



The Day After Peace

81 minutes, 2008, UK

Director: Jeremy Gilley

"You have proved that individuals can make a difference, and if each of us does our bit collectively we will make a major contribution." Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General

The Day After Peace, is the remarkable story of how an annual international peace day, 21 September, gained UN recognition thanks to a British film-maker and campaigner, Jeremy Gilley. In 2007 there was a breakthrough when the day was marked by ceasefires, food aid deliveries and vaccinations all over the world.

But even after the member states of the UN unanimously adopt Peace Day, the struggle isn't over. As the years pass, there's not a single permanent ceasefire. The voices of the cynics are growing louder – and now Gilley's non-profit organisation, Peace One Day, is in dire financial straits. But he can't let it fail.

During the course of his mission The camera follows Gilley as he galvanises the countries of the world to recognise an official day of ceasefire and non-violence.

Gilley's persistence is rewarded when UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and local affected communities decide to try and use the Day to carry out a mass vaccination against polio in one of the toughest conflict areas in the world, Afghanistan.

The task seems impossible, but pure human spirit in a country exhausted with conflict may just win through. Will peace prevail? Will lives be saved? Or were the cynics right?

The film's breathtaking conclusion finds Gilley joined by Jude Law in Afghanistan, attempting to spearhead a massive vaccination against polio on Peace Day.

In Afghanistan it had a huge impact: Gilley is seen opening a letter from the Taliban pledging to co-operate with a mass polio vaccination. The next frame shows a dignified burka-clad woman walking into a clinic with her infant.

The Day After Peace is a moving testament to the power of an individual and the perseverance of the human spirit.

"The Day After Peace is one of the most engaging, inspiring films I've ever seen. Jeremy Gilley, is to my mind, unique – a man who attempts to change the world and at the same time makes sense of these attempts by creating watchable films from his experience. We need to clone Gilley. In time, everyone should watch The Day After Peace – the adventures of Jude and Jeremy in Afghanistan are alone worth the ticket." Nick Fraser, Commissioning Editor, Factuals, BBC