

Tag Line:

A Microbiome Love Story

Alt Tagline:

It may be the biggest medical breakthrough of the 21st century... but is this \$hit really worth it?

Short Synopsis:

Filmmaker Saffron Cassaday spares no details in her quest to uncover what some experts believe could be the biggest medical breakthrough of the 21st century - Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) - using her partner as a stool donor.

Short Synopsis 2:

After suffering from Ulcerative Colitis for a nearly decade, filmmaker Saffron Cassaday tries a new treatment known as Fecal Microbiota Transplant: taking stool from a healthy donor and implanting it into the gut of a sick patient. Using her partner as a stool donor, Saffron spares no details in exploring what some experts believe could be the biggest medical breakthrough of the 21st century.

Medium Synopsis:

Saffron Cassaday is at her wit's end after suffering from ulcerative colitis for nearly a decade. She decides to try a promising new treatment known as Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) - the act of taking stool from a healthy donor and implanting it into the gut of a sick patient. From convincing her partner to be her donor (Who says chivalry is dead?), to turning their apartment into a makeshift production facility for what some are calling "brown gold", Saffron spares no details in her quest to uncover what some experts believe could be the biggest medical breakthrough of the 21st century.

Long Synopsis:

Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) is the act of taking stool from a healthy donor and implanting it into the gut of a sick patient. After the recent discovery that this treatment can cure a potentially deadly bacterial infection known as c. difficile with a 90% success rate, some surprising side effects have led experts to expand their scope of research: A naturally thin woman rapidly gains 30 pounds. An alopecia sufferer sprouts hair for the first time in 10 years. A woman suffering from depression finds miraculous relief. Could it be that many previously misunderstood illnesses including bowel disease, depression, Parkinson's, autism, obesity and more, may actually be caused by an imbalance of gut bacteria? If so, an all-natural probiotic blend of human feces might just be the treatment breakthrough we've all been waiting for.

In Designer Sh*t, Director Saffron Cassaday is at her wit's end after suffering from ulcerative colitis for nearly a decade. Desperate to try this promising new treatment, she is frustrated when her gastroenterologist refuses to consider FMT as a viable treatment

option and decides to take matters into her own hands. From convincing her partner to be her donor (Who says chivalry is dead?), to turning their apartment into a makeshift production facility for what some are calling “brown gold”, Saffron spares no details in her quest to uncover what might just be the biggest medical breakthrough of the twentieth century.

In an attempt to gain a more concrete understanding of her condition, as well as a range of other illnesses that may be based in the gut, Saffron meets with leading researchers, and tours stool banks and clinical research facilities. But instead of finding clear answers, she is overwhelmed by complicated research, differing expert opinions and the repeated warning: “Do not try this at home!”. Behind closed doors, Saffron oscillates between the elation of being temporarily relieved of her symptoms and the disappointment of some frightening health set-backs. On a more personal level, we witness how these ups and downs affect her relationship with her romantic partner/stool donor and the moral dilemma of whether or not to come clean to her doctor about her unsanctioned experiment. In order to gain a sense of control over her life and health, Saffron must contemplate and reconcile the complex relationship between western medicine and holistic healing, and the shifting paradigm of doctor-patient relationships.

This bold documentary not only presents a fascinating look at this stunning new medical breakthrough, it explores what it means to be an empowered healthcare consumer. Deeply personal and laced with humor, Saffron’s journey gives us pause for thought on what it takes to become the commander of our own health and offers us a unique glimpse of an untraditional expression of love.