

NO EVIDENCE OF DISEASE

2013 / 16:9 / 84 minutes / Color / U.S. / English



Canadian Distributor Avi Federgreen Indiecan Entertainment <u>info@indiecanent.com</u> 1-416-898-3456



1823 Jefferson Place NW Washington DC 20036 202.463.6154 www.sparkmedia.org www.nedthemovie.com CANCER SURGEONS BECOME A ROCK BAND. PATIENTS BECOME FANS. MUSIC CAN CHANGE THE JOURNEY.

NO EVIDENCE OF DISEASE

A SPARK MEDIA PRODUCTION

Six GYN cancer surgeons take on the Big C with Rock 'n' Roll...

Their patients become the band's most ardent fans...

Below the belt cancers and a below the radar cause enter the spotlight...

The result: **NO EVIDENCE OF DISEASE**, an intimate, humorous and inspiring documentary from award-winning Spark Media.

NO EVIDENCE OF DISEASE, the words every patients dreams to hear, interweaves the harrowing experiences and remarkable courage of women, devoted families, and dedicated doctors. As music and medicine join forces in the fight for life, the surgeons are transformed into rising rock stars, and their patients and loved ones jump on the bandwagon, infusing the struggle for survival with heart, hope and Rock 'n' Roll.

Let's make some noise! If you have questions, want to get Involved, or would like to host a screening, contact us at **info@nedmovie.com**.

www.nedthemovie.com

Be DOWN THERE Aware!

Know the signs and symptoms of Gynecologic cancers:

Ovarian—Honey this is not just gas!

Uterine—Spotting after menopause is *NOT* your period!

Fallopian—Lots of watery discharge does not mean your hoo-hoo is well hydrated!

Vulvar—That little itch could be telling you something!

Vaginal—Dots, clots, and new white spots!

Cervical—Bleeding after hanky-panky should make you cranky.

www.nedthemovie.com



Director's Statement

Our goal in making **No Evidence of Disease** is to instigate a surge of interest in GYN cancers, and raise questions about why public awareness is so low and why research is so chronically underfunded. The film also does much to advance discussion about how music can infuse healing into any chemotherapy regimen, and how it energizes those whose job it is to try to save lives. Merging music and medicine, body and soul, the film will help to collapse traditional disciplinary boundaries, generating meaningful discussion about treating the spirit, as well as the body during serious, life threatening illness. Arming women with knowledge, the film and its emerging awareness campaign help to preserve dignity, and will channel discussions about women's health needs into the public sphere.

Andrea Kalin

Director

No Evidence of Disease



ANDREA KALIN – PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

Andrea Kalin is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and founder of Spark Media, a production company dedicated to producing films with a social conscience. She has worked in over 25 countries, from disaster zones to remote tropical rain forests, bringing gripping human stories to the screen. Kalin's superior storytelling gifts have earned her more than 70 industry awards and accolades, including: a Prime Time Emmy, and Golden Globe and WGA nominations. Kalin specializes in telling emotional stories that depict lives of courage, perseverance and dignity set against brutal injustices and seemingly insurmountable hardships. Some of her films dramatize lives that until now have been lost to history, while others address contemporary social issues. Her documentary production company, based in Washington, D.C., is comprised of an exceptionally talented and diverse team of storytellers. Launched in 1989, Spark Media truly is a "spark," as it utilizes visual narratives to increase awareness, create connections and empower audiences to become more engaged and committed to make a difference in the world in which we live.

Her latest directorial project is **No Evidence of Disease**, a documentary feature about a Rock 'n' Roll band of 6 GYN Surgeons who have taken a stand and the stage to raise awareness of women's cancers.

KAREN SIMON – PRODUCER, OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Producer Karen Simon has worked on several Spark Media documentaries, including *Prince Among Slaves, Soul of a People: Writing America's Story,* and *Partners of the Heart.* She also led the innovative national educational outreach campaign for *Partners of the Heart.* Karen was a producer and on-air host for Voice of America for eight years, after which she went on to direct a non-profit theater group for homeless and at risk children, and is still active in community theater.

AMY YOUNG – EDITOR

Amy Young is a documentary editor, whose work has screened theatrically, as well as on PBS Frontline, NOVA, Discovery, National Geographic, and the BBC. Her work includes *Eye of the Storm*, a cinema verité profile of former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan that was distributed worldwide. She also edited the Emmy-nominated film *Sentenced* and *Moon Shot*, which won a Peabody Award and was nominated for an Emmy Award for editing.



BRYAN SARKINEN – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Bryan Sarkinen was the Director of Photography on Spark Media's *The Pact, Allah Made Me Funny* and *Too Brief a Child*. In addition to his work with Spark Media, Sarkinen regularly works with Bad Boy Entertainment, where his projects have included Diddy's Press Play album and his 2007 European tour with Snoop Dogg. Sarkinen's other work includes Court TV's *Under Fire*, CNBC's *The Oprah Effect*, HBO's *Le Cirque: A Table in Heaven*, and Johanna Lee's *The Pit*.

OLIVER LUKACS – CO-PRODUCER, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Oliver Lukacs was the associate producer and assistant editor on *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, and headed the archival research for *Worlds of Sound: The Ballad of Folkways*, both of which aired on the Smithsonian Channel. Prior to his film work, Lukacs was a free lance journalist, and wrote for The Lookout, LA Weekly, Washington City Paper and WTOP Radio.

JUNG AH SUH – ART DIRECTOR

Jung Ah Suh is a creative director and branding strategist. From 1995 until 2011, she led brand ideation and design as President of the Innovation Lab for Arnell Group in New York, whose clients include HBO, DKNY, Banana Republic, Samsung, Mikimoto, Reebok, Chrysler, Pepsi, Kerzner International, Gucci and Special Olympics. In 2012, Suh launched Mews, a seamless virtual network, bridging technology and creativity in developing brand platforms and extensions.

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THE FILM

No Evidence of Disease (N.E.D.) follows an unconventional rock band made up of six GYN surgeons, each passionate about music and outraged by the wall of silence surrounding their field. The Band's name comes from the three words every patients prays to hear, "No Evidence of Disease." As they struggle for success as musicians, they strive to save lives as doctors, forming powerful bonds with their patients who endure heart-wrenching journeys that test the limits of physical and emotional endurance.

The documentary takes a very shrewd approach to a difficult topic. While the record levels of public awareness and research funding for breast cancer are to be celebrated, "below the belt" cancers remain taboo, a situation that leads literally to fatal misdiagnoses and delays. Of 90,000 women diagnosed with a GYN cancer every year, 30,000 will die. GYN cancers are also a leading cause of death for young Hispanic and African Americans. Yet, despite these cancers regularly claiming the lives of mothers, daughters, sisters, partners and aunts, GYN cancer research receives a mere fraction – not even 1% - of what goes into big business breast cancer research. Even penile dysfunction and Viagra get more attention. We believe this film is set to trigger a sea change in cancer funding and awareness, in which the fill extent of women's health needs will at long last be clearly heard.

CUTTING EDGE ADVOCACY

No Evidence of Disease (N.E.D.) forms the centerpiece of a robust engagement campaign to elevate GYN cancer to the same level of public awareness as breast cancer. We anticipate the documentary will instigate a surge of interest in GYN cancers, raising questions about why public awareness is so low, and why research is so chronically underfunded. The documentary will also advance discussion about how music can infuse healing into any chemotherapy regimen, and how it energizes those whose job it is to try and save lives. Merging music and medicine, body and soul, the film will help to collapse traditional disciplinary boundaries, generating meaningful discussion about treating the spirit as well as the body during serious, life threatening illness. Arming women with knowledge, the film and its emerging awareness campaign help to preserve dignity, and channel discussions about women's health needs into the public sphere and open conversations on the representation of women's bodies.

Our engagement strategy centers on dialogue, partnerships and online collaboration. By utilizing social media and strategic partnerships, we will distribute the film and extensive GYN cancer-related content through a multi-platform engagement aimed at facilitating dialogue and compelling action.

The film launch includes community and university screenings, N.E.D. concert tours and a social media presence across all platforms. This will include a companion transmedia piece, **What Every Woman Should Know**, produced in Spanish and English, as an integral part of the project's goal to inform and empower. To further promote the film's messages we plan to develop custom merchandise, this way we're creating a "brand" based on the band and on the film that will become synonymous with GYN cancer awareness.

CUTTING EDGE ADVOCACY

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY (the Wellness Community/Gilda's Clubs) www.cancersupportcommunity.org

FORCE: FACING OUR RISK OF CANCER EMPOWERED www.facingourrisk.org

FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S CANCER www.foundationforwomenscancer.org

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER SUPPORT www.eyesontheprize.org

HELP THE HOOHAHS www.helpthehoohahs.com

HERA: Women's Cancer Foundation www.herafoundation.org

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Word on the Street...

"First of all, the film is SPECTACULAR - the audience GOT IT. Congratulations on your masterpiece!!!! I'm so grateful and proud to have made it available in LA. Hopefully this is just the beginning of many screenings to come."

- Los Angeles, California

"On the way home and can't find the words to tell you how moved I am and how thankful I am about N.E.D the movie. I and everyone in the theatre tonight were thankful for this amazing work of art! You nailed the whole experience on the head. I just want to watch it over and over!! It was this beautiful mixture of humor and raw emotion! I felt so connected to everyone in the film and the stories you chose hit on all the issues so well. This needs to be on TV so the entire world can see it over and over!! Well done!!! Thank you, thank you!!!"

- Savannah, Georgia

"I feel very privileged to be a part of NED. It was a powerful evening. It was exciting to see so many young people in the audience."

- Ann Arbor, Michigan

"Amazing!!! The film was so thought provoking. I'm inspired. I'm going to make my GYN appointment tomorrow."

– Chicago, Illinois



"The movie was everything it promised and more. Comments I heard included: "fabulous", "so well done", "so professional", "very informative", "how come we don't hear more about these cancers?", "so many stories packed into one movie", "glad I came", "wow", "thank you for thinking of me", "I am a survivor and am so glad to see this movie", etc."

- Atlanta, Georgia

"Wow. I loved the pace of the story, I loved the way the women's stories were knitted together with the Drs. and while making a powerful reality very clear, was not so gut-punching that it obliterated who all of these people are. I felt motivated rather than frightened. I can't wait until all these people see it and go off into the world to carry the message"

- Raleigh, North Carolina

"It was an awesome film. I am so glad I saw it. I can't wait to go to my next GYN appointment and start asking questions!!! And I am now inspired to get to the gym so I can look like Dr. Hope" - Atlanta, Georgia

"You could really feel the spirit of the music, the community and the mission come together. It's like reality and art intensifying each other. To me, the film was thought provoking without being didactic, touching, but not sentimental, true, yet hopeful. These doctors/rockers are heroes! I think most of the people in their position are very special, but your guys are something else. So, for all of the me's out there who are waiting for women's cancers to get a little more attention, I thank you for putting this out there."

- Washington D.C.