

Concept

At this point we are working on two story concepts. Which ever one comes together the fastest is the one we'll go with.

The first has to do with taking a look at a person in in there 20's or 30's dealing with cancer and the unique set of problems that come along with this group. People in this age group are usually finishing college and starting careers and families, not battling cancer. We often here about kids with cancer and older people with cancer but not much about young adults. The story would include interviews with someone battling cancer and possibly their family, the leader of a support group and a doctor.

(MM Comments in blue)

This story depends on getting access to the cancer patient -- which may prove challenging though not impossible. We would need help from a doctor (or friend or family) who we'd hope would make sure the patient is articulate, honest and revealing. A family member or two would be key to adding context. One expert is plenty to provide some facts about cancer rates. A good reporting challenge that centers strongly on a personal story. Do not expect to get a deeply personal interview in one visit -- plan for two at minimum: one to get acquainted, second to record.

I spoke with a former cancer patient, Travis Brown who's willing to be interviewed. He had cancer 5 1/2 years ago when he was 23. He now coaches football does photography. He says after the diagnosis he dabbled in a lot of things. He was just finishing up college and says the biggest problem was that it interrupted the path of his life. We'll interview him at 1 on Tuesday while he's on a walk with his dogs.

I will also be interviewing Shanna Sandmoen. She is 27 and has Hodgkins. After seeing a friend undergo chemo for non-hodgkins lymphoma, she decided to take a different path. She isn't doing chemo or radiation. Instead she sees a naturopath. She eats a raw foods diet and goes to acupuncture. On Wed. she will be getting a vitamin C i.v. treatment, which is where we'll interview her.

Focus Statement - (Two sentences are ok)

Young adults with cancer often face a different set of issues than other age groups including delayed diagnosis and isolation. Because of the timing, the diagnosis can sometimes change the path of a young adult's life.

Host Intro -

Seventy thousand young adults are diagnosed with cancer each year. Cancers that affect 15-25 to year olds are typically more aggressive than those found in older patients. They face a variety of issues unique to their age group. Next Generation Radio's Jenifer Jones has the story of one woman overcoming those problems.

Script -

Shanna Sandmoen was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma when she was 24-years-old.

"Monday I got a raise at work and got a promotion, I took this new responsibility. Tuesday I bought a house, and Friday I was diagnosed with cancer."

I can't help but notice as she speaks, Sandmoen touches the tumor on the left side of her neck.

It's a reality check, a constant reminder that the cancer is still there.

"In your mind, you're just thinking, oh my god, these lumps are here. And you're like I took all these pills and I just went through this treatment and this lumps still here, even though its like 20 minutes later and its not like anything could have kicked in yet."

She's chosen to pursue naturopathic treatment.

At first she felt it wasn't working enough, and ignored the cancer for a year an a half.

Now, she's 27 and back in treatment.

As part of her new lifestyle, she started a raw foods diet.

I visit with Sandmoen and her boyfriend at her home, where she is fixing supper.

"Hi, I'm Jenifer, I'm Shanna. Hi this is Triton. Hello."

Tonight she's making spiralized zucchini with cashew cheddar.

Sandmoen says she doesn't feel much different from other people her age.

"Um, you know, I go out with my friends, I you know, have, you know make dinner. I have to clean the house and do chores and pay the bills like everybody else."

Sandmoen says the cancer totally changed her life.

Including the way she dates.

She met her boyfriend online, because she says it's easier to tell someone she has cancer over the internet.

"You know, that would be a hard thing to say, if you already started dating or someone you met on the street. I mean, some guy asks you out and you're just like, oh I have cancer do you still want to go out with me? You just kind of put them on the spot that way."

Kansas City oncologist Dr. Sukumar Ethirajan (Sew-coo-mar Eth-er-ajan) says these problems are typical for cancer patients in their 20's and 30's, because they're starting to establish their careers and relationships.

"These younger adults are, their dynamics are way different than the average older adult's dynamics. They're trying to be independent, they've just left home. They're trying to make a living, then these things come up. So it's peer support, family support, financial issues, psychological issues."

Back before Shanna Sandmoen was diagnosed, she was thinking about going back to school, like other people her age.

She wanted to write for Ms., a feminist magazine.

"Now, I have to rethink that. And yeah, I mean you are starting things later. And it does affect you that all your friends are going, finishing college and on their career path, and I'm working for my dad."

Sandmoen is looking forward to the day she can move on.

But she says the tumor has been a part of her for so long she's not sure how she'll feel without it.

"I think initially, there'll be a shock and almost a disbelief, and maybe a sense of loss. But, obviously there'll be extreme joy over accomplishing something like this."

Sandmoen is hoping for an early Christmas present, a clean bill of health in December.

The survival rate for Hodgkin's Lymphoma in her age group is 85 percent.

For Next Generation Radio, I'm Jenifer Jones in Kansas City.

Visuals -

First of all, let's talk about equipment.

I will have a professional Canon kit available for you to use.

I will check out the equipment to you under my supervision. In other words, If you're going out to shoot I will go with you.

The reason: The equipment belongs to my company and I have to make sure it's used properly and doesn't get damaged.

Here's the equipment list:

- 1 Canon Mark II digital camera (top of the line)
- 1 17-35 mm lens (for wide angle photography)
- 1 70-200 mm lens (for tighter pictures)
- 1 Mark II dedicated flash.

I will have additional accessories for us to play with.

Let's talk aesthetics:

Think of the visuals the same way you think about sound. Pay attention to details and diversify your presentation.

Shoot wide to establish a sense of place

Shoot tight (faces, hands, details in the way a person dresses)

Think about motion and action (Person has to be doing something!)

Think light and composition (set up your photo shoots early in the day and late in the afternoon for better light)

Shoot low, shoot high, go beyond the obvious. Kneel, stand on a chair, put your camera on the ground. Look for a high-overhead positions.

Patience: sometimes you have to wait to capture the right moment. Have an idea what you want to say with your

photograph, wait for that relationship and snap the picture.

Think of pictures the same way a painter thinks of a canvas. Every part of the picture has to have a reason why it's there. If there are distracting elements in the background eliminate them by moving around. Look through the camera and dissect the image in quadrants, if something doesn't belong, eliminate it.

The ultimate Multimedia presentation will have 2 minutes of sound Attached to 20 images (This is a lot you will have to do a lot of shooting). The images will run as a slide show as the sound is narrated. We will use the software SoundSlides to accomplish this.

Here are a couple of examples of some recent work I've produced (To give you an Idea what we are going after) :

One on San Francisco's cable cars:

http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/_travel/cable_cars/

One on the endangered California Condor, threatened by a wildfire:

http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/_national/condors_wildfire/

Since you are on the radio field, your sound will be crisper with smoother transitions.

My suggestion is to dedicate on day of the project just to make pictures. After you have gathered and edited your sound.

Hope this helps,

Marcio Sanchez.