

film



Eufemia Fantetti of *My Own Private Etobicoke*

A Case of the Mondays

Movie Monday's fall lineup gets serious

lend the films out and they'd take a long time to come back—something I'm guilty of when I borrow movies myself."

But perhaps the most exciting addition to the Movie Monday calendar is the new Saturday Live series, where Saunders is inviting guests to do special performances of plays related to mental illness. The program was made possible by a donation from Paddy Miller, who has done an annual cross-Canada bike tour to raise money and awareness around mental health since her son took his own life in 2000 after a battle with bipolar disorder. The first Saturday Live event, happening this weekend, will be a screening of Vancouver artist Eufemia Fantetti's *My Own Private Etobicoke*, a critically acclaimed play about Fantetti's struggle with her mother's severe schizophrenia and her father's subsequent depression and suicide attempts. While the show isn't live per se, it was money from this Movie Monday program that allowed Fantetti to tape the performance.

"We wanted to film it and put it on DVD because I wanted to stop performing it live," Fantetti says. "It was exhausting and there were days when my mother was ill and my family was dealing with a severe crisis. I wasn't finding it easy to be able to perform and then deal with what was happening. Also, it seemed like it would be more economical because people could just use this DVD wherever instead of having to pay to get me to that location."

While Fantetti will no longer be doing the play live, she will be on hand during Saturday's screening to host a Q&A session, as she often did when her show was touring.

"Whenever I did the play and we had questions and answers afterwards, I couldn't believe how many people told me they'd had a similar experience right down to the types of accusations that their mother or father might make when they were severely ill or psychotic," she says of the sessions. "The similarities are so striking in that you have this experience that everybody is trying to hide and be secretive about and that doesn't help anybody cope and the weight of it just crushes the family."

While *My Own Private Etobicoke*, which appeared in Victoria's Fringe festival a couple of years ago, deals with dark and serious issues (but with a comic touch), Fantetti says she tried to make it as true to reality as possible.

"It's trying to give people something positive and optimistic while also trying to be realistic," she says. "I doesn't help to say, 'Oh, we made it through and everything is great.'"

—Amanda Farrell

For nearly 15 years, Bruce Saunders and the Movie Monday crew have been doing weekly screenings at the Eric Martin Pavilion of everything from documentaries on mental illness to light-hearted comedies in an attempt to reduce the stigma attached to the psychiatric hospital, facilitate discussions about quality films and simply provide cheap entertainment for Victorians. But this season, Saunders is shaking things up a bit: his fall lineup is exclusively made up of documentaries, he's incorporated special live performances into the mix and he's set up a rental library of Movie Monday flicks.

"I just had so many documentaries that I wanted to show, I figured I'd just go for it and do an all-documentary lineup," Saunders says of this fall's movies, which includes *Cracked Not Broken*, *Unspeakable* and *A Healing River*. The added bonus to watching these documentaries at Movie Monday? Many of the screenings will be followed by a Q&A session on the phone with the director. "This is an opportunity to get information straight from the horse's mouth, to talk to people who have spent years working on the films and know every single detail about it," he says.

The addition of the Movie Monday library, which can be found at Oak Bay's Yo Video, is a way for people to be able to watch films screened at Movie Monday if they weren't able to catch them at the EMP. Many of the films will also have public performance rights, meaning they can be used for a public screening by other people, and will be available at a low cost.

"It's kind of like the staff pick shelf at a video store," says Saunders. "Before, I'd just

My Own Private Etobicoke

7pm Saturday, October 27

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7pm every Monday

Eric Martin Pavillion, 1900 block Fort

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