

at **MOVIE MONDAY**

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 Michael Miller Memorial Ride www.michaelmillermemorial.com. Paddy Miller and friend rode across Canada over five Septembers in memory of her son who had manic depression and died of suicide, raising awareness about mental illness as they went. They donated \$11,400 from the 2006 ride to MM which will allow us to program a series of special Saturday LIVE! Events.

Recovery stories, either in dramatic films or comedies or docs, are a big part of my programming. Some of my favourite all time films are *Marion Bridge*, *Stuck On You*, *Stuart Saves His Family*, *Ram Dass: Fierce Grace*, *Women In The Shadows*. They'll be on my shelf @ Yo Video - a collection I'm building at our supporting video store.

I see my own story and those of many of my friends and acquaintances living that recovery arc and deeply understand the value of rolling out those stories to provide models of recovery and adjusting to adversity. The key is to select stories that are engagingly told so one doesn't feel one is being 'taught' while absorbing these hopeful, or cautionary tales, into ones understanding.

The Saturday Live! series is so intriguing to me because it will be people who have made art of their angst, performing an entertaining work based on their lived experience - and participating with the audience in a discussion right after. That's powerful stuff! Big Daddy Tazz, a bipolar standup comedian from Winnipeg (http://www.bigdaddytazz.com/multimedia_video.html - Bi-polar Buddha Set), David Granirer, counselor/standup comic (www.standupformentalhealth.com, Victoria Maxwell self titled "Bipolar Princess" www.victoriamaxwell.com, and hopefully, Garnet Rogers will be coming by in the future.