

SCENE

• arts

SC

BON JOVI

LISTENS TO HIS HEART AND FINDS SUCCESS AGAIN

DVD

Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi-Rumi, or simply Rumi to Western audiences, was a Muslim mystic, poet, philosopher and musician who lived in Asia Minor during the 13th century. His passionate writings have resonated with millions of people worldwide who are drawn to the intimate spirituality and beauty of his metaphysical vision. Rumi-Turning Ecstatic traces the personal journey of filmmaker Tina Petrova as she explores the life, teachings and art of this singularly unique historical figure. In the course of the documentary, Petrova recounts her own experiences with this "Shakespeare of the soul" and offers testimony from a number of experts on the continued relevance of Rumi's legacy. Of particular interest are the sections featuring Coleman Barks, the world's most popular translator of Rumi's writings. The documentary also examines Rumi's impact on the Islamic religion, and the influence he had on followers who founded the Mevlevi Order after his death. The Mevlevi Order, better known as the "Whirling Dervishes", utilize music and dance to enter into a state of meditative ecstasy and numinous exaltation with the Divine, a practice directly inspired by the teachings of Rumi. Although the actual production on this DVD is unremarkable, Petrova's story is heartfelt and the subject matter is enthralling, encouraging viewers to embrace a wider appreciation of spiritual expression regardless of its originating tradition. In an era preoccupied with religious extremism and tension between competing systems of belief, the transcendent expanse of Rumi's edifying message is a bright light for dark times, a gift of incalculable value to the whole of humanity.

RUMI - TURNING ECSTATIC
CHOICES, 2007

