

Sharsheret Book Club: Film Edition

National Webinar Transcript

June 5, 2026

Presented by:



SHARSHERET

The Jewish Breast & Ovarian Cancer Community

This program was made possible with support by:



Jessica Jablon: Welcome, everyone. We're so excited to have you joining us today for Sharsheret Book Club film edition. I'm Jessica Jablon. I'm the director of the West Region of Sharsheret. For those of you who don't know about Sharsheret, we help women, men, and families facing breast and ovarian cancer as well as those who are at elevated genetic risk through free, confidential, and personalized support and resources. In addition to our virtual services that can be found on our website or by emailing us, you can also access prior webinars on a range of cancer related topics as well as access our calendar of upcoming virtual programs through our website. And the link should be going into the chat for that.

Before we begin, a few housekeeping items. Today's webinar is being recorded and will be posted on Sharsheret's website along with the transcript. Participants' faces and names will not be in the recording as long as you remain muted. If you would like to remain private, you can turn off your video and rename yourself or you can call into the webinar. And instructions are in the chat box now for both options. You may have noticed that all participants were muted upon entry. Please keep yourself muted throughout the call. If you have questions for our panelists, put them in the chat box either publicly or click on Sharsheret in the chat box to submit a private question and we will ask them throughout the program. We will do our best to get as many answered as we can. We will also send up a follow-up email from today's webinar with the recording in the next week or so.

Now, as we move into the webinar itself, I also want to remind you that Sharsheret is a national not-for-profit cancer support and education organization and does not provide any medical advice or perform any medical procedures. The information provided by Sharsheret is not a substitute for medical advice or treatment for specific medical conditions, and you should not use this information to diagnose or treat a health problem. If you have any questions that are specific to your medical care, we advise that you speak to your medical provider and always seek the advice of your physician or qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. We want to thank our generous sponsors, Daiichi Sankyo, Merck, and Novartis who support allows us to create and provide important educational programming like today's webinar.

We are very excited to bring you the special edition of our book club with incredible panelists who have brought their meaningful stories to the big screen. From fiction to documentary, from short film to long form, these filmmakers are here today to share how creating through film has helped them process their experiences as cancer survivors, previvors, caregivers, and alongside their families and friends.

We are going to start off with an introduction of each of our guests, followed by them setting up a brief clip from their film. First, I would like to introduce Kailee McGee. Kailee is a filmmaker and writer who blurs the line between reality and

fiction. Her work explores the intersections of life, art, connection, and identity. Kailee's body of work includes commercials, music videos, short films, and long films. And in 2024, Kailee's film, *Can*, premiered at South by Southwest and won the audience award for best narrative short film. In *Can*, filmmaker Kailee's world turned sideways with a late-stage breast cancer diagnosis. She's in the middle of treatment but just beginning to reevaluate reality, love, and identity while being sick. Kailee loses track of where her cancer journey ends and her life begins. As the voice inside her head toggles between existential crisis and self-actualization, Kailee resorts to the only way she knows how to heal; figure out a way to watch a version of her journey unfold on the screen. Kailee, would you share a little bit about the clip we're about to see?

Kailee McGee: Yes. Thanks so much, Jessica. And I'm so grateful and honored to be here. The clip that you're going to see, really the synopsis you shared teased it up perfectly. We're almost to the emotional climax of the film where my character is fantasizing and blurring the lines between my cancer experience and all of the emotions and fantasies of what I hope and dream about.

Jessica Jablon: Great.

Kailee McGee: The people will see I'm special. I want you to come closer.

Speaker 11: I'm scared.

Kailee McGee: I'm scared too. In a movie, you can write things differently and explore the things you don't fully understand, edit yourself to be more palatable and prove to the world that you exist. Maybe if I make it into a movie, it will feel less real and more poetic. It doesn't have to be groundbreaking. And I could finally share because I don't make movies to watch them alone, I make movies to prove that I am a big and see a version of my journey unfolding on a screen.

Jessica Jablon: There we go. In your film, you contemplate that making a movie may make the experience less real and more poetic. Is that the case?

Kailee McGee: I think that when translating my story to the cinematic screen, I was able to enhance certain elements to make my story more beautiful or more emotional at different points. And that is a little bit poetic, but at the same time, I think it was coming from such a raw place that it's really just not that poetic because it's just the most basic human emotions, fears, grief, everything all at once. And I guess that is poetic if you look at it, but it's also just life.

Jessica Jablon: Yeah. Well, I think raw, it's funny because when we were watching the film, that was the word that kept coming up for our team was that it was just so raw and powerful. And we look forward to having you on and asking some more questions in a little bit.

We're going to now introduce our next filmmaker, Justinsuperstar, who is the director of the documentary Mom and Dad's Nipple Factory, and his mom and inspiration and star of the film, Randi Johnson. Justin, also known as Justinsuperstar, is an Emmy winning filmmaker who has been creating popular online content for over 25 years. His documentaries aim to engage audiences with down to earth tales that authentically explore the lives of extraordinary people.

His most personal film to date, Mom and Dad's Nipple Factory, premiered at the Milwaukee Film Festival and went on to play Docklands, Port Townsend Film Festival and other notable festivals. The documentary tells the unexpectedly funny and deeply human story of his father's secret mission to help his wife, Justin's mother, feel whole again after a unilateral mastectomy by quietly building a nipple prosthetic factory in their small town basement. Welcome. Would you please share a little bit about the clip that we're going to be seeing?

Justinsuperstar: Yeah. Well, I think this clip really sets up the beginnings of the transformation into the main story. Go ahead and roll it.

Randi Johnson: For six months, I didn't have reconstruction, so I had just one breast and then a scar. And that was really hard. I have journals in here. I came across one that I didn't even remember I had. Brian said things were too much and went off. I don't know where he is, so I'm just here journaling. We were just at such an impasse. We had had an argument earlier, which we don't have a lot of arguments, and he just took a walk, basically. But we've never really done that before where one of us has walked out on an argument. I felt like, whoa, I think we need some counseling. There just was not quite the same intimacy that we're used to, so there was tension. And I hear so many stories of women whose husbands or boyfriends ditch them. It was the most complicated emotions that we've had to deal with, and I don't know where we would've gone with it. It's a couple's disease. This isn't just the woman, it isn't just the man.

Brian Johnson: You go in the room with your wife, and then basically it's like the doctor ignores you and just deals with your wife. And that's all of a sudden I did not exist. Emotionally or whatever, he was just pushing me out of the room, and that I just could not accept. As soon as I sensed that, I thought I am going to exist. I am going to be a part of this deal. I am going to make sure what the surgeon's saying is good for her.

Jessica Jablon: Justin, would you tell us about the origin of the film and what initially sparked the idea to make this film?

Justinsuperstar: Yeah. Well, mom can tell you how I pitched it to them.

Jessica Jablon: Yeah, that was my next question.

- Randi Johnson: Yeah, he said that he was going to a five to eight minute short on our story. That sounded like, I guess that's doable for me.
- Justinsuperstar: It's a weekend or two. It's easy.
- Randi Johnson: It was eight years.
- Justinsuperstar: It was eight years, yes.
- Randi Johnson: But I didn't mind. I'd like being part of this. But of course for Brian, he's very private. And this was a gift to Justin for him to cooperate. It was not his kind of thing. He doesn't like the limelight.
- Jessica Jablon: Well, you can definitely see that you're a lot more exuberant and he's definitely a little more introverted throughout the film. And it's really, really just a beautiful thing to watch him wanting to take care of you as you're going through it all. Now-
- Justinsuperstar: Yeah, I think with that clip as well, it's really about that caretaking aspect that is so important for people whose partners go through this as well. And so that to me was always like, how do I make sure that dad is conveyed as that kind of ultimate caretaker versus a mad scientist?
- Jessica Jablon: Oh, well, I think you definitely accomplished that. It's a love story, right?
- Justinsuperstar: Absolutely. First and foremost.
- Jessica Jablon: I think that that's the beauty in it is the love story. Our last film, but not least, of course, I'd like to introduce Amy Byer Shainman who is the producer of Love, Danielle. Amy is known as the BRCA responder. She's a passionate advocate, author, and film producer focused on educating people about BRCA and other hereditary cancer syndromes. She is a BRCA1 gene mutation carrier and a previvor. She has shared her BRCA story through various media outlets using her voice to raise awareness about hereditary cancer. Her memoir, Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer & Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew won 14 independent book awards and was a 2020 National Library of Medicine Book Club selection. Most recently, she produced Love, Danielle, the first ever scripted feature film to explore the decisions and issues faced by individuals with a BRCA mutation who have not been diagnosed with cancer. The film features an all-star cast, including Devin Sidell, Jaime King, Barry Bostwick, and Lesley Ann Warren. Love, Danielle is currently screening at film festivals worldwide. Welcome, Amy. Would you like to set up the clip we're about to see?
- Amy Byer Shainm...: Yeah, sure. This clip, it's of the sisters played by Devin Sidell and Jaime King. Excuse me. And so they're Danielle and Amy, and they're both BRCA1 gene mutation carriers. Amy currently has a breast cancer diagnosis. Danielle, she is a

previvor. She has found out that she is a BRCA1 gene mutation carrier. She has just seen a genetic counselor and she has just seen a fertility doctor. And she's heading over to Amy's apartment. And that's where we go in this scene.

Danielle: I got your mail. I brought you some soup.

Amy: Soup. Yay.

Danielle: Well, you never eat solid foods, Amy. You got to have some nutrients and protein, and no one wants to see a chicken noodle smoothie.

Amy: That's disgusting. Hey, did you talk to your genetic counselor about your fertility options?

Danielle: Oh, hey, you got a postcard from your friend Lindsay. Hawaii would be really nice right now, don't you think?

Amy: Burn it.

Danielle: What, you're not friends anymore?

Amy: Cancer. Yeah, in the beginning it's like a novelty to people and they bring you casseroles and you get to watch all your favorite movies, and then after a while people realize that having cancer for a long time gets fucking boring as shit.

Danielle: That's what family is for.

Amy: Mom annoys the shit out of me.

Danielle: I know.

Amy: I swear to God if it weren't for you, I'd be dead by now. For real, for real, for real.

Danielle: I promise you I will always be here.

Amy: Not if you get cancer.

Danielle: Yeah, I know. I don't want have to go through chemo.

Amy: Yeah, I do not recommend it. It gets 1.5 stars. When you take it, you feel like you're going to die. If you don't take it, you may be dead. Plus, I don't think the universe is going to give it to you because you would not look so good bald like me. That's my signature look now. If you knew that a plane had a 50% chance of crashing, would you still get on it?

Danielle: I feel like my ovaries are ticking time bombs. Amy, Pat and I decided to try for kids, but I went in for an ultrasound yesterday and they found something weird, I guess.

Amy: The fuck?

Danielle: I didn't want to-

Amy: Why are you just telling me this now?

Danielle: I didn't want to upset you.

Amy: God.

Danielle: Do not say anything to anyone because I haven't even told Pat.

Amy: Danielle, Aunt Ruth, okay? Why haven't they called you yet? What are they telling you?

Danielle: They should be calling me anytime now. Amy, what if I fucking already have cancer? What if I'm already on that plane? Oh shit, it's Pat. Oh crap, I'm supposed to be at work. Hey, Hey, I'm heading to the bakery now. What? No, I put in that order last week. I know I did. Okay, well, I'm on my way.

Hello? Yeah, this is Ms. Bledsoe. Not great. I've been worried and waiting for this call all morning. Okay. Yeah, I will. Thank you.

Amy: What?

Danielle: I'm okay. It's okay. It was just a fluid-filled cyst. Can't live in constant fear like this. And now all this fertility shit, it takes way too much time and it's so fucking expensive.

Amy: Having kids is your tip-top priority. You know that you guys could try now, right? Oh, my God. What if Pat had to raise him alone? It'd be such a shit show.

Jessica Jablon: I love in the film the sister relationship there. It's just so beautiful. Amy, can you share why it was important for you to be a part of making this film and how it ties into your passion for educating people about the BRCA mutation?

Amy Byer Shainm...: Well, I wanted it done right, so I wanted to be involved for that reason. There have been BRCA stories and breast cancer stories on television and film, but there's not really been anything that gets to the meat of the education. Everything's have skimmed the surface, especially on television. I applaud any BRCA story, any ovarian cancer story, any cancer story that is out there because that will educate. But particularly with this film, I really wanted a scripted feature that really had a trickle-down effect that was a scripted feature, but had

those educational components that you almost don't really realize you're there because you're just watching an entertaining movie. And I wanted the medical dialogue and the actions to be 100% accurate because you have an opportunity; if you're going to do a film like this, get it done right.

Jessica Jablon: Yeah, and you were able to get such a great cast as well.

Amy Byer Shainm...: Yeah. Yeah, we were very lucky. Devin, our lead actress, had actually worked with Leslie Ann Warren. Years ago, she had played her mother previously when Devin was nine. She was our first person that we cast. And from there, everyone had a relationship to knowing somebody who had a cancer diagnosis, either a family member, best friends. That's how we got Raymond Cruz and Jaime King. Everyone saw meaning in this film.

Jessica Jablon: I love that. It makes it like a passion project, right?

Amy Byer Shainm...: Right. Right.

Jessica Jablon: Which I think all of these films were passion projects because they're also personal. Which actually brings me back to my next question, which is creating... It's actually for all of our panelists. Creating a film that draws from such a personal and intimate story can feel incredibly vulnerable. What gave you the courage to share artwork that reflects the medical journey so openly?

Justinsuperstar: What do you think, mom? Obviously ours is a real story. I think for me it just one of the most powerful moments of making this film was actually before it became a feature, I talked to one of the customers, one of my parents' customers, and I just didn't really... I was in a shoot already that was in the city next to them, and I was like, "I don't really know how this is going to go, but I'm going to talk to this woman, Mary." And the emotion that I got from her story where it was just so deep. And I think that for her, she broke into tears at one point, and she's like, "This is the first time I've cried about this. I've never cried about this." She had just gone through all these steps. And at that moment, I was like, wow, there's such a depth to the story that needs to be shared. And so then I really dug back in with the family.

Randi Johnson: And Justin did such a good job of interviewing us and things that it felt very natural. And also, he really did, the first time he sat down with Brian to interview with us, Brian talked a lot. And so that was part of what catapulted into a longer film.

Jessica Jablon: Well, yeah, it's really interesting in the film how you can see he's so thoughtful about what he's going to say. And just how he came up with the idea to make the nipples was such an interesting process. And when he was talking to the doctor and the dentist and all of this stuff, it's like it really does take such an innovative mind to be able to come up with that kind of a product. And yeah, I was just curious, can you talk a little bit about how your relationship with him

evolved from when you were diagnosed and going through treatment and now you're in this business together?

Randi Johnson: I was just realizing fresh today, I think we keep learning what our journey really is as we go, and the film is part of it. But I was working full time at a new job, and I was working a lot of hours. And Brian did everything. He did the meals, he did the housework. Because at that point, he was mostly working as an independent business, starting... Our nipple factory was in the very early stages, and it wasn't the ton of hours so he had the flexibility.

And also just, like I say in the movie, he thinks of my needs before I do. I'm pretty stoic and I'm thinking, well, I'm just going to have the breasts removed and just go on, and I could be okay. And I think in some ways, it can seem selfish. Eyes are very visual, and I think it really troubled him partly for him, but also I think he knew I needed that. And it's so true. I think eventually down the line it would've hit me that I don't like looking like this. I want to feel normal. And he was always a few steps ahead of me before I'd even realized my own needs.

And working together as business is just an incredible silver lining for us because we are so different. And at this stage of life, I would just be off volunteering and he would just be his little hermit self at home probably. We wouldn't have been working together. And this just utilizes his skills and my skills. I get to be the customer service and outreach, marketing of things, and he does the technical innovative. It's really been wonderful to have something that we do together.

Jessica Jablon: I love that.

Randi Johnson: I love having significant work to do. It touches people's lives. It brings more meaning to what I think when we feel like... I think everyone here has experienced that, that when our story becomes more public, then you realize you're making a difference for others who are going through a similar thing.

Jessica Jablon: Yeah, I think you all are talking about the importance of storytelling and how it can help others. What impact did making the films have on you? Kailee, why don't we start with you?

Kailee McGee: Well, I was in the thick of chemo and when I decided to write and produce, star and direct this film, which looking back was insane. And then I went into surgery and finished filming. And the impact that it had on me was it gave me a project. It gave me a very important project that was something bigger than myself where I was able to be in community with my favorite collaborators and filmmakers to bring this story to life. And I was processing what was happening to my body and spirit as we were making it. And the film was really evolving during that process. It also was such a beautiful gift of healing through art and healing with my favorite trusted people who were there physically in this space with me.

- Jessica Jablon: It's so important what you're saying and what Randi and Justin^{superstar} are saying. It's like the people who are around you really supporting you, it sounds like, really made a difference in your experience as well as in the process of making the films. Amy, do you want to-
- Amy Byer Shainm...: Yeah, well, the story is Devin, who's the lead actress, is also the co-writer of the story. It's loosely based on her own story. And very similar to what Kailee was just saying, I don't want to speak for Devin, but I know her answers to these questions because we've done a lot of Q&As, and I know it was very similar in terms of it was very healing for her, a way to process what was happening to her almost, writing the script and going through it was very healing for her. And just being on the other side of it and watching her actually act those feelings, Devin is just fantastic. Because she had relive a lot of stuff, and she just was able to go there.
- Justin^{superstar}: I think for us as well, you guys are all talking about it, the people that we were sharing our physical space with when we were making this documentary was other people in the family. And for me, that journey inspired me to, in 2020, move back to Minneapolis so I can be close to my family. It really unified our family. And I expect you guys had similar situations as well with the people you were creating this with.
- Jessica Jablon: Yeah, and because, Justin, in the beginning of the film, you are waiting to process it. You didn't even respond to the email, if I recall, originally. The film, it sounds like, really brought you guys closer together.
- Randi Johnson: Well, and even my cancer diagnosis, because Justin, as a film, had drifted from the family. And it was coming back home that Christmas right after my mastectomy when we were all together that he had spent more time with his siblings and just had a fresh sense of how important family is. Even my diagnosis and the film also really brought us a lot closer.
- Justin^{superstar}: Yeah. And I think for me as well now being closer to family, I've got this cool scar in my head because I was diagnosed with brain cancer a couple months ago, so being close to family to me is extra important because I can be with them as I go through this particular journey.
- Randi Johnson: And they have a wonderful baby that has been so wonderful that they're close. Again, who would've known?
- Jessica Jablon: Hopefully, Justin, your treatment is going well and all of that. And our thoughts are with you as you're going through your own experience. Kailee, we already covered this, but the biggest descriptor of your film really is raw. And you laid out the full depth of emotions that one may experience or that you may have experienced. It's tangible to the viewer. How did your cancer experience change you?

Kailee McGee: How did my cancer experience change me? I think that it's something I'm still in the midst of figuring out. At the beginning when I was diagnosed, I remember thinking, okay, it's two years of stuff I got to get through. I just got to get till the end, and then I'll be good. And now I'm in acceptance of that there's no clear black and white end; it's this blurry thing where the cancer journey ends and life begins and it's all the same. And I think the way that I know that it's changed me for sure is clarity on who I love and what is the most important things to me in life and how I want to spend my time while I'm here. And it's also made my heart grow a half size or a full size bigger in my ability to be compassionate to other people in that when you meet people on Zoom or at a coffee shop or on the street, you never know what they're going to experience or what they are in the midst of experiencing. And that's something that I learned when I was sick and hasn't left me.

Jessica Jablon: Yeah. What were some of the responses to your films as they've been shown? They've all been shown in the festival circuit. Can you share what the feedback is and if people have come up to you afterwards? And I guess, Amy, to start with you, especially because there's so much knowledge that can be gained from your film.

Amy Byer Shainm...: Yeah, the responses have been all over the place in a great way. From a medical standpoint, I'll tell you a doctor, we just did a screening locally here and my own physician, my own OBGYN came, and he looked at me after, he said, "Amy, I've been doing this 1,000 years. You enlightened me." That's what he said. He's on the other side of it so much, and so he got to see the whole patient experience part of it from a whole new angle. That was really exciting for me to hear.

Patients, I've had women who are going through these surgeries and they just watched the film and coming up to me crying, saying, "Oh my gosh, I feel seen. Thank you." And also being really emotional. Men have come up to me and said, "I had no idea that men could get breast cancer. I had no idea about this whole hereditary thing." Just so many things. Which I view it as a win when someone comes up and says anything like that.

Jessica Jablon: No, it's so important. And it's so aligned with Sharsheret and the work that we do. We have a genetic counselor on staff. Actually, one of our genetic counselors is on the call in case people have some questions that they want to put in the chat. Peggy is amazing. And we also do a lot of educational programming, and people are always surprised about knowing that the mutations can be passed down from the men to the next generation and all of that. It's really great for me. I loved seeing your film because seeing such a creative way of bringing out that education is really special. And I think that you said that in the beginning, right? There's no film that really has ever done this to this degree.

- Amy Byer Shainm....: Yeah, no, yeah, Love, Danielle's the first ever scripted feature film that features a BRCA gene mutation carrier, their experiences who does not have cancer; a previvor, basically.
- Jessica Jablon: And Justinsuperstar, do you want to talk about your experience on the film festival circuit?
- Justinsuperstar: It was just really powerful. And really for us, it was a lot of people who had never heard of nipple prosthetics. I think that was a part of it. People had heard of tattoos or surgeries or things like that, but they never even knew that this was an option. I think that was an underlying thing that we heard quite a bit.
- My dream when I was editing this film during the pandemic was I just want to see a line of people who all want to talk to my mom at a film festival, and that would just make my heart so full. And it happened time and time again and made me so happy. And so I'm sure for mom, it would be a lot of film people who would talk to me, but I know that a lot of survivors would talk to mom as well.q
- Randi Johnson: It was. It was definitely survivors, but our film really has other dimensions to it too. Sometimes it was even about family rifts because one of the underlying themes is that love wins in a family. Even when there are different worldviews, love wins. And even about low vision because I am technically legally blind. And so really have had a lot, a lot of stories of breast cancer, but also some other things along the way too.
- Jessica Jablon: For sure. What about you, Kailee?
- Kailee McGee: Similar things to what y'all shared. And also I think people who had cancer, who have touched cancer, their lives in some way as caregivers or just people who've never touched cancer responded the humanity of my film about whatever journey we're on, I think to some degree we're trying to figure out who we are and what is our purpose? And what is the meaning of life? And so I think me asking those existential questions framed with this really intense chapter of my life was able to open up a conversation piece that all members of the audience connected to.
- Jessica Jablon: Yeah, and all of the films, I can see how just meaningful they would be for the audience in such different ways. Even though it's the same kind of maybe subject matter, but they're all just so different. The experience of cancer is just one part of you, or having the genetic mutation is just one part of you. How do you honor that part as you move forward with the making of future films?
- Justinsuperstar: We hope that we don't have a sequel to mom's breast cancer.
- Jessica Jablon: Right, but does it inform any work? Is there anything that you took from making that film that you might use in the next film?

- Justinsuperstar: Gosh. I think for me, a big thing was just really embracing the raw honesty of a story. And so the next time that I tackle a story, just making sure that I'm really getting into the nitty-gritty of the core of it. And again, I don't think mom and dad are going to do a sequel. We were pitching this film once to someone who maybe they're going to offer us funding to finish the film or whatever, and he's like, "Let's do a third act where your dad has a briefcase full of nipples and he goes to China and he's trying to sell them." I almost hung up. I was like, "That is never happening." Dad will probably never appear on screen again.
- Randi Johnson: No. There was some type of a narrative, but that's a far-
- Justinsuperstar: Or a narrative version of the film, yeah.
- Randi Johnson: But no, he's done.
- Jessica Jablon: And so are you working on anything now post this? Amy, are you working on-
- Amy Byer Shainm...: Well, I'm still working on this one because we're still in the thick of it through the end of the year. And obviously my focus is hereditary cancer and BRCA and wanting to get that information out there. For me, it would be what could I do that's in the same vein but different? How can I expand upon this? Because I don't want to do the same film. This was Devin's story loosely based on. How can I do the same thing yet different yet... I don't know. I'm a little tired. I might take a little bit of a break and then regroup. We'll see. We'll see.
- Jessica Jablon: And Kailee?
- Kailee McGee: Well, my film isn't the first time that I've put myself or my life or people who I love on screen or at the center of the story. That's something I've done for a long time and that I'll continue to do. Making this film solidified, I think what Justinsuperstar was touching upon, about me really wanting to bring in the honesty, the deep human honesty to all the stories that I tell. And right now, I'm working on a feature film that picks up... Is the sister film to my short and picks up where this film left off. But I will not be appearing on screen. I will be staying behind the camera where I too, like your dad, feel more comfortable.
- Jessica Jablon: Is there any advice that you would share with someone who was interested in telling their story on film or through another medium? Amy, do you want to take that one?
- Amy Byer Shainm...: Where to start? Well, look, be authentic to yourself, number one. But within being authentic, I think you... I don't know, for me, you have to work with good people and people that you trust. That's huge. I would rather work with somebody who maybe is not that experienced but is a fantastic hard worker and is great to work with and someone who's had more experience and is difficult to work with, I guess. That's maybe two different things. But be authentic to what your story is, work with great people, have a plan where... Figure out what your

weaknesses are and work with other people who have strengths in those areas. And get feedback, but take the feedback with a grain of salt, always coming back to what's important to you. That's what I would say.

Jessica Jablon: Good advice. Kailee, what do you think?

Kailee McGee: For people who are interested in telling their story or creating art, my advice is to do it. I think figure out a way to push yourself out of your comfort zone. I like to think about it in terms of about 33% out of my comfort zone I'm a little bit scared, but it feels like the right thing. And then I'm like, "This is a good, courageous zone to step into personally for my art and self-expression." But I feel like if you have the inkling to tell your story or to create a piece of art, no matter what your limitations are, figure out a way to tell your story, even if you just start with a haiku.

Jessica Jablon: I love that. We actually have done a few art wellness programs, and we actually just did one on poetry, so I love that you said Haiku. What about Justinsuperstar and Randi? What do you think?

Justinsuperstar: I think for me, and this is something I do every year, is I do a video blog of everything I've done over the course of the year. But at the end of the day, if you're telling a story that's your story, at the very worst, it's going to be a time capsule for you to remember. It includes people around you or whatever. I always think that that's a really important thing about creating anything is that you're capturing, you're crystallizing this moment. And whether it plays a zillion film festivals or you just watch it by yourself when you're done, at the end of the day, it doesn't matter as much because this moment is yours forever. And I think there's power to that.

Randi Johnson: Yeah, I really agree with that. Whether it's big or small, there's healing in [inaudible 00:45:53]. And even if you just have someone who can listen to you, it just helps to make sense out of it, I guess, because sometimes it feel like our stories don't make sense. Every story is so unique, and it's so important. And people will be really different in how they want to do this or whether they want to. Some might not want to. But I agree that whatever your mode of creation is, I like that, even if it's just a haiku, something that it's really important in healing.

Jessica Jablon: Well, thank you all. I saw that we had a question in the chat about where we can find your films. Do you want to share that? I know Kailee, yours is on your website, right? That-

Kailee McGee: Mine is on my website as well as vimeo.com. And my film is called Can. I think if you search Can short film, you'll be able to track it down track.

Justinsuperstar: Yeah. If you search Mom and Dad's Nipple Factory, we don't have a ton of competition.

- Amy Byer Shainm...: Funny.
- Randi Johnson: Nipple Factory.
- Justinsuperstar: nipplefactoryfilm.com, you'll find the link and everything. And we're on Apple and Google and Play [inaudible 00:47:20].
- Randi Johnson: Amazon.
- Justinsuperstar: Yeah. We're even on DVD. Get it on DVD. There you go.
- Randi Johnson: Or streaming.
- Amy Byer Shainm...: And Love, Danielle, go to lovedaniellefilm.com, and the trailers on there. If you go to events on the left-hand side, you'll see where we're playing next in our film festival tour. And you can also stay up to date. There's a pop-up if you want to subscribe to stay up to date to find out, get emails when it's going to be out.
- Jessica Jablon: Well, I want to just share, Amy, somebody wrote in the chat... It disappeared. Where did it go? Someone just wrote in the chat that, "Resurrection Lily was the most powerful and personal piece of literature I have read in years. Thank you. As a three-year triple negative BRCA1 and breast cancer survivor, this book helped to convince my 40-year-old son and 30-year-old daughter to get genetic testing. My son tested negative, but my daughter tested positive. She is now able to make informed decisions as far as opting for her preventative risk reducing surgeries, so thank you. And thanks to all of you for what you have done and continue to do." And I think that's just such a beautiful-
- Amy Byer Shainm...: Yeah. To me, just that one thing right there is worth it. It took me eight years to write that book. It's just that right there. That's on the other side of it why you do it; you hope you can reach somebody.
- Jessica Jablon: Yeah. Well, clearly all of you have. And we just want to say thank you so much for being here today and sharing your meaningful stories and your creative processes and making these personal films. We're really so grateful for your openness and your vulnerability. And we look forward to seeing what creative works you do next.
- If you haven't watched, Can, Mom's and Dad's Nipple Factory, or Love, Danielle, the links are in the chat. We will also put the links in our follow-up email so that you can see them as well. Obviously we encourage you to watch them. They're all really amazing.
- Once again, I want to thank our sponsors. Thank you, Daiichi Sankyo, Merck, and Novartis. Please take a moment to fill out a brief evaluation survey that's in the chat box now. Evaluations really do inform our future programming, so we really appreciate you taking the time to fill it out. It's just a couple of minutes.

Please never forget that our social workers and genetic counselors are here for you and your loved ones. Sharsheret provides emotional support, mental health counseling, genetic counseling, financial assistance, and other programs designed to help navigate you through the cancer experience. All are free, completely private, one-on-one. Our phone number is 866-474-2774. You can also email us at clinicalstaff@sharsheret.org.

Finally, we are constantly updating our calendar with upcoming webinars. Our next national webinar is From Diagnosis to Dignity: Navigating LGBTQ+ Lives and Cancer Care on Monday, June 23rd at 8:00 PM Eastern. And it will share life-saving information about LGBTQ+ cancer screening health disparities and tools for navigating the cancer journey for LGBTQ+ folks before, during, or after diagnosis. The link to that is in the chat. Please visit our website to find upcoming webinars. The link to our calendar of virtual events should be in the chat. Again, please fill out our evaluation. We really would appreciate it. And we're just so glad that you're able to join us today, and we hope to see you soon.