

A LION in the HOUSE

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Newsletter
Spring 2007

ONGOING LION PROJECTS

We proudly announce that three major LION websites have just re-launched, in support of our continuing work around supporting families and professionals facing childhood cancer.

lioninthehouse.com is a new, expanded site serving as the main repository of information on the film, current activities, and as a hub to the other sites. It also includes a lovely slide show of the LION families at many events on the road with the film.

survivalert.org, a site for young adult cancer survivors, their families and the professionals who work with them. It has been completely overhauled, redesigned, and supplied with updated content coordinated by Karen Durgans and Suzanne Froelich. Special attention has been given to providing free resources for people wanting to create events for young adult survivors. Order or download your Event Toolkit by going to: <http://www.survivalert.org/PlanEvent.html>. This major outreach project receives ongoing support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

mylion.org, a national community service initiative for teens helping young people facing cancer, is reaching high school students across the country. This project, coordinated by Melissa Godoy and produced in cooperation with CET - Cincinnati Educational Television, engaged a talented team of curriculum writers, guest writers and volunteer advisors. MyLion launched last fall, with major support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Mini-grants for youth projects were awarded by Youth Service America. Participants receive a kit designed to help teens make a difference through community service or service learning. The kits contain units aligned with national standards ranging from arts to sciences to health. Get your free kit today at <http://www.mylion.org/kit>.

LION nominated for Independent Spirit Award for Best Doc, Makes Top Ten Lists

LION was nominated this past December for Best Documentary in the 2007 Independent Spirit Awards, the indie film Oscars. In this prestigious group of awards, LION competed for the votes of 13,000 members of the independent film community. "The competition was really stiff, and we consider it a great recognition to just be nominated," said filmmaker Steven Bognar.



The Spirit Awards happen every year on the beach in Santa Monica, CA

Bognar, Julia Reichert, Dr. Bob Arceci and Lela Reichert Klein were present for the ceremony, as were the cast and filmmakers of other independent film hits,



Dr. Robert Arceci (left), who initiated A LION IN THE HOUSE back in 1997, joins the filmmakers at the Spirit Awards

including LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE, THE ILLUSIONIST, HALF NELSON and FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Meanwhile, the end of 2006 saw LION cited as one of the top ten films of the year on several prominent surveys. In a **nationwide poll** of 107 film critics, LION ranked as one of the top ten documentaries of the year (tying with DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY and, of all films, BORAT). Individual film critics from Los Angeles Weekly, the Kansas City Star, the Columbus Dispatch and IndieWIRE also placed LION in the year's top ten.

Sundance Redeemed

Shortly over a year ago, *A LION IN THE HOUSE* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. This great honor was, as many have heard, seriously marred by the shocking news that filmmaker Julia Reichert had just been diagnosed with advanced lymphoma. Reichert and Steve Bognar left the festival immediately, spending the next three weeks at the James Cancer Hospital as Julia began her treatments. The film was in the good hands of the *LION* families and the caring team from ITVS. But for Julia and Steve, after eight years of work on the film, missing Sundance was a real loss.

This year, however, the bad memories of last year were redeemed when Julia was invited to be one of the jurors at Sundance in the U.S. documentary competition. She and Steve returned to the festival and had a wonderful experience. "It was such an honor to be part of the jury, and to see the breadth of the contemporary documentary field was inspiring."



With Modules in Production, LION hits the Road

The *Lion* team is excited and grateful to be presenting short video modules at a number of conferences this year. We recently have, or soon will be, premiering new, targeted modules at these conferences:

American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS), Austin, TX, March 1 - 4, 2007, "Promoting Quality Psychosocial Cancer Care Across Diverse Communities." While in Austin, Steve and Julia met with our friends at the Lance Armstrong Foundation, SuperSibs! and the NCI. We learned about their new initiatives and let them know about ours.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing's, End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC), Washington, D.C., MARCH 29 - 31, 2007, "ELNEC Pediatric Palliative Care Training Program." Karen Durgans premiered a new clip on facing end-of-life.

Health Ministries Association (HMA), San Antonio, TX, June 21 - 24, 2007, "Navigating the River: Journey With Us Through Health Ministries' Healing Waters."

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), Albuquerque, NM, July 30 - Aug. 1, 2007, "Caring for Mind, Body and Spirit: Psychosocial, Bereavement and Spiritual Needs at the End of Life."

ELNEC Pediatric Palliative Care Training Program, Anaheim, CA, Aug 1-3, 2007.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Atlanta, GA, Aug. 13-16, 2007, "Meeting Future Challenges." We hope to see you at these exciting events!

Short DVD modules are currently in production. They average 20 to 30 minutes length, focus on specific subjects and feature never-before-seen content from the 500+ hours of LION IN THE HOUSE footage. We are working with professional curriculum advisors to develop CEU-bearing packages, on subjects including:

- Survivorship
- Disparities
- End of Life
- Siblings
- Faith/Spirituality
- Nurse Boundaries
- Adolescent Issues
- School/Education Issues



ITALIAN LIONS: Dr. Franca Fossati, Director of one of Italy's top pediatric oncology programs, and her staff meet with *Lion* filmmakers Julia Reichert & Steven Bognar.



mylion.org

