



THE CHILDREN OF THE NOON

WORK

Genre	Documentary feature film
Country of production	Austria Italy USA
Date of production	November 2016
Running time	107 min. 80 min. 57 min.
Original language	Swahili Kimeru English
Language of subtitles	English Italian French German

TECHNICAL INFO

Production format	HDV XD-Cam EX 1080p
Aspect ratio	16:9 1:1,85
Colour	Colour
Sound	5.1 surround sound
Screening formats	DCP various digital files Blu-ray DVD

SYNOPSIS

The Children of the Noon deals with the universal subject of life. The time passes marked out by daily activities for the group of children and teenagers in the orphanage in Nchiru, the small Kenyan village. Soon emerges how orphan condition and genteel poverty they share are not the only problems that unite them and determine their days. A sudden death of one of them breaks the narrative rhythm and changes all points of view intertwining a dense web of pains and joys, friendships and hopes.



PRESS

The Children of the Noon è un documentario suggestivo, emotivamente forte e in grado di aprire gli occhi su una realtà parallela ma opposta alla nostra. Il film, girato in una delle zone più povere dell'Africa, affronta una serie di temi pressanti e problematici per queste zone del mondo come per altre: sicurezza, istruzione e salute pubblica.

Ciò viene fatto attraverso il racconto delle storie dei giovani dimoranti della casa-famiglia di **Nchiru, Kenya**. Dalle immagini e dalle loro parole si evincono gli immensi ostacoli che si frappongono fra loro e l'infanzia che si meriterebbero. Sorprendono la genuinità e il sorriso di questi bambini se relazionate alle sofferenze che hanno dovuto e che devono affrontare e sopportare.

Quasi tutti hanno perso una o più persone care e spesso non hanno nessun altro posto in cui stare se non la struttura che li ha accolti. La loro vita, indissolubilmente legata al dolore e a eventi tragici, rientra nella normalità della loro realtà, al contrario fra i ragazzi della nostra parte del mondo circostanze simili incombono sulla loro esistenza con un carattere di eccezionalità. Il contrasto è netto.

Non ci sono intermediari, le riprese riportano senza filtri la quotidianità dei bambini della casa-famiglia. Si è solo noi e la loro storia. La forza interiore di questi giovani adulti esce prepotentemente dallo schermo e colpisce lo spettatore lasciandolo basito. Sconvolge, infatti, come si possa rispondere a un'infanzia rubata con tale energia.

Il documentario, diretto da **Olga Pohankova** e **Diego Fiori**, si apre con la nascita di una nuova vita e si conclude con la fine prematura di un'altra. A ciò si aggiungono le riflessioni dei ragazzi sul virus HIV. Come alcuni di loro, moltissimi altri bambini in Africa sono affetti da tale malattia, che, essendo difficilmente contrastabile, rappresenta una piaga sociale non da poco. Loro però, interrogandosi a riguardo, si lasciano andare anche alle risate e ad affermazioni scherzose e, senza mai scollare dalle spalle la speranza, guardano fiduciosi al futuro convinti che da ora a pochi anni tutto cambierà e potranno guarire completamente.

Prima della fine si lascia spazio ai sogni dei bambini, a quelli che sono i desideri per il loro avvenire. Da ciò ne risulta che la morte fra loro è una presenza tanto forte quanto lo è la gioia per la vita.

Gabriele Nunziati, Cinemaitaliano.info, Italia

Ils jouent, courent, lisent, font leur lessive, chantent, prient et rient sous la moustiquaire... Ils discutent aussi du VIH qu'ils ont contracté et, parfois, de la mort : celle qui a frappé leurs parents et certains de leurs camarades. Venus filmer le quotidien de l'orphelinat Nchiru au Kenya, les réalisateurs sont tombés sous le charme de ces enfants et des paysages qui les entourent. Ils nous livrent un film magnifique, qui raconte l'Afrique rurale à l'ombre du Sida et saisit son auditoire en douceur.

Enfances dans le Monde, Festival de Films Documentaires, Paris, France



POWERFUL in its sheer simplicity, *The Children of the Noon* is an intimate, up-close, real-life look at the lives of a group of children living with HIV/AIDS in an orphanage in Kenya.

The unadulterated backdrop of the serene Kenyan countryside places the viewer somewhere close to God and makes us feel, palpably, presently, the innocence of these children, the deep bonds they share, and the attention and care children pay one another when life is distilled down to the bare basics.

Heartbreakingly beautiful. A clear call to humanity at large to care for the innocent.

Casey Ruggieri, Los Angeles Film Awards, Best Picture, USA

A beautifully intimate portrayal of coming of age in a Kenyan orphanage.

Daily routines mark time for the children of Kenya's Nchiru AIDS orphanage. As one observes the minutiae of their burgeoning lives, it soon becomes clear that behind their cheerful patter lies a shadow of grief over the loss of their parents and friends in the exhausting struggle against HIV. A beautifully composed film that quietly grips its audience through a moving exploration of growing up in rural Africa under the shadow of HIV/AIDS.

The priest scatters the first handful of red dirt onto the small wooden coffin. Mournful song rises up through the trees and children sob quietly into their sleeves; their eyes red and distant. They are gathered to say farewell to Munene, a child at the orphanage and a "beloved brother" of all who live there, who has died of AIDS. Through this one ritual, the shadow of disease that so many other of the orphans live under becomes that much darker.

Before Munene's passing unseats their world, the children of the AINA children's home measure out their lives in a quiet routine of play and study. Marbles knock in the playground and the daily jaunt to school is a procession of laughter and games. However, once inside the class room, typical lessons like religious education merge into a more specialised curriculum, the teacher informing the children on how HIV is transmitted from person to person.

Beneath their smiling faces lie layers of trauma, each child harboring stories of loss and abandonment. Some children have no parents, whereas others, like Sharon Kinya, live in limbo. She resides with the other orphans but has a living mother who is too ill to take care of her. The tears that stream down her face as she visits her sick mother speak of the pain of having nowhere to truly call home.

After the shock of Munene's death, and the catharsis of the funeral, each child must start to come to terms with their own circumstances and map out a future in which they can thrive, regardless of their disease. One child would like to turn his health struggles into a life of helping others: "If I go to the university, I'll study medicine. Doctors are beautiful people. They save lives."

A beautiful coming of age story, where relationships and aspirations flourish within the distinct culture of rural Kenya.

Journeyman Pictures, independent distribution company, London, UK



This beautiful constructed documentary shows children of other cultures whose lives are intertwined with pain and joy, friendship and hope. The commendable camera follows children playing, washing clothing and learning in a classroom. The film focuses on universal issues such as child abuse, abandonment, neglect and poverty. Children could learn a lot from this film. It could enlighten them and show them that they have a lot to be grateful for. This film brings awareness to children who may have no idea of what other children's lives are like outside of the United States. Some of the children in the film were born with HIV, have been abandoned by loved ones, while others have become orphans because their parents have passed away from a disease. Some of them laugh to keep from crying. It is interesting to take a walk in these children's shoes and see the world through their eyes.

KIDS FIRST! Film Festival, USA

The Children of the Noon begins as a beautifully shot and composed observational work that quietly documents the goings-on at an orphanage in the Kenyan village of Nchiru. During its gentle first half, the film provides a discreet look into the orphans' lives through a series of revealing vignettes that record their daily routine, sometimes impish behaviour, and impoverished but loving environment. Eventually, however, the film shifts focus in dramatic fashion. When one of the kids becomes ill and dies, it's revealed that the cause of his death – and the reason for the rest of the children's orphan status – is AIDS: Their parents died from the virus, and the children are all infected. At this point, as the orphanage's staff and young residents grapple with the death and mourn at the funeral, the film pivots to become a gripping and almost unbearably moving exploration of the impact of HIV/AIDS in Kenya specifically and Africa generally. In an especially affecting sequence, a group of the HIV-positive orphans discuss their understanding of HIV/AIDS and touchingly outline their future hopes.

Cliff Froehlich, Executive Director of Cinema St. Louis, USA

The Children of the Noon is a film that excites, softens, entertains and moves you. Innocent, thoughtful and absorbed on the one hand; playful and mocking at the same time.

Bianca Stancanelli, Panorama, Italy

A very strong story, filmed in a delicate and deliberately concise way. The protagonists capture you and lead you by the hand in their dramatic daily life.

The Gulf of Naples Independent Film Festival, Italy



OFFICIAL FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

- ONE Country ONE Film International Festival 2018 | France
- The Gulf of Naples Independent Film Festival 2018 | Italy
- The Mediterranean Film Festival 2018 | Italy
- 15th Annual ReelHeART International Film and Screenplay Festival 2018 | Canada
- Mountain Film Festival 2018 | USA
- Amsterdam International Filmmaker Festival 2018 | Netherlands
- Phoenix Film Festival Melbourne 2018 | Australia
- Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival 2017 | China
- North Dakota Human Rights Film Festival 2017 | USA
- BlowUp Chicago International Arthouse Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Oslo Independent Film Festival 2017 | Norway
- Austria International Film Festival 2017 | Austria
- Rome Film Awards 2017 | Italy
- Equality International Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Peloponnisos International Documentary Festival 2018 | USA
- Maverick Movie Awards 2017 | USA
- El Ojo Cojo International Film Fest 2017 | Spain
- Global Health Film Festival 2017 | UK
- Filmmaker Day of Turin 2017 | Italy
- London Eye International Film Festival 2017 | UK
- Switzerland International Film Festival 2017 | Switzerland
- Scandinavian International Film Festival 2017 | Finland
- The CK Film Festival - Long Island 2017 | USA
- Canada Kids Film Festival 2017 | Canada
- United International Film Festival 2017 | USA



- NYC Indie Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Miami Independent Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Mediterranean Film Awards 2017 | Italy
- Cinalfama Lisbon International Film Awards 2017 | Portugal
- Long Island International Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Les Enfances dans le Monde: Festival de Films Documentaires 2017 | France
- Premio Libero Bizzari - DOC Film Festival 2017 | Italy
- The Indie Gathering 2017 | USA
- Social World Film Festival 2017 | Italy
- European Market of Young Independent Cinema | Social World Film Festival 2017 | Italy
- The IndieFest Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Realtime Film Festival 2017 | Nigeria
- Hollywood International Moving Pictures Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Golden Bridge International Film Festival 2017 | Russia
- Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards 2017 | USA
- The Impact DOCS Awards 2017 | USA
- Los Angeles Film Awards 2017 | USA
- London Independent Film Awards 2017 | UK
- Hollywood International Independent Documentary Awards 2017 | USA
- American Movie Awards 2017 | USA
- Doc Outlook International Market | Visions du Réel Film Festival 2017 | Switzerland
- Gold Movie Awards Goddess Nike 2017 | UK
- Kids First! Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Festival International du Film Panafricain Cannes 2017 | France
- Doc Market | Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival 2017 | Greece
- St. Louis International Film Festival 2016 | USA
- East Silver Market | Jihlava Int. Documentary Film Festival 2016 | Czech Republic



AWARDS

- Best Documentary Award | The Gulf of Naples Independent Film Festival 2018 | Italy
- Best Featury Documentary Award | The Mediterranean Film Festival 2018 | Italy
- Best Documentary Film Award | Mountain Film Festival 2018 | USA
- Feature Documentary Award | London Eye International Film Festival 2017 | UK
- Special Marquee Award - Best Documentary | Maverick Movie Awards 2017 | USA
- Best Long Documentary | Scandinavian International Film Festival 2017 | Finland
- Diamond Award - Best Documentary | NYC Indie Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Award of Merit - Documentary Feature | The IndieFest Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Award of Merit - Feature Documentary | The IndieFest Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Best Documentary Award | Mediterranean Film Festival 2017 | Italy
- Grand Jury Award | London Independent Film Awards 2017 | UK
- Award of Merit - Special Mention Documentary Feature | Impact DOCS Awards 2017 | USA
- Libero Bizzari Award | Premio Libero Bizzari - DOC Film Festival 2017 | Italy
- Silver Award - Documentary Film | The Indie Gathering 2017 | USA
- Award of Excellence - Feature Documentary | Hollywood Int. Moving Pictures Film F. 2017 | USA
- Best Producer Award - Feature | Los Angeles Independent Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Best Director Award - Documentary Feature | Los Angeles Independent Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Best Documentary Award | London Independent Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Best Picture Award | Los Angeles Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Best Documentary Award | Los Angeles Film Awards 2017 | USA
- Award of Excellence | Hollywood International Independent Documentary Awards 2017 | USA
- Special Marquee Award | American Movie Awards 2017 | USA
- Coup de Coeur du Jury Award | Festival International du Film Panafricain Cannes 2017 | France



NOMINATIONS

- ONE Country ONE Film International Film Festival 2018 | France
- 15th Annual ReelHeART International Film & Screenplay Festival 2018 | Canada
- Amsterdam International Filmmaker Festival 2018 | Netherlands
- London International Filmmaker of World Cinema 2018 | UK
- Phoenix Film Festival Melbourne 2018 | Australia
- International Peloponnisos Documentary Festival 2018 | Greece
- Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival 2017 | China
- North Dakota Human Rights Film Festival 2017 | USA
- BlowUp Chicago International Arthouse Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Oslo Independent Film Festival 2017 | Norway
- Rome Film Awards 2017 | Italy
- Equality International Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Austria International Film Festival 2017 | Austria
- Maverick Movie Awards 2017 | USA
- El Ojo Cojo International Film Festival 2017 | Spain
- Global Health Film Festival 2017 | UK
- London Eye International Film Festival 2017 | UK
- Switzerland International Film Festival 2017 | Switzerland
- Filmmaker Day of Turin 2017 | Italy
- The CK Film Festival - Long Island 2017 | USA
- Canada Kids Film Festival 2017 | Canada
- United International Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Miami Independent Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Cinalfama Lisbon International Film Awards 2017 | Portugal



- Long Island International Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Les Enfances dans le Monde 2017 | France
- Social World Film Festival 2017 | Italy
- Realtime International Film Festival 2017 | Nigeria
- Golden Bridge International Film Festival 2017 | USA
- Doc Outlook Int. Market Selection | Visions du Réel Film F. 2017 | Switzerland
- Goldmovie Awards Goddess Nike 2017 | UK
- Doc Market Selection | Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival 2017 | Greece
- East Silver Market Selection | Jihlava Int. Doc. Film Festival 2016 | Czech Republic
- St. Louis Int. Film Festival 2016 | USA

ADDITIONAL FILM SCREENINGS with public debate

- London TAA Exhibition 2018 | UK
- AINA Onlus Children's Home Nchiru, Meru County 2017 | Kenya
- AINA Onlus Center Rome 2017 | Italy



CREDITS

With the participation of

Production Company

In co-production with

Supervising Producer

Producers

Executive Producer

Concept, Script

Directed by

Original Music

Director of Photography

2nd Unit Camera

Sound

Sound Design

Montage

Colour Grading, DCP

Graphic Design

Translations

THE CHILDREN from AINA CHILDREN'S HOME in NCHIRU, Kenya

Philosophische GEBILDE

Gesellschaft für die Bilddekonditionierung, Austria

AINA Onlus, Kenya

Il Fiore del Deserto, Italy

March to the Top, USA

Vittoria Quondamatteo

Barbara Baldieri March, Gianmarco Zippilli

Diego Fiori

Diego Fiori, Olga Pohankova

Olga Pohankova, Diego Fiori

Luigi Pulcini

Olga Pohankova

Michael Schindegger

Michael Zachhuber

Werner Angerer

Olga Pohankova

Willi Willinger, Listo Videofilm eU, Vienna

Linda Marchetti, Intorno Design, Italy

Olive Nkatha Joshua

Anthony Njenga

Petronella Samvilian

Pamela Ngugi

Brian Dorsey

Julia Njagi

Solange Sindaye

Millicent Njagi

Jadlyne Krakus



In cooperation with

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Meru University of Science and Technology, Kenya
Kenya Methodist University, Kenya
La Gabbianella Coordination of Distance Adoption, Italy
Research Centre Istituto Metafora, Italy

With the support of

Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture
Culture Department, Municipality of Vienna, Austria
AINA Onlus, Italy
Il Fiore del Deserto, Italy
March to the Top, USA
Province Ascoli Piceno, Italy
Social Cooperative Society Famiglia Nuova, Italy
Regional Council of the Marches, Italy

With the kind help of

Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya, Austria
Embassy of Italy, Kenya
Institute for African Studies, University of Vienna, Austria
Little Missionary Sisters of Charity, Italy
St. Rita Catholic Church, Nchiru Parish, Kenya
K. K. Rwanjewe Primary School, Nchiru, Kenya
Kirindine Mutethia Medical Clinic and Maternity Home, Kenya
Kunene Support Group, Kenya



LINKS

Official Film Homepage

www.thechildrenofthenoon.com

<https://www.journeyman.tv/film/6997>

<https://documentaries.io/film/children-of-the-noon-trailer-coming-soon/>

<http://www.italiandoc.it/area/public/wid/TNSS/video.htm>

<http://www.cinemaitaliano.info/thechildrenofthenoon>

IMDB

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4384266/>

Les Enfances Dans le Monde

<http://enfancesdanslemonde.com/films/>

<http://enfancesdanslemonde.com/app/uploads/2017/09/The-Children-of-the-Noon.pdf>

RAI3: DOC3

<http://www.ufficiostampa.rai.it/dl/UfficioStampa/Articoli/DOC-3-8f137a28-568d-4da4-a191-0de8b79ca2dd.html>

<http://www.raiplay.it/video/2017/08/Doc3-The-Children-of-the-Noon-a617caea-333e-49ac-b77e-601281d952eb.html>

Los Angeles Film Awards 2017, USA

<https://www.lafilmawards.net/may-2017>

American Movie Awards 2017, USA

<https://americanmovieawards.com/past-winners/2017>

Doc Outlook International Market Selection | Visions du Réel 2017, Switzerland

<https://www.visionsdureel.ch/media-film/the-children-of-the-noon>

Festival International du Film Panafricain Cannes 2017, France

<http://fifp.fr/portfolio/the-children-of-the-noon/http://fifp.fr/palmares/>

Doc Market | Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival 2017, Greece

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5yVScZLtSVOQm5SeUdPa3hGY2c>

St. Louis International Film Festival 2016, USA

<http://www.cinemastlouis.org/sliff/2016/children-of-noon>



CONTACT | PRODUCTION COMPANY

Philosophische GEBILDE - Gesellschaft für die Bilddekonditionierung
Hetzgasse 38/1 | 1030 Vienna | Austria
Tel: +43/680 331 5664 | +43/676 433 7102 | Fax: +431/952 43 68
office@philosophischegebilde.at
PhilosophischeGEBILDE@gmail.com
www.philosophischegebilde.at

CONTACT | DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

Journeyman Pictures Ltd.
4-6 High Street | Thames Ditton | Surrey | KT7 0RY | United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 208 398 4616 | Fax: +44 (0) 208 972 9100
publicity@journeyman.tv | films@journeyman.tv
www.journeyman.tv