
WINNER OF THE AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD AT THE 2016 INDY FILM FEST

The Invisible Patients

a documentary film about life at the edges of our healthcare system



DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY PATRICK O'CONNOR • RUNNING TIME: 88 MINUTES

“... a powerful film that brings into the light challenges faced by the frail homebound and the heroic efforts to preserve their humanity.”

BRUCE LEFF, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

“...compassionately and with dignity takes us inside the most vulnerable moments of these lives.”

RICHARD PROPES

PUBLIC SCREENINGS

Chicago International Social Change Film Festival - Sept. 25

PUSH Film Festival - Bristol, TN - Oct. 21-23

CONTACTS

Patrick O'Connor

director/producer

pat@invisiblepatients.com

812-453-1619

Lauren Townsend

outreach & engagement

lauren@invisiblepatients.com

215-939-7621

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

facebook.com/invisiblepatientsfilm

Twitter

@invisidoc

Instagram

@invisiblepatientsfilm

invisiblepatients.com

LOGLINE

A nurse practitioner struggles to preserve the health and humanity of frail, homebound patients living on the outer edges of our healthcare system.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS tells the story of Jessica Macleod, a nurse practitioner, and four homebound patients she cares for in Evansville, Indiana. Together they put a human face on some of the most urgent healthcare issues facing our nation, from the living conditions of the elderly poor and end-of-life care, to the soaring costs of hospitalization, complexity of insurance and over-prescription of opiates.

Their stories reveal the emotional as well as financial burdens created by our current system, and cry out for solutions. THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS pulls back the curtain on a hidden, vulnerable population, whose circumstances ask us to wrestle with not just healthcare policy, but as importantly, how to mend today's fraying social fabric.

LONG SYNOPSIS

In her 20-year career in healthcare, Jessica Macleod has worked on the renal medicine and telemetry floor at Yale-New Haven Hospital. She's cared for elderly dementia patients in a small English village and tended to students at a university health center. She earned her PhD and then spent the next ten years as a nurse practitioner in a family medicine practice in Evansville, Indiana.

In 2013, Jessica began working for MD2U, a Louisville-based in-home healthcare company of doctors and nurse practitioners who provide primary care services in the home. Jessica built a practice of over 100 patients who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to leave their homes to see a doctor. She calls them "invisible patients." Caring for them is by far the most challenging job she's ever had.

"Sometimes I feel like it's third-world medicine, in a way," says Jessica. "Going out into the field, you don't have every single thing you need, and you do the best for that person that you possibly can. And I think that's okay, because, frankly, if I wasn't doing it, a lot of the people would end up in the E.R. a total mess."

Researchers estimate that there are approximately five million adults in the US who are homebound or home-limited due to chronic illness or functional limitations. They are often elderly and frail. In many cases, they are under-resourced, living in difficult circumstances at the outer edges of our health care system.

With her laptop satchel and stethoscope, Jessica makes old-fashioned house calls throughout her workday, typically seeing 8-10 patients, driving on average 60 miles throughout her territory in southwestern Indiana and northwestern Kentucky. Jessica's work puts a laser focus on some of the most urgent healthcare issues facing our country, from the living conditions of the elderly poor and end of life care, to the soaring costs of hospitalization, complexity of insurance and over-prescription of opiates. Her patients' stories reveal the emotional as well as financial burdens created by our current system, and cry out for solutions. Nurse practitioners like Jessica represent one answer. "When you go to someone's house to see them, you're telling them, 'I value you enough as a person to come see you where you are.' Nobody talks about it, but I think these people feel like *'at least someone cares.'*"

THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS pulls back the curtain on a hidden population, whose circumstances ask us to wrestle not just with healthcare policy, but as importantly, how to mend today's fraying social fabric.

THE CAST

Jessica Macleod Nurse practitioner and mother of three

Roger Brown 30 year-old man with Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy

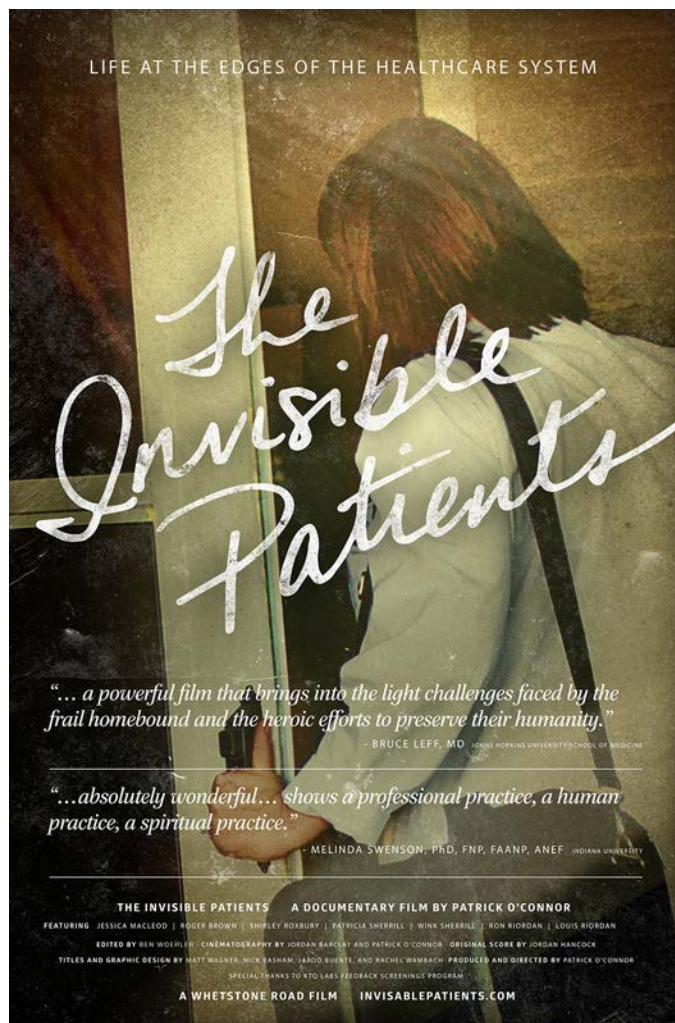
Shirley Roxbury Roger Brown's mother and main caregiver

Wink Sherrill 72 year-old retired carpenter with osteoarthritis, recovering from prostate cancer surgery

Patty Sherrill 62 years-old, borderline diabetic with osteoarthritis

Ron Riordan 62 year-old artist with brain damage caused by a motorcycle accident

Louis Riordan Roger's older brother, shares his home, dealing with heart problems



THEATRICAL POSTER

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Patrick O'Connor is a writer/producer/director who has worked in marketing for healthcare systems, as well as numerous non-profit organizations, through his company oconnor/creative (oconnorcreative.com). His feature film writing credits include RICOCHET RIVER, produced by Gigi Pritzker and starring Kate Hudson, and the independent feature SACRED HEARTS, which he also directed. SACRED HEARTS premiered at the Boston Film Festival and subsequently played at the Fort Lauderdale Film Festival (awarded Best First Feature) and the Lincoln Center in New York. His screenplay, ZOO, was purchased by Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment.

Pat is married to the author Margaret McMullan and they have son, James. They recently moved to Pass Christian, MS. THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS is his first documentary.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Camera Jordan Barclay & Patrick O'Connor

Editor Ben Woehler

Original Music Jordan Hancock

Graphic Design Matt Wagner, Nick Basham, Jarod Buente & Rachel Wambach

Post Production Apex Post, New Orleans

SPECIAL THANKS

Kartemquin Lab Screening Series

The City of Evansville

Deaconess Hospital

MD2U

Dana Kupper