

DOC TALK

Doc Talk: An incurable optimist, a fleeing fugitive, and an undaunted soul

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An athlete dying young

Diagnosed at 3 with cystic fibrosis, a fatal, incurable, and debilitating illness, Mallory Smith kept her suffering to herself. Instead she used the little time she had left to achieve excellence and pursue her dreams. Tall, lithe, and athletic (she played on three sports teams), she also excelled academically, and only her family and close friends knew of her suffering and the ordeal of the treatments she had to undergo. But she detailed it in private videos, audio recordings, and a 2,500-page diary, parts of which were published posthumously in her memoir **“Salt In My Soul,”** which is also the title of Will Battersby’s documentary about her life.



Drawing on these resources, the film is a vivid, heartbreaking, and celebratory portrait of a heroic young woman who undergoes and overcomes unimaginable trials, but with each victory leading to renewed setbacks. The film is also a testament to the inexhaustible dedication of Smith’s parents, who supported her and sought out new medicines and therapies that in the end did not save their daughter but which hold out hope for others with the disease.

“Salt In My Soul” can be seen beginning Jan. 25 on Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, Microsoft/Xbox, Vudu, and InDemand TVOD (Comcast, Spectrum, Cox), DirectTV/AT&T and others. Go to apple.co/3FHUVnJ.

Peter Keough can be reached at petervkeough@gmail.com.