

Community Film Workshop Series

Tonight's Session: Mary and Max

Connection, Isolation, and the Threads Between Us

Part of Sentient Meat's monthly educational workshop series exploring the art of film, all attendees tonight are participating as **Student Members** under our nonprofit's educational program. We're glad you're here!

Workshop Overview

We'll watch *Mary and Max* and reflect together on:

- How friendship forms across distance and difference
- The realities of neurodivergence, mental health, and social misunderstanding
- What honest connection can teach us about community care

Session Goals

- Explore themes of loneliness, belonging, and chosen family
- Discuss how neurodivergence shapes communication and perception
- Consider how communities support (or fail) people who fall outside social norms

Session Schedule

Time	Activity
6:00–6:50 PM	 Doors open, Student Member sign-in, tea/snack break
7:00–8:30 PM	 Film screening
8:30–9:30 PM	 Group discussion + reflection

Guided Discussion Prompts

Opening Reflection

- What emotions surfaced most strongly?
- Did you see yourself or someone you love in either character?

Connection Across Distance

- What sustains the friendship between Mary and Max despite time, age, and geography?
- How do letters (or other slow forms of communication) create a different kind of intimacy?

Neurodivergence and Understanding

- How does Max's autistic perspective help illuminate misunderstandings in everyday communication?
- What barriers keep neurodivergent people from being understood, supported, or believed?

Mental Health and Survival

- Where do you see resilience in the film?
- How do Mary and Max cope with isolation, stigma, or family trauma in different ways?

- What responsibility does a community have to support people who are struggling?

Community Care and Rural Parallels

- What lessons about connection and support might apply to rural life and small communities?
- How can we make space for people who communicate or move through the world differently?
- Where do you see opportunities for local mutual aid or creative companionship?

Optional Reflection Prompt

If you'd like to share your thoughts with our community:

- Write about a connection that changed you, even if the relationship was imperfect or difficult.
- Create a sketch, collage, or short piece of writing about communication across distance or difference.

Student Agreement

All student members must sign in before the screening. Your participation is your acknowledgment of the Safer Spaces Policy and Student Membership terms.

You may indicate agreement via:

- Checking the box on the sign-in form
-  Adding a signature or initials
-  Typing your name on a digital or printed form

Safer Spaces Policy

By participating in this event, you agree to:

- Respect everyone's identity and lived experience
- Listen actively and avoid speaking over others
- Engage with openness, not judgment
- Use content warnings for potentially triggering topics
- Ask for consent before physical contact or intense conversation

If someone makes a request for space, change of topic, or support, we ask you to honor it.

Facilitators are here to support a safe and inclusive environment. You can speak with us at any time if something feels off.

Student Membership Terms

By attending as a Student Member, you agree to:

- Participate in the discussion as part of your educational session
- Sign in and confirm your participation
- Uphold our Safer Spaces Policy during the event
- Consent to your signature being recorded via checkbox, signature line, or typed acknowledgment

This event qualifies as **in-person, instructor-led education** under Ohio Revised Code § 5739.01(B)(3)(q). Your attendance is part of a **nonprofit educational program**, not a ticketed performance.