

Film extracts for health professional education

This teaching resource has been developed from various health professional networks over many years. It is a dynamic document, for sharing.

Please contact me if you would like to add to the list of films and shows:

Pam Harvey pam.harvey@monash.edu

Title of film	What it's all about	Particular scenes of interest	Use in learning and teaching
The Bucket List	Two men with terminal diseases meet in a hospital. They write a list of what they should do with their remaining days and tick them off as they go.		
To Kill a Mockingbird	A coming of age story set in southern USA in the 1930s.		How children play
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly	The story of Jean-Dominic Bauby – wealthy editor of Elle – and his life after having a brainstem stroke.		Stroke Communication
Susan Boyle in 'Britain's Got Talent'	Unlikely singing contestant stuns judges and has over 1,000, 000 hits on YouTube	www.youtube.com/watch?v=ut68Set-w0o (other clips available)	Don't judge a book by its cover!
Away From Her	Grant and Fiona have been married for 50 years. Fiona has Alzheimers and is moved to a residential facility where she becomes devoted to another resident, forgetting her marriage to Grant.		Discussion of dementia and its consequences
The Notebook	An elderly man reads the story of two young lovers out of a notebook to a woman in a nursing home. The notebook is in fact the woman's and she has left instructions for her lover to read it to her even if she can't remember giving it to him.		Memory loss Aged Care
Trainspotting	A group of disaffected youth turn to heroin to try and escape the banality and pain of life.		Drug abuse, violence



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When a Man Loves a Woman	An alcoholic woman finally attends rehab and returns a strong independent person. Her husband has to adjust to their new roles.		Alcoholism Relationships
Vera Drake	A woman performs backroom abortions not for money but out of a sense of moral right and generosity.		Abortion
My Left Foot	The story of Christy Brown, a man with cerebral palsy, who becomes a writer, painter and fundraiser.	Christy draws the answer to his sister's homework on the ground. This is the moment where his cognitive ability is realised by his family.	Disability Ability
Patch Adams	Patch Adams' life as a medical student, medical graduate and director of the Gesundheit Institute		Medical education Communication Patient/health professional relationships
The Doctor	A doctor becomes a patient		Doctor/patient relationships; doctor/family relationships
Brimstone and Treacle	Mr and Mrs Bates struggle with their relationship and with looking after their brain-injured daughter – badly. A stranger arrives to help but turns out to be the devil himself.		Caring for a disabled person. Ambiguities of good vs evil.
The Singing Detective (TV series)	A mystery writer is in hospital with advanced psoriatic arthritis. He has deliriums about being his own created detective and his reality/ fantasy worlds occur in tandem.		What it's like to be a patient, a student and a specialist. Written by Dennis Potter who had severe psoriasis and died of a malignancy.
The Incident	Subway travellers are intimidated by a group of switchblade wielding punks. Each traveller responds in a different way to the pressure, showing their good and bad qualities.		Group dynamics
An Angel at My Table	The early life of Janet Frame, NZ writer. Depicts her poor childhood, the death of her sisters and her long term stay in psychiatric care.	The doctor baldly announces the death of her sister. Janet's ECT experiences. Janet's general anxiety behaviours.	Breaking bad news Psychiatric care

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Iris	The story of Iris Murdoch, writer, as she develops dementia; and the impact this has on her carer, John.	'Human beings love each other': Iris in residential care	Caring for someone with dementia
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings	The first in the Tolkien trilogy about the One Ring. The Ring is rising in power and the folk of Middle Earth have to do something about it before Sauron gets hold of it.	The Council of Elrond: the discussion about destroying the Ring.	The purpose of meetings
Lifted (from Ratatouille)	A small green creature is assessed by a large green creature on his ability to pluck a human from his house.	Whole film	How it feels to be assessed How it feels to assess
Dead Poets Society	John Keating arrives at a conservative boys' school and encourages thinking by implementing innovative teaching methods.	'On Poetry'	Looking at things in a different way
The Black Balloon	A young man has to take increasing responsibility for his autistic brother.	Excellent depiction of a young adult with Fragile X syndrome	Living with a sibling who has a disability
House M.D. (TV series)	Obnoxious Dr House is an ID physician in a large general hospital and is very good at grumpily solving obscure medical issues.	Disc 1, episode 1, 'Pilot': 'Living with Dignity'	Being asked personal questions as a health professional
MDA (TV series)	Medical Defence Australia: a company of doctors and lawyers defend their clients against allegations of poor practice.		Many ethical issues to discuss
Sicko	A Michael Moore documentary commenting on the American Health Care System, focusing on health insurance and the pharmaceutical companies.		