

ZALAB FILM
Presents

ONE DAY THE NIGHT

(Un Giorno La Notte)

*A documentary on the expectation of blindness,
a surprising experience beyond the gaze.*

by Michele Aiello and Michele Cattan, with the visual self-narration by Sainey Fatty
and the audio-description by Andrea Pennacchi

Produced by
ZALAB FILM



with the contribution by
REGIONE VENETO – POR FESR Veneto 2014-2020



with the support by
REGIONE EMILIA ROMAGNA



in collaboration with
ARCA DI NOÈ COOPERATIVA SOCIALE and SAI - Sistema Accoglienza Integrazione



Exceptionally on the occasion of its release - Tuesday, April 27,
the film will be available free of charge with the audio-description by Andrea Pennacchi
on the platforms partecipa.zalab.org and MioCinema.org

From April 28, 2021 the film will be available in the double version: either with the audio-description or
without, in streaming on rental on the platforms partecipa.zalab.org and MioCinema.org

UFFICIO STAMPA FILM | PRESSPRESS
Lucrezia Viti. Livia Delle Fratte
Gabriele Carunchio. Serena Bernardelli
mail ufficiostampa@presspress.it

ONE DAY THE NIGHT

With	Sainey Fatty, Pasquale Di Flaviano, Giada Catini
Directors	Michele Aiello, Michele Cattani
Editor	Corrado Iuvara
Photography	Luca Gennari, Salvatore Lucchese, Matteo Calore and Michele Aiello
Original Music	Sergio Marchesini
Live Sound Recording	Alberto Fontana
Post-production Sound	Alberto Cagol Riccardo e Rossi Marco Zambrano
Colorist	Corrado Iuvara
Coordination of Production	Giulia Campagna
Administration	Elena Pinton
Communication	Chiara Tringali, Nicoletta Cartocci
Distribution	Maud Corino
Production	Zalab Film Srl
With the contribution by	Regione Veneto - Por Fesr Veneto 2014-2020
With the support by	Regione Emilia Romagna
In collaboration with	Arca Di Noè Cooperativa Sociale SAI - Sistema di Accoglienza e Integrazione
Producer	Stefano Collizzolli
Artistic producer	Andrea Segre
Executive producer	Michele Aiello
Audio-description with the voice of	Andrea Pennacchi

Original title: Un Giorno La Notte

Italy

2021

68'

Language: Italian

DCP, Colors

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Sainey is a twenty-year-old Gambian who knows the harsh reality of his destiny: because of an irreversible illness, he risks becoming totally blind.

After reaching Italy and discovering that even here no cure exists, he is determined to learn as much as possible to prepare for blindness.

On this journey to darkness, Sainey meets a new friend and discovers the passion for a new sport, the baseball. So he decides to film his story in first person and to show the world that it is necessary to react to the greatest difficulties.

SYNOPSIS

Sainey is a twenty-year-old Gambian who knows the harsh reality of his destiny: because of an irreversible illness, he risks becoming totally blind. Since child Sainey knows about this problem and he has always associated it to the dark, and in particular to the night, the moment of the day he never got to see.

For some time now, he picked up a camera and started telling his story. He perfectly remembers when, at the age of three, his mother discovered with dismay that he has the same illness as his brother – a year older – has.

Only after having crossed the Sahara and the Mediterranean with the aim of finding a cure, Sainey discovered that the disease is called "Retinitis Pigmentosa" and that unfortunately it is degenerative e incurable. The darkest period of his life began with that medical examination.

Today Sainey lives in Bologna and has begun a journey to accept the disease.

His goal now is to learn as much as possible to prepare for the future. Entering the community of the blind is not easy and the moments of discomfort are just around the corner. Luckily, Sainey meets generous traveling companions, willing to support and stimulate him in this challenge. They are blind friends who have developed a great awareness of their condition and who are willing to gently help him.

Sainey dates them when he plays with the baseball team of blind people and during the lessons to become a receptionist at the Institute of the blinds F. Cavazza. In particular, Sainey befriends a blind sixty-year-old, named Pasquale, captain of the baseball team. Pasquale takes care of him like a father. He shows Sainey how to move through space by listening to the sounds around him, he speaks to him of love and the greatest fears, and he shares joys and sorrows with him on the baseball field.

Little by little we get attached to this young boy, whose struggle for adaptation to a new life is made of small steps and silent victories.

DIRECTORS' VISION

The film has two points of view: a subjective one, which is filmed by Sainey the protagonist and co-author of this story; and an observational one, filmed by us as directors. The relationship between autobiography and biography is one of the main themes of the film and has a central role in the story.

Sainey's self-narration is the result of a fieldwork research that has gone on for some years. It makes use of the Participatory Video, a technique that offers to all people – beginners included – the opportunity to express their point of view through audiovisual production.

The origin of the film, in fact, took place in a Participatory Video workshop that Sainey attended in 2018. At the end of that workshop we proposed to Sainey to make a film about his life. From there, the gaze of self-narration continued with the film development, becoming the main point around which the story rotates.

On the other hand, we chose to tell Sainey's story by being very close to him, so that we can better connect to his inner world.

Starting from this binomial self-representation / representation, the theme of the double has developed on different levels: internal / external; disability / normality; impossibility / possibility; dream / reality.

Given this strong size of double, it seemed almost natural to focus our gaze on one of the closest ties that Sainey has. So, when we realized that Pasquale was sort of a guide to him, we also thought telling their relationship would be valuable.

Finally, at the photographic level, we chose the 4:3 format. This format refers to the visual conditions of Sainey and had an impact first on ourselves, because we gave up a portion of framing. Second, it wants to be a limitation for the audience, forced to experience a more limited vision in comparison to the large formats to which in recent years we have become accustomed to.

We hope that, despite the drama inherent in the story, the film can transmit and encourage a different visual perception to get closer to the witnesses in the film.

Michele Aiello, Michele Cattani

SAINEY FATTY'S VISION

My name is Sainey Fatty, I live in Bologna and I am the protagonist of the film: "One day the night". I am 23 years old and I am from Gambia, West Africa. I have been in Italy for six years now. My first meeting with the cinema took place during my stay at the refugee shelter run by the cooperative Arca di Noè.

Everything started with a participatory video project organized by the cooperative itself. I took part with some friends and companions who at the time also lived within the SPRAR project. What had started as a small film-making project ended up becoming a whole film. The short film I made inside the workshop surprised the organizers who proposed to produce a documentary film based on what was manifest and not in the short film, in a deeper way.

I loved the idea of making a film: it meant a lot to me being able to publicly share the story of my life and my experiences.

What was even more important to me was the opportunity to make people know a rare and little known blindness. At the same time I could expose a whole new world to people with a similar disability: a world of sport, art, education and much more.

The visual disability in question is called Retinitis Pigmentosa.

It is a slow, progressive and bilateral degeneration of retina and retinal pigmented epithelium causing vision loss.

As the pathology progresses, the photoreceptors are reduced and patients suffer a reduction of the visual field that creates a tunnel vision, an increased sensitivity to light, a blurred field of view and a night blindness. Finally, blindness and functional disability occur.

I have lived with Retinitis Pigmentosa all my life. Making this film has helped me a lot to explore, to learn, to teach and to share many aspects of this disability, both good and bad things. It will remain for me as a souvenir, a legacy for the future.

Sainey Fatty

PHOTO:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yftomjyuv8f67xp/AADN3376EkkIPxAkU5JziMSja?dl=0>

TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/518344185>