PRIVATE VIEW

BY COLLEEN BRETT

Perhaps working in the pharmaceutical industry for too many years has numbed me, but I feel that most people are over the ads as much as I am. I can barely tune in enough to register which drug an ad is for or who the client is. And I totally get it—there have been so many instances where what starts out as an amazingly creative idea dies a slow death at the hands of an iron-fisted legal department. But the purpose of the ad should not get lost in boring creative.

At Tonic we strive to empower patients from a PR standpoint but share the same frustrations as any ad agency. How do we get people's attention and both individualize our message and make it relevant and impactful? There's a new trend that's doing a great job at doing just that—making the message personal and relatable so that the right person listens up.

Here are a few ads that have tapped into this strategy—some that impress and others that fade into the background.

■ cheMOTHERapy

Company: Teva Oncology
This ad's simplicity is clever
and striking. It takes a scary
disease with an unpleasant
treatment and eclipses the
negativity with tenderness by
humanizing the woman. She
is someone's mother first and
foremost; cancer is secondary,
but treatment is a priority.

■ Not Your Mother's Cataract Surgery

Company: Alcon
These "everyday" people look
honest and authentic. The family photos that they're holding
only further legitimize the
humanity of the ad and give a
gentle push toward considering new surgical technology.

■ Mr. Independence

Company: Salix
Gritty photography and eroded typography make this ad stand apart from the rest. The headline should resonate with anyone who has a man in their life—dad, husband, friend. We can all relate to the resistance a lot of guys put up when it comes to going to a doctor.

■ What I Enjoy

Company: Pfizer
This woman's hobby is baking cookies and even she looks bored with the whole thing.
Her lack of expression matches the lack of interest in the overall design—even fresh out of the oven, there's nothing warm about this concept.

■ Family Tradition

Company: AstraZeneca
The picture here looks like it was pulled right out of a family album: It captures a moment we'd all like to have in the kitchen of someone who loves us. But the stark background, rather than focusing the visual, makes the ad feel boring, plain and easy to pass right on by.

■ I Am ...

Company: Forest
Pharmaceuticals
The couple pictured is really sweet—it makes you happy this guy has such a nurturing woman looking out for him.
The handwriting personalizes the sentiment and looks like real handwriting, as opposed

to overused handwriting fonts.



Colleen Brett is creative director at Tonic Life Communications.



CHEMOTHERAPY
Company: Teva Oncology



NOT YOUR MOTHER'S CATARACT SURGERY Company: Alcon

PRIVATE VIEW: Each month, a creative director from the industry reviews a number of medical advertisements. Please note that the views expressed are those of the author and not the views of *MM&M* magazine. For more information, or to be considered as a guest reviewer, please e-mail Kevin McCaffrey at Kevin.McCaffrey@haymarketmedia.com.



MR. INDEPENDENCE

Company: Salix **Product: Giazo**



FAMILY TRADITION

Company: AstraZeneca
Product: Nexium



WHAT I ENJOY

Company: Pfizer Product: Lyrica



I AM ...

Company: Forest Pharmaceuticals

Product: Namenda