

A FILM BY  
JEAN-MARIE BENJAMIN

# WE'LL RISE AT DAWN

## THE STRENGTH OF FRIENDSHIP



ALADINO PRODUCTIONS and MEDITERRANEA PRODUCTIONS srl presents *CI ALZEREMO ALL'ALBA* written and directed by JEAN-MARIE BENJAMIN  
starring ANDREA SOLOMBRINO MARIANO BARNABA KAROL MAZZEI ANTONELLA PONZIANI PADO RECONTI MASSIMILIANO PAZZAGLIA  
LUCIA STARA GIANNI PELLEGRINO GIGI MISEFERI LORENZO FIORENTINO GABRIELLA CAMPANILE witnesses of PADRE PIO MARIO VILLANI CARLO MARIA LA BORDE ARCANGELA PERROTTI  
produced by JEAN-MARIE BENJAMIN director of photography MATTED DE ANGELIS music JEAN-MARIE BENJAMIN set designer NICOLA CANISTRO costume designer GIANCARLO COLIS editing FRANCESCO TELLICO  
line producer GIOVANNI MISCHITELLI mix audio FILIPPO BUSSI executive producer ANGELO BASSI production manager RAFFAELLO SARAGO

FLIPPER MUSIC EDITIONS





Under the patronage of the  
**Opera Padre Pio Foundation**



Present

# **We'll rise at dawn**

*The strength of friendship*



Written and directed by

**Jean-Marie Benjamin**

## FILM FEATURES

IT IS NOT A BIOGRAPHY FILM ON PADRE PIO.

THE FILM IS OF OUR TIME.

IT IS A FEATURE FILM OF THE STORY OF TWO BOYS, LUCA AND SEBASTIANO (12 AND 13 YEARS) WHO BOTH DECIDE TO MAKE AN "INVESTIGATION", A RESEARCH ON PADRE PIO<sup>1</sup>, (THE SAINT OF THE GARGANO IN THE SOUTH OF ITALY.) THROUGH A SUCCESSION OF FUNNY AND TOUCHING EVENTS.

NEXT TO THE SPIRITUAL FIGURE OF PADRE PIO, THE FILM DEMONSTRATES HUMANITY, CHARACTERISTICS, CULTURE, THE BEAUTY AND THE STYLE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN ITALY, THROUGH THE EVENTS OF THESE TWO BOYS AND THE SMALL MIRANDA, ( 10 YEARS) SISTER OF LUCA.

THE TWO BOYS TRAVEL THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR BICYCLES TO MEET THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWN THE SAINT OF THE GARGANO, IN A SEQUENCE OF FUNNY AND MOVING SCENES. IT FOLLOWS THE EVENTS OF THEIR TWO FAMILIES UNTIL THE DEPARTURE OF THE TWO BOYS TO PIETRELCINA WITH THE UNCLE OF SEBASTIANO....AND...

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<sup>1</sup> Padre Pio was a saintly capuchin friar from the southern Italian town of Pietrelcina who lived his ministry in San Giovanni Rotondo. He died in 1968, for fifty years he had on his hands, feet and sides the wounds of the stigmata of Jesus Christ. He had extraordinary gifts – he could read the minds and souls of all people who came close to him (their past and their future). He performed numerous and incredible miracles. Today there are tens of thousands of devotees of Padre Pio throughout the world.

## Presentation



**Aladino productions S.r.l.** is a feature film production company and Recording studio located in Umbria, for music recording and post-production studio.

**Mediterranea Productions S.r.l.** is an independent film production and distribution company, founded in 1998 by Angelo Bassi, producer and distributor of numerous films in Italy including: - "Pontormo" (by G. Fago with Joe Mantegna) "Antonio Guerriero Di God "(by A. Belluco with Jordi Mollà) -" My mother likes women "(by I. París and D. Fejerman) The company stands out for the production and distribution of quality films and documentaries, created by various authors and oriented, thanks to the treatment of different subjects, to targets of great heterogeneity, with a good result of international sales.

**The Opera of Padre Pio** with headquarters in San Giovanni Rotondo, is the official organisation for the management of Padre Pio's works (the "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza" Foundation, the Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Health Care, Elderly homes, Prayer groups and other social and spiritual works). Opera Padre Pio have worked in partnership with Aladino and other associate producers by providing a team of professionals from the press office of Opera Padre Pio, who have performed several collaborative activities with the production team and the director.

Archbishop of Manfredonia, Michele Castoro, President of the Opera Padre Pio, granted the project the high patronage of **Opera Padre Pio**.

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## The director Fimmography

**Jean-Marie Benjamin** wrote, produced and directed the first fiction film dedicated to the life and work of St. Pio of Pietrelcina "*Padre Pio: The Night of the Prophet*" ("*La notte del profeta*"), with *Sergio Fiorentini* as Padre Pio and *Rodolfo Corsato* playing the part of a journalist. The film was broadcast on RAIUNO in April and May 1998 and in June 2011. From 1999 until today it has been regularly broadcast on the EWTN Network in the United States.

He made "*La Genesi del Tempo*", a long documentary film. (RAI) UNO TV.

S Special jury prize at the *Silent River Film Festival* in Irvine-Los Angeles (2011) for his film "*Tareq-Aziz-The Other Truth*".



## Biography

Jean-Marie Benjamin is of France nationality and has live in Italy since 1974.

Composer, writer, filmmaker, catholic priest.

He met **Padre Pio** in San Giovanni Rotondo in March 1968.

### **Music**

He is a composer and conductor, and plays the guitar, piano and electronic keyboard. He has composed numerous works of classical and popular music.

From 1966 until today, he has recorded 28 albums (works of classical music, film soundtracks and popular music). He is the author of the Official Anthem of UNICEF (Ode to the Child), created in Rome in April 1984 (Choir and Orchestra of RAI, Rome, transmitted in Eurovision).

Paul McCartney has recorded the Benjamin's Ode to the Child. He has recorded music scores and songs for singers in France, Italy, Holland, Germany and disco music in London (1973-1978). He's the author of various film soundtracks ("The Bible" by Marcel Carné, "Servant et Maîtresse" by Gantillon and various documentary films). Composer of the music scores for the film "MOTHERS" produced by Condor Pictures in London, directed by Liana Marabini, released in Italy on 13 April 2017.

Some of his classical compositions are: Oratorio "The Creation of the Angels" for soloists, mixed and male choir and orchestra, Madrid Opera (1975) and Rome RAIUNO (1984); Jerusalem Symphony, Paris, Salle Pleyel Symphony Orchestra (1972); Concerto for cello and orchestra (Geneva); "Salve Regina" for mixed choir and strings, Rome (1994) and many more.

### **Theatre**

He is the author of a play about Saint Francis, which had the world premiere at the Kremlin Theatre in Moscow (1992) and was broadcast on Russian television.

### **Books**

He has published ten books in Italy, France, Switzerland and Ireland.

### **Other**

He is a member of the "Société des Gens de Lettres de France" and of the Union of Italian Artists.

Special Events Officer at the UN for UNICEF (1983-1988)

Montyon Prize of the Académie Française for his book "Jean-Paul II: L'Octobre Romain".

S He was ordained a priest in 1991.



### **Synopsis**

The film takes place in our time.

LUCA is a 12-year-old boy from San Giovanni Rotondo. He is intelligent, sharp witted and determined. One day, while eating supper at home, after spending the day visiting the church and museum of Padre Pio, he tells his parents about his plan to conduct a research among the people in his town who knew Padre

Pio, the older people whom he wanted to interview to gather their testimonies, in order to write a book on the saint of Gargano. LUCA has a ten year old sister (MIRANDA). The family is a close one, the father is a scientist, a researcher at Padre Pio Hospital.

T The two boys begin their investigations by interviewing three characters, men and women who have known as young people and spoken to PADRE PIO (real witnesses of his miracles, charisms, extraordinary gifts, his sufferings and his configuration to the Cross of Christ ). We are faced with the new generation that discovers PADRE PIO, which is confronted with the one that has known him. These three characters have truly known Padre Pio and fit into the story of the film, which is a narrative fiction.

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Between one interview and another, the two exchange their impressions, with arguments, amusing episodes and boyish banter, alternating with some very moving moments. There is a series of amusing dialogues (between LUCA and his little sister MIRANDA), between friends, between the two main characters of the film and the town people. The plot also develops through the affairs of the two families.

T he health of SEBASTIANO's mother is deteriorating. So does the health of his father, due to alcohol.

During a fight, SEBASTIANO receives a slap from his father. He goes to the ancient church of Padre Pio, where he is met by LUCA who gives him comfort. They travel on their bicycles to the plains between San Giovanni Rotondo and Monte Sant'Angelo. Arriving at a fountain, SEBASTIANO announces to LUCA that his parents agree to let him go with him to Pietrelcina.

One day the two boys leave with the UNCLE of SEBASTIANO for Pietrelcina  
....and...



## Overview

Filming took place in June 2018, In the south of Italy: San Giovanni Rotondo, San Marco in Lamis and Pietrelcina.

The duration of the film is 96 minutes.



**Movie Crew :**

Production: **Aladino productions S.r.l.**

Line producer: **Giovanni Mischitelli**

Produce by: **Jean-Marie Benjamin**

Esecutive Producer: **Mediterranea Productions S.r.l.**

Screenwriter and Director: **Jean-Marie Benjamin**

Production Manager: **Raffaello Saragò**

Assistant Director: **Francesco Chiantante**

Assistant Director: **Giovanni Mischitelli**

DoP: **Matteo De Angelis**

Camera Operator and ronin: **Marc Benedetti**

Set Designer: **Nicola Canistro**

Costume Designer: **Giancarlo Colis**

Script Supervisor: **Maria Rosa Strana**

Sound engineer: **Mike Priore**

Counsellor Supervisor: **Giovanni D'Ercole**

Production Secretary: **Michela Fallone**

Production Assistant: **Chiara di Giorgio**

Assistant Designer and Costume Designer: **Antonella Castelli**

Casting: San Giovanni Rotondo **Lorenzo Fiorentino / Luigi Ciavarella**

Music: **Jean-Marie Benjamin**

Edition: **Flipper Music S.r.l.**



**CASTING**



**Andrea Solombrino**  
*LUCA*



**Mariano Barnabà**  
*SEBASTIANO*



**Karola Mazzei**  
*MIRANDA*



**Antonella Ponziani**  
*LUCA'S and MIRANDA'S MOTHER*



**Massimo Pazzaglia**  
*LUCA'S and MIRANDA'S FATHER*



**Paco Reconti**  
*SEBASTIAN'S FATHER*



**Lucia Stara**  
*MATHER OF SEBASTIANO*



**Gianni Pellegrino**  
*SEBASTIANO'S UNCLE*



**Gigi Miseferi**  
*THE FRIAR*



**Lorenzo Fiorentino**  
*THE PUBLISHER*



**Gabriella Campanille**  
*THE DOCTOR*

**Witnesses of Padre Pio**

- **Mario Villani, ofm**
  - **Carlo Maria Laborde, ofm capp.**
  - **Arcangela Perrotti**
  - **Giulio Siena**
  - **Stefano Campanella**
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REGARDING THE FIRST FEATURE FILM ABOUT THE LIFE AND WORK OF PADRE PIO "**PADRE PIO: THE NIGHT OF THE PROPHET**", WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JEAN-MARIE BENJAMIN AND BROADCAST ON **RAI UNO** TWICE, IN 1998 AND 2011, AND ON **EWTN** (USA), THE **PRESS WROTE:**

#### **AVVENIRE**

"Miraculous events: the conception and the creation of this film certainly had some" ...Narration soon takes the right rhythm and courage to present the inner experience of Padre Pio, that of his devotees, and his works.

Giacomo Ratti

#### **OGGI** (weekly)

"Authentic feelings, as if Padre Pio was really there, in front of you." Roberto Copello

#### **IL MESSAGGERO**

"Padre Pio, the movie of miracles. A long applause has greeted the end of the film that in the past has seen the aspirations of some famous filmmakers. "

R. C.

#### **IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA**

"Why the priest Jean-Marie Benjamin, the director and screenwriter, has decided to name the first film about Padre Pio's life and work "The Night of the Prophet" is the only unclear thing about this solar and inspiring work, representing the path of faith and the main elements of the spirituality of one of the greatest figures of the Christian Church. "

R.S.

#### **LA GAZZETTA DEL MEZZOGIORNO**

"The story, simple, understandably hagiographical, is limited to a reconstruction of the facts, seen from the eyes of those who are faithful to Padre Pio's exceptionality.

Fabrizio Corallo

#### **CORRIERE DELLA SERA**

"A trip to the mystical world of Padre Pious.

**L'OPINIONE**

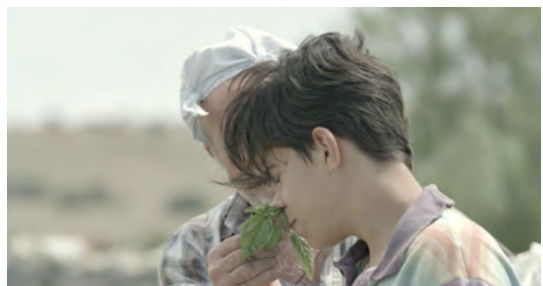
"Padre Pio superstar in the first film dedicated to the Friar of San Giovanni Rotondo.

**GENTE** (weekly)

"The news flies across Italy from San Giovanni Rotondo. In the town of Gargano was premiered the first film dedicated to the extraordinary biography of the Friar with the stigmata ..







**“WE’LL RISE AT DAWN”**  
*The strength of friendship*

Original title:  
**CI ALZEREMMO ALL’ALBA**  
*La forza dell’amicizia*



**CONTACT:**

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