Mystery Diagnosis Airs SJS Story

In early September we received a call from a producer from True Entertainment. They were interested in reenacting a case of Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Many stories were submitted and to our surprise they chose Julie McCawley, we had been told they were looking for an adult. On October 21st we began filming. It's amazing how much is involved in making a segment that will only last approximately 30 minutes. Early on a very cold and snowy morning we arrived at a Studio in Denver to film interviews. These would later be used to narrate different hospital scenes. Family and friends along with Dr. Bernard Cohen of Johns Hopkins and Lois Tyler (Retired Pediatric Nurse) volunteered their time to tell Julie’s story. Lois is the actual nurse that saved Julie’s life. Everyone from True Entertainment was great. They were very patient and worked very hard to pull it all together.

Joe Blasco, well known makeup artist from Orlando, Florida also volunteered. Joe did a fantastic job of recreating the appearance of SJS and TEN. He and his Makeup class created a baby doll to look exactly like Julie in full blown TEN. This was very emotional for me. The first time I saw the doll it was inside a trunk. Joe asked if I would like to see it prior to filming. I am so thankful he gave me that opportunity as I was immediately taken back in time to Julie’s hospital room. I burst into tears at the sight of her. Julie sat for what seemed hours while Joe made sheets of blisters to recreate necrosis of the skin in its various stages. Although it was very emotional it was the best therapy you can imagine. I was finally able to work through emotions I was unable to let go while Julie was fighting for her life and she understood what had happened to her at such a young age.

We would like to thank the following people for their participation in the show.

Adilan Post
Bernard Cohen MD
June Eggleston
Jeanne Eggleston
Julie McCawley
Lois Tyler
Rebecca Post
Zach Cisneros

North Metro Fire Rescue

True Entertainment Production Team
Ava Berkofsky
Renee Sniatkowski
Josh Vinitz

The Denver Children’s Hospital at St. Josephs Hospital

Joe Blasco MakeUp Schools
Joe Blasco
Doug Schott
Linda Schott

Mystery Diagnosis aired the segment on March 22, 2010. We hope many of you were able to catch the show and we have been told it will eventually be available online and reruns.