



“The fact that someone is born to ‘darkness’ calls up a number of questions about the way that blind people live. One of the most important of them in my opinion is where is the source of their happiness? Their world might be lacking sight but it can be richer in spirituality on the other hand. Maybe it is they who really understand the true essence of happiness.”

And how did he see the cooperation with DOP Juraj Chlpík? “It was a really interesting and exceptional cooperation for both of us, I think. We both felt we needed to see all the situations in the most natural way – with natural light, like in real life. This was quite demanding when shooting in darkness, for instance. We often asked: ‘But how do we shoot this? They don’t need to turn the lights on! They live in darkness.’ It was an interesting experience, indeed.”

The DOP describes the technical details of the shooting, “We managed to obtain a grant and we could shoot on Super 16mm. So there is about 15% HD, 10% animation shot on digital and the rest is Super 16 format in the whole. We post-produced it in DI and then transferred it back to 35mm print, which enabled us to do better color corrections and adjustments of the differences caused by the various shooting technologies.”

How did the DOP manage to succeed with the light conditions and its challenges? He answers, “I wanted to do the cinematography in this project not only because I liked the original idea but it was also a professional challenge for me. It was a mission to mediate the world of blind people to the rest of us who can see. Darkness seemed to be an inevitable part of it. We tried to shoot in ‘rough’ light atmospheres just like the ones our characters lived in. We very often faced a dilemma, when the reality seemed to look different. We did not want to interfere with the world of the blind as they know it and at the same time we wanted to shoot scenes in darkness but not leaving the spectator staring at a dark screen all the time. We wanted the film to be highly realistic, not only from the point of view of filmmaking, but also to grasp the world of blindness in a genuine manner.”

And what it was like to work with blind people? He says, “It was an interesting new experience for me. Before that time I never had a chance to get to know them so closely. Sometimes I felt as if they actually could ‘see’. They know the environment they live in perfectly well, they do not fear it, and they are very curious and open people. A few very comic situations appeared during shooting. We went through four years of work on this project and it was a very demanding and unforgettable experience!”

“Blind Loves is a beautiful documentary feature about several blind people (including blind couples) and their rich lives. Veteran music video and commercials cinematographer Juraj Chlpík – in only his second feature – creates a fascinating range of looks, from harsh realism to the fantastic, in what has to rank as a visual tour de force.” – *Variety* magazine, December 15, 2008. ■ Branislav Chlpík

Blind Loves
International Premier: Quinzaine des Réalisateurs/
Directors’ Fortnight in Cannes Film Festival 2008

CREW
Screenplay: Marek Leščák, Juraj Lehotský
Director: Juraj Lehotský
DOP: Juraj Chlpík
Edited by: František Kráhenbiel
Producers: Marko Škop, Ján Meliš, František Kráhenbiel, Juraj Chlpík, Juraj Lehotský

PROJECT INFORMATION
Production Year: 2008
Duration: 72 minutes
Genre: Documentary
Location: Slovakia
Main Cast: Peter Kolesár, Iveta Koprudová, Moro Daniel, Monika Brabcová, Jolana Danielová, Anna Brabcová, Zuzana Pohánková, Radoslava Badinková, Elena and Laco with their daughter Gabika
Production: ARTILERIA
Raw Stock (16mm): ETERNA 250, ETERNA 250D, ETERNA 500
Camera: AATON Super 16
Editing: Avid Xpress
Post Production: UPP Prague
Format: Digital Intermediate/DI, Fujifilm positive stock 35mm, color

Blind Loves	
STOCK USED	ETERNA 250 ETERNA 250D ETERNA 500

BLIND LOVES

(Slepé Lásky)

—Colorful Blind Lovers: “They don’t need to turn the lights on”

Juraj Lehotský, Director, Juraj Chlpík, Director of Photography

Slovakia

There is another talented cinematographer who collaborated on a tremendously successful movie project filmed with Fujifilm Super 16mm color film.

We are talking about the 32-year-old Slovak cinematographer Juraj Chlpík and the feature film named *Blind Loves* released in 2008 and shot in Slovakia. This film is about love between blind people. Love can be soft, love can be silly, and love can also be blind at times...

To find one’s place in this world is not an easy thing to do for people with good sight, but how much more difficult can it be for somebody who is blind?

Their love consists of delicate details, and is somehow more vivid, emotional, and spiritual. They have been creating a world of their own full of very unique and particular images, perceptions and dreams.

This movie is a very genuine attempt to depict the world that blind people live in. On the other hand, it is also a sensitive, emotional and extremely powerful reflection of the most intimate feelings and emotions of blind people. The main characters are four people who were born sightless. They have been creating a world of their own which is often full of unusual dreams, perceptions and ideas. Director Juraj

Lehotský attempted to find values and beauty in the life of Peter, Miro, Elena and Zuzana – four blind people united by the idea of love and their need for it.

The Director explains, “Our film depicts four blind people and through the way they perceive the world we get to know the stories of their loves. Blind teenager Zuzana is in search of her first love. Blind gypsy Miro falls in love with a partially sighted white girl. Blind Elena desires to have a child. Blind music teacher Peter has a very unique imagination. He likes to listen to adventurous radio plays, where he can submerge himself in a fairytale world.”

