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 ...movie series at Eric  
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**THE DAY**  
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# OAK BAY NEWS

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## Movie Monday

### Bruce Saunders puts his dream to the Hollywood test

By David Lennam  
 News editor

The magic of movies has helped get Bruce Saunders back on his feet.

The 46-year-old gardener, family man and manic depressive has screened nearly 200 films and put his Movie Monday on the cinemaphiles map since he began the project in 1993.

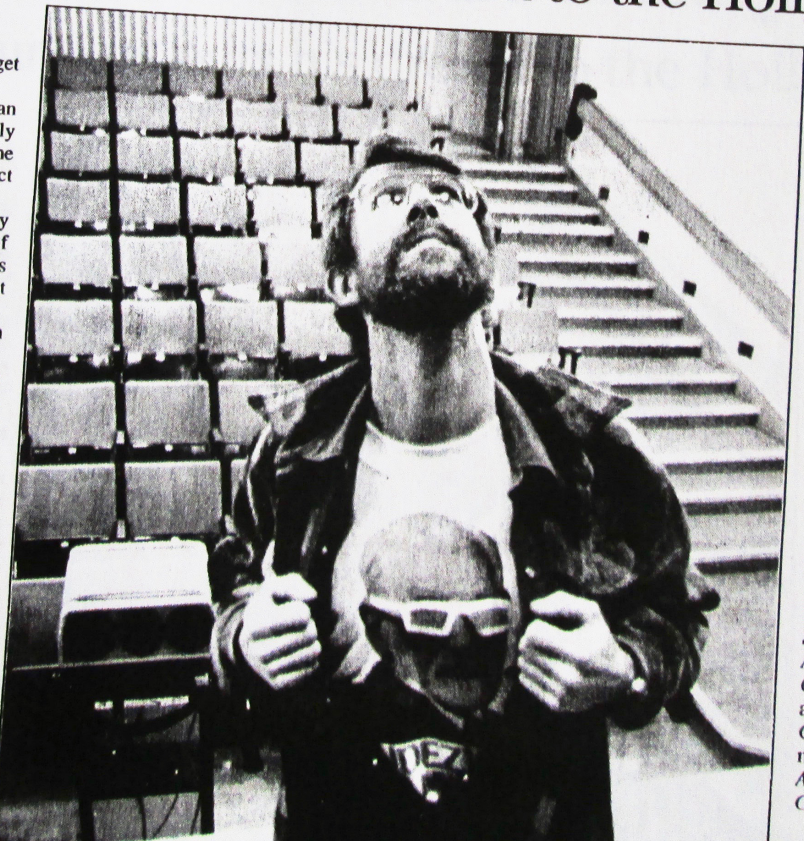
And for those unaware, Movie Monday presents free showings of a variety of motion pictures in Eric Martin Pavilion's 100-seat theatre every Monday night at 6:30.

The movie idea began as an inspiration from the inside.

Three-and-a-half years ago Saunders was in hospital. A major depressive episode, as he refers to it, sent him to the Eric Martin

"People think if you have a mental illness you're unreliable. I show up on time 200 times. I think just because I keep showing up means I'm

psychiatric hospital for recuperation. But Saunders, an Oak Bay resident, found EMP to house a less-than-therapeutic atmosphere. A large open space, where patients are meant to spend time healing and visiting with family



shown on the big screen, though the image was a mere 6x8' compared to today's 8x12'.

"It was fluttering and flickering and I decided if I was going to get the program going I'd have to get a reliable machine."

For that he needed to raise about \$7,000 and did with help from private donors, the Hospital Auxiliary and Sony. The money also helped Saunders re-wire the theatre for stereo sound.

Early crowds consisted solely of EMP patients and ex-patients, but by the fall the public started to show up.

Attendance last year averaged 72 per show with plenty of sell-outs.

For movie buffs the attraction isn't only the free admission, it's the opportunity to see films other theatres don't show.

Saunders' eclectic vision means plenty of art house and

small studio stuff like Atom Egoyan's *Calendar*, *Thirty Two Short Films About Glen Gould* as well as classics like *Casablanca*, mixed with the *Apollo 13s* and *Ghandis*.

"If you showed *Mission Impossible* every week you'd have constant sell-outs. One of

"If you