

# Times-Standard

## 'Not as I Pictured' KEET-TV airs documentary on Pulitzer Prize-winning cancer survivor

Luis F. Molina/Tri-City Weekly

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Florida State University professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist John Kaplan didn't chronicle his battle with cancer in hopes of winning another award or admiration from his peers, he was just hoping it would help him cope with the life-threatening illness. In doing so, he has helped countless others deal with their cancer.

"The hardest part of filming was having to take a step back from my love of telling a story and to focus on my treatment," Kaplan said. "If (filming) got in the way, I was going to stop."

"Not as I Pictured" is about Kaplan's six-month battle with the non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a diagnosis he received at the age of 48.

"The first thing I tell people is that, unlike 10 years ago, hearing the sinister word 'cancer' doesn't mean a death sentence," Kaplan said. "'Not as I Pictured' uses anything but the typical melancholy, cliché approach toward cancer stories and is upbeat and life affirming."

"Despite the serious topic, 'Not As I Pictured' is easy to watch, and even humorous at times," Kaplan said. "Universally, cancer patients and their families tell us they feel better after watching it."

The documentary will air on KEET-TV, channel 13, on Monday (Jan. 30) at 5 and again at 10 p.m.

The purpose of the documentary is to help cancer patients and their families. Kaplan is making available 10,000 free DVD copies of "Not as I

Pictured" through the film's website, [www. NotAsIPictured.org](http://www.NotAsIPictured.org).

"The minute you so graciously gave me your film I

couldn't wait to watch it," oncology nurse Ivy Kelley said in a news release for the film. "It is a truly inspirational work of art. Having worked as an oncology nurse for many years now, I have learned that each person's journey is unique from any others. I love the way you were able to portray your courageous experience with splashes of humor along the way. Thank you for allowing me to partake in your journey. I am inspired and humbled."

For more information or to receive a free copy of "Not as I Pictured," visit [www. NotAsIPictured.org](http://www.NotAsIPictured.org).

