



A film by John Kaplan.

Pulitzer Prize-winner returns to Ohio for Chagrin Falls film festival showing

Cancer survivor John Kaplan to show *Not As I Pictured*: Audience discussion with cancer care experts to follow

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Downloadable media kit: fact sheet, film stills, director's quotes, headshots:

http://www.notasipictured.org/media/NAIP_chagrin.zip

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer John Kaplan was at the top of his world. Never before ill, he was used to documenting the life ordeals of others. But when suddenly diagnosed with a rare case of potentially deadly Lymphoma, it was a blind side.

Nearly two years after first turning the lens on himself, Kaplan has completed a 54-minute film chronicling his cancer journey. *Not As I Pictured*, the documentary directed and produced by Kaplan, will be screened free of charge at the inaugural Chagrin Falls Documentary Film Festival, Saturday October 16th at 3:00 p.m., at Chagrin Falls Township Hall, 83 North Main St. Kaplan will attend, and take part in a group discussion with cancer care experts following the showing.

Now more than one year into remission and back to health, Kaplan is determined to get thousands of free copies of *Not As I Pictured* into the hands of patients, survivors and caregivers. Accompanied by cancer coping and survivorship materials by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the free DVD program will launch online in late November at www.NotAsIPictured.org. Viewers can now join the film's online discussion site at www.facebook.com/NotAsIPictured.

The film is anything but what you would expect from the typical melancholy approach toward cancer stories, says Kaplan. "*Not As I Pictured* is upbeat and life affirming," says the University of Florida Professor of journalism.

One in three of us get cancer. That means almost every family lives through it. Turning the lens on himself, Kaplan's remarkable imagery takes us beyond his despair and through his powerful belief that he can, and must, beat it. Through his visual journal, Kaplan shares the same boundless determination that helped him become a famous photojournalist, and one of the best-known alumni of Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.

Kaplan has had tremendous support from the music community for his not-for-profit project. Artists including Michael Stipe of R.E.M., Chris Martin of Coldplay, will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas, David Bowie, and Pantera have all donated music rights. ASCO and the American Cancer Society have donated educational materials.

Following the showing, at 4:00 p.m., a 30 minute audience discussion will be led by local cancer care experts including social workers, Kathy Maxwell of The Gathering Place, Debbie Kendig of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Sarah Tower, Executive Director of Stewart's Caring Place in Akron, and cancer survivor, The Reverend Mark Simone of Federated Church.

Mary Ann Quinn Ponce, Chagrin Falls Documentary Film Festival Director, will introduce the film. She founded this year's inaugural festival in honor of her late son, David, who died from Leukemia while completing his first documentary film in 2006.

SYNOPSIS

NOT AS I PICTURED: A Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer's journey through Lymphoma

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer John Kaplan was at the top of his world. Never before ill, he was used to documenting the life ordeals of others. But when suddenly diagnosed with a rare case of potentially deadly Lymphoma, it was a blind side.

Turning the lens on himself, Kaplan's remarkable imagery takes us beyond his despair and through his powerful belief that he can, and must, beat it.

Through his visual journal, with help from his family, doctors, and even Mother Theresa and a rock star, Kaplan shares the same boundless determination that helped him become a famous photojournalist.

One in three of us gets cancer. That means almost every family lives through it. Follow Kaplan's journey as he lives it through his own lens. The dreaded news of cancer is certainly no fun, but you can make it through to the other side, back to health and the joy of every day.

Today, you can beat most cancers. Kaplan's story helps show us the way.

JOHN KAPLAN BIOGRAPHY

John Kaplan is one of America's most accomplished narrative photographers, having been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography, Pictures of the Year International Photographer of the Year, the Overseas Press Club Award, two Robert F. Kennedy Awards, and the Nikon Documentary Sabbatical Grant.

He has been featured on the PBS' program, *Now with Bill Moyers*, on CNN, and on NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Kaplan's project on survivors of torture in West Africa was awarded the Overseas Press Club Award for Feature Photography and the Harry Chapin Media Award. The United Nations used Kaplan's work to help facilitate contact with the victims.

His work is exhibited at museums and galleries worldwide including recent solo exhibitions in the United States, Peru, Bolivia and Korea as well as shows in China, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Korea, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In 2010, Kaplan directed and produced his first feature length film, the autobiographical, *Not As I Pictured: A Pulitzer Prize-winning Photographer's Journey Through Lymphoma*. He has also directed the related short film, *Pulitzer Pride: A Story of Redemption*, *Rock 'N' Roll*, and *the Pulitzer Prize*. The films have appeared, and been honored, in numerous festivals.

A full professor at the University of Florida where he has been named International Educator of the Year as well as his college's Teacher of the Year, Kaplan has been named a Fulbright Scholar and has twice been selected as a Pulitzer Prizes juror. He is the author of two books, *Photo Portfolio Success* and *Mom and Me*.