

ILLUSTRATING THE INVISIBLE

Summary

In this doctoral thesis, I take a subjective and personal approach to recount the process of creating the film "Imagine," directed by Andrzej Jakimowski, a film in which I was the cinematographer. I write about how we filmed the education of blind students and depicted their daily struggles with disability.

The working title of the film, "Imagine," was originally "Blind Watching," a phrase that directly reflects the film's theme. "Blind Watching," navigating through echolocation and sound, serves as a pretext to examine the surrounding world more closely. The blind protagonists attempt to open the eyes of us, the sighted, to the beauty of the world around them. They envision the world stimulated by sounds. This distinct perspective on the world unveils previously invisible mechanisms and structures. We did not show what our protagonists did not stand a chance to build in their imagination.

Ian, the main character, is a teacher of the art of seeing for the blind. He initiates children into the techniques of exploring the world, teaching them how to "see" with the help of their ears and imagination and by drawing conclusions about what is happening around them. He can be likened to a spiritual master who initiates his disciples, providing them with guidance on which tricks to use to decipher the mysteries of the surrounding world.

I argue that "Imagine" is not just a film about the blind. It is a film about the existence of the spiritual world, a world invisible to us, the sighted, yet constantly influencing our actions and thoughts. By observing the struggles of the blind protagonists with a world that is invisible to them, we can contemplate the meaning of our lives and the spiritual world that surrounds us.

The fates of the blind protagonists help us reflect on our own spiritual blindness, prompting us to confront our beliefs or lack thereof and encouraging deeper reflection on our existence and the purpose of our earthly journey.