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Camosun's Student Voice

Movie Monday Celebrates 8 Years

by Jon Valentine

Bring out the cake and the party favors, 'cause Bruce Saunders' "Manic-Depressive Ministry" is about to celebrate its eighth anniversary!

Since 1993, free movies at the Eric Martin Pavilion of the Royal Jubilee Hospital have included blockbusters such as the "Star Wars" trilogy, which played to packed crowds every two weeks one summer, and the landmark film on mental illness "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Films such as "Cuckoo's Nest," have spawned extensive question and answer sessions with the likes of Dr. Dean Brooks, a technical consultant on the film.

Movie Monday is a bastion for public awareness about mental health-related issues which has taken a life of its own with three "Reel Madness" Film Festivals shown at the Movie Monday venue, also helmed by Saunders.

This year's theme on dysfunctional families' provided long and short film selections - all virtually Canadian-made. Again, many of the directors donated their time to introducing their works in person.

A former manic-depressive patient of Eric Martin, Saunders has been a vocal spokesperson, bringing awareness of his condition into the public eye.

"I'm meeting more and more

people who are doing admirable work in our community who, because I've been public about my struggles, reveal to me that they've been there too."

"Now I'm well known in Victoria for my 'Manic-Depressive Ministry' and still as busy as I can stand in my day job. I've got a terrifically supportive wife of 24 years and two teenage sons. I volunteer at Rogers Cable weekly, run my movie program, which demands about 20 hours a week, and jam in as much activism as I can bear in the corners."

If you would like to help celebrate this eight-year achievement, plan to attend the June 18 showing of "Best in Show," a reputedly very funny and satirical look at dog competition shows from the creator of "Waiting For Guffman" (a previous Movie Monday selection).

The same low-priced popcorn will be ready - as will

Bruce's smile - at 6:30 p.m. For more info, go to their website at www.islandnet.com/mm/, or phone 598-FLIC.



"Sisters" Laurel and Bruce Saunders greet guests at Movie Monday's "Sound of Music" sing-along night.