

## Canvas

Director: Joseph Greco

*Canvas* is the story of a young boy growing up with a mother who has schizophrenia. The film is based on the experiences of the film's US writer/ director Joseph Greco, whose own mother had schizophrenia.

Chicago Sun-Times rated it 8 of 10:

"Canvas" is a serious film about mental illness and a sentimental heartwarmer, and succeeds in both ways. It tells the story of a 10-year-old whose mother is schizophrenic, and whose father is loyal and loving but stretched almost beyond his endurance. The portrayal of schizophrenia in the film has been praised by mental health experts as unusually accurate and sympathetic; the story of the boy and his dad is a portrait of love under enormous stress. Writer-director Joseph Greco says the film, his first feature, was influenced by his own childhood with a schizophrenic mother. Even the father's determination to build a sailboat comes from Greco's own life. His film benefits from persuasive, moving performances from all three leads:

Joe Pantoliano as John Marino, a construction worker; Marcia Gay Harden as Mary, his wife, and Devon Gearhart as their young son, Chris. There is also an affecting performance by Sophia Bairley as Dawn, a schoolmate who becomes Chris's friend and confidant... "Canvas" is a heartwarmer, as I said, a touching story of these people for whom the only response to mental illness is love. - Roger Ebert

