

Montessorians and Mr. Rogers

by P. Donohue Shortridge

Montessorians: Don't Miss "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Morgan Neville's documentary movie on Mr. Rogers just now out.

We went to the advance screening on Wednesday; the theater was sold out, lots of Gen Xers raised on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood in attendance; the atmosphere was akin to a reunion even among strangers – all grew up with Mr. Rogers as their fine neighbor. More than a few tears were shed, I had a few myself in honor of the goodness and possibilities in this life. The theme of the movie was less about his personal bio than it was about his philosophy that each person matters and each of us can make a difference. The documentary reminds us of the revolutionary path he carved through the late 20th century popular culture. He was a change agent in service to children.

Now more than ever, we can use neighbors like Mr. Rogers. Who better than Montessorians to advance that same philosophy. We too are change agents in service to children. Go see this movie to refresh your spirit and renew your commitment to our purpose.

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