

ART THERAPIST

Newsletter of the BC Art Therapy Association

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VIDEOS:

Interestingly, two references about the following video arrived on my desk. Both Eve Stocker, our regular reviewer recommended it and Bruce Saunders, who not only reviewed it (below) he loaned me a copy to screen. I agree it is excellent, particularly for those working in the "art as therapy" world. Bruce is an excellent resource for films and videos which dramatically depict mental illness in its many manifestations. He can probably even tell you where to find the best movie or video pick. Ed.



The Living Museum

USA, 1999, 80 minutes

Director: Jessica Yu
Producer: Dawn Parouse Screenplay/Editor: Jessica Yu
Cinematographer: Shana Hagan Music: Sandra Tsing Loh, Mike Miller
Production Company: Dawn Parouse Productions Print Source: HBO
Enterprises Sales Agent: Living Filmworks Format: 16mm

"The Living Museum" is a dream, a place and a new film. It was the dream of charismatic founders Bolek Greczynski and Janos Marton who have created a vast workshop area and galleries for patients, ex-patients and visitors in a downsized New York mental institution (Creedmoor Psychiatric Center). Within a 40,000 square foot space that was once a kitchen/dining facility, people who carry the stigma of mental illness shed that identity and become known as artists, a transition that now-director Marton claims as a monumental positive shift.

Marton, the only salaried employee, is a psychologist in the existing hospital and insists the work there is not art therapy but definitely therapeutic. In that vein he has managed to tease out funds to support this innovative pet project under the shadow of the remaining 500 bed institution. "This is a non-authoritarian structure, meaning the patients run the place."

Academy award winning film maker Jessica Yu's new film showcases the museum, the philosophy and looks at the lives, work and sometimes profound viewpoints of seven of the artists, all of them in the psychiatric system for good reason, all of them finding challenges and creative new

identities in the nurturing atmosphere of the museum and the validating power of art.

The 90 minute feature documentary was recently screened at REEL MADNESS Film Festival in Victoria (www.islandnet/mm).

BIO: Bruce Saunders is a consumer/survivor – but more intent on being a producer. He is pushing 50, a lifelong resident of Victoria who is lucky enough to have a wife, two teenage sons, house, two aging cars and a job as a freelance landscape maintenance gardener. Fondly recognized these days as the MOVIE MONDAY MOGUL, Saunders describes the last 6 1/2 years of weekly film programming (at the local psychiatric hospital's lecture auditorium) as a crash course, doing workshops and inter-views, public speaking, writing, networking and working on as few committees as possible. All of this hard work has made Saunders perhaps the highest profile manic-depressive in Victoria. He holds no degrees, (just first year Fine Arts), but lots of first hand experience and a strong commitment to deal well with his illness and to help others do the same. He uses his own art-making as part of the process. (email: bruce Saunders@islandnet.com)



BOUQUETS

There is so much behind the scenes work done by our BCATA members. WARM THANKS TO YOU for your commitment and hard work.

Ethics Committee: Sandi McCargi, Colleen Gold, Sharon Skyward.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Corolla Ackery.

Professional Development committee: Cynthia Farnsworth, Sally Fisher, Beth McDevish, Marielle Geoffroy, Joanne Haywood.
Newsletter: Heather Miller, Eve Stocker, Marielle Geoffroy, Jason Procyshyn.

Web Master: Sue Manley