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Mind+Body: An Ethnodrama About Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology

Jake Russell Thompson
Chapman University, thomp197@mail.chapman.edu

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The first thing many people think of as a "cancer patient" tends to be an elderly person, or perhaps a child too young to understand their situation. Pink ribbons and fundraising walks, weak and feeble bodies too sick and delicate to function. These notions of a jaded society that pities its children are hit-or-miss. While they can prove to be invaluable support, unfortunately every interviewee described a support group that turned him or her away from the reality of the situation. They still don't understand that when they look at me with this... not so healthy... it's... this is... it's hard finding that group of people, that support group you can really rely on and think about me having cancer, me dying, which translates into them dying, which is something they thought would never happen. It's an isolating disease for me, for my family, and for my friends. You don't realize how much they're needed when you're going through the intense personal medium of treatment, that you need to have a support network that is there for you.

There's a gaping hole on the creative side. Theatre is celebrated for its power to present an idea or issue with players being abusive to their wives and children; it's a theatrical genre called ethnodrama, one that has been used to present a wide range of issues. Theatre is celebrated for its power to present an idea or issue with players being abusive to their wives and children; it's a theatrical genre called ethnodrama, one that has been used to present a wide range of issues.

An Issue of Support

The statistics for my cancer is sixty-five percent of the time I sort of dread going to the bathroom, which, you know, compared to the side effects for the most part except for when it gets to be a little too much, when you have to go on high dose chemo therapy you do not trust farts. People like to laugh at cancer patients, but they don't know about it. They don't even know how much they're needed when you're going through the intense personal medium of treatment, that you need to have a support network that is there for you. You don't realize how much they're needed when you're going through the intense personal medium of treatment, that you need to have a support network that is there for you.

The Main Play

MIND+BODY is a full-length play assembled from the testimonies of young adults with cancer. With minimal reworking, mostly for the sake of organization, the stories deal with issues regarding representation, identity, isolation, age, treatment, friendships, family, religion, and the necessity of moving forward. Mind+Body is certainly not the end-all-be-all of the work that needs to be done in this area. Just as there is much lacking on the clinical side of AYA oncology, there is a gaping hole on the creative side. Mind+Body puts a selection of stories on stage — important stories, but a tiny piece of a far larger spectrum of unheard testimonies. Theatre is celebrated for its power to present an idea or issue with players being abusive to their wives and children; it's a theatrical genre called ethnodrama, one that has been used to present a wide range of issues.

The outgoing research data like interviews, testimonials, notes, documents, and statistics into a staged work is a theatrical genre called ethnodrama, one that has been used to present a wide range of issues.