

HANDS.ON.FILMS Presents...



WRONGWAY TO HOPE

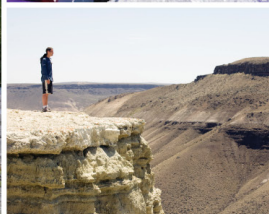
An inspiring story of young adults *and cancer*

CROSS COUNTRY TOUR

It's fitting that the cross-Canada launch of *Wrong Way To Hope* (*Hands On Films, 2010*)—a documentary that follows a group of young adult cancer survivors on an “adventure therapy” expedition down Oregon’s remote Owyhee River—will itself be an adventure. Film producer, expedition leader and young adult cancer survivor Mike Lang will be driving across the country with his wife Bonnie in an RV to screen the film in cancer support centres, hospitals and public cinemas. Their two-month cross country tour begins with the official launch of the tour in Vancouver on March 20th, and will continue with over 30 screenings across Canada, in Victoria, Langley, Abbotsford, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Brandon, Stonewall (Manitoba), Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Barrie, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal, St. John, Fredericton, Rocky Harbour (Newfoundland), Charlottetown and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

SYNOPSIS

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Owyhee River in the Oregon desert, a group of Canadians embark on a journey of a lifetime down the one of the most remote rivers in the Lower 48. This incredible river journey is all the more remarkable as the core expedition members are all young adults and survivors of cancer. Led by 25 year old Mike Lang, this inspirational group share their personal stories and apply the lessons learned from their cancer struggle as together they battle a completely new set of trials on the river. The result is an extraordinary journey and a rare insight into the lives of one of Canada’s most underserved and unrecognized populations.



More information available at WrongWaytoHope.com



YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH CANCER

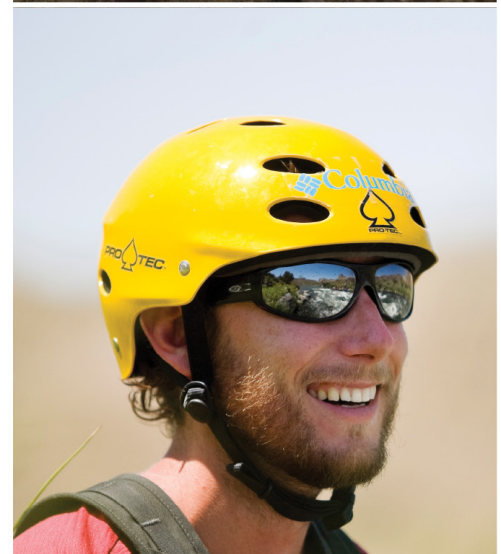
A young adult (YA) is categorized as being between the ages of 15–39 and yes, they DO get cancer. In Canada over 6,500 YA's are diagnosed every year. Despite this relatively high percentage of occurrence and the huge impact that a cancer diagnosis has in this formative stage of life, there are almost no support resources or research money directed towards this demographic. YA-specific studies accounted for less than 0.1% of all research spending in Canada in 2006. Young adults living with cancer refer to themselves as the “forgotten generation”; many Canadians are surprised to learn that this age group faces not only the physical and mental challenges of the disease, but also a far more subtle fight for acceptance and recognition in a health system that is only just starting to properly understand their unique needs.

(* All statistics provided by Young Adult Cancer Canada.)

BIOGRAPHY: PRODUCER MIKE LANG

When Mike Lang was 25 years old he went to the doctor thinking that he had asthma. What he actually had was a softball-sized tumor in the middle of his chest causing his breathing issues. Four days later he found out that he had numerous other tumors of varying sizes all over his body. Mike was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and started chemotherapy. The diagnosis was obviously quite unexpected for Mike and his wife of five months, Bonnie. In just seven days he lost his job, moved back in with his parents, put his career on hold and found himself sitting in a chemotherapy waiting room full of people at least 30 years older than him.

Mike did not want to acknowledge that cancer had any impact on his life but refusing to engage with the experience made him miserable. With the goal of finding purpose in his suffering, Mike thought up a way to use his skills and abilities to better the lives of YA survivor peers. A year and three months later, after undergoing six months of chemotherapy, one and a half months of radiation treatments and countless hours of dreaming and organizing, Mike and seven other YA cancer survivors from across Canada started out on a journey of a lifetime with the goal of raising awareness of the specific issues and challenges facing young adults with cancer. Like the lives of so many young adult cancer survivors, this film is drenched in suffering, brokenness, redemption and hope. Enjoy the journey.



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