

Network24

On TV

Zero to Zero

The darkness and hope of the pandemic

Directors/Producers/Camera: Chista Lategan, Leonie Scholtz, Shem Compion

We always hear about Covid-19, “safely bricked up in our homes. However, few people think about the healthcare workers, the “soldiers” on the frontline, who admit the dying, become emotionally invested in them, only to then lose them. But they also celebrate those who miraculously recover.

The producers/directors fearlessly ventured, with their cameras, into the wards and to patients where no healthy person had gone before. They open-mindedly tell the stories of those who survived. Watch how a young girl does a turnaround at death’s door and receives a standing ovation from the hospital staff when she walks out of Zuid-Afrikaans Hospital, recovered. It is these stories of people suffering and dying that is fearlessly filmed.

There is virtually no physical contact with the dying, who lie in a trance, unaware of what is going on around them.

This is not a superficial doccie with interviews full of academic information that we’ve already read in newspapers. Real conversations are held with those in the midst of the pandemic.

It’s Dr Yanila Nyasulu, with her clear explanations and hopeful demeanour, who herself sheds tears while speaking, that has the greatest impact.

Bravo to the team who show us what the healthcare workers achieve and what we are unaware of, and the patients who just want to see their faces to thank them.

It’s a soul-revealing documentary that will make you change your perspective on the pandemic. It shows the fatigue, darkness, hope, joy of recovery, and the horrific danger of the pandemic.

Christa Lategan’s expressive and economic editing stands out specifically.