

## JoAnne Purtan to host dementia documentary by Keith Famie on DPTV in June

Hometown Life Published 10:50 p.m. ET April 16, 2018



After his dad died from Alzheimer's, he vowed to do something to help others facing dementia. In June the public will be able to witness the two-year project award-winning producer/director Keith Famie has put together documenting the story of Alzheimer's and dementia.

"Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's & Dementia" will air 9 p.m. June 27 on Detroit Public Television (DPTV) Channel 56 in Detroit. The film is produced by Famie's Visionalist Entertainment Productions. The broadcast will be hosted by JoAnne Purtan, morning host at WOMC-FM radio and one of Michigan's most respected broadcast journalists, who recently wrapped up a 20-year tenure with Detroit ABC affiliate WXYZ-TV.

The documentary features stories and leading professionals from around the world, including [Teepa Snow](#), sharing the work they are doing to better understand a pathway to help those diagnosed with multiple forms of dementia. The film also explores deeply the value of how the medical community is now embracing the holistic world as we, as a nation, face the fastest and largest aging population of Baby Boomers.

"I am so honored to be working with Keith Famie to help shine a light on a disease that robs too many families of years together and precious memories," Purtan said. "As I learned early in my career as a health reporter and have confirmed by working on this project, from caregivers to scientists working on cutting edge research, there are so many wonderful people working to help those battling Alzheimer's. We hope that by sharing their stories, this documentary can provide hope for families facing so much heartache and uncertainty."

Famie, who lost his father to Alzheimer's in 2003, always vowed he would one day take on the daunting task of creating a film with the intention of helping society better understand and deal with the very complicated emotional journey anyone goes on with dementia caregivers included.



**Keith Famie during filming at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills. (Photo: Dan Dean | [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com))**

“We are so honored to have JoAnne as our host for this film, which we know will help so many, Famie said. “Viewers trust her to bring them stories that impact their lives and this film is designed to touch so many. We anticipate the film will tour many communities as well as air throughout the state of Michigan and, eventually, other major PBS stations around the country.”

“There can be no better use of our documentary programming, than to explain, explore and decode Alzheimer’s disease in a television and digital format that can track the advancement in care and prevention, while also revealing the latest coping strategies to patients and families alike,” said Fred Nahhat, Senior Vice President, Detroit Public Television. “Providing a platform for award-winning filmmakers and journalists like Keith Famie and JoAnne Purtan to examine these issues allows us to provide great storytelling from both a local and national perspective.”

The film’s support comes from many community leaders, including the D. Dan & Betty Kahn Foundation and the Artichoke Garlic Foundation.

To learn more about the production, please go to:  
[www.ontodaysfrontlines.com/alzheimers](http://www.ontodaysfrontlines.com/alzheimers)