves into an experiment: can they each remain committed skiers while significantly reducing their carbon footprints? (23 min 2017)

Treeline Manley's latest film, celebrates the forests on which humans have always depended. Follow a group of snow-seekers, scientists and healers to the birch groves of Japan, the red cedars of British Columbia, and the bristle cones of Nevada, as they explore an ancient story written in rings, roots and snow. Manley documents the fragile nature of some of the world's beautiful ecosystems, and some amazing skiing and riding along the way. (40 min 2018)

Jordan Manley is a Vancouver based photographer & filmmaker. His films are an effort to explore the human relationship with nature. Jordan produced and directed 4 seasons of the award winning "A Skier's Journey", a film series that examined the ties between landscape, culture, and skiing all over the world.

Monday 20 May 2019

The Love Punch

Emma Thompson and Pierce Brosnan head up a terrific cast of this fun caper film. A divorced couple plan to win back a huge sum that was corporately stolen in a sly business takeover. They enlist the help of a couple of equally inexperienced old friends to help them with a most unlikely scheme. (and I can't account for the title) Pg

"entirely ridiculous, cheerfully daft and very amiable midlife comedy" - Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian.

Monday 27 May 2019

Canyon War: The Untold Story

Canyon War covers the tumultuous events of 1858 in British Columbia around Fraser River Gold Rush. Some 30 to 40 thousand gold seekers had flooded into the Fraser Valley clashing with the Native inhabitants, culminating in the Fraser River War in August of that year. Many lives were lost on both sides, in a little-known war that could have escalated. Fortunately peace was finally concluded in Lytton through the diplomacy of Chief Spintlum of the Nlaka'pamux First Nation and Henry Snyder.

Through the descendants from this time, Kevin Loring and Dr. Daniel Marshall, this documentary with re-enactments provides a lasting legacy of this event and

as they visit the war's battlefields on the Fraser River - from the fight of Boston Bar to the peace at Kumsheen. Pg

Our Guest: Dr Daniel Marshall fifth-generation British Columbian whose Cornish ancestors arrived in the Pacific province in 1858, the year of the Fraser River gold rush, historian, and writer of the multi-award winning CLAIMING THE LAND: British Columbia and the Making of a New El Dorado will join us.

Monday 3 Jun 2019

Beautiful Boy

Based on the best-selling pair of memoirs from father and son David and Nic Sheff, Beautiful Boy chronicles the heartbreaking and inspiring experience of survival, relapse, and recovery in a family coping with addiction over many years. Terrific performances from Steve Carell and Timothée Chalamet and a great cast in a very moving portrayal of family relationships put to the ultimate test. Pg

Monday 10 Jun 2019

Chomavision: a bipolar journey

It's my birthday, and MM's 26th, and time to premiere my opus!

Chomavision is a feature documentary about an amazing Canadian artist, Bob Choma. His life has been a classic creative, chaotic story: an accomplished artist as a child, he became graphic artist and businessman, a cartoonist, futurist, story teller - general sparky guy. A graduate of Victoria's psychiatric hospital, Bob was challenged by classic Bipolar mood swings, prison time for counterfeiting, suicide attempts, and alcohol problems throughout a colourful life, but in his later years he was well and rediscovered his creative muse as an outsider artist.

My friend and fellow Bipolar traveller was determined to tell his story. It has taken only 25 years to get it done.

Beyond revealing one man's life journey, this film provides insights into the connection between the Bipolar condition and creativity - and how vital that connection is for some of us. Pg

With hanging of some of Bob's work and Q&A with the filmmaker - me.

Monday 17 Jun 2019

Carmine Street Guitars & Brick And Mortar And Love

Carmine Street Guitars Documentarian Ron Mann delivers a ballad to Greenwich Village guitar-maker Rick Kelly, who builds his unique custom-made instruments from repurposed wood scavenged from historic New York City buildings. With appearances by store clientele, including Charlie Sexton, Bill Frisell, and Jim Jarmusch. Pg

plus Brick And Mortar And Love Independent record stores are not just the place to buy a CD, they are cultural centres where music is learned, art is cultivated

and they are vitally important to the communities that they serve. 70 min 2013
Pg

Monday 24 Jun 2019

At Eternity's Gate

Here is a journey inside the world and mind of a person who, despite scepticism, ridicule and illness, created some of the world's most beloved and stunning works of art. This is not a forensic biography, but rather scenes based on Vincent van Gogh's letters, common agreement about events in his life that present as facts, hearsay, and moments that are just plain invented. Willem Dafoe is brilliant as Van Gogh. An intriguing take on the painter's death is presented. Pg

cast: Willem Dafoe, Rupert Friend, Oscar Isaac, Mads Mikkelsen, Mathieu Amalric

Monday 1 Jul 2019

Design Canada

The first documentary chronicling the history of Canadian graphic design and how it shaped our nation and its people.

In 2012, Design Canada began with a genuine curiosity about where the designs and symbols of Canada originated from. Director (and graphic designer) Greg Durrell began shooting the film on a Canon 7D. A year later, Greg met Jessica Edwards, a Canadian filmmaker living in Brooklyn and Gary Hustwit. The team spent 5 years crafting the Design Canada story. You'll meet the people who care intensely about the images that represent us (like our flag) and the filmmakers who care too. Made with the kind of determination, and beery budget that our filmmakers are famous for, this is the perfect film for Canada Day. Pg

Monday 8 Jul 2019

Apollo 11

Where were you that memorable night on earth half a century ago? A cinematic event fifty years in the making, crafted from a newly discovered trove of 65mm footage, and thousands of hours of uncatalogued audio recordings, Apollo 11 takes us straight to the heart of NASA's most celebrated mission - the one that first put men on the moon, and forever made Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin household names. G

Monday 15 Jul 2019

Six Primrose

grow> cook> share> engage Filmed on location at the Dartmouth North Community Food Centre, Six Primrose takes us into a community where strengths are highlighted, people are welcomed, and food is included in every engagement. Labels of single mother, new immigrant, disabled, addict, poor are left at the door. This is a community where lives are celebrated and opportunities are explored. Six Primrose chronicles the dramatic impact that accessing healthy food and a face to face social network has had on the people of this community, revealing the Food Centre's deep effect on the entire neighbourhood.

Discussion about local food security orgs.

Monday 22 Jul 2019

Old Boys

Here's an English public school version of the Cyrano de Bergerac story with a touch of The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner. This charming story about young romance and ridiculousness of 'old school' sports involves a geeky junior student, a thick-headed but handsome jock and a spunky French daughter of one of the profs. Pg

cast: Alex Lawther, Jonah Hauer-King, Pauline Etienne, Denis Ménochet, Joshua McGuire

Monday 29 Jul 2019

Leap Of Faith

Are You Ready For A Miracle? This movie is one. Steve Martin is brilliant as Reverend Jonas Nightengale, a slick-as-oil flimflam man who'll trade salvation for a donation to his touring ministry. Jonas knows how to work a crowd and a con, but his works of wonder are done with mirrors and smoke. When his tour bus breaks down, Jonas pitches his tent in impoverished Rustwater, Kansas. While his manager (Debra Winger) tries to persuade the local sheriff not to close the show, Jonas set his sights on a beautiful skeptic named Marva. But making a believer out of Marva is going to take a real miracle. Pg

cast: Steve Martin, Debra Winger, Lolita Davidovich, Liam Neeson, Lukas Haas

Monday 5 Aug 2019

No film. Closed for renovations.

Monday 12 Aug 2019

Buddy

Buddy is a documentary that showcases the deep bond between human and dog and how that working and loving relationship enriches both lives. Some of the owners: a plucky 86-year-old blind woman who runs with her dog, an autistic boy explains how his loyal friend Utah can tell when he's upset, the wife of a war veteran suffering from PTSD explains that the guide dog Mister is probably the reason they're still together. Pg Netherlands (well subtitled)

Monday 19 Aug 2019

Echo In The Canyon

Traversing a musical journey from Liverpool to California, Bob's son Jakob Dylan casts a new light on sounds of the 60s - sounds so deeply ingrained in our culture we might feel we imbibe them at birth. Laurel Canyon was a hot bed where The Byrds, The Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield and The Mamas & The Papas emerged. All were all influenced by the Beatles (and then went on to influence the Beatles

in turn). Modern day versions performed by Jakob and friends as well as the originals. A feast for 60s music lovers! Pg

Monday 26 Aug 2019

The Biggest Little Farm

An idealistic couple - he's a cameraman, she's a private chef - move an hour north of their home in L.A. to pursue their back-to-the-land ideals on 130 acres of parched dirt. Their dreams of happy sheep and peach trees soon yield to the cold realities of coyotes, record droughts, and rogue snails. The film chronicles their near decade-long attempt to create the utopia they seek, planting 10,000 orchard trees, hundreds of crops, and bringing in animals of every kind - including an unforgettable pig named Emma and her best friend, Greasy the rooster. "A thoughtful and often profoundly moving portrait of the remarkable work involved in producing mindful food - and an eloquent reminder that so much of what we take for granted on our plates is, in its own everyday way, a miracle." - Entertainment Weekly Pg

Thursday 29 Aug 2019

The Thinking Garden

This is a film about resilience - three generations of older women in a village in South Africa who came together in the dying days of apartheid to create a community garden. In the midst of severe drought and political turmoil, older women with limited access to land and little political voice joined together, beyond the household, beyond their kin, to make something new. Pg

The farmers are coming!

Mphephu, Josephine, and Basani will be in Victoria for research meetings - and will attend this film screening followed by Q&A

"A lovely film, rich with song and thought. Weaving the story of the garden with the bigger picture ... renders the triumph of the women all the more important."

- Raj Patel, author of Stuffed and Starved

"Speaks to the essence and significance of Food Sovereign communities." - Bellise Omondi, Food Sovereignty Campaign, South Africa

Monday 9 Sep 2019

Stan & Ollie

Laurel and Hardy, the world's most famous comedy duo, attempt to reignite their film careers as they embark on what becomes their swan song - a gruelling theatre tour of post-war Britain. A testament to the entertainers' life on the road, chasing their popularity and the challenge it puts on their relationships. Pg
cast: Steve Coogan, John C. Reilly, Shirley Henderson, Nina Arianda, Rufus Jones

Monday 16 Sep 2019

Amazing Grace

Here is Aretha Franklin recording the most successful gospel album of all time, Amazing Grace. The film is crafted from never before seen footage originally captured by Sydney Pollack and team in 1972 and shows Arthea wrapped in her gospel tradition, performing in a church with a responsive audience (including Mick Jagger) and choir and a charismatic, musically gifted reverend master of ceremonies. G

Monday 23 Sep 2019

Tales From The Winnipeg Film Group

The pioneering prairie postmodernists Guy Maddin and John Paizs and the other fiercely independent filmmakers incubated in the peculiar hothouse known as the Winnipeg Film Group have earned the Manitoba capital a worldwide reputation (and cult status) as a hub of strange, subversive, and stylistically out-there cinema. This new documentary, co-directed by Dave Barber, longtime programmer of the Winnipeg Cinematheque, and Kevin Nikkel, a Winnipeg documentarian and animator, offers a warts-and-all history of the legendary co-op, founded in 1974, and surveys the many distinctive talents.

Pg

Plus Will The Real Dave Barber Please Stand Up? Dave Barber was invited to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal. The awards ceremony was in a packed hall at the Legislative Building. Everything was going fine until. 4min 2014 G

We'll talk to the real Dave Barber live from Winnipeg!

Monday 30 Sep 2019

Creating Woodstock

In August 1969, nearly a half-million young people descended upon Max Yasgur's farm in upstate New York for the rock 'n' roll event that defined a generation. Creating Woodstock focuses on how it all happened, how they put it together and pulled it off - barely. It contains several little known stories shared on camera for the first time. If you've want to learn about this legendary concert event, and how one-of-a-kind it really was; the traffic snarl, the rain, the mud, the magic, the garbage, Ritchie Havens "filling", making up "Freedom" on the fly - then you've gotta see this one.

Monday 7 Oct 2019

Superkids 2

Too Smart for School? What to do with the Gifted Child? Victoria Premiere!

In 2004, Vancouver filmmakers Harry Killas and Ric Beirsto documented the high school choices of five elementary students identified as "gifted". As teenagers, the students here went on different paths, to mini-schools, to fast-track programmes

at UBC and elsewhere, but their choices all involved sacrifice. 10 years on, in Superkids 2, they reflect on how the system served them - or in some cases, failed. PG

With director and dad of one of the "Superkids" in the film, Ric Beirsto and Co-director/producer Harry Killas.

Dave Barber, filmmaker and long-time programmer will be calling in to talk about his films and even programming work, and both makers of the film Superkids 2 will be with us.

Monday 14 Oct 2019

You Are Here: A Come From Away Story

What would you do if 6,600 people unexpectedly landed in your small town with no place to stay? For the 11,000 people of Gander, Newfoundland, this incredible event happened in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, when nearly 40 planes were rerouted and grounded there. This documentary shows how this town in Newfoundland came together to feed, shelter and support all of the stranded airline passengers for 6 days. With interviews from a selection of airline passengers and residents of the town, this emotional and inspirational documentary tells the incredible true story that inspired the smash-hit musical "Come From Away". Returning by popular request! You'll feel great and thankful about being Canadian! Pg

Monday 21 Oct 2019

Trial And Error

A comedy of errors and a trial. Daniels plays an uptight lawyer, on the verge of getting married, and Richards his best friend actor. Daniels, a big city lawyer, is forced by his future father-in-law boss to take a case in the rural southwest. His loose cannon pal who tags along has to step in for him with zany results. By the makers of My Cousin Vinny. Pg 13

cast: Michael Richards (Kramer in Seinfeld), Jeff Daniels, Charlize Theron

Monday 28 Oct 2019

Yesterday

An immensely entertaining film by Danny Boyle poses the question, "What if you woke up one day and nobody had heard of The Beatles or their music"? You're a marginal musician. What a chance to be a star and gradually introduce their brilliant catalogue to the world as your own. And where does your girl fit into this sudden burst of fame.... A wonderful reintroduction to all your forgotten Beatles tunes. Pg

cast: Himesh Patel, Lily James, Sophia Di Martino, Ellise Chappell, Meera Syal

Monday 4 Nov 2019

Romantic Road

If one could only be as eccentric and adventurous as the English couple Rupert and Jan Grey. They decide to drive through India with a 1936 Rolls-Royce, a smoke-billowing and constantly breaking symbol of colonialism. Oliver McGarvey's film *Romantic Road* proves that not all Grey-haired Britons dream of quiet retirement days. The document is set on a six month period full of action and philosophical musings, falling into company with tea-wallahs and maharajahs, dodging tribal conflicts and battling with border-officials to get to a human rights festival in Bangladesh. Both a road movie and a biopic it is a warm depiction of a 35-year-long marriage. —Susanna Peltonen Pg

Q&A with filmmaker Oliver McGarvey by phone.

Monday 11 Nov 2019

They Shall Not Grow Old

This 2018 documentary film, directed and produced by Peter Jackson, was created using original footage of World War I from the Imperial War Museum's archives, most of it previously unseen, all over 100 years old by the time of release. Audio is from BBC and Imperial War Museum (IWM) interviews of British servicemen who fought in the conflict. Most of the footage has been colourized and transformed with modern production techniques, with the addition of sound effects and voice acting to be more evocative and feel closer to the soldiers' actual experiences. R strong war imagery

We're adding a 30min "making of" documentary showing the painstaking process of bringing the old B&W silent film to life.

Monday 18 Nov 2019

Marianne & Leonard: Words Of Love

This wonderful documentary starts on the Greek island of Hydra in 1960, where Leonard Cohen, then a struggling and unknown fiction writer, and Marianne Ihlen, a single mother with a young son, became part of community of expat artists, writers and musicians. Never-before-seen footage shot by Broomfield, a filmmaker and once-lover of Marianne, and legendary documentarian D.A. Pennebaker make for a unique portrait of an idyllic 1960's bohemia. It was a time that left a lasting imprint on both Marianne and Leonard, whose friendship would last another fifty years before their deaths in 2016. Some perplexing insights into lives of romantic artists like Cohen Sr.

Monday 25 Nov 2019

The Glass Castle

Here is a film that deserves another look. Having just read the memoir by Jeannett Walls it gave me a new appreciation of the screenplay that so brilliantly conveys the story of the sometimes close, sometimes totally dysfunctional family. Dad was a dreamer and alcoholic and Mum was a self obsessed artist, leaving their four kids to pretty much fend for themselves. In a strong ensemble cast, Woody Harrison's performance stands out as the perplexing parent, always falling

short of the dream of a Glass Castle he would build for the family, sometime.
Pg13 strong language

cast: Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, Naomi Watts, Ella Anderson, Chandler Head

Monday 2 Dec 2019

There Are No Fakes

Kevin Hearn of the Barenaked Ladies buys a painting by the world's first Indigenous art star: Norval Morrisseau the self-taught, self-destructive Native Canadian genius Chagall once dubbed "The Picasso Of The North," creator of the art style dubbed Woodland School. Hearn begins to doubt his painting's authenticity, and sues the gallery that sold it to him. He suddenly finds himself in the middle of two darkly comical feuding factions: all white people, each claiming to be the true defenders of this Native artist's legacy. At stake is the value of as many as 3000 Morrisseau paintings worth some \$30,000,000. 14A warnings: coarse and sexual language, talk of sexual abuse.

cast: Douglas E. Davidson, Sienna Demers

Monday 9 Dec 2019

The Farewell

"In this funny, uplifting tale based on an actual lie, a Chinese-born granddaughter finds that, although the whole family knows their beloved matriarch, Nai-Nai, has been given mere weeks to live, everyone has decided not to tell Nai Nai herself. To assure her happiness, they gather under the joyful guise of an expedited wedding, uniting family members scattered among new homes abroad. . masterfully interweaving a gently humorous depiction of the good lie in action with a richly moving story of how family can unite and strengthen us, often in spite of ourselves." Pg some subtitles

cast: Shuzhen Zhao, Awkwafina, X Mayo, Hong Lu, Hong Lin

Monday 16 Dec 2019

Maiden

"Maiden" is the story of Tracy Edwards, a 24-year-old cook on charter boats, who, in 1989, became the skipper of the first ever female crew to enter the Whitbread Round the World Race. She gaged her home and bought a hand, somewhat doubtful looking and the team reworked it to be tender - all in spite of the sexist doubters' dire predictions. 30 years later and from their own footage of the voyage plus current-day interviews, we get to relive all their challenges, hardships, and triumphs. Here is a well-told story that is truly a celebratory experience. P

Monday 23 Dec 2019

Mountain Men

Something light and homegrown for the holidays. Mountain Men is a comedy/drama that follows two estranged brothers, Toph and Cooper, as they

journey to a remote family cabin in the mountains to evict a squatter. The trip becomes a more like a survival mission with the bros working out their relationship. Filmed in the snowy backwoods in Revelstoke B.C. Calamities and good times make for a bonding experience - for us too! 14A

cast: Chace Crawford, Tyler Labine, Christine Willes, Britt Irvin, Ben Cotton

Monday 30 Dec 2019

Blinded By The Light

In 1987 England, a working class teenager from a strict Asian family learns to see beyond the narrow restrictions of his life, understand his family and find his own voice through the music of American rock icon Bruce Springsteen. Based on a true story, this film deals with serious themes of racism, economic depression and teenage alienation but is ultimately an exuberant, life-affirming anthem to the power of rock and roll. and you don't have to be a fan of "the Boss" to enjoy it.

Pg.

cast: Billy Barratt, Ronak Singh Chadha Berges, Viveik Kalra, Lee Barnett, Dean-Charles Chapman

Archives 2020

Monday 6 Jan 2020

Fiddler: Miracle Of Miracles

The origin story behind one of Broadway's most beloved musicals, Fiddler on The Roof, and its creative roots in early 1960s New York, when "tradition" was on the wane as gender roles, sexuality, race relations and religion were evolving. This is an incredibly satisfying documentary, full of surprises, about this beloved stage play that looked at first like it would fail: "There are no memorable songs in this musical". Norman Jewison's classic film version (that we'll be showing soon at MM) Is just a small part of this tale. Pg

Monday 13 Jan 2020

Wild Rose

Jessie Buckley delivers an unforgettable, star-making performance as Rose-Lynn Harlan, a rebellious country singer who dreams of trading the working-class streets of Glasgow for the Grand Ole Opry of Nashville. Fresh out of prison, Rose-Lynn juggles (but drops some balls) her menial job, two children, and concerned, doubting mother, as she pursues her bold ambition of a one-way ticket to musical stardom. With the support of her boss, Rose-Lynn embarks on a life-changing journey that challenges her sense of self and helps her discover her true voice. 14A

Sunday 19 Jan 2020

Artist Talk with Vic Sarin

In partnership with Movie Monday, CineVic is pleased to present an artist talk and discussion of work by Director / Writer / Cinematographer Vic Sarin.

Vic Sarin is one of Canada's most celebrated filmmakers, earning world renown as one of Canada's premier cinematographers. As a director, Sarin has won recognition for feature films such as Partition, A Shine of Rainbows and Cold Comfort and documentaries such as; Boy from Geita, Hue: A Matter of Colour, and Desert Riders. His latest film Keepers of the Magic is a personal passion project to Sarin; creating a distinct look and feel with unique storytelling that seamlessly weave together the emotional and visual aspects of his films. Sarin's films often explore the search for human connection.

A passionate and diverse filmmaker, Vic Sarin's career includes award-winning feature films, documentaries and television movies, some 150 projects and counting! Sarin began his career in Australia making documentaries while working for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation as a cameraman. He emigrated to Canada and went on to become one of Canada's most celebrated Directors of Photography, receiving numerous accolades including Genie, Gemini and Emmy nominations and awards. He is the recipient of the prestigious Kodak Lifetime Achievement Award for having created some of Canadian cinema's most moving and memorable images. Vic's outstanding work on feature films such as

Margaret's Museum, Whale Music, Bye Bye Blues, Dancing in the Dark and On My Own earned him world renown as one of Canada's premier cinematographers.

Sarin often wears both hats as Director and Cinematographer, and has worked in 3D and IMAX formats, creating a distinct look and feel with breathtaking visuals and a unique storytelling style that seamlessly weaves together emotional and visual aspects. As a director, Sarin has won recognition for a diverse range of films such as the feature Cold Comfort, starring Maury Chaykin and Paul Gross, which garnered five Genie (Canadian Academy Award) nominations including Best Picture. He has received Emmy nominations for his family films for television: In His Father's Shoes, starring Lou Gossett (five Emmy nominations including Best Direction and Best Picture), Sea People starring Hume Cronyn, (four Emmy nods including Best Direction and Best Picture) The Legend of Gatorface and Trial at Fortitude Bay starring Lolita Davidovitch and Henry Czerny which garnered both Emmy and Cable Ace nods. He received critical acclaim for the controversial television movie, Murder Unveiled – A Love Story.

Sarin's films, though unique in character and setting, share a common thread -- the exploration of the human need for connection, tolerance and opening the boundaries of the human heart. Sarin has recently completed Desert Riders, a feature documentary exploring the world of children camel jockeys in the Middle East, the globally-shot feature documentary Hue: A Matter of Colour, an exploration of colourism in various cultures through Sarin's perspective, and The Boy From Geita, following the journey of a young Tanzanian boy with albinism.

Monday 20 Jan 2020

Keepers Of The Magic

Legendary Canadian filmmaker Vic Sarin will be with us in person to present his ode to his fellow cinematographers.

Keepers of the Magic celebrates the breathtaking cinematic images that have transfixed audiences around the world. This groundbreaking documentary explores our fascination with moving images and provides insight into how cinema's most iconic moments came to be. Most of all, it honours the great masters of cinematography, unsung heroes whose vision and talent was always right before our eyes. Pg

Monday 27 Jan 2020

Linda Ronstadt: The Sound Of My Voice

Here is a musical biography of one of the most successful and versatile female singers of the 20th century. At the height of unprecedented success, Ronstadt, a restless and adventurous artist, turned away from pop music to explore an astonishing variety of musical styles, from American standards to country to classical operetta before circling back to her family roots with traditional Mexican canciones. Withstanding constant pressure from a risk-averse industry, Linda insisted on following her musical instincts. With professional colleagues Dolly

Parton, Emmylou Harris, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, and Aaron Neville among many others. Pg13

Monday 3 Feb 2020

Fiddler On The Roof

'cause you're going to want to see this classic four weeks after we share Fiddler: Miracle Of Miracles

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Monday 10 Feb 2020

Why Am I Here? A Child's Journey Through the Holocaust

Julius Maslovat is a child survivor of the Holocaust and is the youngest prisoner on record in Buchenwald concentration camp. Mr. Maslovat narrates his journey of self-discovery through his collection of various historical documents that are linked to his life, ranging from his birth certificate to photographs of the brave individuals who helped him to survive through his time in concentration camps. The documentary was directed and edited by Chorong Kim and produced by Helga Thorson, an Associate Professor of Germanic Studies at the University of Victoria. It was recently shown, as a world premiere, at the Victoria International Jewish Film Festival. B.C.

Our special guest, Victoria writer Julius Maslovat's statement: "We wanted to undertake this project at this point in time because understanding the impact of the Holocaust on the modern world is more crucial than ever. We are entering the post-witnessing era, and the Holocaust is passing out of living memory." Thus, Mr. Maslovat considers it his duty as a Holocaust survivor to speak about his experiences in schools and universities across Canada, the USA, and Germany.

Monday 17 Feb 2020

The Last Honey Hunter and Eastern Rises

Two films from Felt Soul Media takes us to Tibet where The Last Honey Hunter seeks a special, potentially poisonous, honey from rhododendrons is sought by a most precarious method imaginable. It's a spiritual pursuit soaked in myth that the hunters believe brings them directly in touch with the gods.

Eastern Rises Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula may as well be the end of the Earth. Its enormously wild landscape is swarming with bugs and bears and threaded with rivers full of massive mouse-eating trout. In this little movie, fishing is poetry, Bigfoot lurks in the fog and fishermen hitch rides in decommissioned Cold War helicopters to explore remote rivers, some of which had never been fished before. A rich and fun viewing experience for even us non-fishers. Pg 13

Friday 24 Feb 2020

Burn Your Maps

An American family must navigate the challenges that arise when their youngest, 8-year old Wes, becomes convinced he is a Mongolian goat herder born in the

wrong place. Wes leads his family to Mongolia for a soul-searching journey. A charming, somewhat fanciful film starring Jacob Tremblay in one of his earliest performances. Been waiting for two years for this one, just released, to be available. Pg 13

Monday 2 Mar 2020

Persuasion

Persuasion is a 1995 period drama based on Jane Austen's 1817 novel of the same name. In her theatrical film debut, the British actress Amanda Root stars as protagonist Anne Elliot, while Ciaran Hinds plays her romantic interest, Captain Frederick Wentworth. The film is set in 19th century England, eight years after Anne was persuaded by others to reject Wentworth's proposal of marriage. Persuasion follows the two as they become reacquainted with each other, while supporting characters threaten to interfere. It is a quiet, searing interpretation of Austen's tale of thwarted love blooming again. Laurel Saunders, a MM staffer and long-time member of the Jane Austen Society of North America, considers this the best Austen film adaptation. Pg

Monday 9 Mar 2020

Margaret Atwood: A Word After A Word After A Word Is Power

With over 50 works of prescient fiction (including *Handmaid's Tale*), essays, and even a graphic novel to her name, Margaret Atwood shows no signs of slowing down. But how much do you really know about the woman behind the stories? In this revealing new documentary, the literary icon and national treasure guides us through her rich private life - from her upbringing in the Canadian wilderness and her early years as a poet-all the way to the set of *The Handmaid's Tale* and the recent release of its follow-up, *The Testaments*, one of the most anticipated novels of the decade. Here's a great Canadian documentary team, White Pine Pictures, following arguably Canada's best writer.

Our guest by phone: Nancy Lang, producer, director, researcher Lang has worked on 3 feature length documentaries about Canadian artists. She researched and produced *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson*, honoured with 5 awards, including the Directors' Guild of Canada Allan King Award for Best Documentary and *Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven*, for which she won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Editorial Research. Lang co-directed and co-produced *Where The Universe Sings The Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris*. She also co-produced 2 seasons of *In The Making*, a television series about 16 contemporary Canadian artists. Most recently, with Peter Raymont, Lang co-directed and co-produced *Margaret Atwood: A Word after a Word after a Word is Power*.