

Acting

Giuseppe Piccioni's characters tend to be 'out of step' with the rest of the world, discuss how Luigi Lo Cascio's character motivations and actions stay true or don't stay true to this loneliness and distance from everyday life.

Ask Club Members to reflect on Sandra Ceccarelli's portrayal of a "precarious existence" through her interpretation of Maria.

Begin an open discussion on the chemistry between the two protagonists by asking a Club Member to comment on the inner journey of their relationship. Discuss how or why the Venice Film Festival awarded both leads with Best Actor awards and whether the onscreen chemistry may have been a determining factor.

Direction

There is otherworldly quality to the film that emphasizes the narrative; discuss Giuseppe's methods in creating this atmosphere and how his characters 'live' within it. How does Giuseppe accentuate the subtle performances of his leads?

Giuseppe once said "A good film follows you when you leave the movie theatre. You feel like you are bringing something home with you: an actor's performance, a face, an image, a world that has touched your feelings."

What element of this film stayed with you long after the film was over?

Themes

How does the film work as a metaphor for contemporary life?

Ask Club Members whether they relate with either Antonio or Maria's characters. Giuseppe wrote Antonio's character as a fan of science fiction, to emphasize his particular point of view when looking at the outside world. Discuss how this element may or may not work thematically and functionally.

Giuseppe addresses the idea of fragility in human nature. What are the strengths and weaknesses portrayed in the characters of this film?

Discuss other films you have seen that are similar and how *Light of My Eyes* compares to other examples of films in the same genre.

Screenwriting

Is there a significant difference in how male and female screenwriters write love stories?
Does Giuseppe's story remain in line with that preconception?

What are your thoughts on how Antonio ingratiates himself into the life of Maria and her daughter?

How do the characters grow and evolve in the story?

Story

The underlying tone of *Light of My Eyes* remains hopeful for the recreation of a whole family. Discuss the variations on this theme with-in the contexts of our prior selections: *El Bola*, *Marion Bridge* and *Ali Zaoua*.

On Antonio and the meaning of the title, *Light of My Eyes*: "I feel close to the way that Antonio sees things, in fact he is looking through my own eyes. This way of seeing belongs to the spectator, to a kind of visitor or to a rootless person. Where humanity cannot find a place to be rooted, there is a general tendency towards a sensation that everything is temporal. We live with this sensation, a true crisis of 'belonging.' This is true for just about all of us...So, the 'light of my eyes' refers to this possibility of having before us something to pursue: it might a dream of love, a passion." – Giuseppe Piccioni, translated from Italian. Discuss how Giuseppe immerses you into Antonio's point of view and the "light of his eyes", and how this might work as a self-reflective measure for the viewer and for the director.