

living consciously on ONE planet

TOPANGA

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DVD REVIEWS



RUMI

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R u m i - Turning Ecstatic, newly released on DVD through LA based CHOICES Video is "a captivating story within a story", conceived by Toronto Fil-

maker Tina Petrova . Set in the barren Mojave Desert of Southern CA, it tells the miraculous story of Tina driving off a cliff (in spite of a veiled warning from a mysterious hitchhiker.) This tragic crash sets in motion a one year struggle for survival, that serves up a global message for humanity from the unlikeliest of places: the poetry of a 13th century Sufi Mystic- RUMI.

Petrova takes the viewing audience on a whirlwind tour, celebrating the genius (and genesis) of Rumi's timeless poetry (superbly narrated by Coleman Barks) whilst we feast all 5 senses on the hypnotic spin of the whirling dervishes. Stunning cinematography, accompanied by an original soundtrack of ecstatic Sufi music- includes interviews with people that have

been transformed by Rumi's philosophy. Like all great teachers - Rumi was not a lover of separation, but a lover of Unity.

"If we don't get this message straight... we're really lost" - Quote from the film.

Amongst the luminaries briefly featured within a (stunning) spiritual travelog are: the current Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King, Ghandi, Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa.

Key among the primary interview subjects are the (late) visionary and Rumi translator Nader Khalili, an Agha Khan and UN award winning architect, widely recognized for his innovative emergency housing structures which stand eerily sentinel to his recent passing at "CalEarth". Almost at the very heart of a depressing development of "out of the box" track homes in Hesperia, stands an enclave which bears witness to the genius and lifework of Khalili- domed structures of beehive like tubing, whose main building material is the earth beneath them. Khalili, lovingly called "an army of one" by students, presented his earth friendly and eco conscious designs to NASA as prospective housing for humans on Mars and the Moon one day.

Author Andrew Harvey speaks of population explosion and how "more than 2 billion people currently live on less than a dollar a day", framed by refugee camps lined with tents and despairing faces. Here is a man who understands global balance and where we are headed if we don't deploy solutions in a timely and effective man-

ner. "Rumi, he says, is a stern awakener and a doctor of souls, who has returned to wake us up to our responsibility to Mother earth in a bold and direct fashion."

"Find the antidote in the venom, find the remedy in the poison..." RUMI Quote from the film.

Kabir Helminski serves up "the water is searching for the thirsty" the water being the active element here. Did I find it, or DID IT FIND ME? Referring to Rumi and his call to arms to take responsibility for the current environmental crises.

When asked why she made the movie, Tina replies "it was the movie that made me". I just went along for the ride... (smiling).

The production of the movie certainly opened up a path of healing and transformation, that led Tina to a remarkable array of individuals whose lives and work have been influenced by Rumi's philosophy and poetry, teachings that point to alternatives to our "frenzied pursuit of happiness".

It would seem that Nader and Rumi certainly have something relevant and timely to say to us, and that Tina's "accident" has become the vehicle for this sharing.

For more information on Khalili's eco friendly housing, please visit: www.calearth.org

For further info. on DVD's or to hold a fundraising screening for your community by purchasing the film, please email: getinfo@choicesvideo.net.

