

Title – The Hidden Illness: You Never Know When They Will Strike

Program of Study – Strategic Communications

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Subtype – Investigative

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Abstract: Lyme disease is a problem in which the public needs to be made aware of. Around 300,000 are diagnosed every year, while 10 times that amount go undiagnosed. My mother contracted chronic Lyme disease 13 years ago. I have seen how it plagues her life firsthand. The solution is to make a documentary film about it – of which the first step is to develop a Treatment – an artifact which is a template for making the film. In this documentary I will follow the lives of two Lyme disease victims and their journey through misdiagnosis, medical malpractice and suffering. First hand and expert information will be used to create awareness of the problem. Efforts to increase awareness by organizations like the Global Lyme Alliance (GLA) and the Lyme Disease Foundation will be highlighted as we speak with Lyme disease researchers, as well as founders of both companies. The problem will be approached with a documentary narrative structure. Testimonial and expert advice will create awareness and how to avoid or deal with the disease will be shared. I hope to alert the public about the unawareness of medical professionals and promote the availability of research to those who have contracted the illness.