

SUGGESTED MOVIE LIST

A Beautiful Mind. Universal Studios (2002) Rated PG-13

John Nash was a brilliant mathematician who spent years overwhelmed by his schizophrenic delusions. Movie based on book by same title.

Benny and Joon. United Artists (1993) Rated PG

A charming, off-beat love story of two misfits who enjoy each other's odd ways, to the growing consternation of Joon's protective older brother.

Canvas. Universal Studios (2008) Rated PG

Semi-autobiographical story about a young boy and his father who struggle to find comfort and purpose after the woman in their lives is taken away and hospitalized.

Elling. First Look Home Video (2002). Rated R for language

Funny and heartfelt tale about two former psychiatric patients who share an apartment, problems and hopeful dreams in Oslo, Norway. English subtitles.

For the Love of Aaron. Platinum (2005) Rated G

A custody battle is complicated by the mother's struggle with her mental illness.

It's Kind of a Funny Story. Universal (2011). Rated PG-13

Desperate to save himself from suicidal impulses, a teenager checks himself into a city hospital psych ward. His outlook is transformed by the other patients.

Lars and the Real Girl. 20th Century Fox (2007) Rated PG-13

Lars was always shy and awkward, so he buys himself a life-sized doll as a companion. His family and friends are horrified, especially his bossy older brother.

Promise. Hallmark (1986). Rated G

Outstanding story about how schizophrenia impacts family relationships. A man who spent most of his life institutionalized comes home to a chilly welcome.

Proof. Miramax (2006) Rated PG-13

A young woman becomes so emotionally distraught by her father's failing physical and mental health, she is unable to create a future for herself.

My Sister's Keeper. Hallmark (2002). Rated G

A companion piece to Promise. After their mother's death, two sisters are forced to examine how mental illness damaged their relationship and find common ground.

Shine. New Line Home Video (1997). Rated PG-13

At the pinnacle of his professional success, pianist David Helfgott had a nervous breakdown. This is the story of his recovery and return to the concert hall.

The Madness of King George. Hallmark (1995). Rated PG-13

After King George III lost the American colonies to war, his behavior became increasingly peculiar. Battling his illness and political intrigue, the king fought bravely to overcome his disability.

The Snake Pit. 20th Century Fox (1948). Rated G

One of the first motion pictures to portray mental illness in a sympathetic manner. Follows the experience of a young woman's commitment to a state hospital.

The Soloist. Paramount (2009). Rated PG-13

Newspaper columnist Steve Lopez was looking for a story when he met and befriended homeless Nathaniel Ayers. What happened next changed their lives.

Stone Pillow. Koch Vision (1985). Rated G

An idealistic social worker befriends an elderly bag lady in hopes of convincing the woman to leave life in the streets of New York City.

What's Eating Gilbert Grape? Paramount (2001). Rated PG-13

A young man is overwhelmed by his family responsibilities to his mentally ill mother and brother until he falls in love and must find a balance between family and his needs.

When Medicine Got It Wrong. ImageReal Pictures (2009) Rated G

Psychologists blamed poor parenting as the root of mental illness in the early 20th century until a group of parents joined forces to demand that rhetoric be replaced with research and accurate reports.

Courtesy of the Western State Hospital Library, 2012