



VIDEO: Cancer survivor gets painted like Star Wars stormtrooper

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Professional Face and Body Painter Lizz Daley, of Salt Lake City, paints Jamie Grant, a breast cancer survivor, as a stormtrooper, in Lizz's home in Salt Lake City on October, 13, 2014. Jamie was diagnosed with breast cancer in her left breast in August 2013. She has since had a double mastectomy, eight rounds of chemotherapy, 25 radiation treatments and is currently still on medication. Lizz first painted Jamie for "Canvas of Cancer," a body paint book of cancer survivors that Lizz collaborated with other face and body artists with.

By JAMIE LAMPROS, Standard-Examiner correspondent

SALT LAKE CITY — The eight-hour body painting was a declaration of triumph for Jamie Grant in her recovery from breast cancer, a double mastectomy and hopelessness.

The 41-year-old Salt Lake City mother of two talked about her battle with breast cancer recently while Lizz Daley painted her body into a Star Wars stormtrooper.

“Last August I found a lump in my breast and it turned out to be cancer,” Grant said. “I decided to have a double mastectomy. After my operation, the surgeon came out to talk to my husband and she painted a story of doom and gloom to him.”

Grant said the surgeon said she found cancer in 11 out of 19 of Grant’s lymph nodes and basically left the young family with little hope.

“She stole my hope right from the beginning. It put a dark cloud over everything until I was able to see my oncologist,” Grant said. “I asked him if he could give me at least 10 years and he told me that yes he could. He lifted a huge burden from my shoulders and gave me the hope I needed to fight.”

Grant had eight rounds of chemotherapy followed by 25 rounds of radiation and a year’s worth of oral medication. Today she is in remission.

“This is the second time Lizz has done body painting on me. The first time I had her paint a cowgirl theme. I had always been afraid of guns so my husband took me to a shooting camp and I learned how to handle a gun,” Grant said. “I felt like not only did I conquer my fear of guns, but I also conquered my fear of cancer.”

Grant was featured in Daley’s book, *Canvas of Cancer*, which portrays several Utahns from age 3 to 66 who are battling some form of cancer. All of the proceeds from the book go to the [American Childhood Cancer Organization \(http://acco.org/\)](http://acco.org/) of Utah and the [Cancer Wellness House \(http://www.cancer-wellness.org/\)](http://www.cancer-wellness.org/).

“This time I chose to have her paint a stormtrooper because my husband loves Star Wars, but also because I feel like a warrior. I feel like I’ve gone into battle and come out a survivor,” Grant said.

Daley, 32, and a graduate of Davis High School, started face painting as a hobby about five years ago. After teaching herself the art, she enrolled in some professional painting classes and joined the Salt Lake City Body Painting League.

“Every other month we pick a theme and a special effect and we get a model and paint,” Daley said. “We get a model to be painted and we all get together and paint. Then we have a photographer come in and take pictures of our work. It really is a lot of fun.”

Daley has transformed people into angels, witches, fairies, flowers and animals with her extreme body painting.

"Most of my work is hand painted. I do some airbrush paint as well and we do some foam prosthetics over the private parts of the body that make it look like the person is wearing clothing," Daley said. "The paint dries pretty quickly and most of it can be washed off with soap and water."

Although Daley paints for parties and other events, she chose to paint those suffering from cancer as a charitable service.

"All of the people I painted survived some form of cancer such as kidney, thyroid, breast, brain, ovarian and leukemia," Daley said. "We painted whatever they wanted and wove in something that told their story of survival. One woman I painted actually lost her mother to cancer. Her mother loved lilies so we painted lilies all over her back."

Grant said her body painting session gives her time to relax and express herself.

"My body isn't perfect but it has survived. It has gotten me through," Grant said. "The painting is empowering to me and when I look at myself I can see the warrior who survived the battle."