This program is presented with support from CSL Behring, Grifols, Takeda, and Pharming. This podcast contains stories that will be featured prominently in the upcoming Immune Deficiency Foundation film, *Vessels*.

Myles Temple: Something about the creative process that I learned early on was how to start small, let's say, you're drawing a human face. The best thing to do is actually to start with a really light circle, then to build all the details and proportions on top of that. And so I think breaking down that, like, philosophy and just starting with a small foundation for anything that you do really formative for me because I'd realized that I could just apply that to almost anything that I do if I want to paint. Okay. It's the same process.
Start with like one or two base colors and then you work upward from there. Filmmaking. Start with a couple of prompts for a story. Work upward from there. Cinematography even Start with basic shot.
Work upward from there. Weightlifting. Let's start with the basic program. Work upward from there. So I feel like there's just this underlying philosophy and the creative process that you can apply to almost anything in your life.

Narrator: There's a reason primary immunodeficiency is such a broad disease category. Sometimes in disorders like common variable immune deficiency, lifelong illness can precede a diagnosis by decades. Other times, diagnosis can happen shortly after birth, followed by an impossibly complicated childhood. This was the case for Myles Temple. Today, you might never think Myles had ever been anything other than perfectly healthy. He's a recent college graduate, a filmmaker, an artist, a power lifter. He spent time as a production assistant on the Emmy winning FX series, *The Bear*. He recently married his longtime girlfriend. Indeed, today it would seem as though Myles is thriving. It's all the more impressive when you examine his history.
Three bone marrow transplants, two cancer diagnoses, a three year hospital stay, and a single digit chance of surviving. Myles was born with a condition called severe combined immunodeficiency. The same condition as David Vetter, who received national attention as the boy in the bubble. Shortly after birth, Myles was placed on a ventilator. At six months old, he received his first bone marrow transplant with partially matched stem cells from his father, which was unsuccessful.
However, a second transplant was mostly successful until age three when he developed cancer. Myles was treated with surgery and was healthy for a time. Due to his age, Myles doesn't seem to recall much about the problems in his early years. However, before undergoing a third bone marrow transplant around age nine, doctors discovered a cancerous tumor in his neck. This led to an era of youth, which he can remember, all too well.

Myles Temple: Long story short, the transplant that I had was kinda starting to fail again. And so I was told that I would need to undergo a third bone marrow transplant. And this time, we were gonna try it with a foreign donor or a nonrelated donor. And it'd be a lot different from the transplant that had preceded that. And a week before I was supposed to go in from my third transplant, I was diagnosed with lymphoma again in my neck.
So I had to go through four rounds of chemo, get the lymphoma gone, and then do the transplant. And I think that they had placed my chances of making it out alive at, like, five percent or something like crazy low. So it it was challenging. It was a pretty challenging time. Yeah.
I remember going in and I remember preparing for it to be a long process since I was I was around nine or ten. I think I just, like, turned ten when all this was happening. And I remember prepping for it to be a long process, but I think being that young, I didn't really understand how serious that was going to be, and it presented itself with just so many complications. It wasn't just like, alright, four rounds of chemo, then transplant, you're done. It was about a two and a half to three year long stay in the hospital, and then probably about another two year recovery at home post that.
So it was a long time. Man. One thing that my my parents and my family and all the supporters that I had during that time did really well was keep me distracted. So I wouldn't say that there was like a specific moment that I had to come to terms with my mortality rather it was this over time thing.
And the older that I've gotten and the more that I've looked back and that I've learned about the situation and the more that I've learned about the specific type of primary immunomedeficiency that I had the more that I've been like, "Oh, wow." I I wouldn't even know how to confront that today.

Narrator: Myles spent years in the hospital in isolation. For a while, he had to undergo anesthesia once a week to have his sinuses cleared, a process for which he eventually decided to remain awake. Few people must consider the function and rarity of hospital passes. These are permits that allow patients who are admitted for long periods to leave the hospital grounds for a set amount of time, usually only for a few hours. The summer of twenty twelve, which occurred during Myles three year stay in the hospital, was defined by the release of a blockbuster that shaped popular culture for more than a decade.
The film in question would influence much of Myles personal expression, but he and his father had to get creative and a little mischievous in order to see it.

Myles Temple: I was in isolation, so it was pretty challenging for me to go out and to actually go to the movies. But I remember one time my dad came down to visit me and we got a four hour pass from the hospital and we went to go see *Avengers* opening night. And as soon as we got to the theater, they had announced that the Showtime that we had

wanted to go was already sold out. So he just asked if I could go to the bathroom and we actually snuck in and stole someone's seats. And then came back later and we got in trouble because instead of being gone for four hours.
I was gone for eight. It was this whole ordeal. But that that was, like, really special to me. And the movie was insane. Like, I had never experienced anything like that in the theater that people were clapping.
And it was just... It was awesome. So I think as a kid, that was really special to me, and I I I still love the movie.

Narrator: Around the same time, a researcher named David at the hospital took it upon himself to spend his lunch hour every day. Teaching Myles the fundamentals of drawing. This led to a personal obsession with art, as well as an enduring friendship. Myles even took inspiration from David to write and direct a deeply personal short film called Unfinished, which has been accepted to multiple film festivals.

Myles Temple: Unfinished is a story about a lonely man who is trying to overcome the guilt surrounding the death of his father by teaching a young boy how to paint. The idea for unfinished came from my art mentor and family friend David. He sort of fell out of contact between the time that I got out of the hospital and then when I kind of moved around and and went to college and stuff, but when I transferred schools back to Indiana University. I was really close to Cincinnati. So I'd gone to visit and we'd reconnected over coffee.
And I was more mature, I was twenty two. So I was... We were just talking about old times and about the hospital situation and I'd asked him why he had volunteered his time to come in and teach me how to draw. He had just told me the story about his dad, how he had lost his dad to to brain cancer. How his dad was an artist and how he felt like he could use his dad's skills to get back to me.
And so I thought that was a really powerful conversation. And so when I was trying to decide what I wanted to do for this film, I just was going crazy, looping back through all the files in my head of, like, conversations I've had and scenarios that I've been in, like, what can I write? What can I make a film out of? And that was the one that stood out the most to me. That was also the most feasible that we could pull off within that tight time frame that we had.
I wrote the script in six weeks and then we found our actors within two weeks and then we shot the very final week of school during finals in three and a half days. The most recent cut has been selected for a couple film festivals, Crown Point International Film Festival, and then Austin Lift-Off, which is in its final round right now. We're hoping to get into more, but we'll see.

Narrator: There's no shortage of historical evidence to support the cliche of an ego driven film director, an entrepreneur who holds their ideas and talents as gospel, forsaking the contributions of their crew. This is not Myles Temple. He speaks of his collaborators with adoration. It's never my film, but rather our film. He's as quick to acknowledge his own shortcomings as he is the strengths of his team.
This genteel attitude echoes in his words as he reflects on the community that surrounded him when his future was most uncertain.

Myles Temple: One thing that was so so formative in my time doing treatment was definitely my faith as a Christian. I don't I don't know that I would have been able to make it through or have the perspective on it that I have now. I think that I just experienced a lot of of healing and it it wasn't due to luck. It certainly was not due to my own strength, but just people coming together around me, the perfect time and place. And I definitely don't think that's luck.
I think that was ordained. By somebody up above. My health is great today. I don't want to say that I have no issues. I struggle with some things that were left over from treatment.
So chronic kidney disease, for example, have to see a lot of specialists, at least once a year, just for follow-up. But in terms of seeing my immunologist, I'm only seeing him every five years now, not on any medication. So a lot of it is just kind of keeping up my health instead of trying to actively get rid of something or you know something. So I'm very blessed to be in good health that I am after I've gone through such a wild experience.

Narrator: Thank you for listening to this episode of undiagnosed from the Immune Deficiency Foundation. You can see more of Myles, his art, and his perspective in the upcoming documentary, *Vessels*. Your support of the Immune Deficiency Foundation directly benefits the awareness, education, and advocacy that people like Myles deserve. To learn more, visit primary Immune dot org.