

## A Wild Ride with Jay and Teepa

*Behind the Scenes on Where Did You Go?*

*by Jay Joseph Jones, Director, Shared Syndicate*

You may have seen a number of recent articles on *WHERE DID YOU GO?* through our newsletter and social media outlets over the last couple of months. You may also have been wondering, what has this got to do with Teepa? Why should I even care about this film? Both very good questions. This article, along with a newly released piece of media from Shared Syndicate, aims to answer those questions. It's been a wild ride behind the scenes.

These articles have not been random promotion, quite the opposite in fact. Teepa and Positive Approach® to Care (PAC) have been heavily involved with the project since Director Jay Joseph Jones brought his conception to the table in 2014, which was when he personally reached out to Teepa. Since then, the two have formed an understanding and strong bond on the topic of dementia. Through Teepa's knowledge and practice and Jay's artistic capabilities, Teepa became the lead consultant on the film. It would be impossible so far to track the number of hours Jay and Teepa have spent discussing Lewy Body and dementia as a whole. An example of the **will** to get the film right would be how they at times would connect. Jay would video conference on the train in the UK to Teepa in an American airport between their crazy schedules – with Jay sometimes staying up until obscene hours in the night to marry the time difference. He also spent many hours with Lauren U who became a dementia consultant and is living with Lewy Body. Teepa and PAC have given direct and in-kind funding to Shared Syndicate to make this project possible.



Jay reached out to Teepa because, as he put it; "I believe Teepa Snow to be the best specialist in the world when it comes to the massive subject matter of dementia. I looked everywhere, but nothing was connecting; I was finding mostly one-dimensional facts about the condition on a single webpage. This wasn't the way I saw the character Jean, so I kept searching, holding a thought that I knew there was a bigger

and deeper picture. This was when I came across Teepa and one of her early YouTube videos. I strongly believe it is not enough to simply *know* about the condition, you have to be able to see past just the facts and engage a wider perception. You cannot teach the ability to truly see. I connect with Teepa because she is born with such sight.

Everything she does is born out of this innate ability, it is written all over her work.” After the initial meetings, Jay was also given full access to Teepa’s archives and the collection held at Pines of Sarasota Educational Institute by JoAnn Westbrook.

*WHERE DID YOU GO?* does everything above and more. It projects and surrounds us with one example of this bigger and deeper picture, through [the character] Jean’s experience with Lewy-Body [played by Actress Penelope Wildgoose], which is framed at a set point in time by her self-discovery and first acceptance of the condition. Love, grief, happiness, and loss, much is experienced. It’s important that we look at a deeper and wider picture because this impacts our understanding, which affects our interactions. Our thoughts go out to anyone who is living isolated with very little to no support like Jean, who have little knowledge themselves of what is happening. This film is not just important for awareness sake, but because it “allows people to see within, even though, they are living without...” – Teepa Snow *WDYG* set 2015.

Everyone at Positive Approach and Shared Syndicate encourages you to give a donation whether big or small to the film campaign, as it’s so important to get this piece of work out in the world. These donations are collected by a trusted American entity, The Dementia Spotlight Foundation, which works with both Positive Approach and Shared Syndicate. The film was recently accepted at the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema 2017 and was nominated for 8 awards. *WDYG* will be screening at Idyllwild festival [California, USA] January 2017 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> – for more information visit the [Idyllwild Cinemafest Website](#). Stay tuned for announcements on additional resources to come with *WHERE DID YOU GO?*